

MINUTES

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Zoom

Advisory Board Members Present: William Dyson (Chair), Andrew Clark, Chief Vernon Riddick, Marc Pelka, Cheryl Sharp, Chief Neil Dryfe, Chief L.J. Fusaro, Claudine Constant, Michael Gailor, Werner Oyanadel, Commissioner James Rovella, Colonel Stavros Mellekas, Stacy Sobel, Shannon Trice, Gail Hardy, Joseph Cristalli, Stacey Manware, Lt. Col. Mark Davison, Sen. Gary Winfield, Tanya Hughes

Staff: Ken Barone, Erica Escobar, Jim Fazzalaro, Renee La Mark Muir

I. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Dyson welcomed members and convened the meeting at 10: 04 a.m.

II. Approval of the April 25, 2023, meeting minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the April 25, 2023, meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by members via voice vote.

III. Old Business

a. CSP Data Audit Report Findings

Ken Barone presented findings from the CSP Data Audit Report. Researchers at the IMRP and Northeastern University audited 8 years of traffic stop records for the Connecticut State Police, reviewing data from January 1, 2014, to December 31, 2021. Barone outlined the CSP Data Audit Report's structure briefly for Advisory Board members, summarizing its content before delving into their findings in detail.

He explained that the audit consisted of reviewing data from two systems, focusing on the racial profiling system, and then comparing data to the Centralized Infractions Bureau system. For accuracy, he specified that they carried out two distinct audits in collaboration with researchers from Northeastern University. These researchers devised their methodology, and concurrently, the IMRP conducted an audit to establish a benchmark for the more comprehensive Northeastern audit. He explained that the report provided a detailed outline of the methodologies employed to clean the data in both datasets.

Ken stated that the audit was unable to include warnings for a variety of reasons outlined in the report, instead, the audit strictly focused on infraction records, a subset of the overall stops made by troopers and constables. He elaborated on the implementation of flexible matching criteria and incorporating multiple

robustness checks. He goes on to clarify that their intention was not to ascertain the motives behind submitting underreported, false, or inaccurate records. The audit did not aim to delve into such determinations. While the report distinguishes instances of human error, it does not differentiate intentional falsification, negligence, etc.

Barone provides a summary of the findings to the Advisory Board concerning troopers and constables. The findings indicate a high likelihood that some records submitted were false or inaccurate. It is likely that 25,966 records were submitted that were false or inaccurate. Troops C, F, and K were identified with the highest number of overreported records. The report also reviewed stops made by constables. Constable towns situated within Troops A, E, and F were identified as the regions with the highest instances of overreported infraction records.

The report revealed a prevalence of overreported racial profiling records, indicating a likelihood of their inaccuracy. This finding raises concerns about their potential influence on prior racial profiling studies for state police. Researchers determined that if the information had been reported accurately, it would have had an impact on their study. Earlier studies typically identified racial and ethnic disparities in the state police data. Through the audit, they determined that these disparities would have been more pronounced if the data had been reported accurately. The audit also contained a series of recommendations, and the report will be made available on the project website.

CSP Colonel and LT. Colonel addressed the audit findings and highlighted some areas of concern. They stated that CSP would fully investigate any person who violated either law or departmental policy. Lastly, they asked people for patience as they work through evaluating the list of troopers and constables identified in the report.

Chairman Dyson opened the discussion to members for questions or comments. Tanya Hughes proposed including a section focused on accountability and safeguards to prevent future occurrences. She recommended that when sharing the report, a disclaimer be added indicating awareness of the issue and the steps taken to prevent its recurrence, along with details about holding those responsible accountable. Tanya inquired whether there was a designated resource where individuals reading the CSP Audit Report could seek clarification for any questions they might have. Additional deliberations on this matter will continue during the Advisory Board's next meeting. Marc Pelka recommended the inclusion of a disclaimer in future task reports about the data issue. Ken Barone suggested including this as a task for the working group to address in the coming weeks.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

a. Data Collection, Analysis, and Quality

i. Data collection system change recommendations

Ken Barone updated the Advisory Board on the progress of the Data Subcommittee. They are aiming to submit final changes by the end of this month or early next month. This timeline will allow them to then proceed with scoping out the changes to the profiling system, with the goal of implementing them by 2024.

Ken mentioned that they have already reached an agreement to align gender options with the choices permitted on licenses. He mentioned a prior proposal to make changes to the enforcement category from 'blind designation' to 'technology designation'. This aims for clearer discussions on reporting stop types among police officers. Barone noted that the work group proposes refining search authority categories for vehicles. They also suggest adding data fields to indicate whether a driver or passenger was searched, along with the driver's zip code. The Advisory Board unanimously decided to have the Data Subcommittee send these modifications to CJIS.

b. Policy

i. 2023 Legislative Recap

The topic was tabled.

c. Community Outreach

There will be a public forum in Middletown on June 29th at 5:30 p.m. All advisory board members are invited to attend.

IV. New Business

No new business was discussed.

There was no further discussion, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.