



MINUTES

Thursday, August 24, 2023

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Zoom

Advisory Board Members Present: William Dyson (Chair), Andrew Clark, Chief Vern Riddick, Marc Pelka, Tanya Hughes, Chief Neil Dryfe, Michael Gailor, Werner Oyanadel, Commissioner James Rovella, Dr. Cato Laurencin, Michelle Riordan-Nold, Tamara Lanier, Allison Beas, Chief LJ Fusaro, Gail Hardy, Joe Cristalli, Eyvonne Parker-Bair, Colonel Stavros Mellekas, Lt. Colonel Mark Davison

Staff: Ken Barone, Jim Fazzalaro, Erica Escobar, Natalie Casanova

Guest: Jaden Edison, Joshua Eaton, Lisa D'Angelo, Matt Rocheleau, CT-N

I. Welcome & Introductions

- a. Chair Dyson convened the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

II. Approval of the June 28, 2023, meeting minutes

- a. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from June 28, 2023. The minutes were unanimously approved by members via voice vote.

III. Subcommittee Reports

a. Data Collection, Analysis, and Quality

There was no new update and members would be meeting in the coming weeks to discuss data updates.

b. Policy

Ken Barone provided members with a recap of the legislative session, including the adoption of the new racial profiling definition. No new updates were available.

c. Community Outreach

The Community Outreach subcommittee hosted its first public forum in Middletown since the start of the pandemic. The forum was very successful and attended by over 50 community members. Subcommittee members shared their feedback about the forum and look forward to planning the next forum for later this Fall. Ken Barone thanked Ana Mitchell for her hard work in planning the event.

IV. Old Business

a. CSP Data Audit update

Following the release of the audit in June, CSP published a response to each of the recommendations outlined in the report. Ken Barone shared with members that CSP had accepted all the recommendations outlined in the report and was working to implement those recommendations. Colonel Mellekas added that CSP was willing to participate in an annual audit. Lt. Colonel Davison informed the board that there are policy changes being implemented to ensure the accuracy of data and tools being used to screen troopers' data submissions. CSP is committed to working with the project to resolve any outstanding issues moving forward. Jim Fazzalano mentioned that the collaborative nature of the working relationship between the State Police and the project is encouraging and will set a precedent for the future. Tamara Lanier asked if they should be concerned about a widespread issue in municipal departments. Ken Barone stated that the added dispatcher role in municipal departments indicates that municipal departments are not able to falsify data in the same manner, but they are working on a random audit system to look for any potential issues. Allison Beas mentioned that federal funds have been expanded and could be considered for use to help implement any recommendations. Several board members discussed the need for more frequent audits and moving completely towards e-citations and away from paper citations.

Ken Barone mentioned that the board should consider how to handle discrepancies in the data as it relates to previous reports. It was proposed that this discussion be tabled and worked on by the Data Collection, Analysis, and Quality or Community Outreach subcommittee.

b. 2021 Traffic Stop Data Analysis and Findings

Ken Barone informed the board that he was working with the Wethersfield Police Department to finalize language regarding their identification in the 2021 data analysis. The project staff would like to publish the report sometime in September. The board agreed to publish the report on the project website after providing members at least 2 weeks to review the final report.

V. New Business

a. Hartford Police officer record fabrication investigation

The Hartford Police Department provided the project staff with a copy of the completed internal affairs investigation into Officer Michael Fallon's falsification of traffic stop records. HPD identified the problem as part of an annual audit of their 2022 data which revealed an anomaly of Officer Fallon's activity. Upon further investigation, the department concluded that the officer had falsified traffic stop information. The project staff will work to isolate this officer's stop records before proceeding with an analysis of the 2022 data.

VI. General Discussion

There was no general discussion, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.