



MINUTES

Thursday, October 19, 2023

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Zoom

Advisory Board Members Present: William Dyson (Chair), Andrew Clark, Marc Pelka, Tanya Hughes, Chief Neil Dryfe, Michael Gailor, Werner Oyanadel, 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, Stacey Manware

Staff: Ken Barone, Jim Fazzalaro, Erica Escobar

I. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Dyson convened the meeting at 10:04 a.m. and asked members to introduce themselves.

II. Approval of the August 24, 2023, meeting minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from August 24, 2023. The minutes were unanimously approved by members via voice vote.

III. Subcommittee Reports

a. Data Collection, Analysis, and Quality

Ken Barone updated the advisory board on the recent meeting of the subcommittee, highlighting their upcoming session scheduled for next week. He mentioned ongoing efforts to present a proposal to the full advisory board, ideally before the year-end, regarding a broader audit plan for other agencies. This audit initiative aims to explore the feasibility of conducting randomized audits on police departments in Connecticut. The subcommittee is currently brainstorming approaches for auditing agencies' data quality but emphasized the need to refine these ideas before drafting a comprehensive proposal to present to the entire board.

The subcommittee also proposed several modifications to the racial profiling data collection system, specifically altering certain data fields relating to searches involving not just vehicles but also drivers and passengers. These recommendations were endorsed by the subcommittee, approved by the board, presented to CJIS, and are now in the final stages of technical documentation updates. Discussions with CJIS last week suggest that the technical schema should be updated by the end of November. This

updated documentation will then be shared with vendors associated with police departments in the state, allowing them until July 1st, 2024, to implement, test, and launch these changes with their clients.

Stacey Manware emphasized the subcommittee's commitment to refraining from imposing additional obligations on the police beyond what is legally required. They aim to avoid suggesting burdensome or unsustainable measures and discussed the critical need to correct errors in the systems. The subcommittee's primary focus remains on forward-looking changes, yet they acknowledge the importance of addressing feasible data corrections to ensure accuracy.

b. Policy

The subcommittee is scheduled to meet in the coming weeks and aims to consider policies relevant to the session, including reviewing laws from the previous session that impacted their work. As of now, there are no further updates.

c. Community Outreach

Complaint Notice Card

Ken shared that the subcommittee recently reviewed the updated racial profiling definition in the statute. The complaint notice card needs to be updated to reflect the new legislative language. The notice is incorporated into the E-citation and E-warning systems. However, these systems currently retain the language from the old definition. Previously, individuals could file a complaint if they believed they were stopped, detained, or searched solely based on their race or ethnicity. The recent removal of the word 'solely' by the legislature has prompted the subcommittee to propose a simple update for the new notice card.

The subcommittee is recommending modifying the language to replace the word 'solely' with the updated statutory definition including the term: 'in whole or in part'. He highlighted the unchanged information, advising individuals to contact the police agency or the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities to file a complaint. Additionally, the notice encourages providing commendations or positive feedback to the police agency. The notice is printed in English on the front and Spanish on the back, maintaining its current format.

The plan is to continue publishing the notice in both languages and to supply printed copies for distribution by departments. Moreover, efforts will be made to collaborate with vendors to implement language modification in the E-ticket and E-warning systems. Presenting this proposal to the board today is aimed at seeking consideration and potential approval.

Werner Oyanadel suggested to the Advisory Board that the commendation section at the card's bottom might be unnecessary due to limited space. He emphasized the need for additional room to include essential content. Werner also committed to reviewing the Spanish translation and sharing feedback with the project team.

Ken responded by stating that the presence of commendation language has been on the card since 2013, emphasizing it's not a recent addition. Regarding the exemption language, Ken highlighted their decision against including exceptions for specific suspects. He clarified that the primary aim was to maintain clarity without causing confusion, rather than purely needing more space on the card. The focus remained on upholding a clear and consistent definition in line with the existing language.

Chief LJ Fusaro mentioned that he believes the language on the notice card is fitting and has been present previously. He emphasized the importance of language in situations where an individual's interaction may bring attention to the Police Department, whether positive or negative. Marc Pelka advocated for preserving the language, citing its historical inclusion, and asserting that it provides options without demanding further action or subsequent steps involving the Police Department or CHRO.

The Advisory Board agreed to proceed with the changes to the notice card presented by the subcommittee.

Glastonbury Public Forum

The subcommittee is planning the next community forum in Glastonbury. They are currently in the process of securing a location, likely at the Glastonbury Community Center. Initially, they aimed for November but reconsidered due to Thanksgiving travel, preferring to schedule it for the first week of December to avoid the holiday rush. Once they confirm the date, they'll notify interested participants. Moreover, the committee will convene on November 1st to discuss past reports related to the state police audit issues. They are exploring the potential addition of language in previous reports addressing the data quality concerns outlined in the state police audit, aiming to present a resolution to the full board.

IV. Old Business

a. 2021 Traffic Stop Analysis and Findings Report Release

The 2021 traffic stop report was recently published on the project website, reflecting the language agreed upon and worked out with the Wethersfield Police Department following the August meeting. This report has been finalized and is now available on the website. Additionally, collaboration with the Connecticut Data Collaborative has ensured the inclusion of all 2022 traffic stop data on the website. This update aligns with the legal obligation to publish data on a public website, keeping it up to date.

b. CSP Data Audit Report- Update

Ken provided an update on the CSP report's impact on previous project studies. He mentioned that a team led by Lieutenant Colonel Davison within the state police has been diligently reviewing troopers identified in the report. Specifically focusing on 130 troopers meeting specific criteria regarding unaccounted records, they've encountered issues with badge numbers among 27 troopers. Correcting these badge

issues eliminated 25 troopers from meeting the more conservative identification criteria. Thus, the total number of identified troopers decreased from 130 to 105.

Ken stated that additionally, out of these, 19 troopers were considered fully cleared from meeting any criteria outlined in the report, while six met the less conservative criteria. State police provided feedback on 20 additional troopers identified from the original 130, highlighting various findings and explanations. The aim of this process is to understand discrepancies. As of now, 47 troopers have been reviewed, with additional cases in progress. Ken emphasized patience due to the time-consuming nature of this process.

Lieutenant Colonel Davidson provided an update to the Advisory Board, focusing on ongoing investigations to pinpoint discrepancies, primarily linked to badge and date of birth input/transcription problems. This week, 22 more troopers were submitted for review, with an additional submission expected. Despite the time-consuming nature of the process, the commitment to thoroughness remains unwavering by CSP.

Regarding the audit recommendations, active testing has been conducted for integrating paper ticket numbers into NexGen. The plan is to implement this feature next week, ensuring paper ticket numbers become mandatory fields. This implementation will substantially reduce mismatches, simplifying the process of matching racial profiling cards to counterparts in CIB without added complexities.

Jim Fazzalaro stressed that the ongoing process isn't about exonerating police officers but understanding discrepancies. However, explanations for discrepancies don't guarantee record accuracy. The focus is on identifying systemic or individual issues and finding solutions. Jim cautioned that the process aims to rectify records, not determine the guilt or innocence of officers.

Lieutenant Colonel Davison clarified that the records being reconciled are racial profiling records matched with CIB records, ensuring counterparts in both domains. These aren't instances of mismatched or false records without a counterpart; they possess matches, although some might be tenuous based on the data between the two infractions. The reconciliation aims to correct previously overreported or underreported records, ensuring matches between the respective data sets.

V. New Business

a. 2022 Traffic Stop Data Analysis and Findings Report update.

The analysis for the 2022 data is nearing completion. The team is currently compiling the draft preliminary findings report. The plan is to present these initial 2022 findings at our November meeting. This presentation will highlight any identified agencies.

VI. General Discussion

There was no further discussion, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.