



MINUTES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Zoom

Advisory Board Members Present: William Dyson (Chair), Andrew Clark, Chief Vernon Riddick, Marc Pelka, Tanya Hughes, Cheryl Sharp, Dan Parlapiano, Chief Neil Dryfe, Michael Gailor, Werner Oyanadel, Commissioner James Rovella, Dr. Cato Laurencin, Michelle Riordan-Nold, Colonel Stavros Mellekas

Staff: Ken Barone, Erica Escobar, Natalie Casanova

Guest: Lt. Colonel Mark Davison, Matt Rocheleau (Hearst CT), Alex Putterman (CT Mirror), Sarah Eisele-Dyrli, CTN

I. Welcome & Introductions

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

II. Approval of the November 17, 2022, meeting minutes

Michael Gailor made a motion to approve the November 17, 2022, meeting minutes, which was seconded by Chief Vernon Riddick. The minutes were approved by members via voice vote.

III. Subcommittee Reports

a. Data Collection, Analysis, and Quality

The subcommittee last met in November and has their next meeting scheduled for after the new year. There is no update.

b. Policy

The Policy subcommittee reviewed the recommended updates to the definition of racial profiling that the advisory board endorsed in 2020. The subcommittee is recommending that the advisory board continue to endorse this change for the upcoming legislative session. Members discussed why the definition may not

have passed in previous sessions and the Chair indicated that he would speak with Judiciary Committee leadership. Andrew Clark mentioned that the board should consider include legislative recommendations in the annual report moving forward. The Chair asked if there were any objections to proceeding with submitting the recommendations to the Judiciary Committee. There were no objections.

c. Community Outreach

The subcommittee held their first organizational meeting in early December and have outlined a series of areas to focus on in the coming months. Subcommittee Chair Gail Hardy is still seeking to expand the membership and welcomed recommendations.

IV. Old Business

a. CSP Data Audit update

Ken Barone provided an update on the status of the Connecticut State Police data audit. The CSP provided all the requested information shortly after the November advisory board meeting. The staff does not have audit results to share at this time. Ken informed members that the project staff is working with researchers from Northeastern University to develop a rigorous method for identifying errors that are not the result of normal human error. The project staff will be conducting an independent audit from the Northeastern research team as a way to ensure that there is a check on both work products. Additional updates will be provided as they are available.

V. New Business

a. Preliminary analysis presentation: 2021 Traffic Stop Data Analysis and Findings

Ken Barone presented the preliminary analysis of the 2021 data findings. Connecticut continues to see a decrease in the statistical disparities found in traffic stops. There are also fewer police departments being identified on an annual basis. That being said, traffic enforcement is still down significantly since the pandemic, which may be impacting the overall data trends. The Wethersfield Police Department was identified with statistically significant disparities that warranted additional analysis. In addition, the project staff recommended a follow-up analysis of the Hartford Police Department search disparities.

During the time period of the study, the Wethersfield Police Department underwent changes in police leadership. The project staff believes it would be worth examining how those changes are currently impacting the department.

Chair Dyson recommended that the project staff consider finding a way to highlight improvements made by police departments, when they occur. Other members agreed with this statement.

Chief Dryfe highlighted the decrease in traffic enforcement and the rising number of traffic fatalities that should be explored. Ken Barone mentioned that 2021 was one of the deadliest years on our roads in over two decades.

The project staff estimated that the full 2021 report will be released in late Spring 2023.

VI. General Discussion

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