



Connecticut Racial Profiling Prohibition Project

Thursday, October 9, 2014

10am – 12pm

Legislative Office Building, Room 1B

Draft Minutes

Present: William Dyson, Mike Lawlor, Chief Doug Fuchs, Commissioner Dora Schriro, Orlando Rodriguez, Tanya Hughes, Tamara Lanier, Aaron Swanson, Sandra Staub, Stacey Manware, Jim Fazzalano, Ken Barone, Andrew Clark, Matt Ross, Cheryl Sharp, Rosanna Mey

The meeting was called to order at 10:05am

I. Welcome

Bill Dyson welcomed the advisory board thanked them for attending.

II. Approval of August 14, 2014 minutes

A motion was made by Andrew Clark and seconded by Tanya Hughes to approve the minutes from August 14, 2014. The minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

III. September 2014 Traffic Stop Report Release Debrief

The first racial profiling report was published in early September 2014 and this portion of the meeting was an opportunity for advisory board members to provide feedback. This feedback will be used to improve the release of the next report.

Most members of the advisory board expressed satisfaction with the initial report, but some members did highlight areas for improvement:

1. The report lacked sufficient information to explain the benchmarks being designed and used. In future reports the strengths and weaknesses of each benchmark should be clearly stated. Particular attention should be given to the estimated driving population benchmark.

2. Law enforcement stated that in the future they hoped to be able to participate in any press event.
3. Assure that data presented in the report is easy to read and understand how we arrived at our numbers.

Other improvements for the supplemental report will continue to be discussed at the working group level over the next 3 months.

IV. Data Improvements

Ken Barone discussed some of the data issue that became evident after the raw data was released to the public. There were some duplicate records found in the system that was subsequently cleaned up. In addition, it is difficult to easily determine if a traffic stop was conducted on a Limited Access Highway. Therefore, an additional data element will be added to easily identify LAH stops.

The ACLU questioned the low number of traffic stops reported for the Stamford Police Department. The ACLU and project staff reached out to the Stamford PD and determined that the department did not report over 25,000 traffic stops to the CJIS system. The project staff will continue to resolve this problem with Stamford personnel.

V. Ongoing Benchmark Improvements

Jim Fazzalaro presented a concept for comparing department traffic stop data to the state average. This would be utilized as a descriptive analytical tool. This method will continue to be discussed at the working group level.

Ken presented an issue that the staff is working through to address the “some other race” designation reported in Census data. “Some Other Race” is usually individuals that identify as “Hispanic.” Connecticut reports having approximately 105,000 residents identified “some other race.” The number is drastically reduced when you attribute “Hispanic” to that racial category. The project staff will work with the Data working group to resolve this issue.

Orlando Rodriguez addressed his concerns over the margin of error available in Census and American Community Survey data. He suggested using the 2010 Census numbers because the margin of error is non-existent. This will also be discussed at the working group level.

VI. General Discussion

There was no general discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 12:02pm.