



Connecticut Racial Profiling Prohibition Project

Thursday, August 11, 2016

10:00am – 12:00pm

Legislative Office Building, Room 1B

Minutes

Present: William Dyson, Commissioner Dora Schriro, Tanya Hughes, Tamara Lanier, Aaron Swanson, Stacey Manware, Jim Fazzalaro, Ken Barone, Andrew Clark, Cheryl Sharp, Michael Gailor, George Battle, David McGuire, Doug Fuchs, Jesse Kalinowski, Sarah Ficence, Dane Silcox

The meeting was called to order at 10:07am

I. Welcome

Bill Dyson welcomed the advisory board and informed them that this meeting would be live on CT-N.

II. May 2016 Report

a. Update on staff activities following report

The second racial profiling analysis was published on May 6, 2016 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.

Ken Barone updated members on the activities of the project staff following the release of the May 2016 report. Those activities included reaching out to all 9 municipal police departments identified in the analysis to schedule a follow-up discussion. As of the time of this meeting, the project staff has met with 8 of the 9 departments. Jim Fazzalaro reflected on the beneficial nature of meeting with departments in a one-on-one setting to discuss the traffic stop data in detail. The meetings are an opportunity for departments to better understand the analysis and to help researchers outline follow-up analysis to be conducted to further explore the racial disparities in the data.

The project staff informed these departments that it will look to map all traffic stop information. This will allow for a deeper level analysis by census tracts of the town to better understand where stops are occurring. In addition, researchers will conduct an officer level analysis that will use propensity score matching to measure officer activity. Propensity score matching is a statistical technique that has been used for over a decade. Lastly, project staff will begin to correlate data from calls for service, crimes and accident to better understand department specific trends.

b. Feedback and comments from advisory board members regarding the report

Bill Dyson asked members of the advisory board to provide feedback on the May 2016 report that would allow staff to make improvements in the future.

Doug Fuchs stated the desire of CPCA to make changes to the way the report is released. In particular, CPCA mentioned its preference that the follow-up analysis be conducted and reported on prior to any public release of the information. They believe that this will allow an opportunity for departments to work with research staff to better understand the racial disparities identified in a specific department and explain those disparities at the time of the report release. Ken Barone and Jim Fazzalano expressed concern over the amount of time it would take to produce an annual analysis, plus detailed follow-up analysis and report those findings to the state in a timely manner. In addition, it was mentioned that the law requires OPM to publish an annual analysis of the traffic stop data for all departments.

Cheryl Sharp responded to Doug Fuchs with her belief that police departments should be given a limited amount of time to understand and respond to the report prior to it being published. Jim Fazzalano stated that departments were given the report 3 weeks before it was released to the public this year. Mike Gailor also believes that the advisory board develop a mechanism to allow researchers and departments to work together to understand the factors contributing to racial disparities and report that at the same time as the annual analysis. David McGuire highlighted section two of the May 2016 report as one of the most informative parts of the report. Section two of the report was a detailed follow-up analysis on each of the departments identified in the April 2015 report.

Bill Dyson asked that the Data and Method Working Group further explore the best way to conduct a follow-up analysis and release an annual report in the future. He asked that the work group report back to the advisory board at a future meeting.

III. Open Discussion on next phase of the CTRP3 project

Bill Dyson led an open discussion on advisory board members ideas on the work of the advisory board moving forward. Andrew Clark presented a copy of the implementation guide from "The President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing." He asked that advisory board members take the time to read and reflect on some of the recommendations in the document. He stated that the advisory board should find opportunities to think more

globally about how we work to improve the community's trust of law enforcement and increase police legitimacy.

Commissioner Schriro spoke about her experience on another state task force that recently held a series of "community listening sessions." Members of the task force traveled to several communities around the state where the only agenda item was to allow community members an opportunity to share their experiences. These listening sessions helped to guide the future work of the task force and were a great method for improving community relations. The Commissioner expressed and interested in this advisory board holding similar listening sessions. The group unanimously agreed to assemble the Public Awareness work group to explore this possibility and report back to the group at the next meeting.

Tamara Lanier reflected on the release of the May 2016 report and what she is hearing from NAACP members regarding community/police relations in their communities. Tamara stated that the NAACP feels there is a disconnect between the perception police believe they have in the community and the perception community members have of the police. She expressed an interest in creating a survey tool where we can survey the relationship between the community and law enforcement in those communities identified in the annual report.

Doug Fuchs spoke about a program that CPCA is working to develop and deploy throughout the state of Connecticut called "Breaking Barriers." This program involves a local police officers speaking to driver's education programs about a traffic stop. CPCA believes this is a good opportunity for law enforcement to have a dialogue about the mechanics of a traffic stop and improve relations with the community. It was recommended that Doug present on this program at a future meeting.

Lastly, several advisory board members expressed an interest in the working groups meeting on a regular basis to continue the discussion from the meeting. This topics to be discussed include planning listening sessions, improving data collection, developing a protocol for releasing reports, developing an early warning system and determining additional analytical tools for analysis post stop data. The project staff agreed to put together a full working group agenda for the fall.

IV. General Discussion

There was no general discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 12:14pm.