



JJPOC Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2022
2:00pm-3:30pm
Zoom Conference Call

Attendance:

Rep. Anthony Nolan
Marc Pelka
Maurice Reaves
Jeff Beckham
Gary Winfield
Erica Bromley
Christina Quaranta
Macklin Roman
Janeen Reid
Hector Glynn
Martha Stone
Judge Dawne Westbrook
Gary Roberge
Derrick Molden

Sarah Eagan
Derrick Gordon
Susan Hamilton
Brian Casinghino
Angel Quiros
Christine Rapillo
Com. Vanessa Dorantes
Brian Hill
Lisa Sementilli
Joshua Bernegger
Catherine Osten
Greg Howard
Judge Patrick Carroll
Tais Ericson

Amy Marracino
Andrew Clark
TYJI Staff:
William Carbone
Erika Nowakowski
Donna Pfrommer
Shauntaye Monroe
Brittany LaMarr
Susan Cusano
Richard Concepcion
Lorenzo Boyd
Danielle Cooper
Eva Ott Hill

Welcome and Introductions

Undersecretary Marc Pelka welcomed everyone to the meeting, including the Community Expertise Workgroups from the Center for Children’s Advocacy, Full Circle, and Connecticut Justice Alliance.

Undersecretary Marc Pelka provided an update on the DOJ letter and report on MYI; the state is waiting for the DOJ to submit their initial settlement agreement.

Acceptance of JJPOC Meeting Minutes

Undersecretary Marc Pelka asked for a motion to accept the April 21, 2022, meeting minutes. The motion was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Connecticut Institute for Youth and Police Relations (CIYPR) Presentation

Dr. Lorenzo M. Boyd and Dr. Danielle T. Cooper presented on the Connecticut Institute for Youth and Police Relations (CIYPR). Dr. Boyd is the Stewart Professor of Criminal Justice and Community Policing, and the former Director of the Center for Advanced Policing at the University of New Haven. Dr. Cooper is the Director of Research at the Tow Youth Justice Institute. The work



is supported by Richard Concepcion, Dr. Jim Isenberg, and students at the University of New Haven. This project was brought to Dr. Cooper and Dr. Boyd through a grant. The goal of CIYPR is to provide monthly training to police officers with a direct focus on youth and youth relations. This first round of training took place in the greater Hartford area and 14 officers from the area engaged were selected. The officers were from seven units, with between one and three officers participating from each unit. The units were Bristol, East Hartford, Glastonbury, Hartford, University of Connecticut, West Hartford, and Windsor. The training took place over 9 months of classroom time and a year of follow up. These officers went through 64 hours of face-to-face training, plus homework that involved learning and engaging with communities. The outcomes of the program: for police to have a better understanding of the experiences that young people are facing, such as trauma in the community, adolescent brain development, decreasing the use of excessive force, increasing community engagement by police officers, and increasing the use of diversion. The more police understand young people, the more likely they can divert them to appropriate programs. This program not only gave officers the chance to engage with young people, but the opportunity to engage with each other. The program began in February 2021, with a pretest, which then was followed by monthly intensive training and then a graduation in September with a post-test. They were reevaluated in February 2022 to see where they are in implementing their community engagement projects.

There has been continual engagement with the officers to provide technical assistance as they implement their community engagement projects. Next steps for the project consists of completing the program evaluation, conducting listening sessions to help plan for Cohort 2, as well as continuing to plan and adjust the curriculum before starting Cohort 2. TYJI will pursue new funding for Cohort 2 with potentially Cohort 2 being implemented with more communities in the greater Hartford area, but other agencies outside this area have expressed interest in participating. This program is currently funded by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and the Travelers Foundation.

Police Accountability Taskforce Community Session Presentation: Youth Justice Implications from the Police Transparency and Accountability Task Force

Andrew Clark presented on Community Sessions of the Police Transparency and Accountability Task Force. This has received funding from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and the Travelers Foundation. The task force consisted of 13 members, 10 voting and 3 non-voting, it was chaired by a justice impacted person, Darrell McGraw. There was a great amount of police and law enforcement officers on the task force. All the recommendations the task force came up with were primarily done by consensus, which speaks to the idea of working together. The task force was



created as part of PA 19-90 to examine three specific areas. The three areas were, examining interactions of police with individuals with a mental, intellectual, or physical disability, looking at traffic stops and receipt with demographic information, and then the police transparency and accountability issue. The first meeting was held in January of 2020, they agreed to use President Obama's 21st Century Policing Task Force Report, a good amount of guidance was found from this. The task force was set up to be staffed by and provided administrative assistance from the Judiciary Committee and the Connecticut General Assembly.

The task force developed three subcommittees, Public Awareness, Improving Police Interaction with the Disability Community, and Logistics. Public Awareness was the primary committee that dealt with youth and the youth listening sessions. The task force met 27 times and the subcommittees met over 65 times over the two years. They also hosted 14 listening sessions as well. With the passing of PA 20-1 the remaining charge was to form recommendations on any other police transparency and accountability issues deemed appropriate. To fully explore this, the Public Awareness subcommittee created the opportunity to hold community listening sessions. The first round happened in September of 2020 with a general audience that participated, one of the things that was learned was that they needed to specifically hear from the youth. In round two of the listening sessions, young adults (18-25) participated, these sessions were moderated by students. The top suggestion coming out of this session was increased and improved training. Round three occurred in February and March of 2021 with a young group of participants (12-25), they were co-hosted by local advocacy organizations. A top theme coming out of this round was issues on youth interaction with police officers. Reports that came out of these sessions talk about the major themes, who participated, and how well they thought they did. One major theme was school resource officers, this was discussed across 3 out of the 4 listening sessions and opinions were generally split. Another theme was police training and interactions, which applied to improving interactions and communication with people with disabilities, health needs and the African American community. The responses were varied, sharing both good and bad experience, some responses demonstrated fear of police brutality, especially among communities of color. There were many conversations about how officers need to be trained to understand different mental health needs and how to deal with it. The third major theme was police interactions with youth, it was expressed that many youths feared interactions with the police. They recommended hiring more police officers of color, officers from the communities that they serve, they also talked about training, community policing as well as partnering with mental and behavioral health services.

The final report was issued this January, the report included 21 detailed recommendations. Thirteen of these went for legislative consideration, eleven went directly to POSTC, and then nine



recommendations were for direct municipal consideration. Many of these recommendations have become law, PA 22-114, and PA 22-64. In the last meeting, it was decided that an implementation guide should be created to help take the recommendations and put them into action.

2022 Legislative Update

HB 5417 became the juvenile justice bill of the year, it dealt with the issue of arrests of juveniles, delinquency procedures, allowing the court to order monitoring for juveniles on their second charge of vehicle or property theft. It also dealt with the issue holding juveniles, increasing it to 8 hours and five business days to hold a juvenile before they appeared before a judge. The bill dealt with increasing the time juveniles could serve for serious crimes, up to 60 months, and larceny of a motor vehicle. The JJPOC bill did not make it out of committee. The JJPOC workgroups will engage this summer in prioritizing and strategizing for the next legislative session.

Discussion

It was suggested that a future potential JJPOC agenda topic be on gun violence and do a deeper dive into the concern. Recommendation to invite one or two of the organizations that deal with gun violence in Connecticut and review new data regarding the increase in gun violence. This is an opportunity for JJPOC to learn the landscape of the issue, strategies in progress, and review of state and national best practices.

The June meeting will be held via Zoom and will not be held in-person. There will be a youth and family engagement training facilitated by Laura Furr who is providing technical assistance to the Community Expertise Workgroup of the JJPOC. Invitation and registration will be sent out soon to JJPOC members.

Next Meeting: June 16, 2:00-3:30pm