

Connecticut General Assembly

Police Transparency & Accountability Task Force

Jon Slifka, Chairperson



c/o Judiciary Committee, Room 2500
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Ct 06106

Improving Police Interactions with The Disability Community Subcommittee

Minutes

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

11:00 a.m., via Zoom

Attendees: Jon Slifka (Chair), Andrew Clark, Alvin Chege, Deb Blanchard, Rayla Mattson, Chief Thomas Kulhawik, Undersecretary Marc Pelka

Others: Cindy Prizio, Brian Anderson, Anita Benjamin (interpreter), Henri Alphonse Mendoza, James Rovella, Makenzie Ozycz, Meghan Peterson, Michelle Duprey, Rod O'Connor, Krista Ostaszewski,

- I.** Convene meeting and welcome
 - a. Chair Slifka convened the meeting at 11:08 am.*
- II.** Introduction of Members
 - a. At the request of Chair Slifka, members and guests introduced themselves.*
- III.** Review of Minutes from 12-08-20 Meeting
 - a. Minutes from 12.08.20 meeting were approved via voice note.*
- IV.** Discussion on Possible Recommendations for Preliminary Report (Due January 1, 2021)
 - a. Opening comments made by Andrew Clark reviewing previous meetings discussion on possible recommendations, including 911 emergency response system and data gathering. Andrew Clark mentioned Section 18 of Public Act 20-1 has moved forward to the voting stage. He then identified the next three items for discussion, youth and training with interactions in the disability community, and recruitment and outreach. Michelle Duprey recommended an ADA specialist available to departments when interacting with the disability community. Chief Kulhawik responded that allocating funding for these services may be difficult. Andrew Clark asked if there was any outreach to ADA specialists in these situations. Chief Kulhawik responded that yes, there is an individual that handles ADA to his department, but maybe not for smaller departments. Chair Slifka replied that many towns appoint ADA coordinators but they are not focused or educated enough on the ADA to be a good resource.*

Connecticut General Assembly

Police Transparency & Accountability Task Force

Jon Slifka, Chairperson



c/o Judiciary Committee, Room 2500
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Ct 06106

- b. *Chair Slifka then invited Meghan Peterson to present on preliminary research. Meghan Peterson identified that research shows officers who receive specific training have shown improvement in interactions with the disability community. She also identified that police who receive the specialized training have a better outreach with the disability community/resources in the community. She then identified that roleplaying training is okay but direct contact with disability community in training is better. She then identified that officers who have CIT training made more likely to refer individuals to mental health center.*

Andrew Clark recommended to the committee that the state consider an ADA coordinator at POST, and the standardization of mandatory initial and in-service training with input from the disability community and ADA experts. Chief Kulhawik asked what role ADA would play at POST. Michelle Duprey responded to advise on training, help manage ADA issues/questions, and draft materials for department to use. Chair Slifka responded that committee should consider it for further study and research. Alvin Chege agreed that more study is required on this. Andrew Clark recommended that the committee write this up for consideration, and consider timing in terms of the legislature. Chief Kulhawik identified that standardized training across the state is needed and should be moved forward to recommending that POST develop a standardized training program with the disability community. Michelle Duprey made the friendly amendment that training be designed including the disability community. Chief Kulhawik agreed with this friendly amendment. Andrew Clark questioned if this would include initial academy training. Chief Kulhawik responded it could include entry level, but should focus more on review credit in-service requirement over the three year cycle. Chair Slifka motioned to approve this recommendation to this subcommittee, motion was approved via voice note.

- c. *Andrew Clark moved on to speak on recruitment and outreach recommendations. He began with conversations on recruiting officers from the minority communities, as well as female officers. He asked the subcommittee if outreach should be standardized, and if recruitment should consider the disability community. Meghan Peterson identified that Maryland recruited individuals from disability community to be trainees, recommending that this template can be used here. Michelle Duprey responded that currently you do not have to include disability on job application, but most recruits in training do have a relationship to and with the disability community. Chair Slifka asked for recommendations for this section and then listed it for further study.*

Connecticut General Assembly

Police Transparency & Accountability Task Force

Jon Slifka, Chairperson



c/o Judiciary Committee, Room 2500
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Ct 06106

- V. Discussion on Next Steps
 - a. *Youth Section tabled for next meeting.*
 - b. *Motion made to wait until January 5, 2021 for next meeting, motion approved via voice note.*
- VI. Announcement of time and date of next meetings
 - a. *January 5, 2021 11am via Zoom*
- VII. Adjournment
 - a. *The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 pm.*

**Please click the following link to access the
Virtual task force meeting:
[ZOOM Link](#)**