

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, January 5th, 2021

11:00 a.m., via Zoom

Attendees: Jon Slifka (Chair), Undersecretary Marc Pelka, Chief Tom Kulhawik, Deb Blanchard, Rayla Mattson, Michelle Duprey, Andrew Clark, Ken Barone, Meghan Peterson, Brian Anderson, Anita Benjamin (Interpreter), Alvin Chege, Walter Glum, Dave Collins, Brian Foley, Henri Alphonse Mendoza, Makenzie Ozycz, Rod O'Connor, Krista Ostaszewski

I. Convene meeting and welcome

a. Chair Slifka convened the meeting at 11:05

II. Introduction of Members

a. At the request of Chair Slifka, members and guests introduced themselves.

III. Review of Minutes from 12/15/20 Meeting

a. Minutes from 12.15.20 meeting were approved via voice note.

IV. Discussion:

a. Social Worker Recommendation (reconsideration)

Andrew Clark and Ken Barone began the discussion on Chief Mello's friendly amendment to the recommendation for reconsideration by the subcommittee. Chief Kulhawik expressed being in favor of Chief Mello's amendment and having concerns about the task force's responsibility to conduct the evaluation based on lack of research. Ken Barone provided context for the recommendation based on conversations with CT Bar Association & other groups. Ken Barone also clarified that a comprehensive study is required, and the recommendation, which reads to expand Section 18 of the Public Act 20-1 with the study assessing the use of social workers. The section of the recommendation modified to incorporate Chief Mello's amendment was then read by Ken Barone. Jon Slifka asked how the subcommittees work would continue past its given ending date. Ken Barone responded that the work

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of the task force and subcommittees would be expanded beyond the December 31st, 2021 timeline currently in place to accommodate the feasibility study process.

Marc Pelka asked if the origin of the recommendation is a required item to weigh in on. Ken Barone responded he does not believe this falls under the items that legislature requires to weigh in on, but it is a priority of the task force. Marc Pelka then asked in what capacity the mental health community would be included in this, and also expressed concerns about the commitment of resources for the study. Chair Slifka then expressed Walter Glum's concerns about the inclusion of the disability community. Ken Barone responded that the understanding is that law enforcement is supporting this recommendation and integration but they do not want to lead the charge. Andrew Clark responded that clarifications are needed to make the process more efficient moving forward. Walter Glum shared concerns that the report might not concern intellectual disabilities.

Meghan Peterson then shared research and context on how different states have dealt with similar situations. Ken Barone proposed a recommendation that all reports due January 31st be made public within a set amount of days afterwards in order for widespread review. Chief Kulhawik shared concerns with there being too little guidance to share all reports, but proposed a tool or framework being shared to revise reports before being made public. Ken Barone replied that the POST Council make the reports available to the task force to ensure they have access to the information. Marc Pelka made a motion to approve the recommendation for POST to submit reports to the task force for review. Ken Barone clarified the reports submitted under Section 18 of Public Act 20-1, with a suggestion of thirty days after receiving the reports themselves. Alvin Chege seconds the motion. Chair Slifka voted to approve the motion, the motion passed via voice note.

- b. Potential Recommendations for Youth
 - a. Chair Slifka tabled this discussion for future meetings.

- V. Announcement of time and date of next meeting
 - a. February 2, 2021 11 am via Zoom.

- VI. Adjournment
 - a. The meeting was adjourned at 12:26.

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[Zoom meeting link](#)