

Connecticut General Assembly

Police Transparency & Accountability Task Force

Daryl McGraw, Co-Chairperson



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

Minutes

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

1:00 p.m., via Zoom

Attendees: Daryl McGraw (Chair), Ken Barone, William Wright, Jack Drumm, Jonathan Slifka, Maureen Lopes, Renee LaMark Muir, Andrew Clark, Deb Blanchard, Meghan Peterson, James Rovella, Brian Foley, Makenzie Ozycz, Brian Anderson, Henri Alphonse Mendoza, John Szewczyk, Tanya Barrett, Tanya Hughes, Shafiq Abdussabur, Alvin Chege, Doris Maldonado, Michelle Montano

I. Convene meeting and welcome

a. Chair McGraw convened the meeting at 1:04 pm

II. Review and acceptance of minutes from the 10/19/21 meeting

a. The minutes from 10/19/21 were approved via voice note.

III. Old Business

a. Bail fugitive recovery report- update

Ken Barone shared an update to the bail fugitive recovery report. The subcommittee is making no formal recommendation, but they have submitted updates to the original report. Special act 21-22 established the Task Force to study the regulations regarding bail fugitive recovery. Ken Barone asks that today a formal vote be taken on the changes made to accept the report by the Logistics Subcommittee, taking a roll call vote on the individual changes. Chair McGraw called for a motion to accept the bail fugitive recovery report, Chief Drumm motioned, William Wright seconded. Chair McGraw opened for discussion, seeing no discussion Ken Barone called a roll call vote: 6 yes, 0 no, 4 absent.

b. IPIDC recommendation report- update

Andrew Clark updated that the full Task Force did approve this recommendation but there were a few additions based on context, including Social Worker Feasibility Reports and requirement of Police Departments to submit these reports. The recommendations based in light of this information remains the same. The conclusion also includes a nod to the Sequential Intercept Model, which provides description on the process. Andrew identified the hope for a friendly amendment for the submitted additions instead of a roll call vote. Chair Slifka added that the SIM had potential to be used across disabilities. Andrew Clark added that they did pass the language through Chief Mello and the POST Council, who accepted the additions. Ken Barone stated that because this was voted on at the last meeting

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unless there is objection, we can consider the updates as accepted as part of the final report. Chair McGraw called for objections, there were none. Chair Slifka thanked the members of the subcommittee for their hard work within the subcommittee's work.

c. 988 Recommendation

Andrew Clark provided a summary on the recommendation. The subcommittee felt confident with forwarding the recommendation including minor tweaks: including implementing the federally mandated 988 crisis hotlines, enhancing behavioral health crisis response and suicide prevention services statewide, and fund the system through SAMHSA and DMHAS grants, reimbursement from private and public insurances, and if necessary, funds raised by imposing a federally authorized excised tax on commercial mobile services. Chair McGraw asked for a motion to accept the recommendation, the motion passed. Chair McGraw opened up for discussion. Tanya Barrett added information on 211, and the centers accreditation and certification. Ken Barone called a roll call vote: 6 yes, 0 no, 4 absent.

d. Licensed Clinical Social Worker addition to mental health assessments

Andrew Clark provided a summary on the work done within the Disability Task Force regarding Licensed Clinical Social Workers. Chair McGraw asked for any comments, seeing none he asked for a motion, William Wright motioned, John Szewczyk seconded, the motion passed. Chair McGraw opened for discussion, there was no discussion. Ken Barone called a roll call vote: 6 yes, 0 no, 4 absent.

e. Civilian Interview Panels

Ken Barone shared the recommendation by the Logistics Subcommittee to establish Civilian Interview Panels as part of the police hiring process. The panel would be advisory and would not have any veto power over an applicant. The panel could take many forms, discretion to be made by the individual municipality. The second recommendation is where allowable and feasible these panels should also be used to evaluate officers being put up for command staff promotions. Ken Barone suggested members voting on both recommendations together. Chair McGraw asked if there was a selection process for the individuals on the panels. Ken Barone replied that it would be up to the municipalities but does give examples of the types of groups that should be considered. Chair McGraw proposed voting on these two recommendations together, he asked for a motion to accept both, Chief Drumm and Chair Slifka motioned. Chair McGraw opened for discussion. William Wright commented the critical importance for municipalities to make sure that there is a training program for citizens as they participate in panels such as these. Chair McGraw asked if he would like this added as a friendly amendment. William Wright responded no, just structure added for the municipalities. Chief Drumm commented on the

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possibility of an HR component to ensure compliance. Ken Barone responded language could be added to the rationale in the recommendation highlighting that municipalities should be careful to follow all appropriate HR guidelines when hiring and interviewing individuals. Chief Drumm would recommend this addition, there were no objections to this addition by the rest of the Task Force. Ken Barone called a roll call vote: 6 yes, 0 no, 4 absent.

f. No-Knock Warrant Report

Ken Barone summarized the report, stating information on the Public Act as well as stating that the Task Force supports the law and makes no recommendations currently. Chair McGraw made a motion, the motion passed. Chair McGraw opened for discussion, seeing none Ken Barone called a roll call vote: 6 yes, 0 no, 4 absent.

IV. Subcommittee Updates

a. Improving Police Interactions with Disability Community

Chair Slifka commented that the Subcommittee's work has concluded with this month's meeting. They are happy to serve if they are needed moving forward.

b. Public Awareness

Andrew Clark updated that the Subcommittee had their last meeting this month. Discussions continued on public awareness in an additional, separate group meeting. The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving gave funds to the Institute, the group would like to utilize these funds by having in-person meetings in three distinct locations within the Farmington Avenue corridor. This would be an opportunity to present the work and receive feedback from the community.

c. Logistics

Ken Barone updated that the Subcommittee met last night for their final meeting. Ken Barone noted that Rep. Hall has been chairing the subcommittee, these meetings often go 2+ hours, and though he has not been able to attend meetings during the day due to teaching responsibilities, Rep. Hall has chaired the subcommittee with diligence and commitment.

i. Police peer intervention recommendation

Renee LaMark Muir summarized the rec. There are three recommendations: 1.) Beginning in 2023 POST will require all officer recruits receive at least 8 hours of training to understand the states Duty to Intervene Law. 2.) POST develops a mandatory seminar for police chief's and command staff on the

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statutory duty to intervene. The seminar would teach strategies and stress the importance of leadership in shifting the culture. The seminar would begin in 2023 and continue until all police chief's and command staff have attended.

3.) POST in collaboration with the State Institution of Higher Education consider operating a pilot peer intervention training program in at least five departments across the state. Preliminary work on the pilot program would begin in 2022, and implemented in participating police departments in 2023. Funding sources should be considered to support the pilot program. POST can consult with the CT Police Chiefs Association to identify PDs to participate. In selecting PD's consideration should be given to those departments identified in the Racial Profiling Study as having statistically significant disparities, and PD's that have identified has having the highest number of use of force incidents in the states annual report on police use of force. PD's that are selected should represent different sizes and compositions across the state. Participation is voluntary. A significant component of the program is to determine the efficacy of this type of training. A status report on these trainings would be due in 2025 & 2026, and a final report in 2027 which would document the development and implementation of the program, the data analysis, and any recommendation to continue to discontinue the program. If it is recommended to continue the program, the Task Force should make recommendations to develop a training manual and training for basic recruits. The status report and final report would be submitted to POST, the CT Police Chiefs Association, and the Legislative Committee having Cognizant over Public Safety.

There was no discussion or questions.

ii. Police union contracts recommendation

This had been considered a "big issue" for only a month and a half left on the clock for the subcommittee to consider and get proper stakeholders to the table for discussion. Renee LaMark Muir commented that a narrowed focus on police reform was made from the recommendation, including the policies and protocols that are developed during negotiation of collective bargaining. She echoed that there wasn't much time to look into this, and that there are 93 different police contracts to be considered. This area does need to be looked at, therefore the recommendation of a Legislative Task Force be established to assess the process of police union collective bargaining specifically in the contractual development of internal investigation and

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disciplinary procedures. The Task Force would look at this on a state and municipal level to ensure accountability, fairness, equity, and transparency in the process. The Task Force, if necessary, shall make recommendations to amend state labor laws to increase accountability and transparency in the disciplinary process.

Ken Barone added that a sentiment for more discussion on these issues exist, and experts need to be brought in to look at and review these issues. Shafiq Abdussabur added that it can be a dangerous precedent of allowing the public to weigh in on contracted municipal employees. He echoed that this issue requires more attention than currently provided. John Szewczyk reemphasized the need for more attention on this recommendation, including a broader group of individuals. Brian Anderson commented that this language has much broader implications than just for police officers. He stated that there is a long history of busting unions for discipline, therefore the implications would be broader than just police contracts. Ken Barone responded that the recommendation does not remove discipline, but talking about the role discipline plays in collective bargaining. He reminded the Task Force members that they are not talking about changing labor laws, they are talking about discussing the current system and whether it works and whether changes should be made. Brian Anderson replied that this is a complex topic. Ken Barone commented that these recommendations will be placed on the calendar for a vote at the next meeting in December.

V. General Discussion

a. CBA Police Task Force Final Report

Ken Barone updated that this report is available on the CBA website which includes 23 recommendations that they are passing along to the state legislature. All 23 of these recommendations have come before this Task Force and have been discussed. They acknowledged the partnership between this Task Force and their own.

b. PTATF Final Report and Release Details

Andrew Clark commented that this is a report to the Legislature. A form to be able to present the report to the Legislature would be an appropriate way to finalize things. There will be a gap between the final report and the Legislative Session. Deb Blanchard suggested to submit the report to her Chairs and they would decide what to include in their Bill, which could potentially be the entire Task Force, in which case there would be a public hearing where testimony could be submitted regarding the report. She will speak to the Chairs about

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an informational hearing regarding the report. Ideally an informational forum prior to or shortly after the Legislature convened to represent all the components of the report. More information on this will be forthcoming.

- VI.** Announcement of time and date of next meeting
- a. *Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.*
 - b. *If necessary, Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. in order to finalize the report.*
- VII.** Adjournment
- a. *Chair McGraw adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm.*