

Connecticut General Assembly

Police Transparency & Accountability Task Force

Jonathan 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 8, 2020

11:00 a.m., via Zoom

Attendees: Jon Slifka (Chair), Undersecretary Marc Pelka, Chief Tom Kulhawik, Doris Maldonado, Michelle Duprey, Rayla Mattson

Others: Ken Barone, Andrew Clark, Jennifer Vozzo, Sarah D'Agostino (interpreter), Deb Blanchard, Alvin Chege, Krista Ostaszewski, Rod O'Connor, Makenzie Ozycz, Henri Alphonse, Meghan Peterson, Brian Anderson

- 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 12-01-20 Meeting
 - a. Minutes from 12.01.20 meeting were approved via voice note.*
- IV.** Discussion on Possible Recommendations for Preliminary Report (Due January 1, 2021)
 - a. Opening comments made by Chair Slifka including the future of the recommendations and the subcommittees work into the next year. Chair Slifka then invited Andrew Clark to go through the report draft document.*
 - b. Andrew Clark asked if a uniform statewide registry for disability community would/should be applied. Michelle Duprey replied no, these registries are not practical, one already exists that does not work, and proper training for people with disabilities would be more helpful. Doris Maldonado replied that this would also be harmful to immigrant disability communities. Chief Kulhawik replied families often make PD aware voluntarily, this should be made widely aware. Marc Pelka asked how we should make frontline workers more aware of disability community. Michelle Duprey replied you must register yourself voluntarily. Rayla Mattson asked how this information is shared widely to PD & public. Michelle Duprey replied that*

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the Department of Public Safety is responsible. Alvin Chege inquired about the access to the registry for the deaf/blind community. Meghan Peterson commented on a disability landline registry in MA, and wondered if this technology could be transferred to cellphones.

- c. Ken Barone presented the draft recommendation for Section 18 of the Public Act 20-1, the feasibility of using social workers on mobile crisis units, for discussion of the subcommittee. Chief Kulhawik replied this recommendation should be endorsed by the subcommittee and task force. Doris Maldonado asked if Yale has been approached about involving the disability community in these services. Ken Barone replied that he feels the group would be open to inclusive membership. Chief Slifka asked what needed to be done to officially endorse this. Ken Barone replied to pass a motion, second it, discuss, and then a majority vote to recommend to the full task force. Chief Kulhawik and Marc Pelka motioned to approve a recommendation that Section 18 of the act be expanded to include a comprehensive feasibility study on the use of social workers and mobile crisis units by police in CT, working together with the CT Bar Association. Doris Maldonado commented that this motion needs to be comprehensive and culturally aware and responsive feasibility study. Ken Barone replied that we will amend this recommendation. Motion to approve Doris Maldonado's friendly amendment approved by Chief Kulhawik. Chief Slifka approved the motion via voice note.*
- d. Andrew Clark inquired about how 911 calls are taken, and if there should be a training for 911 operators and response system & recipients within the disability community. Michelle Duprey asked what the logistics of this training would be. Andrew Clark labeled this concern as an area of further study.*
- e. Andrew Clark presented the use of data gathering, and the recommendation that data collection include information specific to disability. Chief Kulhawik replied that the issue is collecting this information without having to ask, or being voluntarily offered it. Ken Barone shared similar concerns on crafting the incident form required in this data gathering. Andrew Clark replied labeled this recommendation for further assessment pending more information.*

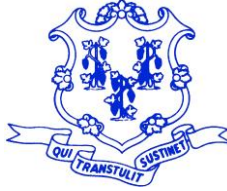
V. Discussion on Next Steps

- a. More concepts and recommendations to be discussed at Subcommittees next meeting.*

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- VI.** Announcement of time and date of next meetings
 - a. December 15, 2020 11am via Zoom*

- VII.** Adjournment
 - a. The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 pm.*

**Please click the following link to access the
Virtual task force meeting:**

[ZOOM Link](#)