

Minutes

Council on the Collateral Consequences of a Criminal Record

Research and Logistics Subcommittee

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

10-11:30am

CCSU Downtown Campus (ITBD Building)

1. Welcome and Introduction

- a. The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:07am. Members in person and participating via conference call introduced themselves.

2. Research and Logistics Subcommittee structure, organization and approach.

- a. The Chair presented a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting on October 30 2019. Ms. Diaz moved to approve the motion. This was seconded by Ms. Russell
- b. A draft of the Framework and Scope of the Research Subcommittee was provided
 - Phrases that are *italicized* were phrases recommended to include from the previous meeting.
 - Bolded paragraphs are intended to be edited to make CT specific (i.e. Findings 6,7,9,10,11,12, and 13)
 - After presentations from the upcoming agenda items, some will be revisited to adjust and/or action steps will be made to make adjustments in the coming weeks
 - Mr. Clark stated that he will follow up with the Employment Subcommittee to ensure that our findings align with theirs in regard to Finding #11

Next steps: Mr. Clark will edit the proposed scope and framework for the Research Committee to be considered for consensus at the next meeting, utilizing the suggestions made at the meeting

3. Expungement Presentation

- a. Ms. Diaz provided BOPP statistic on pardons
 - This lists data from 2013-2018
 - Identified how many applications were received, how many were deemed eligible, and how many pardons were granted
 - This data shows that the percentage of pardons granted has greatly increased since 2013
- b. Absolute pardon will expunge entire criminal history, including the registry. This exclude offenses that were convicted through federal courts, as well as out of state convictions.
- c. Ms. Diaz presented updates on BOPP's efforts to create an online application
 - Ability to edit and resubmit
 - Ability to track applications and collect information on demographics
 - BOPP cannot extract information based on offenses/convictions (prior to August of this year). Only anecdotal evidence from parole officers can be collected. This new online process will allow for further data collection.
- d. There was some discussion of the necessity of an attorney for this process
 - Ms. Diaz stated that no attorney is necessary for the process, but acknowledge that it may be helpful for certain tasks required of the process
- e. Certificates of employability
 - Awarded by CCSD and BOPP.
 - Can restrict certain job duties;
 - Must be out in community for 90 days with no violations
- f. Ms. Diaz states there are 12 denial reasons listed by BOPP

Next Steps: Ms. Diaz was willing to collect more information on how many have been pardoned (misdemeanors v. felonies; demographics). At the next meeting we will discuss how CT

compares to other states (mainly New England) on expungement and pardons. This information will also be incorporated into Findings #12 and #13

4. Voting Rights Presentation

- a. Review of attached presentation of “Felony Disenfranchisement” created by Ms. Russell and her students
 - Covered current CT Law, disproportionate impacts, comparison to the rest of New England, historical background into disenfranchisement in CT
 - Also listed were recent bills introduced to legislative bodies for consideration (i.e. HB 7160, SB 25, SB 53, SB 22, HB611)
- b. With respect to the findings:
 - Mr. Clark suggests we completely replace the 6th finding to make more CT specific and highlight the racial/ethnic disproportionality.

Next Steps: Make a draft of CT specific findings for next meeting based on the research from Ms. Russell

5. NICC Database Presentation- Mr. Patrick

- a. This topic was tabled until the next meeting on December 11, ,2019

Next steps: Mr. Patrick will present on this topic at the next meeting.

6. Discussion: the role of collateral consequences per the justice system

- a. We should be skeptical about the origins of many collateral consequences
 - If they are not protecting public safety, why are we enforcing them?

Next steps: Exploring historical context; development of legislative history

7. Discussion: New Research

- a. Financial Aid and Connecticut Scholarships

- Ms. Corbett clarified that if the individual is barred from federal aid, they are likely to be barred from CT state scholarships
- b. IMRP will collect ongoing CT related research, including that from other CCoCC subcommittees. Members will be invited to upcoming CT Reentry Collaborative DOC facility discussions on reentry and collateral consequences.

Next Steps: Ms. Moore agreed to do research regarding participation in a civil jury with a criminal conviction, Ms. Corbett agreed to do research regarding arbitrary findings/potential recommendations in higher education.

8. Next steps – deliverables and timeline

- a. Finalizing the Findings section of the document
- b. Mr. Clark suggests we look at the “Recommendations” section and consider edits for the next meeting
- c. Mr. Clark agreed to speak to probation for any available data.
- d. Possible date may be added, subcommittee members will be notified of changes

9. Adjourn

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Next meeting dates: (All times 10am. Location IMRP conference room, New Britain)

Wednesday, December 11

Wednesday, January 15