

**Connecticut Sentencing Task Force**  
**Disparity Subcommittee**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**October 17, 2007**  
**1:00 pm**

**Attendees:** Lori Ricks (DOC), Hilda Nieves (CSSD), Preston Tisdale (OCPD), Joseph Rubin (AG's Office), Kevin Kane (CSA), Marian Howard (OVA), Marie Kirkley-Bey (State Rep.), Toni Walker (State Rep), Larry Butler (State Rep), Andrew Clark (ISCJ/CCSU). Andrew Moseley (BOPP), Deborah Fuller (Judicial), John Kissel (State Sen.), Eric Coleman (State Sen.)

**Introduction-** Senator Kissel & Senator Coleman

**Facility Visit- Willard-Cybulski- Senator Kissel & Representative Walker**

- Houses non-violent offenders with mental illnesses
- The state has an obligation to protect inmates from other inmates
- We found that the facility had doubled from the designed capacity
- Limits the ability for Corrections Staff to adequately perform their duties
- Ratio: One Corrections Officer per 120 inmates
- 10 showers for 120 inmates
- One doctor for three facilities and one psychologist for 1,200 inmates.
- 93% of inmates are medicated
- The majority of inmates are young
- Not provided the appropriate services to prepare to re-integration to society
- Need to emphasize services in prison, including treatment, vocational programs and formal education.
- Many of the inmates housed in Willard-Cybulski are there for minor charges and should be released

**Member Comments on Facility Visit:**

- **Rep. Kirkley-Bey:** We are not preparing inmates for release; this is an issue that requires increased attention.
- **Senator Coleman:** Just visited the Hartford correctional facility, met with a young man who was forced to move to Hartford due to overcrowding and has been moved to four separate cells over the past two months.
- **Rep. Walker:** how many individuals have a criminal record, that prevents them from obtaining employment?
- **Andrew Clark:** Currently there are 55,000 individuals on probation, but we should figure out the greater number of individuals that have completed supervision.

## **Follow-up Discussion of Recommendations to Full Task Force**

- **Impact Statement- how can this subcommittee be most useful?**
  - Imperative to receive proposals from the other subcommittees so this subcommittee can move forward
  - The VERA institute is guiding us along

## **Final Draft Report to Full Taskforce**

- To determine if programming has kept up with the pace of incarcerated inmates
- Hire additional teachers and purchase course materials to enhance prison education programs
- Enhance burglary penalties
- The disproportionate minority representation in CT's prisons is a significant issue that requires more attention.

### **Discussion:**

- Failures don't always happen in the correctional facilities, there should be some focus on schools
- When communities fail to step up the plate, it makes it impossible to implement the programming necessary to foster successful re-entry
- Why haven't we taken some governmental resources and allocated it toward youth service announcements?
- Think about class and how it relates to race when deciding where to allocate funds.
- At some point we need to figure out what we want our report to look like.
- Think more long term, the task force is talking about creating a permanent sentencing commission, have the issue of racial and ethnic disparity be part of their legislative charge.

### **Next Steps:**

- School zone law- look at that statute; having a negative impact on the thing we are designed to correct; is the benefit worth it?
- Email all legislatures to get back to us with one or two criminal laws that they think has a racial and ethnic disparate impact.
- Attorney's Kane and Tisdale should discuss what issues they feel are important, this would show if CT criminal justice professionals really agree on the issues presented.
- Present a draft on what the committee has been doing.

**Next Meeting: November 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm**