

# CT Hate Crimes Advisory Council

## CT Hate Crimes Advisory Council - Subcommittee on Hate Crimes Reporting and Analysis Meeting Meeting Minutes

**Location:** Webex

**Date/Time:** 10-05-2021 @ 10:00am

**Attendees:** Hate Crimes Advisory Council Subcommittee of Hate Crimes Reporting and Analysis Meeting - Richard Wilson, Amy Meyerson, Cecil J. Thomas, James Rovella, Erene Hammond, Karen Boisvert, Kate Evans, Michael Bloom, Michelle Querijero, Richard Colangelo, Tamara Lanier, Sebastian Ullman, Laura David-Agudelo, Hallie Tingstad

**Time:** 10:05am-11:00am

### Orders of Business

1. **Old Business – n/a**
2. **Continuing Business – n/a**
3. **Welcome and Call to Order**
  - a. Call to Order by Tamara Lanier
4. **Introductions**
  - a. Roll Call and Recognitions by Tamara Lanier
  - b. Introduction of All Present Council Members
5. **Charge to Council Members**
  - a. Legislation creating the committee
    - i. Determine the nature and types of hate crimes/anti-bias incidents and the affected/targeted groups, and whether there has been a statistically significant increase in hate crimes and anti-bias incidents in Connecticut at the state level;
    - ii. Examine any challenges or barriers that may prevent law enforcement from reporting hate crimes accurately, fully and in a consistent manner across the state, and if necessary recommend changes to the current system of reporting hate crimes
    - iii. Review and, if necessary, recommend changes to the current system of analyzing hate crimes reported in the state, including providing police departments with real-time information on outbreaks of hate crimes
  - b. Charge from the Co-Chairs of the Council
    - i. Determine the nature and type of hate crimes and targeted group and whether there has been a significant increase
    - ii. Examine and challenges or barriers to law enforcement fully reporting hate crimes

- iii. Review and recommend changes to the current system
- 6. Meeting Schedule of Council and Subcommittee**
  - a. Possible meeting schedule for Council of the third Friday of every month at 1pm
    - i. General consensus is that will work
  - b. Possible meeting schedule for Subcommittee of the first Tuesday of every month at 10am
    - i. General consensus is that will work
- 7. New Business**
  - a. Defining the scope of work and relationship to Law Enforcement and Community Awareness subcommittees**
    - i. The issues overlap but subcommittees should coordinate to ensure that they do not duplicate work
    - ii. Discussion on how to draw boundaries and how to work with other subcommittees
      - 1. Reporting to the Council and other Subcommittees what this Subcommittee plans to work on
      - 2. Send minutes to Council and other Subcommittees
      - 3. Identifying specific points that overlap and highlight them so that they are not buried in minutes
  - b. Current system of hate crimes reporting in Connecticut**
    - i. General Questions
      - 1. Around 7,000 hate crimes are reported in the country, but NVS suggests that the actual number is closer to 250,000; is Connecticut the same?
      - 2. How are hate crimes reported and identified?
      - 3. How is that data collected and shared?
      - 4. What information is being reported?
      - 5. Is the bar/threshold for reporting hate crimes too high?
    - ii. Kate Evans provides information on current system of reporting in Connecticut
      - 1. CGS §29-7(N) guides reporting of hate crimes in Connecticut
      - 2. All towns participate in the system – NIBRS, a system of incident based reporting
      - 3. In NIBRS, as the officer enters the information it becomes available
      - 4. Data is reported monthly to the state police crime analysis department
      - 5. When the information comes in, it is compiled into a yearly report organized into categories and sub-categories
      - 6. Because there are only a low number of hate crimes, case has to be taken with statistical analysis
      - 7. An annual report is uploaded to CT.gov
      - 8. All data is submitted electronically
      - 9. Data only includes verified crimes in which someone was arrested for the hate crime (often only charged with the assault—so it would not be submitted as a hate crime)

10. All data collected by Connecticut crime analysis department is also reported to UCR
- iii. Discussion on certain communities being uncomfortable with reaching out to law enforcement
  1. Law enforcement could participate in community outreach to see if there are incidents that are not being reported
  2. Opening the line of communication at the local level
- iv. Two-Tier System – who decides if it is a hate crime in Connecticut?
  1. The first officer on the scene is responsible for identifying it as a hate crime and then it is verified by other officers
  2. Unsure if it is actually being verified in every local department, but the standard procedure is the first officer identifies the incident as a hate crime and then it is verified by other officers in that department
- v. Incidents Reported to an Officer
  1. Incident is brought in to an officer
  2. Officer enters it into CAD (computer-aided-dispatch) system with a UCR and NIBRS code—so there is a report that a hate crime was reported
  3. Other officers verify whether it is a hate crime
  4. If so, then at that point, the data is sent to the crime analysis department as a hate crime
- vi. Updates to cases where an incident was not originally reported as a hate crime but later is elevated to a hate crime
  1. Some law enforcement departments have the capability to update, but others do not
  2. In those cases, the hate crime may slip through the cracks
- vii. Path for a victim whose incident was determined to not be a hate crime to challenge that determination?
  1. Unsure if there is some sort of appeal process
  2. It seems like it is a sealed process within law enforcement
- viii. Anti-bias incidents are not covered by law enforcement hate crime reporting
  1. Suggest a community-based reporting system
  2. Community-based system would have to eventually coordinate with law enforcement if there is going to be an arrest or prosecution
  3. A community-based system could address bias incidents—with acknowledgement that it will not end in an arrest or prosecution—could help ensure that all available data is being captured
  4. Data for incidents and crimes could be kept separate
  5. The community-based system could help build trust in the community that would lead to more reporting to law enforcement
- ix. Hate Incidents in High Schools
  1. School's attempt to address incidents internally rather than reaching out to law enforcement

- 2. Building community outreach and trust may help encourage students to report to law enforcement
- c. Current System of analysis of data collected – n/a**
- d. Current training of law enforcement to identify bias crimes**
  - i. Basic and In-Service Training
  - ii. Initial Training of New Officers – Basic Training
    - 1. Hate and bias crimes are a section in the curriculum
    - 2. Minimum of 2 hours spent on hate and bias crimes curriculum
    - 3. Training officers have to submit their lesson plans for approval
    - 4. Comprehensive exam at end of training includes questions for hate and bias crimes
  - iii. In-Service Training
    - 1. Mandated to be 1 hour of training every 3 years, but departments can choose to do more often and/or more time
    - 2. Departments chose their own objectives
    - 3. No exam or evaluative process
  - iv. At both levels of training, elements of the law are reviewed and scenarios and/or hypotheticals are analyzed
  - v. Training Officers/Instructors
    - 1. Officers with specialized training or experts in the field can be used as instructors
    - 2. Varies from department to department
- e. Identifying additional information we need to know – n/a**
- f. UConn Law School Student Assistance from Hallie Tingstad and Sebastian Ullman**
  - i. Capacity for research
- g. Other subjects, including suggestions of speakers – n/a**
- 8. Other Business – n/a**
- 9. Announcements – n/a**
- 10. Date of Next Meeting**
  - a. Meeting 1st Tuesday of every month at 10:00am
- 11. Adjournment**
  - a. Richard Wilson and Tamara Lanier closing comments
- 12. Future Action Items – n/a**
- 13. Conclusion**
  - a. Next Meeting: November 2nd, 10:00am on Webex:  
<https://uconn-cmr.webex.com/meet/raw03003>