

State Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Race Equity, Inclusion, and Access Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date | 12/16/2021 7:30 a.m. | Meeting location Virtual (Zoom)

Co-Chairs: Rebecca Dallet

Supreme Court Justice
Wisconsin Supreme Court

Kimberly Lawton
District Attorney
Bayfield County

Staff

Lara Kenny
Donna Hahn

Subcommittee Members Present

Associate Judge Gwen Topping, Lt. Governor
Mandela Barnes, State Public Defender Kelli
Thompson, Deputy Chief Judge Carl Ashley, Jane
Graham Jennings, Chief Shon Barnes, Derek
Veitenheimer

Subcommittee Members Not Present

Dr. Jeneise Briggs, Vanessa McDowell, Judge Derek
Mosley, Jerome Dillard, Sheriff Rebecca Smith,

Others Present

Tina Virgil, Steve Wagner, Mike Austin, Kiley
Komro, Adam Plotkin, Ashley Billig, Fred Ludwig

AGENDA TOPICS

Welcome and Opening Comments

Supreme Court Justice Rebecca Dallet welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Race, Equity, Inclusion, and Access (REIA) Subcommittee.

Approval of 10/28/2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by State Public Defender Kelli Thompson and seconded by Deputy Chief Judge Carl Ashley to approve the 10/28/2021 meeting minutes. The motion was approved.

Implicit Bias Jury Instruction Proposal

Justice Dallet provided the subcommittee with a document for review that she plans to present to the Jury Instruction Committee. The Jury Instruction Committee will be reviewing the existing jury instructions in February and this subcommittee has an opportunity provide feedback. Instruction #50 does not currently include guidance on implicit bias. The document Justice Dallet provided to the subcommittee adds language on implicit bias, and the subcommittee agreed that the language was helpful.

A motion was made by Deputy Chief Judge Carl Ashley and seconded by Chief Shon Barnes to approve the Implicit Bias Jury Instruction Proposal as presented. The motion was approved.

Justice Dallet will be asking the Jury Instruction Committee for permission to present the proposed language for consideration at their meeting in February. The subcommittee members suggested she include in the presentation an update on how many other state and federal courts have language to address implicit bias in their jury instructions.

Task Force on Racial Disparities

Justice Dallet introduced Majority Leader Representative James Steineke and Representative Sheila Stubbs to speak on the Task Force on Racial Disparities. Members of the subcommittee received documents prior to the meeting.

Representative Steineke and Stubbs gave an overview of the creation and composition of the Task Force and explained its goals. Representative Stubbs then gave an overview of meetings that were held across the state with key stakeholders while working on the bills. Since the Task Force was created, seven bills have been signed into law and several were passed by the Assembly and are now in a Senate Committee.

Subcommittee members asked how they can help support this work. Ideas included a seminar with law enforcement agencies discussing best practices for topics such as no knock warrants and other items addressed in the bills, and inviting more community members into this subcommittee. Representative Stubbs will forward names and recommendations to Justice Dallet for consideration.

2022 Meeting Dates

Justice Dallet spoke to the members regarding the new meeting schedule for 2022. The time will change to 12:15-1:15pm and meetings will be the 1st Thursday every other month starting in February. Meeting months are February, April, June, August, October, and December. Donna Hahn will send out meeting invites.

Justice Dallet asked the members to continue to think about community members who should join the subcommittee for the next meeting.

Public Comment

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 a.m.