

LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTACTS POLICY AND DATA REVIEW COMMITTEE (LECC)

MEETING MINUTES

April 11, 2005, 10:00 a.m.

Oregon State Library, Salem, Oregon

LECC Members Present

William Feyerherm Walt Myers
David Fidanque Raul Ramirez
Annabelle Jaramillo Greg Willeford
Charles Martinez

LECC Staff Present

Claudia Black Craig Prins
Meredith (Bud) Bliss Laura Uva

Guests

Roland Broussard Peter Wong

LECC Members Excused

Keith Aoki Frank Thompson
Jan Chaiken

Welcome / Introductions

Each member briefly introduced her/himself.

Charles Martinez is a Research Scientist for the Oregon Social Learning Center. He runs a variety of different projects associated with outcomes for children in families of diverse backgrounds and communities. He does a lot of organizational diversity work with law enforcement organizations. In the last two years, he has done a series of diversity training efforts for both the Eugene Police Department and the Springfield Police Department. He has also worked with the Eugene Police Department on issues related to data collection and racial profiling data.

Sheriff Raul Ramirez has worked for the Marion County Sheriff's Department for 30 years. The majority of his work is related to community-building. He has worked throughout Oregon and Washington on assisting communities as a facilitator/mediator between law enforcement and communities of color.

Election of Acting Chair

Fidanque nominated Myers for acting chair of this meeting, and Feyerherm seconded. The committee unanimously approved Myers as acting chair for this meeting.

Approve Agenda

Feyerherm offered a motion to approve the agenda, and Ramirez seconded the motion. The agenda was unanimously approved.

New Member

Black stated that the Governor officially appointed Justice Edwin Peterson as the final member of the LECC.

Election of Chair

Ramirez nominated Justice Peterson for chair, and Feyerherm seconded this motion. Justice Peterson was unanimously selected as chair of the LECC.

Approve Minutes of March 2, 2005 Meeting

Willeford requested that his years of service be edited to 26 years rather than 20. Ramirez offered a motion to approve the minutes, and Feyerherm seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Data Review Subcommittee Update

Feyerherm provided this update because Jan Chaiken, Chair of the LECC Data Review Subcommittee, was not able to attend this meeting.

OASIS

The public perception survey that this subcommittee is using is the Oregon Annual Social Indicator Survey (OASIS). There are three years of data available to the LECC, and the fourth year's survey was recently completed. The major difficulty this subcommittee has had with this data is the relatively low proportion of responses from minority group members. The subcommittee discussed several ways of dealing with this in order to get an adequate assessment of perceptions. Bliss will aggregate the three years of data that they have in order to provide them with a greater number of responses from ethnic minorities.

Bliss informed the committee that OASIS will be able to add an extended sample to this year's survey within the discussed budget.

Martinez emphasized the importance of considering context in terms of how oversampling methods might work and which communities they choose to oversample. For example, if Portland is selected, efficiency would be maximized due to the larger pool of minority community representatives. However, this would not provide the full picture of community perceptions around the state, because tensions and concerns tend to be greatest in areas where communities of color are not widely represented. Feyerherm said that they would make sure that the oversampling is done in a fashion that is separable from the survey as a whole.

Law Enforcement Data & Survey

The LECC has copies only of relatively old data from a small number of Oregon law enforcement agencies, and it is unknown which jurisdictions are currently collecting data. The law enforcement survey will determine which agencies are either collecting data or contemplating data collection.

Jaramillo was concerned with the possibility of analyses of data done internally by law enforcement agencies being in conflict with the communities' perceptions, and emphasized that this must be appropriately addressed.

Feyerherm stated that, for purposes of analyses, the LECC needs to determine whether they identify individual jurisdictions or attempt to combine that information. A related question is, if assistance is offered to individual departments, is there an obligation to receive data from these departments and to provide analyses in reports that will be released?

The subcommittee decided to send the data review law enforcement survey after the community relations survey. In addition, they plan on asking for a primary point of contact in order to facilitate the completion of each section of the survey in a timely manner. The subcommittee decided to finalize the wording of the law enforcement survey questions by e-mail before their next meeting.

Community Relations Subcommittee Update

Myers explained that the Community Relations Subcommittee had discussed how they might best survey law enforcement agencies and who they might engage in helping them structure and deliver that survey. He suggested working through the Sheriff's Association and Oregon Association Chiefs of Police. Ramirez suggested attending the quarterly meetings with the chiefs and sheriffs in order to have an interface dialogue. Ramirez, who is on the Board of Directors of the Oregon Sheriffs' Association, will arrange for the LECC to be on the agenda of the June Sheriffs' Association meeting. Prins offered to contact Kevin Campbell about attending chiefs' meeting.

Myers emphasized the importance of the LECC becoming viewed as a resource and partner to communities of color and law enforcement agencies in Oregon. This requires building relationships before as well as while collecting information and data. Jaramillo expressed concern that using a listserv for the survey might be too impersonal.

Myers suggested having informal conversations about the issues with chiefs and sheriffs before asking them to complete the survey. Willeford agreed that this is an important step.

Ramirez suggested sharing the best practices and models of outreach with law enforcement agencies as well, but leaving it up to them as to which models they choose to implement. Black mentioned that Kristen Ott, a Graduate Research Assistant working on this project, could research data collection, programs and outreach efforts in other states.

Martinez explained that law enforcement agencies and communities of color may have different goals in mind for data collection. Because data is imprecise, it can potentially be used to justify either perception. Therefore, it is important to address this tension from the beginning by defining common goals. The transparent, open approach to relations with law enforcement agencies that the LECC is discussing will facilitate this process.

Feyerherm agreed and added that these conversations could themselves help to increase law enforcement agencies' awareness of and efforts to prevent racial profiling. He suggested encouraging law enforcement organizations to incorporate feedback regarding

data on racial profiling issues into routine agency meetings such as roll call and monthly briefings of command staff.

Fidanque stated that he thinks it is important to also find out which agencies are currently collecting data and understand what they have learned from that process, in terms of what the data show, how they worked with the communities of color, and the communities' responses. This should be done before the LECC sends its survey encouraging others to collect data.

Law Enforcement Training

Prins stated that the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) has offered a space on their Curriculum Committee for an LECC member. They are now in the process of expanding their curriculum, which will be implemented January of 2007.

Myers recommended that the full LECC decide which member would be best to serve on the DPSST Curriculum Committee. Prins explained that the Curriculum Committee is split into subgroups, and that the LECC would need to decide which subgroup would be most beneficial. Prins suggested that they serve on a subgroup that addresses traffic stops. He said that he would make an appointment with John Minnis, Director of DPSST, for Myers, Ramirez and himself to discuss their ideas.

Ramirez added that, while it is important to be involved at the academy level, in order to bring about behavioral change it is also essential to impact the Field Training and Evaluation Program (FTEP) at the agencies. He said they need to find out if cultural competency is infused into the FTEP program. Myers agreed that the training must be ongoing and the change needs to be supported by the leadership at the top. In addition, reserve officers frequently do not receive the same training as sworn personnel. Therefore, a plan to ensure the inclusion of reserves in training opportunities is a high priority of this committee.

LECC Budget

Prins stated that the Criminal Justice Commission's Budget Hearing will be on April 21, 2005 at 1:00 p.m.

Prins stated that \$100,000 has been put into the Ways and Means Committee co-chairs' budget for CJC to fund the continuation of the work of the LECC in the next biennium.

Fidanque and Willeford will meet with Senator Gordley, Chair of the Public Safety Subcommittee of Ways and Means, before the CJC's Budget Meeting. They requested that Prins give them an estimate of how much funding they would need to continue the work at the minimal level, and what they would need to do oversampling with OASIS.

There remains \$35,000 of unobligated funds for this biennium. Fidanque offered a motion to authorize staff to spend what is prudent, up to the currently unobligated amount, for enhancing the sample of respondents in the ongoing OASIS interviews. Feyerherm seconded the motion, and the committee voted unanimously in favor.

Feyerherm repeated that it is important that they make sure they know which jurisdictions are included in the expanded sample so that they may separate the data if needed.

Other Business / Open Comments from LECC

Fidanque suggested that Martinez draft a short synopsis for the LECC of his work on the changing demographics of communities of color in Oregon. Martinez agreed.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Next LECC Meeting / Agenda Items

Black informed the committee of Chaiken's request to schedule Data Review Subcommittee meetings on the mornings of future LECC meetings.

Fidanque mentioned that the Data Review Subcommittee wants to talk over the Eugene data collection process and results with a representative from the Eugene Police Department and communities of color. Because the entire LECC is interested in learning about this topic, they tentatively scheduled a full committee meeting in Eugene on May 9, 2005 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

They also tentatively scheduled a meeting in Hillsboro, at which they plan to discuss Hillsboro data with representatives from the Hillsboro Police Department and communities of color, on May 26, 2005 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Fidanque offered the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.m. Ramirez seconded his motion, and the committee unanimously approved it.