

Racial Justice Statistics Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

February 7th, 2025
3:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.

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Meeting ID: 230 352 635 879

Passcode: vF2YP6HU

Members present: Mia Schultz (NAACP), Andrew Laing, Breanna Sheehan (VCNAA), Grace Ahmed (VTRJA)

Members absent: Marita Canedo (Migrant Justice), AALV Inc., Outright Vermont

Guests present: Laura Carter (DRJS), Xusana Davis (ORE), Tiffany NorthReid (DRJS), Anthony Jackson Miller (DRJS), Patrick Autilio (VTRJA), Reverend Mark Hughes (VTRJA)

WELCOME

Meeting called to order at 3:05

1. Member and Guest Introductions

Members and guests introduced themselves.

2. Changes to the Agenda

No changes to the agenda.

3. Approve January 10th, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Approved by consensus.

4. Intention, Goal, or Priority Setting

None.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Update from the Division of Racial Justice Statistics

Tiffany provided an update on the Division's ongoing efforts, focusing on the challenges related to data quality. Current work involves addressing sensitive data collection issues, reviewing public datasets, and tackling inconsistencies in data systems across different agencies. Tiffany walked the Council through an example dataset to better illustrate challenges noting issues with data system incompatibility, dataset quality and discrepancies, irrelevant data, missing or incorrect data, and lack of consistent terminology and definitions. Discussion ensued around how to acknowledge and incorporate issues with data quality into subsequent analysis and conclusions as well as the role of and need for data governance in addressing data quality upstream. A short discussion also ensued about the need to focus on high-impact data points and establish a baseline with the data currently available. Due to time, this conversation was tabled until March.

NEW BUSINESS

Due to time constraints, all New Business was tabled until March.

- 1. Public Body Status Determination**
- 2. Council Interest/Priorities Survey**
- 3. Announcements/Upcoming Events**

CLOSING

1. Final Thoughts

None.

2. Public Comment

Mark emphasized the need to focus on scrutinizing key data across the justice system, using traffic stop data as a model. He highlighted the pushback from organizations required to provide data and suggested that there may be opportunities to amend statutes to address this including expanding the powers and independence of the Office of Racial Equity (ORE). Finally, he cautioned the RJSAC to avoid overstepping its advisory role and to focus on reviewing analysis, rather than becoming involved in other areas.

3. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:00.