

Champaign County Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 27, 2017
6:30 pm
Brookens Administrative Center

I. Call to Order

Carolyn Randolph called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

II. Roll Call

Members Present

D. Harber, R. Hughes, A. James, E. Patt, C. Randolph, S. Silver, G. Walter.

Members Absent

M. Ar-Raheem, S. Balgoyen, L. Branham, S. Byndom, E. Dee, A. Felty, A. Evans, S. Lerner, H. Ross, A. Shelton, D. Turner.

There was no quorum for this meeting.

III. Approval of Agenda

This item was tabled because of the lack of a quorum.

IV. Approval of Minutes

This item was tabled because of the lack of a quorum.

V. New Business

Meeting with Police Training Institute

Ryan updated the group on the meeting with the director of the Police Training Institute on April 13th. The meeting included introduction to the institute's history, the curriculum, and collaborations with the U of I and other organizations.

Esther asked about the format of the final deliverable. David responded that he was unsure that a final structure has been determined. He noted that the resolution includes "...within a time frame and format to be agreed upon by the County Board." Esther suggested including this as a point to bring up with them at the next meeting that we attend. Susan was concerned about sections of the reports that are written differently and do not work together well. Carolyn recommended looking at the Urbana IDOT Traffic Study report as a template for writing the report. Esther suggested adding one page to include what we are asking for to be included in the agenda so that they have advance notice to think about the format of the recommendations. Artice asked if we should consider what it is the County Board would want in terms of format. The process of asking the County Board about the preferred format was discussed. The task force will ask the County Board if the task force can decide on the format of the final recommendations.

County Board C.O.W. Meeting

It was recommended that the task force split the requests for budget and time extension. We are not on the County Board agenda. Carolyn recommended that the subcommittees begin working on their sections in case a time extension is not granted.

VI. Presentations

There were no presentations at this meeting.

VII. Public Participation

There was no public participation at this meeting.

VIII. Task Force Member Comments

IX. Subcommittee Meetings

This item was tabled.

X. Adjournment

Esther moved to adjourn.

Attached are notes from the STAT427 class presentations on the RJTF datasets.

Notes from STAT 427 pre-final presentation summarizing analysis of RJTF datasets
13 April 2017
Gerry Walter

Both our STAT 427 and STATcomm groups collaborated on in-class presentation for STAT 427 class and client (me). Five students contributed in presenting a PowerPoint slideshow (content not available at this time) that took three data sources — arrests, bookings and courts — in turn. Analyses and conclusions largely focus on differences between whites and blacks in the CJ system. Including the drastically smaller proportions of other races and ethnic groups in the total population (and CJ population) would severely weaken the power of any statistical analysis, so these were omitted from most tables/charts.

basic research questions

Arrests: Are there disparities? Are blacks more likely to end up in jail?

Booking: Are there race-associated differences in pre-trial times, and in pre-trial time spent in jail? Are blacks more likely to be sent to jail? Are blacks more likely to be sent to prison?

Courts: Do blacks receive different sentences for the same or similar crimes?

arrest findings

analyzed race, age and sex as predictors of going to jail after arrest
sex not a significant predictor, but younger people and blacks are both more likely to find themselves in jail

prob of a white suspect going to jail is 1/4 that for blacks
younger suspects, especially blacks, slightly more likely to go to jail

race makes a difference in likelihood of jail for 28 of 35 crime categories (but some categories don't have enough observations)

booking findings

majority of those booked are black, young
book-to-release time is longer for blacks than whites
book-to-court-date time is longer for blacks than whites

biggest differences in book-to-release times involve DUI (25d black, 3d white), cannabis, resisting officer (20d black, 10d white)

bond amounts were higher for blacks ONLY for weapons (\$135K black, \$35K white)
but bond amounts are subject to so many factors not available in the data that the best conclusion from what's there is that there is no conclusive evidence for systematic bias in time in jail or bond amount

courts findings

blacks are 60% of cases
people 18-30 years old are 54% of cases
prison is a significantly more common sentence for felony cases than others

analyzed sentences given for felonies (only types A, 2, 3, 4)

found age, sex and race NOT related to sentence received (length, prison v. probation)

so looked for racial disparities within the four felony types

found NONE — no statistically significant difference in likelihood of prison or length of sentence

primary findings

- there are racial disparities in who gets arrested
- there are racial disparities in who gets sent to jail
- there appear to be racial disparities in bond amounts for a small subset of crime categories, but determination of bond amounts is too complex to permit confident assertion that disparities actually exist
- there are no significant racial disparities in sentencing

other observations:

current data sets don't permit tracking individuals, prohibiting some potentially useful analyses — e.g., bond amount or length/type of sentence — in light of past arrest records or multiple offenses

employment codes are confusing, perhaps useless

geographic data (where arrests are made, where those arrested live) must be reduced to a smaller number of codes (e.g., neighborhood) before they can be useful in analysis

relationship of crime to bond amount is unclear or missing from data altogether

final report isn't ready yet and some statistical analyses and data representations will need to be fleshed out for non-stat readers. students found the data workshop very useful, particularly for learning about complexity of bond process.