

THE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON 21ST CENTURY POLICING

Minutes from the Conference Call: Final Deliberations on Interim Report

Washington, DC 20004

March 1, 2015

2:00 p.m. EST

Attendance

Task Force Members Present: Charles Ramsey, Laurie Robinson, Jose Lopez, Brittany Packnett, Susan Lee Rahr, Sean Michael Smoot, Bryan Stevenson, Roberto Villaseñor.

Task Force Members Attending by Conference Call: Cedric L. Alexander, Tracey L. Meares, Constance Rice.

Staff and Agency Personnel: Ronald Davis, Darrel Stephens, Steven Rickman, Melanca Clark, Deborah Spence, James Copple, Colleen Copple, Jessica Drake, Letitia Harmon

Public Conference Call was opened by Jessica Drake at approximately 2:00 p.m. EST

Laurie Robinson, co-chair, welcomed everyone.

Ronald Davis, executive director, took roll call.

James Copple facilitated the final deliberations.

Overview of Deliberations

Recommendation 2.2.3—Changed back to the previous language: The task force encourages policies that mandate the use of external and independent prosecutors in cases of police use of force resulting in death, officer involved shootings resulting in injury or death, or in-custody deaths.

Recommendation 2.2.2—Ramsey raised the point that it should be in cases of officer-involved shootings and police use of force resulting in injury, death, and in-custody deaths (which would match the previous recommendation language) because this is for elected officials. The task force cannot mandate, can only encourage, thus he recommended a return to that language.

Recommendation 2.15—Reviewed final language for this recommendation, had achieved consensus, but it was accidentally left out of the previous draft.

- Ramsey raised a question: What about the 12 states that don't have a POST—what process would they use to contribute to the database?
- Rahr explained that national standards vary dramatically for decertification.
- Packnett asked certification questions regarding language and whether it can be found elsewhere in the document.

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- Smoot said national certification and the word “expand” covers it.
- Consensus was reached to add “through the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.”
- Consensus was agreed to add “with the goal of covering all agencies within the United States and its territories.”

Recommendation 3.1.1—Consensus to change wording to “the Federal Government” instead of “the U.S. Department of Justice” and add District of Columbia to the states listed.

Pillar 5. Training and Education Consensus on adding “All states and territories and the District of Columbia should establish standards for hiring, training and education.”

Recommendation 6.13—Consensus to change “the U.S. Department of Justice” to “the Federal Government.”

Recommendations 2.13.1 and 2.13.2—Lopez requested a wording change to clarify that it isn’t the LGBTQ population that the misconduct was applying to, but rather police. Editors will clarify.

Recommendation 5.9—Consensus addition of “implicit bias.” Villaseñor brought up inconsistent wording of “cultural sensitivity versus responsiveness.” Consensus reached to add at the end, “...recognizing and confronting implicit bias and cultural responsiveness.”

Recommendation 4.4—Narrative to include “recognizing and confronting implicit bias and cultural responsiveness.” Rice noted the importance of strong clear leadership, a transformative chief, and a partner who has made the stretch to understand law enforcement in the community. The task force affirmed the value of good leadership.

Recommendation 5.3.1—New wording discussed: “Recognizing that strong, capable leadership is required to create cultural transformation, the U.S. Department of Justice should invest in developing learning goals and model curricula/training for each level of leadership.”

Review of Charts Removed two charts determined to be unhelpful. Packnett asked about graphs on deaths due to officer-involved shootings. No data available to insert such a chart at this time.

Recommendation 7.1—Consensus to add the phrase “to the extent practicable.”

Recommendation 7.3—Consensus to add the phrase “including but not limited to.”

Recommendation 1.2—Consensus to change wording to “acknowledge” rather than “recognize.”

Recommendation 4.1—Stevenson expressed concern about vague wording “informal social control” that might create more vigilante neighborhood watches.

- Rice said we need the community side to be funded as well as the law enforcement side of the equation.

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- Meares was concerned the wording does not reflect the intent of the recommendation. She said “informal social control” has a known definition in academia.
- Stevenson argued the public will not know that definition.

New wording proposed and accepted: “Law enforcement agencies should develop and adopt policies and strategies that reinforce the importance of community engagement in managing public safety.”

Recommendation 1.5—In two places consensus to substitute the use of “nonconfrontational” to “nonenforcement.”

The interim report was then adopted by the full task force and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:45 p.m. EST.

Minutes Certified By Co-Chairs: 4/24/2015