

M I N U T E S

MONDAY, August 11, 2008 – 8:00 a.m.

**PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

McEaddy Conference Room
12th Floor, 301 N. Olive Avenue
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Members Present:

James Barr
Barbara Cheives
Douglas Duncan
George Elmore
Carey Haughwout
Feirmon Johnson
Randolph K. Johnson, Sr.
Barry Krischer
Kathleen Kroll

Members Absent:

Ric Bradshaw
Richard Staudinger
Stephen Stepp

Art Johnson (ex officio
Exec. Committee)

Harry Johnston, II (ex officio Exec. Committee)

CJC Members Attending:

Stephen Burdelski
Maria Sachs
Carmen Veneziano

Guests Attending:

Maureen Brickous, PRIDE
Wanda Joiner, PRIDE
Michael McAuliffe, McAuliffe Law Group
Tony Spaniol, Palm Beach County Youth Affairs

Staff Present:

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director
Journey Beard, Crime Prevention Project Specialist
Arlene Burton-Griffiths, Administrative Secretary
Wayne English, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst
Katherine Hatos, Criminal Justice Analyst
Damir Kukec, Research & Planning Manager
Rosalind Murray, Program Development Specialist
Glenna Nowalk, Clerical Specialist
Brenda Oakes, Youth Violence Prevention Planning Coordinator
Kristie Slinsky, Student Intern
Mike Szakacs, Financial Analyst II

Candee Villapando, Criminal Justice Analyst
Becky Walker, Criminal Justice Programs Manager

- I. Chairman Barr called the meeting to order at approximately 8:05 a.m.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.
- III. Chairman Barr welcomed members and invited guests to introduce themselves.
- IV. The agenda was amended to add under New Business, request for support letter from the CJC for Traffic Hearing Officer Program.

The agenda was unanimously approved as amended, after motion by Mr. Elmore and second by Mr. R. Johnson.

- V. The minutes of the June 9, 2008 Executive Committee meeting were unanimously approved after motion by Mr. D. Duncan and second by Mr. R. Johnson.
- VI. Under Chairman's comments, Chair Barr:
 - A. Reminded members and guests to use microphone when speaking so that persons can hear clearly.
 - B. Reminded members that there will be no full CJC meeting in August. Full commission meetings resume in September, which will also be the CJC 20th Anniversary celebration.
 - C. Announced that the West Palm Beach Weed and Seed site was selected by the Community Capacity Development Office at the U.S. Department of Justice to receive training and technical assistance through the 2008 Reentry Public Safety Initiative Technical Assistance Project, ***Taking Innovative Steps in Addressing Reentry***. He congratulated Craig Spatara and Rosalind Murray for their hard work.
 - D. Reported that following the budget meeting held in June, the BCC accepted the CJC's recommendation for the budget reduction of \$150,000. Also, the CJC will retain the funding of \$2m for the youth empowerment program for the next year.
- VII. Under Executive Director's Comments, Mr. Rodriguez:

- A. Advised that the Criminal Justice Commission's 20th Anniversary celebration has been rescheduled to Monday, September 22, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. along with our full CJC meeting. The venue remains the Palm Beach Convention Center where breakfast will be also be served. He encouraged everyone to be in attendance.
- B. Reported that Becky Walker was asked to participate in the **Statewide Planning Meeting for Gang Reduction Strategy, Regional Task Force Strategy Sessions** on July 21, 2008 in Clearwater. The Office of the Attorney General hosted the planning meeting and will be having seven regional Gang Reduction Strategy Sessions. He noted that the efforts being made in Palm Beach County are being used as a model for the state.

Ms. Walker added that the meeting was actually chaired by the Attorney General and that a follow up conference call is scheduled for Thursday, August 14, 2008. She will also be participating in the first regional session in Tampa on September 9, 2008.

- C. Invited members and guests to attend the unveiling of five (5) new Palm Tran bus displays featuring the winning posters of the Criminal Justice Commission's "Prevent Youth Violence" design contest. The event is scheduled to take place at the Palm Tran Bus Yard, 3201 Electronics Way, West Palm Beach on Tuesday, August 12th at 1:00 p.m.

VIII. Business Consent Item

Mr. Rodriguez reminded the meeting of CJC's recommendation for an extension of PRIDE Probation's contract for another three years. This will be brought before the County Commissioners in September. He presented the revised contract which is currently being reviewed by the county attorney, and requested member feedback/comments. There was no further discussion regarding the contract.

Members unanimously approved proceeding with contract for three years after motion by Mr. Johnston and second by Mr. Elmore.

IX. Old Business – Regular Item

Staff recommends that the Criminal Justice Commission Executive Committee approve no more than \$50,000 (Fiscal Year 2009) to contract with an expert to assist with the proposed evaluation.

Mr. Rodriguez commented that Mr. Kukec has been in touch with some members regarding this issue. He said it is staff's recommendation that the CJC consider using a total of \$50,000 if available during the next fiscal year's budget, for evaluation of CJC programs. He noted that the time constraints coupled with other duties to be performed, staff is seeking to get some assistance with the evaluation project, particularly with the literature review of existing programs along with other programs that the CJC runs.

Mr. Kukec added that another component which he proposes to do is a very complex quantitative review looking at the combined impact on programs, and said that the assistance of an outside expert to do the statistical modeling would be beneficial, to measure the impact of all the programs that are funded by the CJC.

Mr. Rodriguez noted that this was brought up because it is similar to what the CJC is doing with the youth violence project and drew reference to other departments that use outside evaluators. He remarked that while he feels staff have the expertise to complete the work in-house, it is more of a staff issue, since Mr. Kukec staffs the Court System Task Force and Probation Advisory Board. It is a matter of how quickly the evaluation can be done and whether the idea of an outside evaluator going before the BCC would be more credible than CJC staff.

Mr. Elmore inquired whether the BCC requested the CJC to obtain outside review, to which Mr. Rodriguez responded no.

Chief Judge Kroll commented that she spoke with Damir. She stated that one of her concerns is that the BCC had a workshop on evaluating county programs, and she would like to make sure that if a format is in place, that the CJC would follow the format. She said the BCC also met with Children Services Council which has done extensive work in evaluating programs and further stated that she would hope the CJC is able to evaluate its own programs as it has always been the intent of the CJC to ensure that what we do in the county is what the county needs.

State Attorney Krischer added that according to the minutes of the previous meeting at which he was absent, it indicates that if funds were available it would be a no brainer, noting that the members just voted to give back funds to the BCC and are now discussing spending another \$50,000 that is not available. He said it is a great idea but cannot be accommodated when there is no money, and he would not vote for it.

Mr. Rodriguez commented that Chief Kroll was right about the CJC but stated that the CJC somehow got involved in running programs instead of only making recommendations. While the expertise is in house, his concern is whether the BCC would be concerned with the CJC evaluating its own program. He said that throughout the course of the year, typically, all the funds allocated to each program would not be spent and the proposal would be to use those unspent funds for evaluations, if available.

Chair Barr remarked that some of the mentioned concerns were raised when this was initially presented to the CJC and that it seems the consensus is that this is not the best time to move ahead with this, but instead provide the assessment from inside.

Ms. Cheives, while agreeing that funds are not available, inquired how much would staff lose if they were to do the evaluation and whether staff can effectively do it. She further noted that as the CJC moves forward to seek additional funding, she feels it would be a plus to have the programs evaluated from the outside.

Mr. Duncan concurred with Mr. Elmore that the BCC has never questioned what the CJC recommends and that according to Chief Judge Kroll, the CJC is here to provide recommendations. He said that the staff is doing a fabulous job and while he knows that they are overworked, the money is simply not available. To this end, he moved a motion to table the request for outside expertise until the money is available. Motion was seconded by Mr. Elmore.

Chief Kroll said that while the CJC awaits funding, it would prove useful to have Children's Council make a presentation to staff on how their programs are evaluated and share information.

Mr. Kukec thanked the members for speaking with him during the course of the week and for providing very useful feedback. He made mention of Mr. Staudinger who was absent, for the written comments he provided on the first draft. He also told the members that he respects their decision and is aware of the current dilemma, but that staff would continue with the monitoring aspect of the evaluation and reassign jobs where necessary in order to have it done. He also added that he agrees with Chief Kroll about the CJC's mission, one of which is to do research, reviews and evaluation of the programs to create a more effective criminal justice system in the county. He noted that in light of the CJC's mandate (see above) the request for \$50,000 represents 1% of the CJC's overall budget; which is roughly 5M to 6M per year. He advised that he will be making a presentation to the Finance Committee for operational funding at their next meeting.

Ms. Cheives commented that in the past grant money was available for criminal justice type evaluation work and suggested that it be explored.

Mr. Kukec said that staff is already exploring the availability of grants and that he is currently developing a community of best practices and is networking with other researchers and evaluators in government and non-government agencies.

X. New Business

- A. Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) request for funding in the amount of \$10,000 to assist with on-going training.

Mr. Rodriguez provided a brief on the CIT and how the CJC has worked with them in the past. He noted that to date, CIT has trained over 500 law enforcement officers throughout the county. They are seeking CJC's assistance in providing part-time help to organize the training as well as financial assistance which he said would be taken from lapsed dollars from the current budget or from the \$1M or CJC budget.

Public Defender Carey Haughwout added that she is an advocate of the program and questioned whether it would be a one-time expenditure.

Mr. Krischer added that it is an important program and reported that incidents of law enforcement shooting of mentally ill has significantly reduced in the county since the start of the program.

Members unanimously approved funding in the amount of \$10,000 to the CIT for on-going training after motion by Ms. Haughwout and second by Mr. Krischer.

Mr. Johnston inquired about the number of police officers in the county, noting that with 500 already trained of the 3300, we are only one sixth of the way there.

Mr. Rodriguez remarked that the way we would like to see this working despite the significant barriers in the county, is to follow the model out of Memphis, Tennessee where they have a one county one police force agency. They developed a protocol whereby, when a call is received that involves a mental health individual, a CIT officer is dispatched to the scene. He said this is a lot more difficult for Palm Beach County with 32 different law enforcement agencies.

- B. Chief Judge Kroll provided a brief on the Traffic Hearing Officers Program and requested the Criminal Justice Commission's support in the form of a letter to the BCC.

She said it was hoped that the county would include this as a consent agenda item for their next meeting but that did not happen, hence her request for support.

Members unanimously approved sending a letter of support for the Traffic Hearing Officers Program after motion by Mr. Krischer and second by Mr. Elmore.

XI. CJC Initiatives/Updates

Ms. Oakes reported that the City of Belle Glade and Palm Beach County arrived at an interlocal agreement and that the paper work is currently being processed. The agreement includes funding for this fiscal year and an additional \$300,000 for the next fiscal year. The CJC is scheduled to appear before the City's Commission on August 18, 2008 after which it will be presented to the BCC on August 19, 2008. CJC staff continues to provide support to the staff in Belle Glade.

Belle Glade City staff is currently negotiating contracts with the three providers for services. She said that following the execution of the interlocal agreement, Ms. Audrey Wolf of the Facilities Department is prepared to move the modular to the site identified in Belle Glade. The location however does not have electricity up to the property line and the city was asked to have the utilities brought to the property line.

Mr. Elmore inquired about the future of the center two years from now and how will it be funded.

Ms. Oakes responded that the interlocal agreement consists of 16 pages with reverted clause to take care of any defaults along the way. She also stated that at the end of the two years, it will be the city's responsibility to fund the center or seek appropriate funding.

Mr. Rodriguez added that the CJC will make the decision whether to approach the BCC for continued funding either for the programs that currently exist or for new programs.

Mr. Randy Johnson requested an update on the Riviera Beach Youth Empowerment Center.

Ms. Oakes reported that the Riviera Beach Youth Empowerment Center has had some problems with their location and is currently in a temporary location. Their permanent site should however be ready for occupancy by the end of the calendar year.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.