

**M I N U T E S**

**MONDAY, September 27, 2010**

**PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION**

McEaddy Conference Room  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor, 301 N. Olive Avenue  
West Palm Beach

***Members Present:***

Rosalyn Baker  
Stephen Barborini  
Mary Brandenburg  
Delsa Bush  
Barbara Cheives  
Douglas Duncan  
George Elmore  
Rolando Garcia  
Randolph K. Johnson, Sr.  
Nellie King  
William Kramer  
Kathleen Kroll  
Marti LaTour  
Wesley Lauer  
Michael McAuliffe  
Gerald Richman  
Valentin Rodriguez  
Priscilla Taylor  
Carmen Veneziano  
Lee Waring

James Barr, Ex-Officio Executive Committee  
Art Johnson, Ex-Officio Executive Committee

***Guests Attending:***

Francine Adderley, Palm Beach Bail Bond Association  
Sarah Alsofrom, State Attorney's Office  
Robert Bozzone, CARP, Inc.  
Maureen Brickous, Pride  
M. Brown, Public Defender's Office  
Edith Bush, Community Advisory Board  
Reed Daniel, City of West Palm Beach Youth Empowerment Center  
Barbara Dawicke, Court Administration  
Peggy Duncan, CJSC (Acupuncture)  
Barbara Horne, CJSC (Acupuncture)  
Daniel Lewis, CJSC (Acupuncture)  
Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office

***Members Absent:***

Monroe Benaim  
Sharon Bock  
Steven Burdelski  
Ric Bradshaw  
Mike Driscoll  
Carey Haughwout  
Feirmon Johnson  
Beth Kigel  
Frank Kitzerow

Larry McDowdell, CJS (Acupuncture)  
Tommy Richards, Palm Beach Bail Bond Association  
Loretta Sermon,  
Pat Sheffield, Department of Juvenile Justice/JDAI  
Craig Spatara, West Palm Beach Weed & Seed  
Alton Taylor, Drug Abuse Foundation  
Louis Tomeo, Clerk & Comptroller  
Greta Winter, CJSC (Acupuncture)  
Audrey Wolf, Facilities Development

**Staff Present:**

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director  
Arlene Burton, Administrative Secretary  
Tamika Cooley, Student Intern  
Shahzia Hashmi, Intern  
Katherine Hatos, Criminal Justice Analyst  
Damir Kukec, Research & Planning Manager  
Jenise Link, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst  
Rosalind Murray, Program Development Specialist  
Brenda Oakes, Youth Violence Prevention Planning Coordinator  
Candee Villapando, Criminal Justice Analyst  
Becky Walker, Criminal Justice Programs Manager

- I. Chair Barbara Cheives called the meeting to order at approximately 8:00 a.m. Welcome was extended to members and guests.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.
- III. Chair Cheives invited guests to introduce themselves.
- IV. The agenda was unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Douglas Duncan and second by Mr. George Elmore.
- V. The minutes of the May 24, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Duncan and second by Representative Mary Brandenburg.
- VI. Under Chairman's Comments, Chair Barbara Cheives:
  - A. Welcomed new members Commissioner Priscilla Taylor who will complete Commissioner Marcus's term; John McKenna from the Drug Enforcement Administration; and Nellie King from the Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.
  - B. Announced the resignations of Commissioner Karen Marcus and Max Davis from the CJC. Mr. Davis will be honored for his many years of service to the CJC.
  - C. Asked that a moment of silence be observed for former CJC member and Sheriff Edward Bieluch who passed away.
- VII. Under Executive Director's comments, Mr. Rodriguez:
  - A. Announced that the CJC was awarded the following grants:
    - A \$750,000 grant by the Office of Justice Programs at the Department of Justice

for the Second Chance Act. The one year grant will be used to expand reentry efforts in Palm Beach County with the newly designated reentry facility at Sago Palm, helping offenders transition back into the community. Mr. Rodriguez thanked Craig Spataro for the tremendous work he had done on preparing the grant application.

- A \$324,901 grant by the Department of Justice for an 18 month period to enhance their existing community-based, comprehensive anti-gang strategy. The prevention and intervention component, youth empowerment centers (YECs), are located in hotspot areas (ranking 1, 2, 4, 7, 8 in delinquency referrals) within the county and will be enhanced with targeted outreach and case management to mirror the Boys and Girls Clubs Gang Prevention through targeted outreach. All grant funds will be subcontracted to the five partnering cities: West Palm Beach, Riviera Beach, Lake Worth, Boynton Beach, and Belle Glade.

B. Reported that:

- The Executive Committee approved a recommendation from the Corrections Task Force/Public Safety Coordinating Council to implement a Misdemeanor Book and Release Program at the county jail.
- The CJC hosted the 2010 Florida Reentry Summit at the Hilton Palm Beach Airport, 150 Australian Avenue, West Palm Beach on Tuesday, September 21, 2010.
- The departure of two CJC staff members: Wayne English who accepted the county's early retirement option and Journey Beard who is now the Director of Contract Development and Quality Control for the Housing and Community Development department. Mr. Rodriguez said that the CJC plans to seek the County Administrator's permission to fill Mr. English's position.
- The CJC requested a grant extension to continue operation of the Community Justice Service Center (CJSC) using unexpended funds of approximately \$80,000 from the AARA JAG grant.

Daniel Lewis, Acupuncture physician, has been offering acupuncture treatment at the CJSC to individuals reentering the community from prison. Mr. Lewis noted that many of the recipients of this treatment are either on drugs or alcohol, and that statistics have indicated a retention rate increase of 30% for people who received this treatment.

VIII. New Business:

- A. Members unanimously approved recommendation by the Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) Advisory Committee for the dissolution of the Juvenile Assessment Donation Fund Committee after a motion by Mr. William Kramer and second by Mr. Randy Johnson. Mr. Rodriguez noted that the work that the committee was established to do has been completed, and that issues involving the JAC will be handled by two separate committees; one for the users and one for the partners. The JAC user committee will be a subcommittee of LEPC and the JAC partners committee will be an independent committee chaired by Mr. Feirmon Johnson.

- B. Recommendation by the CJC Executive Committee for staff to obtain additional information regarding the Corrections Task Force (CTF) proposal for funding request in the amount of \$946,490 from the Board of County Commissioner for a portion of the Substance Abuse Awareness Program.

Mr. Alton Taylor from the Drug Abuse Foundation reported that SAAP which operated eight separate programs would be closed on September 30, 2010 and will have a significant impact on the substance abuse service community particularly for criminally-involved individuals. He noted that the request is for continued diversion services for substance involved individuals who are committing crimes to support their habits. He said that the CTF believes that since SAAP was the principal substance abuse diversion program in Palm Beach County, it is very important for the county to retain some level of diversion services for substance involved individuals. To this end, the proposal is a request to keep 19% of the services provided by SAAP. He said that while 19% will by no means have the level of impact that a robust diversion program should have, it would be better than having nothing. He said that if this 19% services were kept, it would include the centralized assessment and 40 of 70 beds.

State Attorney Michael McAuliffe commented that while this is a set of worthwhile initiatives which his office has always supported, the real question is the source of funding. He said he was advised that the Sheriff's operation budget is focusing on the Sheriff's core mission and, further stating that this is really a Board of County Commissioners' (BCC) issue.

Chair Cheives asked whether the CJC should take this issue to the BCC, and if was the only issue to be presented, noting the need to be clear on what is being sought from the BCC as it can't always be dollars.

Commissioner Priscilla Taylor inquired if this was separate from the Sheriff's budget and commented that the funds are not available.

Mr. Rodriguez noted that while he understands the economic reality, it was agreed that the CJC should act as an advisory board to the BCC and it is in that capacity that the CJC would present this issue, the implications, and recommendations for funding.

Mr. George Elmore inquired about the cost of having a deputy on the streets for one year and wondered why the Sheriff isn't asked to reduce 10 deputies to cover this request.

Chair Cheives commented that the CJC is sometimes accused of the unwillingness to question the decisions of the constitutional officers. She said that Commissioner Marcus is constantly asking the CJC to look at what is necessary in the county as it relates to criminal justice and law enforcement, and further stated that there has to be some level of collaboration so as not to see valuable programs like SAAP die.

Mr. Randy Johnson noted that the CJC has to look at what it will cost the county for not having this program and present it from that angle to the BCC.

Mr. Kramer concurred with Mr. Johnson that this should be presented as a cost saving issue.

Mr. Lee Waring inquired about alternative funding that might be available for this purpose.

Mr. Duncan commented that it is the CJC's responsibility to inform the elected officials of this program that will fall by the wayside if not funded, reiterating that the recidivism rates

are facts, and that folks who received treatment don't recidivate compared to those that receive no treatment. He further stated that the poor people are the ones who will be impacted greatly.

Chief Delsa Bush commented that the Sheriff's core mission is law enforcement and when he has to cut he will look outside his core mission. She also remarked about the seriousness of graffiti.

Mr. Valentin Rodriguez commented on forfeiture funds being received by the Sheriff's Office and questioned whether the CJC would approach the Sheriff for monies from this fund for the SAAP program.

Ms. Nellie King noted that in going forward, the CJC should be looking at the start up cost for this project in the coming year since it is already gone.

After further discussion, members voted to present the issue in the form of a work shop to the BCC after a motion by Mr. Duncan and second by Mr. Johnson. Commissioner Taylor and Chief Bush opposed.

- C. Members unanimously approved the submission of a grant application for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Act for implementing a supported housing program for homeless individuals involved in the justice system that have mental health and substance abuse issues with a focus for custodial parents.

Mr. Rodriguez noted this is still in the preliminary stage and that detailed information will be provided as it becomes available.

- D. Recommendation by the CJC Executive Committee for staff to obtain additional information to support moving forward with Youth Violence Prevention project to the BCC and amount needed including other details. This was deferred to the next CJC meeting.

- E. Sunshine Statute

State Attorney McAuliffe presented an example of him being unable to speak directly with the Sheriff on matters to be discussed at the CJC meeting. He noted that if the Sunshine Statute is to be taken seriously, the CJC has to address a change somehow, whether it will be the CJC's membership, scope or a more limited definition of what the elected officials do on the CJC. He said that he has been working with the County Attorney and have arrived at some ways in which the issues can be addressed. He also spoke with folks in Tallahassee who are the subject matter experts on Sunshine law enforcement and restrictions. He is in the process of preparing a proposal in this regard for presentation to the CJC.

Chair Cheives noted that this will take some time to be resolved as it will require the CJC looking at the Ordinance.

- IX. CJC Initiatives/Updates

Mr. Rodriguez pointed members to the CJC initiatives/updates included in the agenda packet.

- X. Members Comments,

There were no member comments

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.