



PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

CORRECTIONS TASK FORCE/ Public Safety Coordinating Council

Palm Beach County Governmental Center
301 N. Olive Avenue, 10th Floor, Criminal Justice Commission
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Wednesday, April 2, 2014; 12:00 P.M.

http://www.pbcgov.com/criminaljustice/task_force/corrections/

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Douglas Duncan, Roth and Duncan, P.A.
Rosalyn Baker, Florida Department of Corrections
Ted Booras, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Vice-Chairman Chris Kneisley, Major, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
John Kastrenakes, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Jenise Link, Manager, Palm Beach County Pretrial Services Agency
Brandy Macaluso, Victims Rights Coalition
John Pruitt, Chief, Jupiter Inlet Colony Police Department
Tommy Richards, Palm Beach County Bail Bond Association
Louis Tomeo, Director Criminal Court Services, Office of the Clerk and Comptroller
Shelley Vana, Commissioner, Palm Beach County
Barbara White, Office of the Public Defender

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bob Bozzone, Executive Director, Comprehensive Alcohol Rehabilitation Program
Rev. Chaney, Clergy Representation
Jeffrey Colbath, Administrative Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Michelle Dryer, Workforce Alliance
Brian Fernandes, Office of the State Attorney
Leonard Hanser, Administrative Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
James Martz, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Caroline Shepherd, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Alton Taylor, Executive Director, Drug Abuse Foundation

GUESTS PRESENT:

Lois DeNigris, Intern, Coalition for Independent Living Options
Alan Fuhrman, Captain, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Lynn Powell, Office of the State Attorney
Stewart Saalfield, Court Administration
Alfonso Starling, Captain, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Schnelle Tonge, Office of the Public Defender
Kirk Volker, Office of the State Attorney

CJC STAFF PRESENT:

Shahzia Jackson, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Arlene Griffiths, Administrative Assistant
Damir Kukec, Research and Planning Manager
Brenda Oakes, Youth Violence Prevention Planning Coordinator
Craig Spatara, Criminal Justice Programs Manager

I. Welcome, opening comments

Shahzia Hashmi asked members and guests to introduce themselves.

II. Approval and/or additions to the agenda

The agenda was approved with a minor change. Under New Business, 12th floor population was moved up before Jail population report under Old Business.

III. Approval and/or additions to the February 5, 2014 minutes of the Corrections Task Force/Public Safety Coordinating Council meeting

The minutes of the February 4, 2014 meeting were approved. Chair Duncan asked what was the forecast from the study that was done years ago. Maj. Kneisley replied it was 3,000 which he just looked up from the Track A Report from the Jail Construction Project.

IV. Reports

A. Jail Population Report

Major Chris Kneisley reported that the jail population for last month was 2,187, down from 2,256 the month before; following the typical trend of going up after the holidays and then declines through the summer.

B. In House Arrest Report

Total In-House Arrest population is 187 inmates: 91 pretrial; no direct filed juveniles; 89 county sentenced; 2 probation; and 5 DJJ.

C. Pretrial Services Report

Jenise Link reported that as of Monday, there were a total of 1,024 defendants on SOR; 628 of these individuals were on SOR only, and 396 were on SOR with accompanying money bond. Of the 628 on SOR only, 13 remain in custody awaiting treatment or due to other charges or holds. Total SOR population out of custody was 917. As a comparison to this time last year, the numbers are up by 287; and down by 100 compared to last month. Chair Duncan clarified the difference from last month's number and wondered why. Ms. Link did not offer an explanation but only noted there is a new incoming first appearance judge.

D. Juvenile Detention Center Report

No report was presented.

E. Misdemeanor Probation Report

No report was presented. Ms. Hashmi announced that a new representative will be replacing Brian Feld who was no longer with misdemeanor probation.

V. Old Business

A. Jail population report

This item was discussed out of order - after the 12th floor population issue. Ms. Jackson referred the committee to the 2009 report conducted by the CJC Research and Planning Unit, and the Kent County Correctional Facility 2012 report provided by Captain Alan Fuhrman. The committee had previously agreed to update the 2009 PBC report, but will need to determine what changes or additions need to be made. Captain Fuhrman invited the members to look at the Kent County report, and that they may be able to provide some of the statistics included there, e.g., the demographic statistics, but not anything on recidivism because they do not track that. Commissioner Shelley Vana asked why the Sheriff's Office does not track recidivism, and added that is important to know; Captain Kneisley agrees that is important, and explained why they do not track it, i.e., limitations in their case management system, or the expense it would entail to make changes, etc. But he said that they note manually the individuals who were rearrested and brought back to jail and reports it to FDLE. Ms. Link made some suggestions as to what she wants to be added. Major Kneisley asked Damir Kukec if there is a way to track repeat offenders. Mr. Kukec replied yes, and that in fact, they have done it before, noting that the Sheriff's Office database is quite robust. Judge Ted Booras noted that the county jail reports may not account for arrests in another county; Major Kneisley remarked that county jail reports usually encompass their internal data management system only.

VI. New Business

A. 12th Floor population

This item was moved up ahead of the jail population report under Old Business. Brenda Oakes, Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator discussed the issue of an increase in the 12th floor population which came out at the Juvenile Justice Board meeting. Ms. Oakes did preliminary research and referred to a table showing an increase in the last quarter and the last half of the year and was not sure about the reason for the increase. She reported that from 2008 to present, there has been a decrease of direct files of over 50%, so they would like to know the reason for the increase in the 12th floor jail population; is it a result of an increase in the inmate's length of stay, or an increase in direct files from another state attorney's office. They would also like research to be conducted to determine if there are existing resources to serve this population, and to look at release and reoffense data for this population.

Lynn Powell reported that she did a rough check and she said that from personal observations, the increase in the 12th floor population may be due to youth receiving juvenile sanctions on a direct file case, and then picking up new charges. Also, they

have noted and increase in gun, charges armed robberies, the type of violent crimes, and property crimes from juveniles with long history carrying hefty sentences. Chair Duncan noted that Ms. Powell is the Chief of the Juvenile Division at the SAO. Schnelle Tonge concurred with the observations of decreasing numbers of direct files, but increasing numbers of youth on the 12th floor. She said she found that these cases are usually 3rd degree felonies that are direct filed, and that according to the SAO, are kids with a longer history. And in some instances, the cases involve, for example, batter of a school employee which used to stay at juvenile court. She therefore agrees to the importance of researching this issue. The committee agreed to look into the issue.

VII. Updates

A. Detention Center programs

No update was presented.

B. Reentry Update

Craig Spatara gave a presentation on the PBC Ex-Offender Reentry program. He provided general background information on the program, and the structure of the Reentry Task Force and its ongoing responsibilities. He talked about the programs goals and intended outcomes, and emphasized that their program is unique because it is community based as opposed to other programs that are law enforcement related. He also explained the reentry service structure, and described their programs which are RESTORE, Community Based Reentry, and Back to a Future – a newly added initiative geared towards juvenile enhancements which is overseen by Ms. Jackson. He talked about the CJC Reentry Network – RENEW, which is a case management system developed to ensure offender risk and criminogenic needs are identified and addressed. RENEW is currently tracking 1,570 ex-offenders in PBC. Mr. Spatara also mentioned the independent evaluation conducted by the University of Florida (USF) which indicated that “the County’s approach to reentry, as exemplified by RESTORE, can become a national model if sustained in PBC.” Lastly, Mr. Spatara talked about the reentry results taken from the USF evaluation which reported a rearrest within a year of RESTORE participants at 31% rate compared to the comparison group’s at 68%, which was a marked success for RESTORE.

Commissioner Vana asked about the sex offenders that were allegedly just dropped off in a location where kids could ride their bikes since they have nowhere to live in the county. Rosalyn Baker, DOC Circuit Administrator, responded and stated that DOC does not just drop off released sex offenders in the woods; but that they are released to a facility in PBC, in a private residence, or if homeless, brought to the Probation and Parole Office and work out some living arrangements with them, and are put on some sort of supervision. Unfortunately, the DOC is limited to the restrictions set by the municipalities and the statutes. Commissioner Vana clarified that she is not blaming the DOC, but just wanted to point out the flaw in the system; and further, it costs a lot of money to live there. Barbara White added that it is also far from employment opportunities, and most of these issues are caused by legislated restrictions. Judge John Kastrenakes agreed that the problem lies in Tallahassee

because of the residential restrictions which make it impossible to work out viable living situations for released sex offenders. Brandy Macaluso suggested contacting the Florida Association of Realtors who has a task force dealing with this issue in Tallahassee. Mr. Spatara noted that they have a subcommittee working specifically on these issues and invited anyone interested to participate. Chief John Pruitt said he is a member of the sex offender task force Mr. Spatara mentioned, and that in his municipality, their town attorney came up with a framework for a sample ordinance that they will try to bring to the county and the municipalities. Mr. Spatara added that sex offenders comprise 10% of their clients; which is a small proportion but that they have many needs. Mr. Spatara asked everyone to contact him or Ms. Jackson if they are aware of any population that they may need their help or that they may reach. Ms. White thanked Mr. Spatara for the wonderful work that he has done. Lastly, Judge Booras offered a suggestion how to work around the driver's license issues.

VIII. Announcements

A. National Crime Victims' Rights Week

Brandy Macaluso talked about the events for the National Crime Victims' Rights Week, which starts on Saturday, and the sexual assault awareness month.

IX. Additional member and guest comments

X. Adjournment