



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, February 5, 2014; 12:00 P.M.

[HTTP://WWW.PBCGOV.COM/CRIMINALJUSTICE/TASK_FORCE/CORRECTIONS/](http://www.pbcgov.com/criminaljustice/task_force/corrections/)

- SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Douglas Duncan, Roth and Duncan, P.A.
Jeffrey Colbath, Administrative Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Brian Feld, Professional Probation Services
Brandy Macaluso, Victims Rights Coalition
John Pruitt, Chief, Jupiter Inlet Colony Police Department
Tommy Richards, Palm Beach County Bail Bond Association
Alton Taylor, Executive Director, Drug Abuse Foundation
Shelley Vana, Commissioner, Palm Beach County

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rosalyn Baker, Florida Department of Corrections
Bob Bozzone, Executive Director, Comprehensive Alcohol Rehabilitation Program
Rev. Chaney, Clergy Representation
Michelle Dryer, Workforce Alliance
Brian Fernandes, Office of the State Attorney
Leonard Hanser, Administrative Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
John Kastrenakes, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Vice-Chairman Chris Kneisley, Major, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Jenise Link, Manager, Palm Beach County Pretrial Services Agency
James Martz, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Caroline Shepherd, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Barbara White, Office of the Public Defender
Louis Tomeo, Director Criminal Court Services, Office of the Clerk and Comptroller

GUESTS PRESENT:

Mike Edmondson, Office of the State Attorney
Emanuel Fornah, Manager, Palm Beach County Pretrial Services Agency
Bea Lovelace, Office of the Clerk and Comptroller
Frank Milo, Captain, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Stewart Saalfield, Court Administration
Kirk Volker, Office of the State Attorney
Lois DeNigris, Intern, Coalition for Independent Living Options

CJC STAFF PRESENT:

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director
Shahzia Jackson, Criminal Justice Analyst
Damir Kukec, Research and Planning Manager

I. Welcome, opening comments

Chairman Duncan welcomed Chief John Pruitt and thanked him for his willingness to serve on the committee. He also announced another new member, Judge Leonard Hanser, who will be joining in later.

II. The agenda was approved without any changes.

III. The minutes of the December 4, 2013 meeting were approved.

IV. Chairman's Comments

V. Reports

A. Jail Population Report

Captain Frank Milo reported for Major Chris Kneisley. Jail population is currently 2,271.

B. In House Arrest Report

Total In-House Arrest population is 178 inmates: 92 pretrial; no direct filed juveniles; 76 county sentenced; 2 probation; 8 DJJ; and no inmate place under AO. Pay and gos for the month of January was 219.

Judge Colbath asked about the divergence between the average daily population and projected population trend lines on one of the charts. Michael Rodriguez offered that it may be because the committee is doing such a great work. He said it may be time to do a new projection, but he was not sure if it will be worth the expense. He explained it may basically be that crime is plummeting nationwide, and more so in the county, especially juvenile crime. He added that he is more concerned that the pay and go and In-House arrest numbers are down. Capt. Milo said that pay and gos has always fluctuated for years. Judge Colbath asked if the committee needs to do a better job advising the new judges in the criminal division about these programs. Chair Duncan, noticing AO as zero, also suggested getting it out to the new judges.

Alton Taylor suggested that it may be a good idea to have a basic analysis where you overlay incarceration with the number of arrests, and the number of officers in the street to see if there is any correlation among them. Mr. Rodriguez mentioned that staff is preparing related information for the upcoming Annual Planning Meeting. He added that the committee sent out a letter to the chiefs reminding them about the NTA process; he is curious whether or not the number of NTAs has increased, which will also affect the number of book and releases.

C. Pretrial Services Report

Emanuel Fornah reported for Jenise Link. As of yesterday, February 4th, there were a total of 1,131 defendants on SOR; 652 of these individuals were on SOR only, and 479 were on SOR with accompanying money bond. Of the 652 on SOR only, 14 remain in custody awaiting treatment or due to other charges or holds. Total SOR population out of custody was 638. Of the 479 individual on SOR with accompanying money bond, 128 individual remain in custody. Total out of custody SOR population is 989.

D. Juvenile Detention Center Report

No report was presented at the meeting. Shahzia Jackson will send the information out today by email.

E. Misdemeanor Probation Report

Brian Feld reported that for the month of January they ended up with a total of 2,300 cases; receiving 203 new cases. They closed 251 cases; with 62 revoked or terminated by court, 184 terminating successfully.

Chair Duncan asked if PPS there is a way of increasing the staff in the courtroom to alleviate the wait time for the clients especially on busier days. Mr. Feld replied that they have added more staff on the 9th floor office and that there is a probation officer in each courtroom. Chair Duncan observed that in felony court, the clients are seen for one minute instead of getting all the information from the client. Mr. Feld reasoned that they are contractually required in county court to explain the conditions of probation to the client at that initial intake. Also, felony probation has more access to contact and other information on the client that county probation would not have, so they try to get as much information from the client at that time to make sure that they have a way of getting in touch with the clients once they leave the courtroom.

Tommy Richards posed a question to Mr. Feld, Mr. Fornah, & Judge Colbath. He said that in cases where individuals were offered a money bond or SOR, and the individual chooses SOR, he observed that almost in every case, when these individuals violate their SOR, they are issued a no-bond so they would sit in jail instead of having the option of bonding out. He wondered if this is some sort of punishment for the individual. Judge Colbath disagreed, and that most likely the no-bond is a result of a more serious violation, other than a technical violation, like missing a meeting. He assured Mr. Richards that he understands his concern and will pass it along to the two First Appearance judges.

Mr. Rodriguez referred to the chart attached on the misdemeanor probation population over time. He observed that there appears to be a huge drop between 2012 and 2013. Mr. Feld responded that they have not noticed anything since they have taken over, so he does not know what the previous numbers were. He said added that it may be a difference of how Pride counted cases in their system. Mr.

Rodriguez agreed that it might be a case of how the cases are being counted. He said they will follow it with PPS and get it straightened out.

VI. Old Business

No old business.

VII. New Business

Mr. Rodriguez noted that the committee is at the point where they are pretty much caught up with all the issues, so he emphasized that this would be the best time to bring up any concerns, issues, or anything they need to work on.

Chair Duncan reminded everyone to look at the charts that are attached which will be presented at the Annual Planning Meeting, and let him and staff know if there are any thoughts or corrections before they go to the full commission. Ms. Jackson added to feel free to contact her if anyone has questions.

Chair Duncan announced that they will also start receiving monthly reports from Craig Spatara on the reentry program which will be very helpful.

Judge Colbath reported that the Governor's budget recommends two new county court judges for Palm Beach County. The legislature has to fund this. He adds that we really need a circuit court judge, so he will try to see if he can shepherd the legislature to make one of the judges a circuit court judge. He said this will be going on in Tallahassee in March and April, and so he plans to be there to help make this happen. Mr. Rodriguez suggested that, if it will be helpful, the CJC and this committee can write letters to support it. Judge Colbath explains that statewide the legislature has created a formula certifying a need for judges which is about 10-12 years old. The formula is imperfect and has outgrown its accuracy. They have not funded any new judges anywhere in the past seven years, and this will be the first time that the governor's budget has recommended it, and so we will see if the legislature will approve it. Chair Duncan added that Palm Beach County is being well represented with our new Chief Supreme Court Justice is former circuit court Judge Labarga, former State Attorney, former partner; Chief Judge Colbath is chief of the circuit court judges; and Greg Coleman is the incoming president of the Florida Bar.

VIII. Updates

No updates.

IX. Additional member and guest comments

No additional member and guest comments.

X. Adjournment