

# MINUTES

Monday, June 14, 2021 12:10 P.M.

## Palm Beach County School & Community Safety Initiative Behavioral Health Track

Online via Zoom



### Members Present:

**Chairman Judge James Martz**, Circuit Court Judge  
**Chief Sean Brammer**, Florida Atlantic University Police Department  
**Elisa Cramer**, Community Development Administrator, Fl Dept. of Children and Families  
**Darcy J. Davis**, Chief Executive Officer, Health Care District of Palm Beach County  
**Tammy Fields**, PBC Director Youth Services, Youth Services Palm Beach County  
**Captain Randy Foley**, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office  
**Deputy Chief Robin Griffin-Kitzerow**, Florida Atlantic University Police Department  
**Sharon L'Herrou**, President/Chief Executive Officer, 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast  
**Alexa Lee, M.S.**, Director of Programs, Palm Beach County Substance Abuse Coalition  
**Danielle Ouellette, LCSW**, Behavioral Services Division, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office  
**Dr. Gena Rowlands**, Senior Planner, PBC Sheriff's Office  
**Robin Russo**, Director of Student Well Being, Palm Beach State College  
**Jill Sorensen**, Director of Children's System of Care, SE FL Behavioral Health Network  
**Greg Starling**, Chief Probation Officer, Department of Juvenile Justice  
**Sharon Tarlow**, Education Coordinator, JFK Medical Center North Campus  
**Captain Michael Waites**, Palm Beach County School District Police Department  
**Craig Williams**, State Attorney's Office 15th Judicial Circuit  
**Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D.**, Chief Executive Officer, Children's Services Council

### Guests Present:

**Cassandra Atkin-Plunk, Ph.D.**, Associate Director and Associate Professor, FAU  
**Vaughn Crichlow, Ph.D.**, Associate Dean and Associate Professor, FAU

**Lieutenant Kevin Jones**, Palm Beach State College

**CJC Staff Present:**

**Katherine Shover**, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst

- I. Welcome and Opening Comments by Chairman Martz. He mentioned talking to Executive Director Herring about formalizing the committee. He also discussed that the recent event in Royal Palm demonstrated the importance of this committee.
- II. The agenda/minutes were approved by consent.
- III. Presentations/Updates
  - a. **Palm Beach County Behavioral Health Coalition:** Alexa Lee, M. S., Director of Programs advised that their goal is education and advocacy around substance prevention, mental health first aid, and HIV prevention/testing. She briefly discussed the connection between mental health and substance use disorders. Symptoms of substance misuse and mental health disorders often mimic each other. In addition, mental health disorders often lead to "self-medication" with substances. She noted that 46% of parents say their teen has shown signs of a new or worsening mental health condition since the start of the pandemic in March 2020. Preliminary research indicates that substance use disorders declined during the pandemic. Ms. Lee provided an overview of their prevention activities such as the school bus prevention media contest, video PSA contest, training for students/adults, and Youth Summits. They could use help from committee members to reach teens and their parents. They also need help in promoting events such as the Youth Summit. The PBCBHC has a Teen Coalition in Action group that is primarily offered from 8th -12th grade to work on advocacy and outreach efforts. They have passed three ordinances in PBC within the past three years. Please let her know if you have any referrals for this group. She also mentioned that the Community Recovery Hub for Palm Beach County located in Delray Beach is a new resource for the community. Long term recovery support, family support, life skills, and wellness will be offered at the center. Judge Martz recommended that they connect with the State Attorney's Office, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Believers Academy.
  - b. **Second Stakeholder Survey:** Cassandra Atkin-Plunk, Ph.D and Vaughn Crichlow, Ph.D., School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Florida Atlantic University Dr. Crichlow advised that they are conducting a follow-up survey with stakeholders as a part of the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program grant with PBSO and SEFBHN. They would like to know if there have

been any changes in procedures and practices in the last two years. The last survey was conducted in 2019.

- c. **CJC Priorities:** Ms. Shover provided the update on behalf of Director Herring. She advised that the Criminal Justice Commission has been formalizing the priorities for the committees. The priority action for this committee is to review and identify gaps in the coordination, protocols and intervention strategies of the mental health and criminal justice system's response to mass crises and make recommendations to close these gaps.

- IV. **Business - Branding and Informational Campaign Update:** Danielle Ouellette, LCSW, Behavioral Services Division, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office advised that they met with PBSO Media Relations to create two videos. There will be a mini video that will be an introduction to the website. The Media Relations Department suggested that the welcome video only be a voice recording that will be combined with video footage. They are currently working on the script for that video. There will also be a longer video that will consist of partners answering open ended questions about the project. Dr. Gena Rowlands asked for agencies to please let them know if they would like to participate in the partner video. She mentioned that everyone that has been part of this committee has made this project possible so they would like everyone to be involved in the video. She also noted that snippets of the video will be compiled and can be used on different platforms such as Channel 20 and Facebook.

Ms. Ouellette discussed advertising for the campaign. They have secured 30 bus shelters from OUTFRONT Media that will be located close to secondary schools, parks, and other high volume areas in PBC. Captain Foley worked with the FBI who offered two of their billboards that are located in Palm Beach County off of I-95. There will also be a billboard on Military and Southern Boulevard. Their goal is to have the shelters and billboards up by mid-July and they will run till mid-August. OUTFRONT Media may be able to get the information up a little earlier as school will be starting soon. They have also been working on geo-fencing for certain zip codes as some communities provide their own advertising. Advertisements will be provided in Tri-Rail trains and their shelters. Judge Martz offered to work with Palm Tran to see if bus wraps can be provided. PBC Graphics Department is working on the magnets. In addition, PBSO has setup an agreement with the PBC School District to disseminate materials when school starts. Florida Atlantic University and Palm Beach State College will also partner in getting the word out. Judge Martz commended everyone for all the progress on the campaign. Lisa Williams-Taylor also acknowledged all the hard work on the project and suggested that when the group is ready that the information could be sent out to grassroot communities.

Tammy Fields inquired if they were ready for a press release. Danielle mentioned that they should be ready in July. They want to make sure that they have everything in place. Judge Martz noted that now is the time to strike especially with the recent issue. He will reach out to the Commissioners to let them know that we have been working on this project. Tammy Fields mentioned that Director Herring may want to add this item to an upcoming Board of County Commissioner's Workshop. Judge Martz will follow-up with Director Herring after the meeting about the calls to the Commissioners and setting up a workshop.

V. Adjourn