

# MINUTES

Monday, September 14, 2020 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

**Darcy J. Davis**, Chief Executive Officer, Health Care District of Palm Beach County

**William Delaney**, Vice President, Beacon Health Options

**Megan Eaton**, Circuit 15 Juvenile Justice Advisory Board Co-Chair

**Tammy Fields, Director**, PBC Youth Services

**Lt. Randy Foley**, Behavioral Services Division, PBC Sheriff's Office

**Dr. Barbara Gerlock**, Organizational Development Consultant

**Robin Griffin-Kitzerow**, Deputy Chief, Florida Atlantic University Police Department

**Chief Frank Kitzerow**, Palm Beach County School District Police Department

**Sharon L'Herrou**, President/CEO, 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast

**Danielle Ouellette, LCSW**, Behavioral Services Division, PBC Sheriff's Office

**Tanya Palmer**, Chief Program Officer, Children Services Council

**Dr. Gena Rowlands**, Senior Planner, PBC Sheriff's Office

**Robin Russo**, Director of Student Well Being, Palm Beach State College

**Judge Rosemarie Scher**, 15th Judicial Circuit

**Jill Sorenson**, Director of Children's SOC, Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network

**Sara Talley**, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation

**Sharon Tarlow**, Education Coordinator, JFK Medical Center North Campus

**Captain Mike Waites**, Palm Beach County School District Police Department

**Rosella Weymer**, Associate Vice President, Human Resources and School Health, Health Care District of Palm Beach County

**Magistrate Maxine Williams**, 15th Judicial Circuit

**Craig Williams**, State Attorney's Office 15th Judicial Circuit

**William Wims**, South County Mental Health Director of Acute Care

**Lauren Zuchman**, LCSW, Executive Director, BeWellPBC

**Guests Present:**

**Cassandra Atkin-Plunk, Ph.D.**, Associate Director and Associate Professor, Florida Atlantic University

**Vaughn Crichlow, Ph.D.**, Associate Dean and Associate Professor, Florida Atlantic University

**Sophia Dang**, Senior Manager, Palm Beach County ISS

**Sergeant Chelsea John-Williams**, Florida Atlantic University Police Department

**Jeff Kadel**, Executive Director, PBC Substance Awareness Coalition

**CJC Staff Present:**

**Regenia Herring**, Executive Director

**Katherine Shover**, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst

**Jonathan Hackley**, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst

- I. Welcome and Opening Comments – Chairman Martz
  - a. Discussed recent issues concerning the death of George Floyd. He mentioned that over the last decade they have been working on weaving in mental health services into the law enforcement response and the justice system.
- II. Introductions were made.
- III. The agenda and minutes were approved by consent.
- IV. Business:
  - a. Chief Frank Kitzerow, Palm Beach County School District Police Department provided an update. Over the past six months they have been extremely busy developing and implementing COVID-19 procedures for virtual graduations, return/distribution of equipment, and transitioning students from different schools/grades. They were successful in that endeavor and had minimal to no complications associated with COVID-19 during those processes. He reported that

they established their Technical Operations Center that serves as the command and control point to coordinate district wide operations. There were about 4 million meals served and 60,000-70,000 electronic devices were distributed over this period. He mentioned some of the trainings that their officers participated in over the summer including discriminatory profile traffic stops, PERF training, de-escalation, fair and impartial policing, officer ethics, domestic violence, and threat assessment training. They anticipate about 60,000 of the 190,000 students will be coming back to campus. He mentioned the importance of the partnerships with members of the committee.

There was a discussion about how the current social issues might impact students. Tammy Fields mentioned that it is important to teach our kids constructive ways to make their voices heard. Chairman Martz recognized Regenia Herring as the new Executive Director for the Criminal Justice Commission. He asked if she had any comments about this discussion. Director Herring mentioned the importance of engaging the youth and having more dialogues with the community to determine what they need. She also noted that locally they have made progress, but there is still a long way to go. Chairman Martz mentioned the frustration that often the starting point is education rather than addressing the real issues, but he noted the importance of sharing what has already been accomplished.

- b. Sharon L'Herrou, President/CEO, 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast reported that they had to quickly transition to a hybrid remote/onsite system with a core group onsite all the time. They cross trained a lot of program staff to meet the increased volume in calls. 211 is part of United Way's Worldwide Pandemic Team and had simulations in the past of how they might respond to a pandemic. A team was formed in house to manage the flood of shifting information. Requests for help nearly doubled in the first few weeks of the pandemic from 200 to over 400 calls per day. Volume has leveled out to 10-20% higher than last year. Since March 16<sup>th</sup>, they have responded to 10,000 more requests for help than last year. Mental health and addiction requests typically account for about a third of all contacts. That number reduced a little due to the requests for help related to the pandemic. They also had 840 calls that were suicide related. She advised that the number of visits to their website more than doubled from 12,000 to 30,000 and social media surged in the month after the pandemic from 3,500 to over 37,000. Chairman Martz asked about the most frequent requests. Ms. L'Herrou advised that the two main areas of requests were regarding physical safety about the virus and economic issues.
- c. Danielle Ouellette, LCSW, Behavioral Services Division, PBC Sheriff's Office provided an update about the implementation of the grant. She advised that the justice mental health collaborative is a planning and implementation grant with the overarching goal to prevent acts of violence in the community. There was a year or less in the planning phase and the program officially started on May 18<sup>th</sup>. She noted that PBSO and the Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network have been working together to provide priority and expedited services to persons identified by community providers. Those that meet the criteria for the project are accessed and offered services. Coordination is provided by the Care Coordinator who was hired

- by the SEFBHN. They have been working very closely with the Council of State Government which is the training and technical assistance partner, as well as their FAU partners Dr. Atkin-Plunk and Dr. Crichlow from the evaluation team. Some of the grant funds are able to assist with ancillary services such as transportation, medication, and co-pays. They also have specialized services if individuals need services outside of the SEFBHN's contracted providers. Referrals also come from the Behavioral Services Unit. She will provide information to the group about how to make referrals.
- d. Aware and Care Website and Campaign update was provided by Danielle Ouellette, LCSW, Behavioral Services Division, PBC Sheriff's Office. Recently information was added to the website about COVID. The group previously discussed a mass mailing to promote community awareness with a one page document about the campaign and a magnet with pertinent information. They hope to have information by the next meeting.
  - e. Lt. Randy Foley, Behavioral Services Division, PBC Sheriff's Office provided a report about the Task Force. They recently met in Miramar on behalf of the FBI BAU. They are organizing open communication on a shared network for information from Port St. Lucie down to Key West to identify resources for investigations and to help communities. They will be meeting once a month until the group is organized with the commanders of the threat assessment teams from each of the Sheriff's Offices, FBI, Secret Service, Homeland Security, FDLE, and other members of the law enforcement community. They also have a meeting coming up with the West Palm Beach FBI office so that all the law enforcement organizations, threat assessment teams, and mental health organizations related to law enforcement can have more open communication. He also noted that the head of NAMI will be speaking at the PBC Chiefs of Police Association about the importance of CIT.
  - f. Regenia Herring, Executive Director, CJC was wondering about the focus of the group. Chairman Martz advised that continuity of services has been the main issue. Dr. Gerlock noted that the Caring First website provides resources and direct contacts for issues such as bullying. There is a team working within the schools and the IT Department to capture information in real time to ensure that no one is overlooked. The information is highly secure and data is entered within 48 hours. Chairman Martz advised that an important aspect of the group is learning about services that are available to provide warm handoffs.

Director Herring asked if there is a coordinating entity to help with the linkages. Tanya Palmer advised that there are several efforts underway such as Birth to 22. Some families may not trust the services or others are looking for services but fall outside the parameters. She noted other community initiatives such as Bridges and Palm Healthcare's BeWell and Healthier Together programs. Chairman Martz mentioned that the original intent of the website was similar to a travel site to streamline the search for services. Tammy Fields noted that they need to spend more time addressing community needs. She advised that the Healthier Together sites have done an excellent job empowering communities and recommended expanding those services to other areas. Lauren Zuchman mentioned that non-

traditional support may be more comfortable for community members. There was also a discussion about House Bill 945 that is focused on a coordinated system of care for children. Palm Healthcare and BeWell have been working to support SEFBHN in creating shared stewardship for a localized system of care. They have engaged two consultants that are preparing a report by the end of October with recommendations for a framework and technology infrastructure around shared stewardship. Jill Sorenson reported that they are also working with William Wims on this project. She noted that the real intent is to reduce Baker Acts of children statewide. Chairman Martz recommended that Lauren Zuchman and Jill Sorenson provide a presentation at a future meeting about these topics.

V. Adjourn