

**PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
LAW ENFORCEMENT PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES**

Thursday, August 24, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.

Palm Springs Village Hall
226 Cypress Lane
Palm Springs, FL

Members Present

Chief Michael Coleman, Riviera Beach Police Department (*Represented by Kevin A. Coppin, Deputy Chief of Police*)
Chief Wes Smith, Lake Clarke Shores Police Department
Chief Sarah Mooney, PBC School District Police Department
Eric Jester, Resident Agent in Charge, Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Lt. Anthony Mozealous, Bureau of Insurance Fraud (*Represented by Captain Frank Brigante*)
Bill Fraser, Chief Investigator, State Attorney's Office 15th Judicial Circuit
Sheldon Burkett, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration (*Represented by Brad Uhl*)
Brian Deer, Resident Agent in Charge, U.S. Secret Service

Members Absent

Chief Michele Miuccio, Boca Raton Police Department
Chief Richard Jones, Gulfstream Police Department
Chief Robert Mangold, Atlantis Police Department
Chief Sean Brammer, Florida Atlantic University Police Department
Chief Sean Scheller, Lantana Police Department
Chief Nicholas Caristo, Palm Beach Police Department
Chief Scott McClure, Ocean Ridge Public Safety Department
Chief Russ Mager, Delray Beach Police Department
Chief Gus Medina, Tequesta Police Department
Chief Richard Jenkins, North Palm Beach Police Department
Chief Joe DeGiulio, Boynton Beach Police Department
Chief Carmen Mattox, Manalapan Police Department
Chief Craig Hartmann, Highland Beach Police Department
Chief Brian Smith, Juno Beach Police Department
Chief David England, Jupiter Police Department
Chief Daniel Kerr, Jupiter Inlet Colony Police Department
Honorable Sheriff Ric Bradshaw, PBC Sheriff's Office
Major Robert Chandler, Florida Highway Patrol
Chief Clint Shannon, Palm Beach Gardens Police Department
Chief Frank Adderley, West Palm Beach Police Department
Troy Walker, Special Agent in Charge, Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Major Dustin Bonds, Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission
Christopher Caldwell, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Chief Thomas A. Ceccarelli, Palm Springs Public Safety

Assistant Chief Deputy Dan Torchia, U.S. Marshals Service
Pete Garcia, Federal Security Director, Transportation Security Administration
Angel Belen, Patrol Agent in Charge, U.S. Border Patrol
Chief Robert Crawford, VA Health Administration
Mike Barbercheck, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
Captain Carolyn Fanale, Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco

Advisory Members Present

Dr. Catherine Miller, Palm Beach County Chief Medical Examiner
Honorable Dave Aronberg, State Attorney, 15th Judicial Circuit
Anthony LaCosta, Managing Assistant United States Attorney
Adam McMichael, Chief: Narcotics and Violent Crimes, United States Attorney's Office
Mark Osborne, Chief: Financial Crimes, US Attorney's Office
Shawn Fagan, CJSTC Field Services Specialist, Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Jonathan Bridges, Chief Assistant, Attorney General's Office of Statewide Prosecution

Advisory Members Absent

Vincent Morton, Director, Criminal Justice Institute of Palm Beach State College
Michelle Johns, Circuit Administrator, Florida Department of Corrections
Gregory Starling, Chief Probation Officer, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

Guests

Craig Williams, Chief Assistant State Attorney, 15th Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office
Barbara Gerlock, Ph.D., Organizational Development Consultant, Pathways to Progress
Nicole Bishop, PBC Director of Justice & Victim Services
Whitney Van Arsdale, MPH, CPH, Biostatistician/Surveillance Program Manager, Florida Department of Health
Paul Petrino, Manager Medical Examiner Operations, Medical Examiner's Office
Lieutenant Kevin Lashells, Florida Department of Financial Services
Lisa Williams-Taylor, Vice Chair, PBC School & Community Safety Committee and CEO, Children's Services Council
Kira Laffe-Palm Beach County Victim Services
Andrea Rocha, Criminal Division Manager, Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller
Major Mark Alexander, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Deputy Chief Vanessa Snow, PBC School District Police Department
Chelsea Roys- Florida Department of Financial Services
Angelique Pickett, Intelligence-Led Policing Manager

CJC Staff Present

Katherine Shover, Manager of Criminal Justice Systems
Dawn Caveness-Davenport, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst

- I. **Welcome and Opening Comments** by *Katherine Shover, Manager of Criminal Justice Systems, CJC*
- II. **Roll Call** by *Dawn Caveness-Davenport, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst, CJC*

III. **Approval of the Agenda for August 24, 2023**

IV. **Approval of the Minutes for April 27, 2023**

V. **Presentations**

- a. **Learning Management System (LMS)**- *Sujata Warriar, PhD Chief Strategy Officer at Battered Women's Justice Project (BWJP) and Amalfi Parker Elder, Esq., Director or National Center for Reimaging Coordinated Community Response (NCRCC).* Ms. Warriar and her colleague Amalfi Parker Elder presented their work with the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) and the Palm Beach County Victim Services. Their work started in 2018, and the mission is to promote change within the civil and criminal legal systems to enhance their effectiveness in providing safety, security, and justice to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), their families, and communities. They do this through seven national centers. The BWJP has been closely watching the work of the PBC Domestic Violence Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Team. The main priority of their work in PBC is helping to develop Language Access by legal officers and interpreters and identifying additional resources promoting consistent practice across the county. BWJP had the opportunity to tour the Guatemalan-Maya Center facilities and get to know and understand the work being done in the community and some of the ways that law enforcement is showing up in the community in some innovative ways. They want to build from that and strengthen the relationship with the community by promoting cultural responsiveness and community connection and developing language access. They will be hosting a training in PBC on September 25, 2023, to train officers and deputies.

Additionally, another part of the work BWJP is doing in PBC is supporting and expanding the work of the CCR and local members as part of the Offender Accountability Subcommittee. As the project ends, BWJP will put together summaries, reports, and recommendations for the PBC community to keep enhancing the local efforts. Lastly, Ms. Parker discussed the University of Iowa Online Learning Management System to help enhance and support the work of law enforcement. A handout is attached to show what the system entails with the course designed for law enforcement. Officers can log in at a time that works for them. The Online Learning Management System is created to fit their schedules. Some examples of the classes are Intimate Partner Violence and one on Firearms. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Nicole Bishop.

- b. **New Forensic Protocol for Intimate Partner Violence and discussion regarding the legislative items likely to impact victims/survivors of sexual violence and the certified sexual assault programs that serve them** - *Nicole Bishop, Director of Justice and Victim Services, Palm Beach County Public Safety.* Ms. Bishop discussed some legislative updates, particularly policies that impact victims of crimes, the Language Access Training that is coming up, and some new protocols being developed to bring forensic exams to victims of intimate partner violence to PBC. First discussed is Senate Bill 130, which amends Florida Statutes 61 and 741. It adds new factors that the court shall consider in determining the child's detriment, including evidence of domestic violence and reasonable cause to believe that the child is or has been in imminent danger of becoming a victim of domestic violence. This change is according to chapter 61. Additionally, chapter 741 amends the injunction petition and adds a factor for the court to consider. Whether the respondent has engaged in a behavior pattern leads the petitioner to believe the children are in imminent danger of being taken. This statute change is significant because previously, the statute's standard was to ensure imminent danger and were not looking for patterns.

Senate Bill 300 amends Order Statute 390 to prohibit a physician from performing an abortion after six weeks of gestation. Pregnancy due to rape, incest, or even trafficking expands the time frame of this to 15 weeks. A woman must provide documentation, like a restraining order, a police report, or a medical report, at the time of the appointment.

House Bill 0667 amends F.S. 92 and 960. F.S. 92 is amended and states the court must conduct a hearing to determine if it is appropriate to take a deposition of a child victim of a sexual offense under 16 years old. The presumption is that it is inappropriate to depose children under 12 unless it is a death penalty case or a child's forensic interview is unavailable. F.S. 960 discusses the guidelines for the fair treatment of victims, and it requires that victims be notified of their right to be informed of the person's name and employer if an attorney contacts them to get information on behalf of the criminal proceeding. Senate Bill 1210 amended Statute 943 to create a new exemption from public records disclosure of the criminal history record of victims of human trafficking. This authorizes human trafficking victims to expunge criminal history records for offenses listed under the judicial violent felony offender designation. It also creates a new exemption from public records disclosure for any petition filed by a human trafficking victim to expunge a criminal history record.

Senate Bill 1557 requires the Services and Resources Committee of the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking to conduct a study and make recommendations

regarding regulating adult safe houses, specifically for survivors of human trafficking. This bill requires the Department of Children and Family (DCF) to initiate rulemaking to establish minimum standards for certification of adult safe houses to ensure that they provide a safe and therapeutic environment and operate in a survivor-centered manner. Human trafficking advocates under this bill may also claim a confidential communication privilege under F.S. 90.37.

F. S. 916 was amended to extend the time the victim can file for victim's compensation, specifically because of the delay in the testing of or delay in Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) profile matching from a sexual assault kit or biological material collected as evidence relating to a sexual offense. Senate Bill 7064 amends Florida Statutes 787, 450, and 943 to address issues of human trafficking. Florida Statute 787 establishes civil laws of action for victims of human trafficking. Moreover, victims may recover damages against an adult who knowingly allows human trafficking victims to perform.

F. S. 450 increases the penalty for adult offenders from a first-degree misdemeanor to a third-degree felony if it fails to maintain the age verification documents of employees and contractors. Florida Statute 787 provides that the proceeds of real or personal property of persons convicted of human trafficking offenses be allocated to pay restitution to human trafficking victims before being retained by the seizing government entity.

Finally, Court of Florida Statute 943 requires each certified law enforcement officer to complete four hours of training in identifying and investigating human trafficking as part of basic recruit training or additional required training. Victim services would happily come to any of your agencies to help meet the additional four-hour requirement.

Additionally, Ms. Elder mentioned the training, policing in all languages, and protecting and serving diverse communities. The training came about because BWJP did focus groups with people in our community, law enforcement, and advocates, and one of the most significant issues here in PBC was language access. The Department of Justice required investigations and interrogations that qualified interpreters shall be used, but PBC has limited resources. They are looking at bringing in some people from around the country who have done this successfully to gain additional resources and for us all to come together and brainstorm to see how we can increase our resources when it comes to language. Over 65 percent of the time, officers encounter the need for language interpretation at least once weekly. Nearly 15 percent of officers encounter this daily. Therefore, there is a considerable need for language interpretation services. Most PBC officers

here use other bilingual officers to help with translation or a translation app. Some officers are using no translation support at all.

A trained nurse created the Butterfly House over 12 years ago, wherein victims of sexual assault have a specific place to go to receive a forensic examination. They will expand these resources to intimate partner violence victims through a new grant. They will start with those victims who have been strangled because victims of strangulation, in the case of intimate partner violence or sexual assault, chances of being killed by the perpetrator increase. They have a pool that can expand up to 12 nurses, and they will be developing a protocol that directs these victims of strangulation to the Butterfly House, or our nurses can also travel to the area hospital to provide samples and evidence collection on these victims. This protocol can increase access to medical follow-up, and we can begin safety planning immediately. They can document the signs and symptoms of strangulation and domestic abuse for the law enforcement case, the prosecution, and the victim's age. This better aligns with national standards and best practices for multidisciplinary response.

Ms. Bishop had two asks: please send somebody to the language access training. There are flyers on the back table and probably included in your packet. Then, once we start the protocol development portion, where we will ask law enforcement to participate, please send your representative from your agency to participate.

- c. **Genetic Genealogy-** *Special Agent Tom Bacon, FDLE's Genetic Genealogy Investigation Unit.* Due to a discussion on pending cases, this was a closed-door session.
- d. **The effects of Fentanyl in PBC-** *Brad Uhl, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, DEA.* Assistant Special Agent in Charge Uhl discussed the effects of fentanyl in PBC. He explained every eight minutes in the U.S., one American overdoses from fentanyl or fentanyl poison at the rate of 175 to 180 people a day, which affects all age groups but especially the age group of 15 to 45. It all started with overprescribing prescription pain medication in the early 2000s, going up to 2010. In Florida, the pandemic began from 2005 to 2010 with the pill mills. In 2011, Florida implemented a prescription drug-monitoring program, which shut down many pill mills. The U.S. got on board with a national prescription drug-monitoring program; it is now harder to get pain medication. If you go to any doctor, they hesitate to give you anything. If you need pain medication, you get it for a day or two. People started getting it from the black market as it became more challenging. They are buying it on social media and friends. Fentanyl is being pushed into the U.S. across the border from Mexico and is readily available and accessible.

Fentanyl is extremely strong and cheap. At one point, individuals used to experiment with marijuana, but now it is with pills, fentanyl, and marijuana. Unfortunately, one use of fentanyl can kill you, which makes it extremely dangerous.

Fentanyl is coming from China, going into Mexico, being mixed into drugs by the cartel, and then being brought into the U.S. Their biggest users. In May 2019, China banned the exportation of fentanyl, and it looks like they are helping with the problem, but it is still being exported. Mr. Uhl reported in 2022, 4,226 deaths were reported to the medical examiner, and of these, 517 were categorized as accidental drug fatalities, meaning the people who took a drug not attempting to kill themselves, but resulting in their death. Nearly all the 517 deaths contained fentanyl. For prevention, keep medications you do not need out of your medicine cabinet, talk to your kids about the dangers of taking one pill, and check your kids' social media.

What is DEA doing specifically? DEA views this as the most urgent drug threat to our community, kids, and families. It is killing people with catastrophic risks. Again, many people who die do not even know they are taking fentanyl. Moreover, they are targeting the cartels.

In 2022, the DEA seized 58.4 million fake pills containing fentanyl. PBC had a decrease in opioid overdose deaths last year. In stark contrast to the rest of the state, we have had decreases. I think the efforts we are making here are making a difference. We have our strong law enforcement response. We have a Sober Homes task force, which works with law enforcement. We have our Addiction Stabilization Union (ASU) at JFK North. He discussed the use of Narcan and how important it is to have Narcan available. It can be ordered online. It is very easy to get. Narcan can be obtained free at all the Department of Health clinics.

- e. **Medical Examiner (ME) Report** - *Catherine R. Miller, MD PBC District Medical Examiner*. Dr. Miller reported a decrease in accidental drug overdoses in our county since 2020. There was a big jump in 2019 and 2020. COVID 19 could have been the cause of the jump in 2019 and 2020. Most of the deaths are opioid, fentanyl, fentanyl analogs, or combinations. There have been questions about Xylosine which is always seen with fentanyl. It is thought in the medical community currently to be added in the production of illicit fentanyl, to either stretch the product of illicit fentanyl further or something that is added to alter the high. It is not something the M.E. is seeing alone. Will we see it alone in the future is the question? Fentanyl is often seen in many Fentanyl analogs (members of the class of drugs known as rapid-acting synthetic opioids used to reduce pain. Fentanyl analogs include Acetylfentanyl, Butyrfentanyl, Carfentanil, Alfentanil,

Sufentanil, and Remifentanil.) The big ones last year were the single fentanyl and plural fentanyl. There has been an increase in salt baths. They will continue to watch and if anyone has any questions contact the M.E.

- f. **Drug surveillance data on how Fentanyl impacted deaths in PBC** – *Whitney Van Arsdale, MPH, CPH, Biostatistician/Surveillance Program Manager*. Overdose Data to Action is a Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded project around the county and 66 other jurisdictions across the state, combining state grants and localities such as PBC. It is broken into surveillance and prevention components. The morbidity and mortality data are from a few different sources for the surveillance: the PBC Medical Examiner, hospital, Emergency Management Services (EMS), and Fire Rescue records for morbidity data. The data was taken and integrated with a few other sources at the Health Department to get a more complete picture of who these people are and what is happening in the community. Ms. Arsdale reported density clusters of overdose deaths in 2020 and 2021 (the report is attached for reference). They do not have the present-day numbers for clusters and heat maps. Lake Worth has a very strong concentration just for drugs across the board. Also, Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, and West Pahokee and Belle Glade have spikes in deaths due to substance use. As far as deaths due to fentanyl use, there have been spikes in Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, and Palm Beach Gardens areas. The maps show Juno Beach and Boca Raton with some deaths due to heroin, but they have been going down, almost falling off the radar now with the presence of fentanyl. There has been a general increase in Oxycodone-related deaths over the years. It was hoped that the deaths would stop with the regulations developed around pill mills, but now, with the emergence of fentanyl, the numbers are going back up. West Delray Beach, Boca Raton, and Riviera Beach going towards Palm Beach Gardens have seen an increase in death due to Oxy. For cocaine-related deaths, they see it in Palm Beach Gardens, Juno Beach, Delray Beach, Boynton Beach and Lake Worth. Benzodiazepines are affecting the Greenacres. The Military Trail area is a hot spot, along with Juno Beach and Riviera Beach.

Ms. Arsdale reports they have seen as young as 11 year olds start using hard drugs, not just smoking marijuana. Also, 23% of overdosed individuals are 14 to 16 years old. They see a lot of social determinative health indicators and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) that indicate future substance use disorder. Ms. Arsdale explained the time between the last known non-fatal overdose to death, 2021-2021 (please see the attached PowerPoint).

While opioid deaths are decreasing, based on race and ethnicity, white people have the most opioid deaths, but there has been an increase of about 64 percent in

black and an 8 percent increase in Hispanics. Therefore, it is going down, but it is not the same for everybody. For more information, the presentation has been attached for review.

VI. Old Business

- a. **Updated School and Community Safety Initiative subcommittee recommendations-** *Lisa Williams-Taylor, Chief Executive Officer, Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County.* The Aware and Care website talks about threats and where to get help. It is now available in different languages. They have also done a lot of training across our community regarding Mental Health First Aid for youth. At last count, 91 percent of the PBC School District staff has been trained in Mental Health First Aid. And many providers are training their staff to notice some of the warning signs. We now have PREPaRE (Prevent, Reaffirm, Evaluate, Provide, Respond, Examine), which trains school mental health teams to evaluate trauma after staff goes through a crisis event. In addition, the self-supported behavioral health network has expanded to three additional teams which are just some of the changes happening across the county.

Regarding unfinished business, we know that stigma continues to be an issue and a barrier. They are seeing less of it with teens, who are more likely to reach out if they need help, but there are still issues due to parents who do not reach out and get help for themselves and their teens. Lastly, staff turnover remains an issue. There are providers with 600 children on their waiting list who are already identified as having mental health issues. Therefore, it is a significant issue that there are not enough trained therapists in this community. They are still trying to figure out how to identify youth who may be at risk and are being homeschooled.

Birth of 22 is a community initiative, 300 different organizations actively serving businesses, government, youth-serving organizations and youth themselves. They held 11 community conversations over the summer, specifically with youth. The number one issue that they mentioned was mental health. They are taking that data and looking at the youth risk behavioral survey, which surveyed 2,100 children. The survey showed that 42 percent of our high school-age children feel sad and hopeless. Moreover, those seriously considering suicide in the last month were up to almost 21 percent of the youth surveyed. So, if we were in a mental health crisis before the pandemic, it has been exacerbated by the pandemic. Two days ago, there was a mental health rally, which consisted of 90 organizations involved. Everybody is committed to figuring out how to address the mental health issues. There were a couple of funders at the table who made pledges. They are going to put money into this initiative. There was youth involved, clergy, businesses, and government employees. Everybody is working together, offering some great ideas. Funding is

available, so we hope to get a report back. (The Recommendations were sent to the CJC committee the LEPC not having quorum.

VII. New Business

- a. **New LEPC chair and vice chair-** If anybody is interested in being the new Law Enforcement Planning Council Chair or Vice Chair, you can mention it now or you can talk to us later.
- b. **Liaison for DV Coordinated Community Response Team-** They are also looking for a Domestic Violence Coordinated Community Response Team Liaison.
- c. **Nomination from LEPC representation on the Homeless Advisory Board**
- d. **New FDLE JAG-Countywide funding was recently released.** Letters were sent out to the agencies. We need to get the 51 percent letters back signed by the mayor that authorizes the use of the funding by September 4th. A portion of the funding goes to Reentry, which has been a continued project for Palm Beach County, and then law enforcement equipment.

VIII. Liaison Updates

- a. **Sexual Assault Response Team:** *Chief Michele Miuccio-* Not present
- b. **Criminal Justice Institute:** *Director Vincent Morton-* Not present
- c. **Communications/Interoperability:** *Chief Robert Mangold-* Not present
- d. **School & Community Safety Subcommittee:** *Lisa Taylor-William gave the update*
- e. **State Attorney's Office:** *Craig Williams, Chief Assistant State Attorney-*None provided
- f. **Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office:** *Chief Deputy Frank DeMario-* None Provided
- g. **Palm Beach County School District Police Department:** *Chief Sarah Mooney-*the new school year has started and it is going well. They are still coordinating with local partners. Chief Mooney appreciate everybody that is sending people to the campuses to visit.
- h. Chief Mooney mentioned that they appreciate everybody that is sending people to the campuses to visit.
- i. **Recruitment and Retention:** *Chief Brian Smith-* Not present but survey result are in the package.
- j. **State and Federal Updates -** No updates provided

- IX. **Member Comments**
- X. **Attachments**
 - a. SART and DV CCR Update
 - b. Staffing Survey
- XI. **Next Meeting: October 26, 2023 9:30 AM at Palm Springs Village Hall**
- XII. **Adjournment**

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