

M I N U T E S

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

McEaddy Conference Room
12th Floor, 301 N. Olive Avenue
West Palm Beach, FL

Members Present:

Frank Adderley
Marcia Andrews
Dave Aronberg
Sheldon Burkett
Barbara Cheives
William Dames
Rachel Docekal
Douglas Duncan
George Elmore
Justin Fleck
Kimber Heddon
Joseph Ianno, Jr.
Keith James
Randolph Johnson, Sr.
Kevin Jones
Dave Kerner
Nellie King
Kathleen Kroll
Krista Marx
Frank Mercurio
Christina Morrison
Gerald Richman
Lee Waring

Members Absent:

Sharon Bock
Ric Bradshaw
Ellen Cohen
Carey Haughwout
Tina Polsky
Greg Starling
Stephen Stepp
Robert Shirley

Guests Attending:

Louis Tomeo, Clerk & Comptroller's Office
Dr. Angela Bess, PBC School District
Rebecca DeLaRosa, PBC Legislative Affairs
Victoria Nolan, PBC Legislative Delegation
Cassandra Atkin-Plunk, FAU
James Martz, 15th Judicial Circuit Judge
Michelle Cruz, PBC Court Administration
Derek Gibson, FL Dept. of Corrections
Starla Brown, Americans for Prosperity
Arlene Griffiths, PBC Public Safety, Reentry
Dave Bernhardt, PBC BOCC District 3
Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office
Dave Talley, PBC CareerSource

Staff Present:

Brad Allen, Criminal Justice Analyst
Jonathan Hackley, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Kristina Henson, Executive Director
Damir Kukec, Manager, Research & Planning
Rosalind Murray, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Allison Orr, Administrative Assistant
Jacqueline Schoenfeld, FUSE Program Coordinator
Katherine Shover, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Bert Winkler, Manager, Program Development

- I. Vice-Chairman Joseph Ianno, Jr. called the meeting to order and extended a welcome to members and guests. Chairman Gerald Richman was delayed and joined the meeting soon thereafter.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.
- III. Vice-Chair Ianno invited guests to introduce themselves.
- IV. The Agenda for the September 23, 2019 meeting was unanimously approved upon a motion by Mr. Doug Duncan and a second by Chief Judge Krista Marx.
- V. The Minutes of the May 20, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved upon a motion by Mr. George Elmore and a second by Chief Judge Krista Marx.

VI. Chairman's Comments

- A. Vice-Chair Joseph Ianno, Jr. welcomed members back from the summer break June through August, 2019.
- B. Vice-Chair Joseph Ianno, Jr. welcomed Judge Kathleen Kroll back to the CJC as the Administrative Juvenile Division Judge as of July 1.
- C. Vice-Chair Joseph Ianno, Jr. welcomed new member, Chief Frank Adderley of the West Palm Beach Police Department.
- D. Vice-Chair Joseph Ianno, Jr. announced the formal retirement of private sector member Barry Krischer. Executive Director Kristina Henson read a letter of farewell written by Mr. Krischer, made part of these minutes by attachment.

VII. Executive Director Comments:

- A. Executive Director Henson introduced new staff member Bradley Allen, Criminal Justice Analyst.

VIII. Old Business:

- A. Director Henson reviewed the highlights of the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge Renewal Grant which was submitted on September 12, 2019 for \$1,430,200 for a two-year period. She reminded members that the original goal of the grant was to reduce the average daily population of the Palm Beach County Jail from a November 2015 through April 2016 baseline average daily population (ADP) of 2,283 by 16.7% which represents 381 less inmates daily.. She explained that the original grant period of October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2019 was extended to September 30, 2020 as \$1-million of the \$2-million in grant funds remained. This will allow all the current strategies to continue for an additional year. The renewal grant seeks to reduce the jail by an additional 6.3% (144 inmates), representing a total reduction of 23% or 525 less inmates per day. As of July 31, 2019, the jail shows an 18.36% overall decrease from the baseline representing 419 less inmates per day. Director Henson showed a chart which highlighted the jail population from the baseline to July 2019 that also illustrated the steady reduction beginning with the implementation of the pretrial assessment tool in September 2017. She then highlighted the new initiatives proposed in the renewal application as developed by the MacArthur Core Team including: 1) expansion from a pilot to all felony divisions of the new Initial Case Conference (ICC) hearing targeting all pretrial felons with the goal of reducing length of stay; 2) a new Jail Population Monitor position at the CJC to collect and analyze data and produce a weekly list of pretrial individuals held in jail on bonds of less than \$20,000 for the State Attorney and Public Defender Offices to use in crafting release options; 3) expanding the court text reminder system to defendants who are not booked into jail and instead received notices to appear (NTA) by law enforcement; 4) expanding the court text reminder system to reporting appointments for defendants ordered to felony and misdemeanor probation and supervised release with the Pretrial Services Program; and 5) a Mobile Reporting Unit for the Florida Department of Corrections Circuit 15 Probation Office to reduce technical violations for missed appointments. Director Henson thanked staff Bert Winkler and Damir Kukec for their hard work on this grant proposal. She said the Foundation should announce the awards in December with a grant start date of January 2020 and end date of December 2021.
- B. Director Henson presented an interim progress report from the Battered Women's Justice Project on the Intimate Partner Violence Project. This three-year project, funded through the Domestic Violence Trust Fund, has been working with local law enforcement and others to assess response to these cases. Representatives from this project will be at the next full CJC meeting to present the progress in detail and give an overview of future initiatives and training opportunities.

IX. New Business:

- A. Director Henson announced the Clerk and Comptroller's Office Operation Green Light. Mr. Louis Tomeo of the Clerk Office gave an overview of the program, now a legislatively mandated one-day opportunity for Florida Clerk's Offices to waive collection fees for driver's license suspensions and related costs. All four Palm Beach County courthouses will be open on October 19, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to for this program.
- B. Judge James Martz, Chair of the School Safety Initiative Committee, gave a brief overview of the proposed new campaign named "Aware and Care" which will be partly funded through a grant received by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. The goal is to help members of our community with understand threatening behaviors that should be addressed and where to go for help. A new website is being created to help communicate this information. He referred to the logo design in the packets that was created by Stephen Plunk of Plunk Designs who volunteered his time to this effort. The goal is to roll this out with through a campaign that will include the website, mailings to the community, and advertising.
- C. Mr. Doug Duncan, Chair of the CJC Corrections Task Force, gave an overview of Sheriff's Rick Bradshaw's request for the CJC to evaluate his Work Release Program and provide recommendations going forward. He explained that CJC Chair Richman referred this issue to the Corrections Task Force which held a special meeting on August 21st to review staffs proposed Evaluation Framework. He explained that this will not be an investigation but a review to evaluate the current operations and usage of the program for the purpose of how it is to function going forward. The Task Force will be looking at the past five (5) years from January 2014 to the present. The report will be finalized and presented to the CJC by the end of this year.

X. Update on CJC Initiatives:

- A. MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge:
 - i. Director Henson gave an update on the system-wide implicit bias training that occurred over the summer. She said the vendor was the Racial Equity Institute (REI) and referred members to a handout showing the agencies and number of staff participating which totaled 670 individuals; and

- ii. She highlighted last week's site visit by Everyday Democracy (ED) which is a strategic ally in the SJC and has chosen three sites to provide deep technical assistance including Cook County, Illinois, Charleston, South Carolina and Palm Beach County. ED is a national organization that works with communities to facilitate dialogue on pressing issues to help identify solutions. A local non-profit, Community Partners, is an anchor site for ED and the West Palm Beach Mayor's Village Initiative has used the ED dialogues in their Kids and Cops programs for years. Ms. Barbara Cheives explained that ED will be working our Community Engagement Team and the Palm Health Foundation's Healthier Together Neighborhoods to conduct these dialogues around our local criminal justice system.

XI. Member Comments:

Dave Aronberg raised the possible closure of the Jerome Golden Center and its impact on the local system Deputy County Administrator Jon Van Arnham informed all that this is a new development that County Administration was made aware of late last week. He said the County is working to understand the issue and bringing together the community partners to identify alternative choices should the center fail. He said at this point there is no action needed by the CJC and that he will keep members informed as this develops.

XII. Adjourn:

With no further member comments, Chair Richman adjourned the meeting at 9:10 a.m.