

M I N U T E S

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2019

PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

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

Members Present:

Marcia Andrews
Dave Aronberg
Sheldon Burkett
William Dames
Rachel Docekal
George Elmore
Randolph Johnson, Sr.
Kevin Jones
Kathleen Kroll
Krista Marx
Gerald Richman
Greg Starling
Lee Waring

Members Absent:

Frank Adderley
Michael Barbercheck
Sharon Bock
Ric Bradshaw
Barbara Cheives
Ellen Cohen
Douglas Duncan
Justin Fleck
Carey Haughwout
Kimber Heddon
Joseph Ianno, Jr.
Keith James
Dave Kerner
Nellie King
Frank Mercurio
Christina Morrison
Tina Polsky
Stephen Stepp

Guests Attending:

Anton Tripolski, The Battered Women's Justice Project
Susan Carlini, PBC Public Safety, Victim Services
John Van Arnam, Deputy County Administrator
Diane McCarthy, Clerk & Comptroller's Office
Dr. Angela Bess, PBC School District
Victoria Nolan, PBC Legislative Delegation
Michelle Cruz, PBC Court Administration
Dave Bernhardt, PBC BOCC District 3
Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office
Mike Edmondson, State Attorney's Office
Richard Radcliffe, PBC League of Cities
Zakiah Abdur-Rashid, Student
Denise Coffman, Assistant County Attorney
Jean Williams, Assistant County Attorney

Staff Present:

Brad Allen, Criminal Justice Analyst
Jonathan Hackley, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Damir Kukec, Manager, Research & Planning
Allison Orr, Administrative Assistant

Jacqueline Schoenfeld, FUSE Program Coordinator
Katherine Shover, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst

- I. Chairman Gerald Richman called the meeting to order and extended a welcome to members and guests.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.
- III. Chair Richman invited guests to introduce themselves.
- IV. The Agenda for the October 28, 2019 meeting was unanimously approved upon a motion by Mr. George Elmore and a second by Mr. Randy Johnson, Sr.
- V. The Minutes of the September 23, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved upon a motion by Mr. George Elmore and a second by Mr. Lee Waring.

VI. Chairman's Comments

- A. Chair Gerald Richman announced Ms. Kimber Heddon, 15th Circuit Administrator for the Florida Department of Corrections (DOC) has accepted an administrator position for the 3rd Circuit, effective November 15, 2019. Chair Richman announced the new 15th Circuit Administrator, Ms. Michelle Johns, who will attend the next full CJC meeting.

VII. Executive Director Comments:

- A. Mr. Damir Kukec acted for Executive Director Kristina Henson who was absent from the meeting. Mr. Kukec announced the 39th Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy is currently in session and will end December 16.
- B. Mr. Kukec announced that on October 30 the CJC and PBC Library partnership is hosting a book discussion on "Stony the Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow" by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. A flyer was included in the agenda packet.
- C. Mr. Kukec said the draft of the report on the Sheriff's Work Release Program is in process. The report will be reviewed by the Corrections Task Force at their December meeting rather than on November 6 as originally planned.
- D. Mr. Kukec informed members that the Palm Beach County's Continuum of Care (CoC), which is overseen by the County's Community Services Department, was selected and awarded \$4.93 million dollars by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban development (HUD) through its Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) grant.
- E. Mr. Kukec announced Palm Beach County's Community Services Department, Office on Substance Use and Behavior Disorders, recently received a \$1.2 million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Justice for their Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-Based Program. The CJC will receive a presentation at a

future meeting about this grant.

- F. Mr. Kukec said the Reentry Program has announced a call for presentations for next year's Reentry Summit, to be held October 21-23, 2020. The flyer was included in the agenda packet.

VIII. Old Business:

- A. Chairman Gerald Richman introduced Mr. Anton Tripolski, JD, the Training and Technical Assistance Specialist with the Battered Women's Justice Project (BWJP). In 2018, the CJC/BCC approved the funding and Public Safety Department engaged BWJP on a 3-year project to improve criminal justice responses to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Palm Beach County. The three major components of the project are: 1) identifying and filling gaps in IPV training; 2) strengthening Palm Beach County's coordinated community response; and 3) continuously assessing agency and systemic responses to IPV.

Mr. Tripolski gave an overview of year one of the project, detailed in a report included in the agenda packets. This report was also presented to the Law Enforcement Planning Council (LEPC) at their October meeting. The progress report focuses on victim-survivor engagement particularly with law enforcement, with a secondary focus on engagement with victim advocacy services. Since October 2018 the BWJP staff has made 5 visits to Palm Beach County. Some of the various strategies used in the gathering of data include, but not limited to: over 40 interviews with leaders and professionals in the criminal justice system, 4 listening sessions with 23 victims and survivors of IPV throughout the county, BWJP staff's firsthand court observations, ride-alongs with law enforcement officers and sitting in on 9-1-1 dispatch operations.

Mr. Tripolski praised Palm Beach County's efforts in advocacy and its commitment to culture change. He said the various agencies interviewed show a commitment to training and are interested in reviewing current practices with the aim of fine-tuning policies and procedures. Mr. Tripolski discussed the rise of homicides occurring in domestic violence cases, and mentioned barriers that prevent victims-survivors from reporting or staying engaged. He highlighted those that have limited English-proficiency are particularly at risk. The report includes a Law Enforcement Report Analysis of the PBSO Districts 1 & 13 and the Boynton Beach Police Department. Policies and procedures in these departments were analyzed for best practices in reporting and documenting domestic violence crimes, both pre and post-conviction, and improvements that can be made by using checklists and other tools. Lastly, better advocacy for victims-survivors and resources need to be put in place as soon as possible.

The BWJP will send be sending a survey to the CJC, LEPC and victims-survivors seeking ideas, and will continue with law enforcement training, interviews for internal assessment and community response.

IX. New Business:

- A. Chairman Gerald Richman introduced Deputy County Administrator Jon Van Arnam who gave a detailed status on The Jerome Golden Center (JGC). The Center is one of Palm Beach County's major community mental health centers, serving over 1,000 clients per month, including housing for over 150 clients with many wraparound services. The center has closed its doors due to apparent financial mismanagement; there is a pending sale of its assets. Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network (SEFBHN) is the managing entity empowered by the Florida Legislature to distribute state funds through DCF for various mental health agencies throughout the county, and is leading the efforts to establish and maintain services for former JGC clients. The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) was briefed earlier in the week by the Executive Director of SEFBHN, Ms. Ann Berner, and the BOCC is very concerned about reestablishing and maintaining services. Mr. Van Arnam stated the Mobile Crisis Unit that was run of out the JGC is still fully active and is now being run by South County Mental Health Center (SCMHC) along with other services, under supervision of the SEFBHN network. Baker Act clients are being diverted to other agencies and efforts to secure existing housing units are in process so no clients will be displaced. Discussions are being held with JFK to pick up outpatient services clients and the use of tele psychiatry for virtual counseling and medication review sessions. SCMHC has established 15 additional crisis stabilization beds, along with 10 beds in Belle Glade with better utilization of available space. SEFBHN is having discussions with other providers and hospitals to expand housing and services in other locations of the county. Executive Director Kristina Henson, at the request of the BOCC, made the members of the Law Enforcement Planning Council aware of the situation and the possibility of increased emergency calls and encounters with law enforcement due to loss of meds and other trauma. Efforts to expand Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) are being discussed. Commissioner McKinlay sent a letter to Florida's first lady Mrs. Casey DeSantis requesting additional state funding for more behavioral health beds and the need to strengthen oversight of publicly funded mental health facilities. Discussions are being held to also assess the future role of Palm Beach County's Healthcare District to support these efforts. Mr. Van Arnam explained the situation is very fluid and changes are happening rapidly. Future updates will be given publicly as the situation progresses. There was member discussion of how to mitigate risk in the future when PBC contracts with non-profit organizations.

X. Update on CJC Initiatives:

A. MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge:

- i. Mr. Damir Kukec gave an update on the bi-annual All-Sites meeting that took place in Houston, TX on October 2-4. Palm Beach County sent a nine-member delegation.
- ii. Mr. Kukec announced Florida State University will give a presentation on the risk assessment instrument validation study on December 3, 2019.
- iii. He said the final report on CJC's Sequential Intercept Mapping session held in July is complete and will be presented at a future CJC meeting.

XI. Member Comments:

Ms. Marcia Andrews asked about the under-utilized beds and how children's programs and services in the Belle Glade area are now being handled, given the present situation with JGC. Mr. Van Arnam said he would look into what other services and programs would need accommodations to continue behavioral health services and get back with more information. Chair Richman asked if it would be appropriate for the CJC to make a resolution to support the county having more oversight over non-profit agencies. Mr. Van Arnam responded it was not necessary at this time, the responsibility does not and should not lie solely with the county, that efficient and effective oversight is achieved by certifications and frequent audit services. He said it is a shared responsibility between the non-profit, county and state continuum of care for all services.

Judge Kathleen Kroll requested the CJC include the Community Services Department at the November 25 full CJC meeting to discuss more expanded inclusion in the \$4.93 million dollar grant from HUD. She and Mr. Gregory Starling of the Department of Juvenile Justice are concerned juveniles who are aging out of foster care, as well as formerly incarcerated juveniles are homeless and more support is needed for them also.

XII. Adjourn:

With no further member comments, Chair Richman adjourned the meeting at 9:05 a.m.