

M I N U T E S

MONDAY, March 24, 2008 - 8:00 a.m.

PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION MEETING

McEaddy Conference Room
12th Floor, 301 N. Olive Avenue
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Members Present:

Commissioner Burt Aaronson
Rosalyn Baker
James Barr
Ric Bradshaw
Barbara Cheives
Max Davis
Douglas Duncan
George Elmore
Carey Haughwout
Feirmon Johnson
Randolph K. Johnson, Sr.
William Kramer
Barry Krischer
Kathleen Kroll
Wesley Lauer
Martin Millar
Gerald Richman
Debra Robinson
Richard Staudinger
Stephen Stepp
Carmen Veneziano

Harry A. Johnston, II (Ex officio Exec. Committee)

Guests Attending:

Cristy Altaro, Court Administration
Bill Bales, Florida State University (FSU)
Thomas Blomberg, Florida State University (FSU)
Perry Boman, Florida Department of Corrections
Carlton Cartwright, The Children's Coalition Inc. (TCCI)
Wendy Cavendish, Florida State University (FSU)
Kim Collins, Clerk & Comptroller
Reed Daniel, WPB Youth Empowerment Center
James Kelly, PBC School District Police Department
Deanna MacDonald, Office of Financial Management & Budget (OFMB)
Karen Mann, Florida State University (FSU)
Gena Rowlands, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO)
Michelle Spangenberg, Court Administration

Members Absent:

Moses Baker
Stephen Barborini
Sharon Bock
Steven Burdelski
Delsa Bush
Mike Driscoll
Rolando Garcia
Luis Perez
Maria Sachs

Art Johnson (Ex officio Exec.
Committee)

Staff Present:

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director
Journey Beard, Crime Prevention Project Specialist
Arlene Burton, Administrative Secretary
Wayne English, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst
Jenise Gibson, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst
Katherine Hatos, Criminal Justice Analyst
Damir Kukec, Research & Planning Manager
Rosalind Murray, Program Development Specialist
Glenna Nowalk, Clerical Specialist
Mike Szakacs, Financial Analyst II
Becky Walker, Criminal Justice Programs Manager

- I. Chairman Barr called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m., and thanked everyone for attending.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.
- III. Chairman Barr welcomed members and guests to introduce themselves.
- IV. The agenda was unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Davis and second by Mr. Elmore.
- V. The minutes of the March 24, 2008 full Commission meeting were unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Davis and second by Mr. Elmore.
- VI. Under Chairman's Comments, Chair Barr announced that Florida State University (FSU) College of Criminology Center for Public Policy will be presenting their first year evaluation of the youth empowerment centers to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. He encouraged members to make an extra effort to be in attendance.
- VII. Under Executive Director's Comments, Mr. Rodriguez:
 - A. Advised that the following three Economic Council nominees: Messrs. Joseph Bernadel, Douglas Duncan and Wesley Lauer were approved by the CJC at the last full meeting and will be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for confirmation on Tuesday, April 1, 2008.
 - B. Informed the meeting that as part of Palm Beach County's budget process, staff is required to report on their performance by various indicators, and as such, staff are in the process of distributing a satisfaction survey to all CJC members. This survey is part of five key indicators that will help staff measure their performance by identifying areas of strength and weakness. He stressed the importance of their input and encouraged members to take a few minutes to complete and return the survey to the Research and Planning Unit by March 31, 2008.
- VIII. Business Consent item(s)

There were no business consent items.
- IX. Old Business

Mr. Douglas Duncan reported that the Corrections Task Force/Public Safety Coordinating

Council decided at their last meeting to **not** pursue seeking alternatives to incarceration programs. He cited monetary constraints as the factor, indicating that although they are concerned about the jails capacity, the alternatives to incarceration programs cost money. He pointed out that the last time the Committee documented alternatives, they were not given the opportunity to present it to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), who also indicated there were no funds available for those programs. He said Mr. Rodriguez recently approached the Commissioners in a one on one basis and he reported that the support was not positive.

Commissioner Aaronson enquired why the Committee was not given the opportunity to present to the BCC.

Mr. Rodriguez provided a brief of what happened at the time.

Commissioner Aaronson argued about the cost of incarceration which he said has been in the news recently noting that the County Commissioners are interested in reducing crime and also not incarcerating people who might not need to be incarcerated. He said that if the CJC is able to show that the benefits of alternatives to incarceration are greater than the cost of incarceration, he thinks the BCC would be very interested.

Mr. Johnston pointed out a recent article in the newspapers which indicated that there are currently 100,000 people in state jails and of that amount, 20,000 were non violent drug cases. He suggested that the CJC might want to look at the percentage in Palm Beach County.

After further discussion on the matter, the Commission agreed to have the Corrections Task Force/Public Safety Coordinating Council revisit the issue of alternatives to incarceration for presentation to the BCC.

X. New Business

A. Ms. Walker presented the Law Enforcement Planning Council's (LEPC) recommendation for funding from Youth Violence Prevention funds in the amount of \$7,900.00 to provide training for six (6) persons from law enforcement by the Forensic Technologies Inc. on the Brass Trax. She pointed out that the Brass Trax was installed at the West Palm Beach Police Department for the neighboring police agencies to input information on ballistics testing in order to relieve the Sheriff's office, while cleaning up the process. Six persons from various offices have already received training and the additional personnel will strengthen that area.

Dr. Robinson sought justification for taking the monies from the Youth Violence Prevention funds.

Ms Walker responded that part of the youth violence prevention strategy in working with the law enforcement is working with evidence collection training and ballistics information to solve more murders and thus preventing murderers from being on the streets.

State Attorney Barry Krischer added that part of that recent discussion also included the license plate recognition, noting that they are two projects that were

built in at the outset, which represent an expansion of the program to get more agencies on line.

Unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Elmore and second by Mr. Davis.

- B. Recommendation by the Law Enforcement Planning Council (LEPC) for CJC's approval of \$500.00 from the Youth Violence Prevention funds to purchase training manuals (cds) for the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training.

Correction regarding the source of funds was made by Mr. Rodriguez to reflect that the funds would be taken from the CJC \$1 million Reserve Fund and not Youth Violence Prevention as indicated in agenda.

Unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Elmore and second by Mr. Randy Johnson.

- C. Mr. Duncan presented the Corrections Task Force recommendation for amending Resolution NO. CJC-96-1, adding two members to the Corrections Task Force to be representatives from the Clergy and from the Palm Beach County Bail Bond Association.

Unanimously approved amending Resolution NO. CJC-96-1 after motion by Mr. Millar and second by Mr. Elmore.

XI. CJC Initiatives / Updates

- A. Dr. Blomberg of FSU presented the team's evaluation of the Palm Beach County's Youth Violence Prevention Project's first year, which will be also be presented to the BCC on April 22, 2008. In his introduction, he pointed to the uniqueness of the County noting that he is not aware of any jurisdiction that has this kind of sustained commitment to using research validated policies and then evaluating them. He also highlighted the incredible collaboration of law enforcement that has led to much success in the reduction of crime in the County, which he said, has not happened in other parts of the country with similar programming.

In presenting the overview, Dr. Blomberg said that this initiative started in 2004 when the media reported a number of violent crimes in the county which led the CJC to initiate a study to determine if the County was in the midst of a violent crime epidemic. The study showed that while crime rate had declined from 1990-2005, violent crime increased particularly from 2000-2004. Using the components of prevention, law enforcement, courts and corrections, the CJC implemented the youth violence prevention program in five cities.

Dr. Blomberg reported that with the exception of Boynton Beach, the program in the remaining four cities – Lake Worth, West Palm Beach, Riviera Beach and Belle Glade - got off to a good start. His findings on all four components highlighted the success areas as well as areas which require strengthening. Outcome data, challenges and limitations of each site were also pointed out. On the prevention side, he said overall, the Youth Empowerment Centers experienced growth and expansion in the services offered. The challenges included budgetary concerns, staff, and facility constraints. For law enforcement and courts, the State Attorney's Office and the Statewide Prosecutor have been active in the development and implementation of countywide violent and gang-related crime prosecution

protocols and training initiatives.

There was much discussion and questions from members who sought clarification on data and issues presented.

According to Dr. Blomberg, the program design and the way it's being implemented was done well despite the ongoing training needs. He remarked that this program is worthy of national attention and could be replicated in other counties.

Chair Barr thanked Dr. Blomberg and his team for the presentation and also thanked Mr. Davis, Ms. Walker and her staff for their hard work with the program.

- B. Cristy Altaro from Court Administration reported that Chief Judge Kroll started a reentry initiative with the School Board, Department of Juvenile Justice, State Attorney's Office, and the Public Defender's Office to aid youth coming out of detention centers. She said the School Board will be allocating four staff to work at the courthouse, in addition to the liaison that is currently there. They are expected to start in mid April and will be housed on the 3rd floor of the courthouse. There is also a staff member at the detention center and one at the jail, and there will also be a transition specialist. The focus is to ensure that the schools are accepting the youth that are released from detention and to help them stay on track.

Sheriff Ric Bradshaw announced that he will be funding the \$31,000 short fall that Chief Judge Kroll mentioned for the drug court, and that he would notify the County.

Chair Barr thanked Sheriff for the funding.

XII. Member Comments

Mr. Rodriguez reminded the meeting of the joint presentation by Ms. Cheives, and Lynn Powell from the State Attorney's Office, about the Blue Print Commission on juvenile justice issues on Thursday, March 27 at 2:30 p.m. in the 6th Floor Commission Chambers.

Ms Cheives added that the reason for choosing that day is that it coincides with Juvenile Justice Week, and noted that the Blue Print Commission was seeded a year ago during that week.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 a.m.