

# M I N U T E S

TUESDAY, May 27, 2008 - 8:00 a.m.

## PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION MEETING

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

### ***Members Present:***

Commissioner Burt Aaronson  
Moses Baker  
Rosalyn Baker  
James Barr  
Joseph Bernadel  
Steven Burdelski  
Delsa Bush  
Barbara Cheives  
Max Davis  
Douglas Duncan  
Rolando Garcia  
Carey Haughwout  
Feirmon Johnson  
William Kramer  
Barry Krischer  
Kathleen Kroll  
Wesley Lauer  
Martin Millar  
Gerald Richman  
Richard Staudinger  
Stephen Stepp

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

### ***Guests Attending:***

Cristy Altaro, Court Administration  
Maureen Brickous, PRIDE  
Merline Deneus, Congress One Stop Services  
Wanda Joiner, PRIDE  
Laura Johnson, Court Administration  
James Kelly, PBC School District Police Department  
Michael McAuliffe, McAuliffe Law Group  
Nicole Saunders, Justice Services  
Michelle Spangenberg, Court Administration  
Louis Tomeo, Clerk & Comptroller  
Gregg Weiss, Public

### ***Members Absent:***

Stephen Barborini  
Mitch Beers  
Sharon Bock  
Ric Bradshaw  
Mike Driscoll  
George Elmore  
Randolph K. Johnson, Sr.  
Luis Perez  
Maria Sachs  
Debra Robinson  
Carmen Veneziano  
  
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  
Candee Villapando, Criminal Justice Analyst  
Becky Walker, Criminal Justice Programs Manager

- I. Chair Barr called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.
- III. Chair Barr welcomed members and asked guests to introduce themselves.
- IV. The agenda was unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Davis and second by Ms. Cheives.
- V. The minutes of the April 28, 2008 Full Commission meeting were unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Davis and second by Mr. Krischer.
- VI. Under Chairman's Comments, Chair Barr reminded members that there would be no regular CJC meeting during the months of June, July, and August, but noted that if the need arises, one would be called.
- VII. Under Executive Director's Comments, Mr. Rodriguez:
  - A. Reported that the CJC recently received notice that our Channel 20 TV show entitled "Get in the Zone" was awarded the coveted "**Telly Award**". The award which was founded in 1978, is the premier award honoring outstanding local, regional, and cable TV commercials and programs, as well as the finest video and film productions. Their mission has been to strengthen the visual arts community by inspiring, promoting, and supporting creativity. The 28th Annual Telly Awards received over 14,000 entries from all 50 states and 5 continent.
  - B. Reminded members and guests of CJC's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which will be held at the Palm Beach County Convention Center during the August Executive Committee meeting on August 11, 2008 at 8:00 a.m.
- VIII. New Business
  - A. Judge Laura Johnson, Administrative County Court Judge and Chairman of the Probation Advisory Board (PAB) provided a brief on PAB and the annual report on misdemeanor probation services prepared by Mr. Damir Kukec, Manager, Research and Planning Unit. She indicated that the report which included a two-year period and an in-depth examination of the risk need outcomes, was reviewed by PAB. PAB also endorsed the recommendations outlined in the report, including the renewal of the service contract. She thanked Mr. Kukec for his work on the

report and encouraged the CJC to approve the report and its recommendations.

Mr. Kukec, in presenting the report, noted that after an in-depth look at the risk needs assessment, PAB found that although PRIDE was doing the assessments, there still needed to be some improvement done. He said that it was a very cooperative review. He pointed to the report in the agenda packet and invited members to contact him with their comments. He noted that on a particular issue related to risk needs as well as unemployment and underemployment, the study showed that individuals that are either unemployed or underemployed, based on their income reported, are less likely or have a harder time successfully completing their period of misdemeanor probation services. He stated however, that PRIDE has already agreed as part of the recommendations, to work with PAB and CJC staff, to enhance the ability for PRIDE to refer and to help individuals become employed while under misdemeanor probation services supervision. He said that the general recommendations focused on risk and needs assessment to better screen people to make sure they complete their term, and are referred, if one or more needs were identified. PAB is also seeking to work with PRIDE to develop a better mechanism to assist individuals in obtaining employment. Another recommendation highlighted, is that of optimizing the use of probation officers' time within the court room.

Mr. Kukec said the next step, as directed by the CJC Executive Committee, is to work on the wording of the contract which will then be reviewed by PAB, followed by a further review by the County Attorney, before being presented to the Board of County Commissioners for approval.

Mr. Bernadel asked what would be contained in the Memorandum of Understanding stating how Work Force Alliance would be assisting the unemployment and underemployment. In her response, Ms. Brickous of PRIDE indicated that they are seeking to have a two-way form of communication whereby information on individuals being referred can be faxed to Workforce who would in turn report back to PRIDE. They are also looking to improve their data base for better documentation.

Chair Barr reported that the Executive Committee reviewed the report at the Committee's May meeting and unanimously approved the recommendation for renewal of the contract.

Mr. Johnston observed that the Committee has not looked at the final contract, and recommended that the amended contract be brought before the Executive Committee.

Members unanimously approved moving ahead with the contract subject to further review of the final amendments by the Executive Committee, after motion by Ms. Cheives and second by Mr. Davis.

- B. CJC Staff recommended approval to submit the application for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program FY 2008 Local Solicitation (previously known as the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant) to the Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance by the June 11, 2008 deadline. An amount of **\$289,000.00** has been requested for Palm Beach County for COMBAT Prosecutors and Re-entry programs.

Motion for approval to submit application in the amount of \$289,000.00 for Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program FY 2008 moved by Mr. Staudinger and seconded by Mr. Bernadel.

Mr. Rodriguez added that according to Mr. Bonvento, the County approved the new CJC budget which was submitted with the 5% reduction subject to BCC's approval.

- C. Ms. Saunders reported that at the May 16, 2008 Court Systems Task Force meeting, a recommendation was made to seek CJC's comments and recommendations as to how the Task Force can structure and solicit funds for the juvenile and adult drug courts. She noted that the two options looked at are the 501C3 nonprofit organization, and a mechanism where funds can be gathered through the County. She provided a brief on the drug courts in Palm Beach County.

Mr. Krischer added that emails have been distributed suggesting that Drug Court would no longer exist because of the Chief Judge's reduced budget.

Chief Judge Kroll noted that the County funds the staff at the Drug Court, with the exception of the head, Dorrie Tyng. She said a clerical position is also funded by Court Administration, which they will continue to fund, but that the person may be relocated to Central as the Courts would probably be having layoffs during the course of the week.

On that note, Mr. Krischer stated that some years ago, the CJC approved the Friends of Weed and Seed as a fund raising arm, and suggested that the CJC could again create a charitable organization "Friends of Drug Court". He also noted that persons who completed Drug Court have expressed interest in contributing money to keep Drug Court going.

Mr. Rodriguez said the 501C3 option is complicated and would take some time, but that it would appear that the County policy allowing such things have methods set up in the policy and procedures to collect money.

Mr. Bernadel inquired about the existence of an organization under which you could operate as a 501C3 instead of creating a new organization.

Members unanimously agree to allow Judicial Services to look into options to allow for contributions to Drug Court treatment funding.

- D. Mr. Krischer presented the request for funding in the amount of \$5,000 for Child Protective Team (CPT) medical exams. In outlining the current situation of CPT, Mr. Krischer noted that a number of years ago, a study group indicated that Palm Beach County needed a central receiving facility for all abused children. The facility known as Homesafe was built on land owned by the County at a cost of \$1 per year for 99 years with private dollars through the efforts of Bob Montgomery. At the time it was agreed that CPT would not pay rent or overheads but would take all the dollars received from Tallahassee for use on child services. A recommendation was made to United Way for all the child protective carriers in the County to unite into a single group and not compete against each other for public dollars. Center for Children Crisis, Homesafe and Children's Place then merged, and as a result of financial problems, the Center for Children's Crisis, they went

out of existence. The promise in return for the merger was for United Way to provide some funds for child abuse programs; however, United Way no longer funds Homesafe.

Mr. Krischer said that over the last two years, the Children's Place Board has been raising funds to keep the CPT open. Also, two years ago the CJC agreed to give Homesafe dollars to remain open for a period of time, while the County provided matching dollars. CPT, however, has not received the dollars required to function for the last few years. As a result, Mr. Krischer met individually with the Commissioners to remind them of their statutory obligation. He also communicated with County Administrator Bob Weisman on the matter. He then met with Mr. Bonvento and suggested an interim request to the County for funds as CPT would run out of money by July and the County would not be providing funds until October. Mr. Krischer said Mr. Bonvento suggested to approach CJC to fund CPT from July through October from the \$1M funds.

Mr. Krischer moved a motion for CJC to provide funds up to \$45,000.00 for CPT to cover their exams (maximum of 250 exams) from July to October. CPT will submit their bills for exams at a cost of \$175.00 each to CJC on a bill by bill basis. Motion seconded by Mr. Staudinger and unanimously approved by members.

Mr. Rodriguez noted that while the funds may not be obtained from the \$1m fund, there is money that can be taken from other funds.

Ms. Haughwout expressed concern about the future of CPT and what should be done to ensure that the County picks up its statutory obligation. Members then agreed to send letter to the BCC as part of the motion in support of their taking over their statutory obligation to fund CPT.

Chief Bush expressed concern about the overall fiscal health of the CPT even with the funds from CJC, and inquired what the rest of budget was like. Mr. Krischer advised that they receive funds from the FAA and the County, but that paying for the medical exams is the issue at this time.

Commissioner Aaronson inquired about United Way and the individual who had pledged money to assist CPT. Mr. Krischer responded that the individual passed away and he was not sure how United Way now decides where the monies go.

The problem is, according to Commissioner Aaronson, that the County has unfunded mandates by States statutes that they have to take care of and that the budget could have a shortfall of up to \$80M - \$90M, and the money is just not available. He proposed to sit with Mr. Krischer and Mr. Bonvento on the matter and what he will propose to the Commissioners.

#### XI. CJC Initiatives / Updates

Mr. Rodriguez advised of a schedule conflict with Todd Bonlarron which resulted in his absence to provide the legislative update.

#### XII. Member Comments

Mr. Staudinger requested an update on Belle Glade. Ms. Walker responded that the Belle Glade City Commissioners would be meeting on the issue later that afternoon to look at the Band Room as the home for the Youth Empowerment Center and also to

determine if there is funding to supplement what is in their contract. She noted that the CJC is also working with Facilities Department on an estimate for moving a double wide trailer to Belle Glade that is available for free from Palm Beach Academy, which can be used as an alternative housing for the center. She stated that the original estimated cost for refurbishing the Band Room was under \$200,000.00 but is now estimated at over \$300,000.00, while the CJC's contract with Belle Glade is \$300,000.00 for the total program.

Mr. Davis added that Mayor Wilson of Belle Glade is involved and that with the County's help, we are hoping to move ahead.

Mr. Staudinger inquired about a discussion from a previous meeting to explore a 501C3 or a dedicated revenue with administrative arrangement with the County for purposes of soliciting private funds or equipment to assist Belle Glade. Ms. Walker advised that Commissioner Santamaria's office has been working with Meryl Lynch and that they have visited a couple of the Youth Empowerment Centers and have expressed interest in contributing money. Harry Johnston and Max Davis have also met with the Community Foundation which is also interested in contributing funds.

Chief Bush remarked that we should not be comfortable thinking that these projects will be funded by charitable contributions as some of those companies are feeling the hard times as well.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10 a.m.