

M I N U T E S

MONDAY, November 23, 2009

PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

FULL COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Members Present:

Rosalyn Baker
Stephen Barborini
James Barr
Flynn Bertisch
Peter Blanc
Ric Bradshaw
Delsa Bush
Barbara Cheives
Max Davis
Douglas Duncan
George Elmore
Carey Haughwout
Matt Immler
Feirmon Johnson
Randolph K. Johnson, Sr.
William Kramer
Kathleen Kroll
Marti LaTour
Karen Marcus
Michael McAuliffe
Gerald Richman
Charles Shaw
Carmen Veneziano
Lee Waring

Art Johnson, (Ex-Officio Executive Committee)

Incoming Member Present:

Monroe Benaim, School Board

Guests Attending:

Allan Billingsley, Guardian Ad Litem
Bob Bertisch, Legal Aid Society
Todd Bonlarron, Legislative Delegation
Vince Bonvento, County Administration
Maureen Brickous, PRIDE Integrated Services, Inc.
Barbara Dawicke, Court Administration

Members Absent:

Joseph Bernadel
Sharon Bock
Ted Deutch
Mike Driscoll
Rolando Garcia
Wesley Lauer
Luis Perez
Debra Robinson
William Stern

Nancy Dixon, Victim Services
Shelley Farnan, Florida Atlantic University
Jim Kelley, School District
Jim Garrett, Office of Financial Management & Budget
Nicole Saunders, Justice Services
Bradley Sorte, Court Administration
Tony Spaniel, Youth Affairs
Louis Tomeo, Clerk & Comptroller
Charlie Trotta, Pre-Trial
Vicki Tucci, Guardian Ad Litem
Dorrie Tyng, Drug Court

Staff Present:

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director
Arlene Burton, Administrative Secretary
Shahzia Hashmi, Intern
Katherine Hatos, Criminal Justice Analyst
Damir Kukec, Research & Planning Manager
Jenise Link, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst
Brenda Oakes, Youth Violence Prevention Planning Coordinator
Mike Szakacs, Financial Analyst II
Candee Villapando, Criminal Justice Analyst
Becky Walker, Criminal Justice Programs Manager

- I. Chairman Barr called the meeting to order at approximately 8:05 a.m. Welcome was extended to members and guests, and special welcome to Charles Shaw, new CJC member and Dr. Monroe Benaim from the School Board.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.
- III. Chairman Barr invited 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 October 26, 2009 full commission meeting were unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Elmore and second by Mr. Davis.
- VI. Under Chairman's Comments Chairman Barr :
 - A. Provided a brief on the strategic planning meeting held on November 9, 2009. He noted that the meeting which was moderated by Dr. Herbert Marlowe, focused on CJC's strategic direction resulting in a consensus by the executive committee to move ahead by looking at what the CJC does relative to concentrating on more specific areas instead of being as diverse. He further advised of a request from the meeting that the CJC look at the relevant elements in the Public Safety Department with respect to what is done, where the gaps are and how effectively they operate. As a result, Mr. Vince Bonvento was asked to present on his department at today's meeting. In addition, other elected officials namely; Chief Judge, Public Defender, Sheriff and State Attorney were asked to present at the CJC full meeting in January 2010. The information garnered will assist the CJC in determining its direction at the annual planning meeting in March 2010.

B. Reminded persons to use the microphone when speaking so that everyone can hear.

VII. Under Executive Director's Comments, Mr. Rodriguez:

- A. Announced that County Commissioner Priscilla Taylor and the Criminal Justice Commission's Weed and Seed program would be hosting a Re-entry Transition Fair Employer Reception on Monday, November 30, 2009 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., at the West Palm Beach City Hall, Flagler Gallery. The reception is sponsored by A & Associates, a local temporary staffing firm owned by Andrew Luchey, and will feature Chief Judge Peter Blanc as one of the speakers . All were invited to attend.
- B. Reminded members of the 22nd Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy being held at the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office on Thursdays and continues through December 17, 2009 from 6 to 9 p.m.
- C. Reported that the CJC Executive Committee approved sending a letter of support for Toppel Foundation to secure funding for the implementation of the Palm Beach County Transition from Jail to Community Initiative pilot project.

VIII. Business Consent item(s)

There were no business consent items.

IX. Old Business, Mr. Rodriguez:

There were no old business items.

X. Under New Business,

A. Ms. Barbara Cheives who chaired the nominating committee meeting held on October 13, 2009, presented the following recommendations for the year 2010 Executive Committee:

- *Officers:-*

- Chairman - Barbara Cheives
- Vice Chairman - Douglas Duncan
- Treasurer - William Kramer
- Secretary - Carey Haughwout

- *Private Sector Representatives:-*

- George Elmore Gerald Richman
- Marti LaTour

- *Public Sector Representatives:-*

- Peter Blanc Fiermon Johnson
- Ric Bradshaw Michael McAuliffe
- Frank Kitzerow

James Barr, as past Chairman, and Art Johnson, as School District Superintendent are ex officio members of the Executive Committee.

Members unanimously approved recommendations for 2010 executive committee as presented after motion by Commissioner Marcus and second by Mr. Johnson Sr.

B. As requested at the CJC strategic planning meeting, Mr. Vince Bonvento, Assistant

County Administrator reported on the three divisions of the Public Safety Department that serve the criminal justice system. He provided an overview of each division, the existing programs and the impact on the criminal justice system.

- ***Division of Youth Affairs***

The Division of Youth Affairs mission is to prevent youths from involvement in the Juvenile Justice System and has been providing services to youth and families in Palm Beach County for over 30 years. The Division has an annual budget of \$4,802,620 and employs 65 full time and 5 part time staff who work with a wide range of youths from a culturally diverse community with aggressive behavior, poor school performance, attention deficit disorder, physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, depression, anxiety, gang involvement etc. The Division is organized into two subdivisions: The Highridge Family Center and the Youth Service Bureau which provide individualized treatment to families.

The *Highridge Family Center* is a 24 hour, 48-bed residential treatment center for “at-risk” males and females 11 to 16 years of age and requires family involvement. Close to 60% of referrals to the Center are from guidance counselors or teachers in the Palm Beach County Schools, 20% from the courts and 20% come from the community. The Center’s significant accomplishments for FY 2008-09 include the designation of a Court Liaison to develop a closer referral link with the Juvenile Court Judges. In addition, 288 families received residential services, 1355 family therapy sessions and 499 individual therapy sessions were provided, 95% of day beds were utilized, a review of the past three years of residents indicates that 77% were actively attending or had graduated high school. As of November 10, 2009, there were 40 youths on the Center’s waiting list. The Center also works closely with the CJC.

The *Youth Service Bureau* is the community-based, outreach arm of the Division. It was developed subsequent to the residential arm of service and in direct response to the need for accessibility and visibility. The Bureau has locations in Belle Glade, Delray Beach and West Palm Beach, and also provides services to families at several school locations each week. The Bureau’s wide range of service includes direct care, school liaison, psychological testing, home visits, special programs, and education and training. The accomplishments for FY 2008-09 include the provision of services to 2,141 families, parenting classes to 252 families, conducted over 10,000 hours of family therapy, completed 32 psychological testing batteries and gave 55 presentations and 14 Continuing Education (CE) workshops with over 1,200 attendees.

- ***Victim Services Division***

The Victim Services Division was established by the BCC in 1975 and is the only Certified Rape Crisis Center for Palm Beach County. The Division has offices in North County Courthouse, South County Courthouse, Central Courthouse, Glades County Building and the Emergency Operation Center. The Division currently has 37 staff with a total operating budget of \$2.7M, a net ad valorem budget of \$2.4M.

The five areas of responsibility for the Division are: a) 24-hour crisis response to

rapes, homicides, domestic violence, home invasions and other serious injury cases; b) legal advocacy and crisis counseling; c) therapy services; d) professional training and community presentations, and e) crisis response for county's and man-created disasters. Victim Services also collaborates with other agencies that work with crime victims, but is the only agency in the county providing 24 hour crisis response for all crime victims. Referrals are received from the State Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office, Legal Aid, municipal police departments, school and university police, hospitals, shelters, substance abuse and mental health programs, and other community services.

- ***Division of Justice Services***

The Division of Justice Services provides a variety of specialized services to enhance public safety and assist the justice system and the citizens of Palm Beach County. The primary services include; identification and treatment of substance abuse issues; prevention of domestic violence; provision of information to the court; supervision and monitoring of individuals; evaluation and assessment; guidance, referrals and access to the courts for people 60+ years of age who have court related matter; and provision of Legal Aid services (state mandated; and access to enhanced case management and advocacy for abused and neglected children through Guardian Ad Litem office.

The Division has been successful at offsetting the costs of programs by almost 50% through active solicitation of grants, emphasis on user fees and by the appropriation of court filing fees. Costs for these programs are as follows:

- Pretrial Services Program and Community Service Program (PTS & DOR and CSP) - Program Costs (\$1,119,778 net ad valorem). The appropriation for PTS, SOR and CSP is \$1,580,278. Revenues totaling 407,500 are generated from user fees, and \$53,000 was received from the CJC for a grant funded position. In 2009 SOR supervised 5,826 clients released from jail, 18,785 inmates interviewed by pretrial services, and 2,192 community services referrals made.
- Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, County Contract Oversight – Program Cost: (\$695,297 total net ad valorem), broken down as follows: Public Guardianship Program - \$184,530 appropriated; \$30,000 in revenues from filing fees; \$154,530 net ad valorem. Domestic Violence Legal Assistance - \$112,813 appropriated \$112,813 net ad valorem. Legal Aid Program - \$742,954 (State required) appropriated: \$315,000 revenues from filing fees; \$427,954. The Legal Aid Society provides legal assistance and representation to the most disadvantaged citizens in Palm Beach County.
- Forensic Psychology (Court Psychology) – Program Cost (\$201,014 net ad valorem) \$594,314 appropriated; \$235,800 in revenues from user fees and \$157,500 in revenues from filing fees. Court Psychology provides psychological services to assist the courts in assuring the safety of the public and those evaluated in (but not limited to) adult and juvenile criminal matters, child abuse and termination of parental rights cases and civil matters.

- Elder Justice – Program Cost (\$179,892 net ad valorem) \$212, 392 appropriated; \$32,500 in revenues from filing fees. This program remove barriers and enhances linkages between older adults, the court system and medical, social and legal services and ensures that the elderly in Palm Beach County are granted a fair and reasonable voice in, and access to the courts. 1067 total individuals were assisted in 2008-9.
- Adult Drug Court - Program Cost (\$175,174 net ad valorem) \$660,575 appropriated; \$150,000 in revenues from user fees, \$163,000 Byrne Grant Funding, \$137,401 Crime Prevention Fund (CJC), \$35,000 Criminal Justice Reserve fund, \$106,515 Office of Justice Program Grant. The Drug Court program is a judicially supervised drug treatment program which integrates substance abuse treatment with case management to nonviolent adult drug-involved defendants. Since its inception, there has been a success rate of 89% for Drug Court graduates.
- Family Violence Intervention Program (FVIP) - Program Cost (\$48,638 net ad valorem) \$211,138 appropriated; \$162,500 in revenues from filing fees. This program is committed to helping eliminate family violence by providing case management to families whose child has been charged for domestic battery as an alternative to court prosecution. 230 juveniles were served in 2008-9.
- Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) - Program Cost (\$12,381 net ad valorem) \$169,881 appropriated; \$157,500 in revenues from filing fees. This program provides advocacy to abused or neglected foster children who are participating in Independent Living programs.
- Family Connection Supervised Visitation - Program Cost (\$0 net ad valorem) \$65,000 appropriated; \$32,820 in revenues from user fees, \$17,180 from grants and \$15,000 from filing fees. This program provides the judiciary with their only means of court supervised visitation in Palm Beach County in a secure environment, thereby allowing juveniles to remain in society while receiving drug treatment services in a structured drug court program.
- Delinquency Drug Court (DDC) - Program Cost (\$0 net ad valorem) \$79,273 provided by the CJC for drug treatment and testing for juveniles. This is the second year of a pilot program for the DDC. It provides drug treatment and testing for juveniles involved in the delinquency court system with an identified substance abuse disorder.
- Domestic Violence Case Management - Program Cost (-\$476 net ad valorem) \$51,793 provided through VOCA grant funding, \$75,000 in revenues from court filing fees. Domestic Violence Case Mangers assist litigants by making referrals to community providers for various services ordered by the court.

Mr. Bonvento also provided a breakdown of the overall budget for the programs covered showing the percentage of total funding allocated.

Mr. William Kramer inquired about the total funding provided by the CJC to Department.

Commissioner Marcus provided an overview on how the County got all the programs, noting that these were programs before the “Article V” ??... with the Legislators and the constitutional amendments that the County voluntarily decided to do. The County would now like to review these programs since they are not statutorily required, with the exception of Legal Aid. She indicated that it is a good opportunity for the CJC to look at the various programs to determine if they are providing the benefits intended and then make recommendations to the BCC for improvements and or eliminations if necessary.

Mr. Rodriguez inquired about the difference in services being offered by the Domestic Violence Case Manager, the Domestic Violence Legal Assistance.

Ms. Nancy Dixon of Victim Services noted that the agency targets and works with different populations and also, that the County’s Division operates 24 hours per day.

Ms. Nicole Saunders added that while the Domestic Violence Case Manager tracks information on the actual batterer or the perpetrator of the crime, the Domestic Violence Legal Assistance provides legal representation.

Mr. Bob Bertisch of the Legal Aid Society remarked that it is a continuum of services and that his agency work closely with other agencies, and pointed out that most of their referrals come from Victim Services. He also noted that while the Legal Aid Society is required by contract to do 330 victims of domestic violence, last year they did over 900.

Ms. Haughwout further inquired about the victim services provided by the County versus the services provided by the State Attorney, and whether law enforcement has a victim services unit.

State Attorney Michael McAuliffe noted that their services are less comprehensive than the County’s and that the services may overlap in very limited ways even though the objectives are different. He noted however that while every program should be scrutinized, if the County’s victim service is taken out of the equation, his office would not be back-filling those larger support systems.

Sheriff Ric Bradshaw added that his office mainly works with the State Attorney’s office, and that the detectives act as the point persons to make sure things happen, but have limited involvement in cases.

Chief Delsa Bush commented that some local law enforcements like West Palm Beach Police Department had a grant funded victim services coordinator but that they could no longer afford to, and now rely heavily on the Sheriff’s office and the County’s victim services for help. She spoke of the recent triple homicide in Lake Worth noting that the County’s Victim Services were the people who made the difference to those families by providing counseling and assistance with the burial. Chief Bush further stated that she would like to see the services expanded.

Mr. Bonvento reiterated that there is very little duplication and that the programs supplement each other.

Mr. Randy Johnson Sr. commended Mr. Bonvento on his report and noted his concern with the impact on the cost of the programs, especially since we cannot afford to not have them.

Mr. Bonvento noted that with the approach of another difficult budget year, the County is looking to increase revenues where possible as well as consolidation of some programs. He pointed out that the treatment in a private facility would cost thousands of dollars while the department does it for almost free.

Ms. Haughwout sought clarification on the CJC's role with the information gathered.

Chairman Barr noted that as an outcome of the CJC's strategic planning meeting, Mr. Bonvento and other elected officials were asked to present the information to the CJC to get a feel for the areas that the CJC can focus on, as well as to determine where there are overlaps.

Dr. Art Johnson commented that the CJC has often times struggled with its purpose and that arising from the strategic planning meeting, the CJC is to look at the programs to see what fits into the CJC's purpose. He said he has always heard people comment on how good Palm Beach County works together as a community with the different agencies, which he said helps us to solve a lot of the problems. He further stated that in the State of Florida, the Urban 13 Palm Beach County has the lowest referral per thousand of youth to juvenile justice services or to the court. This he said is largely due to the relationship shared particularly with the liaisons that the school district placed in the courts to help with the transition of students. He noted that as we try to right size this budget to what the focus of the CJC is all about, he thinks that it will be difficult to work together if hard lines are drawn between who is doing what, though he understands the big issue of how it will be paid for.

Commissioner Marcus noted that it would be helpful to the BCC if the CJC look at the existing services to determine if there are duplications of other needs and what may be improved on or even consolidated.

Chief Matt Immler remarked that one of the themes that came out of their various discussions during the budget meetings is whether a service is available through the private sector or if it is provided solely by the government, using the Highridge Center as an example where treatment for 90 days could cost over \$10,000.00 versus using the services bureau. His suggestion would therefore be to look at the services from the perspective of whether it is available through private/public.

Mr. Gerald Richman inquired how the CJC would proceed with looking at these services.

Chairman Barr noted that it is anticipated that a small group would be formed to review the information and make recommendations accordingly.

Dr. Johnson noted that whatever method is used, the CJC will need to prioritize.

- C. Ms. Brenda Oakes advised that the Juvenile Justice Board is requesting a letter of support to Governor Crist in support of \$400,000 for site location and architectural planning and developing for the combination of a JAC/Detention Center, which is currently in the Department of Juvenile Justice's 2010-11 budget. She said that the current facility is 30+ years old and has a well-documented history of system flaws and inadequacies. Ms. Oakes noted that this was the CJC's fourth year of request for

funding and that last year it appeared in the DJJ's budget but was not approved by the governor. The CJC now serves as an advocacy partner and has assisted with extending the lease on two occasions.

Motion to proceed with a letter of support from the CJC was unanimously approved.

D. The Reentry Task Force Proposed Strategic Plan was deferred to the next full meeting.

XI. CJC Initiatives/Updates

CJC programs Newsletters were distributed to members.

XII. Under Member Comments:

There were no member comments.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:20 a.m.