

M I N U T E S

MONDAY, January 25, 2010

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
Delsa Bush
Barbara Cheives
Max Davis
Mike Driscoll
Douglas Duncan
George Elmore
Carey Haughwout
Matt Immler
Feirmon Johnson
Randolph K. Johnson, Sr.
Beth Kigel
Frank Kitzerow
William Kramer
Kathleen Kroll
Wesley Lauer
Michael McAuliffe
Gerald Richman
Charles Shaw
Lee Waring

Members Absent:

Monroe Benaim
Flynn Bertisch
Peter Blanc
Sharon Bock
Ric Bradshaw
Ted Deutch
Rolando Garcia
Marti LaTour
Karen Marcus
Luis Perez
William Stern
Carmen Veneziano

James Barr, Ex-Officio Executive Committee (Immediate Past Chair)

Guests Attending:

Jay Bonner, Juvenile Justice Board
Matt Immler, Boynton Beach Police Department (on behalf of LEPC)
Jim Kelly, Palm Beach County School District
Louis Tomeo, Clerk & Comptroller

Staff Present:

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director
Journey Beard, Crime Prevention Project Specialist
Arlene Burton, Administrative Secretary
Wayne English, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst
Shahzia Hashmi, Intern

Katherine Hatos, Criminal Justice Analyst
Damir Kukec, Research & Planning Manager
Jenise Link, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst
Rosalind Murray, Program Development Specialist
Brenda Oakes, Youth Violence Prevention Planning Coordinator
Becky Walker, Criminal Justice Programs Manager

- I. Chair Barbara Cheives called the meeting to order at approximately 8:02 a.m. Welcome was extended to members and guests.
- 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. Elmore and second by Mr. Davis
- V. The minutes of the December 14, 2009 annual meeting were unanimously approved after motion by Elmore and second by Mr. Davis.
- VI. Under Chairman's Comments Chair Barbara Cheives:
 - A. Extended welcome to the following new and returning members:
 - Dr. Monroe Benaim, appointed by the Palm Beach County School District.
 - Beth Kigel and returning members Gerald Richman and Randy Johnson, appointed by the Economic Council and were approved by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) meeting on January 12, 2010.
 - Chief Frank Kitzerow representing the Palm Beach County Association of Chiefs of Police.
 - B. Congratulated Chief Kitzerow on his installation as President of the Palm Beach County Association of Chiefs of Police.
 - C. Reminded persons to use the microphone when speaking so that everyone can hear.
- VII. Under Executive Director's Comments, Mr. Rodriguez announced the 2nd Palm Beach County Re-Entry Transition Fair to be held on Friday, January 29, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Salvation Army. The event is hosted by County Commissioner Priscilla A. Taylor and the Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission's Weed and Seed program, and is designed to help those who have been incarcerated re-enter society as productive citizens. Local service providers from throughout the County will be in attendance.
- VIII. Business Consent item(s)

There were no business consent items.
- IX. Under old business, Mr. James Barr, Chair of the CJC Strategic Planning Committee reported on the committee's first meeting held on January 20, 2010. He noted that the discussions surrounded the CJC's purpose and major directions needed to be addressed relating to the role of the CJC as advisor to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). He advised that a meeting will be scheduled with Commissioner Karen Marcus in the coming week to seek clearer directions regarding her request at the November CJC meeting. This will be further discussed at the Strategic Planning Committee meeting in February, after which a report will be provided at the next CJC meeting.

Chair Barbara Cheives added that this is an attempt to ensure that the March meeting is a meaningful annual planning meeting and to better understand what the CJC should be bringing forward to the BCC in its advisory capacity.

At the Chair's request, Executive Director Michael Rodriguez outlined the various documents included in the agenda packet. He noted that staff typically provides the CJC members with the agenda packet via email for review, prior to the meeting date. Documents include agenda for the current meeting, minutes from previous meeting, and reports and articles relating to the criminal justice system.

X. Under New Business:

- A. Members unanimously approved staff requests for permission to fund CARP's Job Development Specialist position from the CJC \$1 Million Reserve Fund after motion by Mr. Elmore and second by Mr. Kramer. .

Mr. Rodriguez noted that the position was approved for funding by the Finance Committee with Department of Justice/Justice Assistance Grant (DOJ/JAG) funds, but DOJ has indicated that this is ineligible for funding under the specific grant. This he said would not require new funds but rather to use funds from the CJC \$1M Reserve Fund instead of the Byrne grant under which it was originally funded.

Ms. Becky Walker explained that when the CJC approved the Byrne Grant funding, a portion of the Florida Atlantic University (FAU) Restorative Justice project was funded out of the CJC \$1M Reserve Fund and a portion out of the Byrne Grant funds. She said that the project was approved by the DOJ but that CARP's Job Development Specialist position was denied funding as a non crime prevention project. Ms. Walker said that in this case FAU's Restorative Justice Project can be funded in full from the Byrne Grant funds while CARP's project gets funded from the CJC \$1M Reserve. This she said would require an additional \$6,000.00 to make it even out.

Public Defender Carey Haughwout questioned why the CJC wanted to fund a project that another agency determines is not crime prevention related, and whether the DOJ have a basis for saying some types of payments are not crime prevention, for which the CJC should be made aware.

Mr. Rodriguez commented that if the CJC were to not fund everything that DOJ says is not crime prevention related, the CJC would lose the impact of all the Youth Violence Prevention programs as well as a portion of the Weed and Seed program. He also said that DOJ's reasoning seems illogical as other federal funds do allow payment of some of expenses that DOJ denied. He further stated that at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) level, they have indicated that if the item is not specifically listed as an allowable expense, it is considered unallowable.

Chief Delsa Bush inquired about the amount of funds being requested for the CARP Job Development Specialist, and what the position entails.

Ms. Walker responded that the person will be working with the people that are coming out of the CARP half way houses to help them get jobs.

State Attorney Michael McAuliffe inquired about the opportunity cost of the switch of funding source, to which Ms. Walker said would be \$6,000 that is currently uncommitted.

Ms. Haughwout questioned whether CARP is committed to working with the Reentry Task Force to which Mr. Rodriguez responded that CARP has indicated their willingness to work with the Taskforce and also their commitment to the continuation of the program after funding for one year.

Mr. McAuliffe further remarked that the CJC should ensure CARP's understanding regarding the need for coordination with the CJC so that the population served is not overlapped. He also spoke of the need to quantify the success of those job developments in the community.

- B. Members unanimously approved staff request for submission of grant application in the amount of \$750,000 for the Department of Justice Second Chance Act Grant, due on March 4, 2010. Motion for approval was made by Mr. Randy Johnson and second by Mr. Barr.

Mr. Rodriguez provided a brief on the grant and its intended purpose. He advised of the required match of \$375,000.00 of in kind services as well as \$375,000.00 in cash, but noted that the CJC will seek a waiver for the cash portion of the match, which if granted will require CJC to make up the additional amount in kind. He said that discussions have already taken place with the DOJ personnel in charge of the grant who told him he will ensure that the waiver request does not play a part in the scoring of the grant application. The total match is to be funded by the County and the Department of Corrections (DOC). He said that a sub-committee has been established and is exploring how the match will be done.

Ms. Haughwout noted that this is an opportunity for funding for the community resources to be placed at Sable Palm to work with offenders prior to their release. This she said would also be a great improvement in services for the county and also noted that the many resources already committed by the County should help in the waiver approval.

Chair Barbara Cheives applauded the Reentry Taskforce for their accomplishment in this regard.

XI. Under Members Comments:

- A. Chief Matt Immler provided an overview and update on the activities of the Law Enforcement Planning Council (LEPC). He noted that LEPC was created by the CJC in 1992 to assist with the coordination of law enforcement efforts throughout Palm Beach County. He said that the LEPC membership consists of the heads of almost every law enforcement agency in the county, and meets on the first Thursday of each month with attendance ranging from 45 to 70 persons. He noted that some activities undertaken by the LEPC are essentially in the nature of coordination and education for the various agencies. The "Baker Act" being the biggest issue recently completed which culminated in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Also, in 2008 the LEPC updated the County-wide Mutual Aid Agreement between all the law enforcement agencies. Other activities of the LEPC include a standing pandemic committee which keeps abreast of the different flu types, administration of the Investigative Protocol for child and elder abuse, coordination of brasTrax, conducting of various training classes among other activities.

Mr. Rodriguez inquired about the difference between the LEPC and the Police Chiefs Association, and the value of having staff assigned to the LEPC.

Chief Immler responded that having staff assigned to the LEPC provides the link to the CJC while facilitating the coordination efforts that the CJC would be doing in the absence of the LEPC. The Chiefs of Police Association he said, is an incorporated organization whose voting members are the municipal chiefs, the State Attorney and the Sheriff, whose meetings are closed to public unlike the LEPC.

State Attorney Michael McAuliffe commented on the level of professionalism and thoughtfulness at the LEPC meetings, and remarked that an official public coordinating body of law enforcement professionals that includes the federal and state level participants is a good thing and in his opinion “is a minimal investment with a very high rate of return”.

Chief Immler further noted that while LEPC serves a greater purpose for the chiefs and law enforcement agency heads, by serving those needs the CJC is fulfilling its statutory responsibilities.

Mr. Barr inquired about the status of the Law Enforcement Exchange (LEX) project for sharing information among the law enforcement agencies which is also funded by the CJC.

Chief Kitzerow in updating the status, noted that they are one jurisdiction short of including all law enforcement jurisdictions in Palm Beach County, and anticipates that within the next three weeks that final jurisdiction will be in place. He stated that this will be the first time in the history of the county that all the law enforcement agencies will be linked together. He said that while funding is always a challenge, the organization initiated a process in 2009 where each municipality now contributes to the budget and that they continue to actively seek grants and other funding sources. He said the future challenge will relate to the overall maintenance and continuation of the project, but highlighted one of the great values of the system as the efficiency at which law enforcement agencies are now able to investigate cases from their desktops. Close to 800 users now have access to this system.

Chief Immler added that the ultimate goal is to link all the information systems in the state together.

- B. Chair Barbara Cheives remarked that she has been getting questions from persons who were approved for funding through Stimulus Dollars by the CJC but are still waiting to receive the funds, and asked that the Executive Director provide an update so that persons are able to provide the same response if asked.

Mr. Rodriguez noted that the money has theoretically been available since March 2009. He said that the CJC made a final decision some months ago, but that staff has since been going back and forth with Tallahassee and Washington about what is allowable versus what is unallowable. Unfortunately some smaller agencies are unable to operate without receiving the funds. Approximately 50% of the projects are awaiting final approval.

Ms. Brenda Oakes provided the meeting with examples of discussions she has had with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and DOJ regarding the Youth Violence Prevention project, noting that it all seems to be a matter of interpretation by both agencies. She said this has greatly impacted the centers and some are unable to pay their providers. She is hoping however that this will be resolved soon as in her

most recent discussion with FDLE she was advised that the project has gone through the first three steps of approval and is now with the Director.

Mr. Rodriguez added that the agencies are just being extra cautious given the much publicized misuses of funds which he thinks has created additional work.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 a.m.