

M I N U T E S
MONDAY, February 22, 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:

Monroe Benaim
Flynn Bertisch
Peter Blanc
Mary Brandenburg
Barbara Cheives
Max Davis
Mike Driscoll
Douglas Duncan
George Elmore
Carey Haughwout
Feirmon Johnson
Randolph K. Johnson, Sr.
Beth Kigel
Frank Kitzerow
William Kramer
Kathleen Kroll
Wesley Lauer
Gerald Richman
Charles Shaw
Lee Waring

Members Absent:

Rosalyn Baker
Stephen Barborini
Sharon Bock
Ric Bradshaw
Steven Burdelski
Delsa Bush
Rolando Garcia
Marti LaTour
Karen Marcus
Michael McAuliffe
Luis Perez
Carmen Veneziano

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

Guests Attending:

Paul Zacks, State Attorney's Office
Laurie J. Van Deusen, PBSO Violent Crimes
Jim Kelly, Palm Beach County School District
Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office
Robert Mangold, Atlantis Police Department
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
Jenise Link, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst
Rosalind Murray, Program Development Specialist
Mike Szakacs, Financial Analyst II
Candee Villapando, Criminal Justice Analyst
Becky Walker, Criminal Justice Programs Manager

- I. Chair Barbara Cheives called the meeting to order at approximately 8:05 a.m. Welcome was extended to members and guests.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.
- III. Chair Barbara Cheives invited guests to introduce themselves and extended special welcome to CJC's newest member Mary Brandenburg, representing the Legislative Delegation.
- IV. The agenda was unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Elmore and second by Mr. Davis
- V. The minutes of the January 25, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved after correction to item III on page 2, to read "Chair Cheives". Motion made by Mr. Barr and second by Mr. Kramer.
- VI. Under Chairman's Comments Chair Barbara Cheives:
 - A. Congratulated Public Defender Carey Haughwout on receiving the 2010 Harriette Glasner Freedom Award. The award is given annually to a civil libertarian in Palm Beach County by the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida (ACLU) Palm Beach Chapter.
 - B. Reminded persons to use the microphone when speaking so that everyone can hear.
- VII. Under Executive Director's Comments, Mr. Rodriguez
 - A. Thanked William Stern for serving as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) representative on the CJC and welcomed back Steve Burdelski from his assignment in Washington. Both men were absent from the meeting.
 - B. Congratulated Damir Kukec on the birth of his daughter Sofia who was born on February 15, 2010.
 - C. Updated members on the federal grants, noting that the CJC finally got word from Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) on the Youth Violence Prevention and other funded projects that they were getting ready to approve those funds. He noted that Weed and Seed was still awaiting approval.
 - D. Announced the upcoming Palm Beach County Days scheduled for March 2 – 3, 2010. He advised that registration was required and interested persons could contact Palm Beach County Public Affairs Department at 355-2754 for additional information.

Beth Kigel inquired about the appropriateness of a CJC member attending Palm Beach County Days to work with Todd Bonlarron in setting up meetings to discuss legislative issues that are of interest to the CJC.

Chair Cheives remarked that it would be a good idea and advised that she recently requested a meeting with Mr. Bonlarron before he leaves for Tallahassee.

Representative Mary Brandenburg offered to assist with setting up meetings on CJC's behalf as well as using her office in Tallahassee for those meetings.

- E. Advised that the CJC annual planning meeting will be held on Monday, March 22, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Police Department, Community Room (first floor) - 600 Banyan Boulevard, West Palm Beach.

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 that the committee decided on two strategies for the CJC at their last meeting. One strategy he said is to compile a brief questionnaire for distribution to CJC members, Board of County Commissioners (BCC), County Administrator Robert Weisman, Assistant County Administrator Vince Bonvento and Chairs of all CJC Taskforces. He noted that the discussions surrounded the CJC's purpose and major directions relative to the CJC's role as advisor to the BCC. The questionnaire is intended to focus on some of the issues discussed by the CJC in terms of direction with the hope of getting feedback from the people with whom CJC works directly with. The second strategy concerned the request from Commissioner Marcus relative to the CJC's advisory capacity. He reported that Mr. Rodriguez has since met with Commissioner Marcus and that he was advised she would seek board direction at the upcoming BCC meeting.

Mr. Rodriguez added that Commissioner Marcus feels that the CJC should be operating in a more advisory role to the BCC as opposed to running programs.

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

X. New Business:

- A. Members unanimously approved request from the Youth Violence Prevention Project (YVPP) and the Law Enforcement Planning Council (LEPC) for approval of funding in the amount of \$7,544 to train six additional personnel to make entries into the BrassTrax system. Motion for approval was made by Mr. William Kramer and seconded by Mr. Randy Johnson.

Mr. Rodriguez noted that this was one of the grants awaiting formal approval from FDLE but that in order to expedite the training, CJC will temporarily take the funds from the Criminal Justice Fund until the funds are released. He said that the training is necessary to replace personnel lost to attrition and retirements.

- B. Chair Cheives asked the following members to serve on the 2010 Finance Committee: William Kramer as Chairman, Lee Waring, Frank Kitzerow, Carey Haughwout and Beth Kigel. Ms. Cheives will also sit on the committee. All members accepted.
- C. Chair Cheives commented on previous discussions regarding the need for a Permanent Funding Solutions Committee, noting that former CJC member Barry Krischer has volunteered to chair this committee. To this end, she invited the following members to serve as well: George Elmore, Wesley Lauer, Douglas Duncan and Jim Barr. All invited members accepted.
- D. Members unanimously approved request for reallocation of unexpended funds from the Misdemeanor Reentry program to be used for on the job training programs after motion

by Mr. Randy Johnson and second by Judge Peter Blanc.

Public Defender Carey Haughwout explained that a Social Worker and a Job Development Specialist were employed under the grant, but that the Job Development Specialist is out on Family and Medical Leave (FMLA), thereby allowing some extra dollars for spending. She noted that there is currently an on-the-job training program in Riviera Beach that is partnering with reentry folks who are working with the Justice Service Center Reentry program. She said that it is a wonderful apprenticeship program that pays minimum wage to learn skills.

Mr. Max Davis inquired of Mr. Johnson about funds from Workforce Alliance and whether it can be used in this regard.

Mr. Randy Johnson responded that it could and that the Public Defender's office was working with Workforce.

Ms. Haughwout added that Michelle Dryer from Workforce Alliance currently chairs the Employment Committee of the Reentry Taskforce.

Chair Cheives remarked that the CJC is working hard with Workforce Alliance and getting things done.

XI. CJC Initiatives / Updates

- A. Laurie Van Duesen, Special Projects Coordinator of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office presented an overview of BrassTrax and its use in solving crime.

Ms. Van Duesen noted that the BrassTrax is a countywide initiative by law enforcement agencies that are making monumental steps in working together. In her presentation, she showed a sampling of firearms obtained by the agencies and noted the safety factor involved in owning a firearm, and encouraged attendees to document their personal firearms information in the distributed form. She also advised persons to keep a digital imaging in the event of burglary to aid in the swift recovery and getting the firearms out of the hands of offenders.

She noted that in 2005, all law enforcement agencies in the County met to develop a firearms protocol which has since been modified and the updated version approved at the LEPC meeting in February 2010. She said that over \$2M was acquired through the county and municipalities to purchase technology and equipment to combat firearms related violence and youth violence. Equipment purchased included Bullet Catchers, BrasTrax, Match Point and Data Concentrator.

BrassTrax, she said is a new state of the art technology (a large computer) that is housed at the West Palm Beach Police Department. With this technology comes mandatory certification and training which must be done periodically due to attrition, promotions and retirements. She said that all large agencies are participating in the program and that the smaller agencies are expected to piggy back on those larger agencies for timely entries utilizing BrassTrax.

Ms. Van Duesen presented statistics of firearms submitted to PBSO as well as BrassTrax entries for 2008 and 2009 which indicated a significant increase in firearms submitted in 2009 but also showed a decline in BrassTrax entries which she said is attributed to officers who moved to other agencies, were promoted, transferred or retired, hence the need for continuous training. She highlighted the importance of

timely entries of casings into the BrassTrax system by trained personnel which is essential to linking crimes not otherwise known to be linked through traditional investigatory processes. She also explained how cases are investigated using the BrassTrax technology, noting that crime linkage leads to crime solution resulting in crime prevention as the elements committing the crimes are removed. She shared a number of success stories which resulted from using the new technology.

In concluding, Ms. Van Duesen remarked that a well documented and comprehensive investigation coupled with the technology now in place will increase the reduction in crime and remove violent offenders from the streets for safer communities. She also noted that the County's Firearms Protocol was determined by Dale Armstrong, former Resident Agent in Charge at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (ATF), to be a best practice in the nation. PBSO also had a recent visit from a retired ATF agent now with Forensic Technology, who has also determined that the protocol is the most comprehensive detailed policy he has seen, and advised PBSO that the protocol will be recognized in a book called the "The Thirteen Critical Tasks". She said that classes have been scheduled to take place once per month through November 2010, and remarked that the response from officers throughout the County has been phenomenal. She called for continued commitment by law enforcement agencies, and continued training and support by the LEPC.

She invited members interested in seeing the equipment to tour the facilities at PBSO.

Mr. Rodriguez offered to coordinate the tour and will email members regarding their interest.

Chair Cheives thanked Ms. Van Deusen for her informative presentation.

- B. Douglas Duncan, Chairman of the Corrections Task Force/Public Safety Coordinating Council provided the meeting with an update of their activities. He advised of the Florida Statute under which it was created, its members and purpose, which is to monitor the jail population in the county jails and develop recommendations to alleviate potential overcrowding.

His presentation highlighted the average daily populations from December 2007 through December 2009, noting that the current population is below capacity and the projection made in 2005. This he said, in his opinion is through the good work of the Public Defender and the State Attorney's offices working together in processing people out of jail. He further presented a breakdown of the population by facility including Pretrial Services and the Juvenile Detention Center.

Mr. Duncan reported on the current activities of the Task Force, one of which he said was a survey of other counties to determine where PBC stood as far as individuals who are being held in jail with no bonds which he said proved to be consistent with other counties. The Task Force also reviewed misdemeanor failure to appear bond settings which is a mandatory statute, but is an issue they would like to examine with the CJC's legislative representative due to a failed agreement. An evaluation of the impact of the Substance Abuse Awareness program was also conducted and presented to the BCC. The Task Force is currently examining the issue of housing juveniles adjudicated as adults at the jail.

The Task Force advocated the opposing of a bill (HB 445/SB 782) regarding Pretrial

Release Programs. He noted that if the bill passes, 1400 people will be required to post a minimum bond instead of being released on pretrial services, which would significantly increase the jail population. Regarding alternatives to incarceration, the Sheriff's office recently expanded the In-House Arrest program allowing persons to be monitored from home and is expected to further reduce the jail population. Also, a subcommittee was established to review the viability of the Misdemeanor Book and Release program. Under this program people will be notified of their warrants and misdemeanor charge and encouraged to visit the jail for booking and processing after which they will be released on their signature. This Mr. Duncan said is to avoid someone spending a night in the jail at a cost of over \$100.

Mr. Duncan noted that the Task Force is also working with Superintendent Flowers of the Juvenile Detention Center on a new program where individuals will be monitoring approximately 30 juveniles that have been sentenced to be released on a monitor. This is to ensure that they are doing what they are supposed to be doing. The monitor is expected to visit the homes of the juvenile offenders with an attitude of helping rather than accusing.

In concluding his presentation, Mr. Duncan extended invitation to the Task Force meetings which are held on the first Wednesdays of each month. He applauded the cooperation of all the agencies involved in the Task Force.

Chair Cheives remarked about the Task Forces and the tremendous work they have been doing.

- C. Update on the Criminal Justice Mental Health and Substance Abuse Committee was deferred to a future meeting due to time constraints.
- XII. Under Members Comments, Mr. Lee Waring sought clarification regarding the PBC Code of Ethics and the implications for private members of advisory boards.

Mr. Rodriguez will obtain additional information for presentation at the next CJC meeting.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.