

M I N U T E S

MONDAY, May 24, 2010

PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

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

Members Present:

Stephen Barborini
Mary Brandenburg
Steven Burdelski
Delsa Bush
Barbara Cheives
Mike Driscoll
Douglas Duncan
George Elmore
Carey Haughwout
Feirmon Johnson
Randolph K. Johnson, Sr.
Beth Kigel
Frank Kitzerow
Wesley Lauer
Michael McAuliffe
Gerald Richman
Carmen Veneziano
Lee Waring

Members Absent:

Rosalyn Baker
Monroe Benaim
Flynn Bertisch
Peter Blanc
Sharon Bock
Ric Bradshaw
Max Davis
Rolando Garcia
William Kramer
Kathleen Kroll
Marti LaTour
Karen Marcus
Luis Perez
Valentin Rodriguez

James Barr, Ex-Officio Executive
Committee
Art Johnson, Ex-Officio Executive
Committee

Guests Attending:

Cerina Anderson, Coalition for Community Renewal – Delray Police Department
Carlton Cartwright, The Children's Coalition
Reed Daniel, City of West Palm Beach Youth Empowerment Center
Patrick Dayle, Civil Drug Court
Barbara Dawicke, Court Administration
A. F. Foster
Edward Garrison, Court Administration (represented Chief Judge Blanc)
Valerie Grimsley, Riviera Beach Youth Empowerment Center
Jeanette Gordon, Riviera Beach Justice Service Center
Tarrie Johnson-Mack, The Children's Coalition
Jim Kelly, Palm Beach County School District
Michele Leigh Jacobs, Comprehensive Alcoholic Rehabilitation Program, Inc.
Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office
Elizabeth Neto, State Attorney's Office
Mary Quinlan, Court Administration

Michelle Spangenberg, Court Administration
Craig Spatara, West Palm Beach Weed & Seed
Inda Spencer, Riviera Beach Weed & Seed
Pat Sheffield, Department of Juvenile Justice/JDAI
Stephanie Thompson, Drug Abuse Foundation
Louis Tomeo, Clerk & Comptroller
Charlie Trotta, PBC Justice Services Division
Dorrie Tyng, Drug Court

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
Brenda Oakes, Youth Violence Prevention Planning Coordinator
Michael Santorsola, Student Intern
Mike Szakacs, Financial Analyst II
Becky Walker, Criminal Justice Programs Manager

- I. Chair Barbara Cheives called the meeting to order at approximately 8:03 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.
- IV. The agenda was unanimously approved.
- V. The minutes of the April 26, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved.
- VI. Under Chairman's Comments, Chair Barbara Cheives:
 - A. Advised that there would be no full commission meeting during the summer unless the need for a special call meeting, but noted that the executive committee will continue to meet.
 - B. Reminded members to use the microphone when speaking so that persons can hear clearly and for recording purposes.
 - C. Thanked and extended farewell to Glenna Nowalk, CJC staff who returns to her home town in New York at the end of May.
- VII. Under Executive Director's comments, Mr. Rodriguez reported that the 3rd Palm Beach County Re-Entry Transition Fair was held at the Old School Square in Delray Beach on Friday, May 14 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. He also thanked the participants
- VIII. Under Business Consent item, Mr. Rodriguez reported that the Executive Committee of the Criminal Justice Commission approved staff recommendation for grant submission to Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) for a Youth Gang Prevention and

Intervention Program for a total of \$325,000 targeted to enhance the five Youth Empowerment Centers which are designed to reduce violent crime.

Members unanimously approved the recommendation.

IX. Old Business

There were no old business items.

X. New Business:

- A. In the absence of Finance Committee Chairman Mr. William Kramer, Chair Barbara Cheives provided an update on the meetings and presented the committee's recommendations and thanked members of the committee for the many hours dedicated. She reported that the committee reviewed the recommendations presented by staff and deliberated until a decision was reached. Ms. Cheives said it was evident that many good projects funded in the past would not receive funding for this coming year, given the limited dollars.

Chair Cheives referenced the budget document included in the agenda packet and remarked that the Finance Committee looked at crime prevention and reentry as the two most important areas for the coming year where the dollars would be concentrated. The recommendations are as follows:

- Recommendation #1: To fund the following programs from the first Federal JAG local solicitation (\$287,336):
 - Project R.E.A.P. Misdemeanor reentry program \$200,500
 - Gulfstream Goodwill Belle Glade reentry program \$86,836
- Recommendation #2: To fund the following programs from the Federal JAG state solicitation (\$581,068), CJC reserve fund (\$121,705), and the Crime Prevention fund (\$756,238):
 - Weed & Seed \$150,000
 - Civil Drug Court \$116,500
 - JAC Security \$202,254
 - Mental Health Case Manager \$ 62,368
 - Alternative to Secure Detention for Juveniles \$ 61,000
 - CJC Research and Planning \$ 75,000
 - Pretrial Services Staff \$ 48,500
 - Gang Task Force Overtime \$ 40,616
- Recommendation #3: To fund the CJC and Drug Court receptionist positions currently in the CJC reserve fund and the Crime Prevention fund (\$511,276):
 - Six (6) CJC staff positions \$476,276
 - Drug Court receptionist position \$ 35,000
- Recommendation #4: To approve CJC administrative budget for \$573,597 which includes six CJC staff and all administrative office costs.
- Recommendation #5: To use the Drug Abuse Trust Fund for the following (\$360,429):
 - Drug Court treatment \$200,401

- Civil Drug Court treatment \$ 52,254
- Juvenile Drug Court treatment \$ 79,273
- Hold in reserve \$ 28,501

The above recommendations represent a total budget of \$2,488,876.

- Recommendation #6: To use unallocated dollars in the Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) Donation Fund (\$170,000) to add to dollars allocated in recommendation #2 to fully fund JAC security for one year.

Recommendations for funding projects in a prioritized fashion for the additional requested reserve fund of \$687,150 were also outlined. This amount is the difference between what is currently being allocated by OFMB/County and the full \$1 million that was originally given for the CJC “reserve” fund. It was noted that staff are also committed to actively support the municipalities in working on funding of \$1,800,000 for the Youth Violence Prevention Project. These include discussion with municipalities, seeking and applying for grant dollars, and going back to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for funding if and when necessary.

Mr. Rodriguez noted that the Research and Planning Unit has already undertaken some staff changes internally in alignment with the strategic planning meeting and the strong agreement on research/planning/ evaluation and monitoring of what the CJC does, and the not running programs.

Mr. Douglas Duncan conveyed Judge Marx’s support for funding of the Mental Health Case manager position, saying that it is a very important position that helps transition and implement mentally ill through the criminal justice system resulting in a \$400,000 saving.

State Attorney Michael McAuliffe added his support stating that the feedback thus far is that it is a net plus but pointed out that the CJC should continue to evaluate it. He also sought clarification regarding the recommendations for funding of the same program from different funding sources.

Mr. Rodriguez provided explanation in that regard as well as for the Mental Health Case Manager’s position.

Judge Garrison who represented Chief Judge Peter Blanc at the meeting also expressed the judges’ support for the Mental Health Case manager position, adding that the position also assists Judge Marx in functioning to ensure that the local criminal justice system complies with the state statute regarding mental health cases.

Chair Barbara Cheives added that the Finance Committee also received support letters in favor of the position from Commissioner Priscilla Taylor and Chief Judge Blanc.

Chief Delsa Bush inquired about the CJC staff positions and whether they were absolute necessary positions. She also requested the documentation outlining the positions.

Mr. Rodriguez noted that the Finance Committee was provided with staff information as it relates to individual responsibilities and agreed to provide the full commission with this information.

Ms. Beth Kigel added that the Finance Committee was very clear in putting together the recommendations, including staff and how their times would be allocated, and that it was taking the direction of the strategic planning meeting.

Mr. Rodriguez reminded the meeting that the Drug Abuse Trust Fund was once being replenished on a regular basis by fees for cases from the State Attorney's office, but noted that those fees are no longer available for this trust fund. He said that the remaining amount will therefore not be replenished.

Public Defender Carey Haughwout commented on the difficult times and said that grant funding should be used for services for people in the community. She further stated that it is inappropriate to use grant funds for essential staff to do what is required by law and funded by general government. These include some of the law enforcement and court expenses.

State Attorney Michael McAuliffe concurred with Ms. Haughwout as it relates to funding effective programs and services to people, and is in agreement with the focus on reentry but noted that while prevention is worthy it must be carefully thought out and be large enough to make a difference. He however feels that it is appropriate for the CJC to supplement and to emphasize areas of the criminal justice system that may be law enforcement oriented to provide additional tools to do the job better and more efficiently.

He commented on losing the funding for the COMBAT initiative at a time when his GR money from Tallahassee was cut, stating that he will lose two prosecutors designated to West Palm Beach, Boynton Beach and Delray Beach, and said that he has already cut back on Riviera Beach.

Chief Delsa Bush argued that while she is always on the prevention side, she thinks that the budget is heavily tilted towards prevention and that she would hate to see West Palm lose a COMBAT person saying that there should be some parity into all the cause and will, especially when spending grant monies. She further stated that she hopes that the CJC is not creating programs that require continued funding that will start and prove successful but will have no money for future years.

Mr. Rodriguez commented on the reentry programs adding that reentry is even more important at this time because of the agreement entered into with the Department of Corrections (DOC) where Palm Beach County Prisoners will be shipped back to Sago Palm and be provided with services before they reenter the community. He said this agreement also allows Palm Beach County to apply for a federal grant of \$750,000 for the Second Chance Act.

Chief Frank Kitzerow echoed some the points made by Mr. McAuliffe and pointed to the research and planning brief included in the agenda packet which speaks to the objectives and mission of the CJC. He commended staff on the hard work done in preparing the budget document, but stated that he did not have enough information on the programs and did not fully understand the document.

Chief Jim Kelly added that a lot of the CJC needs will be met if the staff transitions to providing more research and grant writing assistance in getting target dollars for all the functions needed in the county. This he said would require forming committees and working hard at getting funds.

Mr. George Elmore commented on the report published by Gary Nikolits regarding tax dollars. He noted the percentage increase of 59% in the in the county's budget from 2002/2003 to 2006/2007 which is now down to 51% representing an 8% shrinkage, and questioned the 70% reduction of the CJC's \$1M. He feels that the CJC should meet with all seven commissioners to confirm that the CJC is cut by the amount indicated. He also referenced the Sheriff's budget increase of 55% since 2002/2003. He also stated that youth empowerment centers are a tremendous asset and does not think that each city should not have to fund its own center.

Mr. Rodriguez said that while he has no problem going back to the BCC for the youth violence prevention funding, he feels there is a better chance if done as a communitywide effort in collaboration with the cities.

Representative Mary Brandenburg concurred with Mr. Elmore, noting that the city and county budgets have all been doubled in the last 10 years, and remarked that the huge decrease in the CJC's budget is unreasonable considering what the CJC does, and argues that public safety and crime prevention are the highest priority in Palm Beach County. She also sees some of the unfunded projects as popular and successful ones, such as the CJSC and ASPIRA which provide important services to the community. She feels that the CJC should take a different approach in going forward and to not accept a dismissal in the form of its funding.

Chair Barbara Cheives reiterated that the CJC will be going back to the BCC, but asked that members provide staff with direction on going forward with the budget.

Mr. Richman remarked that members have to trust the work of the Finance Committee under the difficult situation they have been put, saying that there is nothing worse than trying to prepare a budget when there is no money. He also noted that the CJC has to go to the BCC with force and encouraged all members to be there.

State Attorney Michael McAuliffe expressed the need for enough of a consensus on the full CJC, to the big picture projects that are countywide in impact, prior to the next budget preparation. Essentially, he would like the CJC to identify priority areas to drive the allocation of the dollars, and to move away from fragmented delivery of services by figuring out an umbrella way of delivering those services and putting the available dollars into the initiatives that deliver the most to the most people.

Chair Barbara Cheives committed to establishing two committees to look at the identification and allocation of dollars based on the strategic planning and one to look at evaluations.

Chief Bush stressed the need for an earlier start of the budget process to allow members enough time for review.

Mr. Rodriguez while agreeing with Chief Bush for an earlier start of the budget process noted the reason as not knowing how much funds are available, but think there can be an early start to prioritize issues then allocate accordingly. He also commented that the Finance Committee was established to do the work on behalf of the CJC.

Members approved going forward with the recommended budget, and to also request the balance of the \$1M shortfall over the years from the BCC, after a motion by Mr. Randy Johnson. Public Defender Carey Haughwout and State Attorney Michael McAuliffe abstained because of programs in their office that are funded or have the potential of getting funded.

- B. Members unanimously approved granted approval for the purchase of a Forensic Buddy to aid the Riviera Beach Police Department (RBPD) in the amount of \$3,000.00 from the FDLE YVPP grant funding as recommended by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee's recommendation for approval was subject to information outlining the benefits to be derived from this purchase, the program initiative, the status of BrassTrax, the number of equipment in the County and amount needed including other details.

Mr. Rodriguez noted that Riviera Beach currently does not have a Forensic Buddy, and Ms. Brenda Oakes reported a balance of \$42,000 remaining in the fund for the law enforcement component.

XI. CJC Initiatives/Updates

There were no CJC initiatives or updates.

XII. Members Comments,

Under member comments, Chief Frank Kitzerow commended Mr. Rodriguez and staff on the work done in preparation for the budget that he said will help to build a better process for the next budget year.

Chair Barbara Cheives also thanked Mr. Kramer and members of the Finance Committee

Mr. Rodriguez reminded members who have not yet signed the code of ethics to do so.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.