

M I N U T E S

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2011

PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

Business Meeting

Greene Grand Hall
1505 N. Australian Avenue
West Palm Beach

Members Present:

Rosalyn Baker
Delsa Bush
Barbara Cheives
Douglas Duncan
George Elmore
Feirmon Johnson
Randolph K. Johnson, Sr.
William Kramer
Marti LaTour
Michael McAuliffe
Gerald Richman
Valentin Rodriguez
Chuck Shaw
Priscilla Taylor
Carmen Veneziano
Lee Waring
Clarence Williams

James Barr, Ex-Officio Executive Committee

Guests Attending:

Cristy Altaro, Court Administration
Ron Alvarez, 15th Judicial Court
Bettie Barret, Department of Corrections
Seth Bernstein, JJ Board/Boys Town
Mardie Berry, Pride Probation
Nicole Bishop, Palm Beach County Justice Service Center
Vince Bonvento, County Administration
Tameka Cooley, Private Citizen
Elise Johansen, Gulfstream Goodwill
Kim Kelly, PBC School District
Un Cha Kim, Clerk and Comptroller
Rick Lewis, PBC School District
Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office
Krista Marx, 15th Judicial Circuit – represented Chief Judge Peter Blanc
Mary Quinlan, Court Administration

Members Absent:

Stephen Barborini
Peter Blanc
Sharon Bock
Ric Bradshaw
Steven Burdelski
Mike Driscoll
Rolando Garcia
Carey Haughwout
Nellie King
Kathleen Kroll
Wesley Lauer
John McKenna

Mara Schiff, Florida Atlantic University
Felecia Scott, CDC Riviera Beach
Pat Sheffield, JDAI
Michelle Spangenberg, Court Administration
Dorrie Tyng, Court Administration

Staff Present:

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director
Arlene Burton, Administrative Secretary
Shahzia Hashmi, Intern
Katherine Hatos, Criminal Justice Analyst
Rosalind Murray, Program Development Specialist
Brenda Oakes, Youth Violence Prevention Planning Coordinator
Jyota Snyder, Student Intern
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 Cheives invited guests to introduce themselves.
- IV. The agenda was unanimously approved after amendment to present an update on the delinquency drug court by Judge Alvarez before proceeding with business items.
- V. The minutes of the January 24 meeting were unanimously approved.
- VI. Under Chairman's Comments, Chair Cheives informed members of the new Legislative Delegation appointee, Representative Mack Bernard who will officially be welcome on his first meeting attendance.
- VII. Under Executive Director's comments, Mr. Rodriguez advised that the Probation Advisory Board (PAB) met with a full quorum and approved the recommendations presented at the January CJC meeting.
- VIII. Under New Business, Executive Director Michael Rodriguez presented a proposed resolution by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). The BCC sought CJC's support in enacting a ban on large capacity ammunition feeding devices (LCAFD) including magazine, belt, drum, feed strip, or similar device that has the capacity of, or can be readily restored or converted to accept more than 21 rounds of ammunition. This includes the transfer, possession or manufacturing of such devices in the State of Florida, except for law enforcement officers.
Members unanimously approve support of the BCC's decision on the resolution.
- IX. Old Business
There were no old business items for discussion.
- X. CJC Initiatives/Updates

A. Delinquency Drug Court

The mission of the Delinquency Drug Court is to reduce juvenile crime and drug use through therapeutic interventions, collaborative community partnerships and intensive judicial supervision of court-involved youth and families thereby improving juvenile and family functioning and community safety. The program started in 2008 and had a total admission of 40 kids. To date there are 12 graduates, and a total of 13 kids currently in the program.

In his presentation, Judge Alvarez commented on the program's success, noting that the recidivism rate for drug court graduates is 0%. The cost is just over \$4,000 per kid to be in the program and takes about nine months for successful completion. He said that while there is great collaboration of the various partners in the criminal justice system, there is still a need for others to be engaged and get involved. He commented on the importance of parent relationships for the success of the program and said he wished that there was greater participation in the program.

In conclusion, Judge Alvarez invited members and guests to the upcoming graduation scheduled for March 23, 2011.

B. Juvenile Justice Referrals

Mr. Rodriguez presented a draft presentation which he said will be presented at the BCC at their March 15, 2011 meeting. The presentation highlighted the number of juveniles in the criminal justice system, youth referrals to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), DJJ's average daily population, demographics, number of youth direct filed, youth diversion from court, as well as comparisons among other counties in the State of Florida.

Mr. Rodriguez noted that there has been an overall significant downward trend in DJJ referrals despite an increase in youth population, a decrease in youth being direct filed in Palm Beach County even though higher when compared to other counties. The average number of youth in county jail has also been reduced by 15.6% since 2008.

Discussions surrounded the large number of youth being direct filed and the disproportionately high amounts of minority youth involved in juvenile justice and the criminal justice systems in the County.

Members expressed concerns to be addressed before presenting to the BCC.

XI. Member Comments:

There were no member comments.

There being no further item for discussion, the business meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50 a.m. before transitioning to the annual planning meeting.