

**M I N U T E S**

**MONDAY, October 22, 2012**

**PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION**

McEaddy Conference Room  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor, 301 N. Olive Avenue  
West Palm Beach

***Members Present:***

Rosalyn Baker  
Peter Blanc  
Douglas Duncan  
George Elmore  
Feirmon Johnson  
Randy Johnson, Sr.  
Nellie King  
William Kramer  
Kathleen Kroll  
Gerald Richman  
Chuck Shaw  
Carmen Veneziano  
Lee Waring

Barbara Cheives  
Ex-Officio/Past Chair

***Guests Attending:***

Angela Bess, PBC School District  
Kristi Del Rey, Correctional Healthcare Company  
Michael Gauger, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office (for Ric Bradshaw)  
Latronda Hayes, Justice Services – Department of Public Safety  
Jenise Link, Justice Services - Department of Public Safety  
Michelle Spangenberg, Court Administration  
Lawrence J. Leon, School District Police Chief  
Gregg Lynk, Correctional Healthcare Company  
Louis Tomeo, Clerk & Comptroller's Office (for Clerk Bock)  
Rick Venkins, NPBPDP/PBOO Chiefs

***Staff Present:***

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director  
Arlene Griffiths, Administrative Secretary  
Katherine Hatos, Criminal Justice Analyst  
Damir Kukec, Research & Planning Manager

***Members Absent:***

Peter Antonacci  
James Barr  
Mack Bernard  
Sharon Bock  
Ric Bradshaw  
Steven Burdelski  
Vincent Demasi  
Mike Driscoll  
Rolando Garcia  
Carey Haughwout  
John McKenna  
Valentin Rodriguez  
Robert Shirley  
Priscilla Taylor

E. Wayne Gent  
Ex-Officio Exec. Cmtee

Rosalind Murray, Criminal Justice Program Development Specialist  
Brenda Oakes, Youth Violence Prevention Planning Coordinator  
Craig Spatara, RESTORE Initiative Program Manager  
Mike Szakacs, Financial Analyst II  
Becky Walker, Criminal Justice Programs Manager

- I. Chairman Douglas Duncan called the meeting to order and welcome extended to members and guests.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.
- III. Chairman Duncan invited guests to introduce themselves.
- IV. The agenda was unanimously approved after motion by Mr. George Elmore and second by Mr. Lee Waring.
- V. The minutes of the September 24, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved after motion by Mr. James Barr and second by Mr. George Elmore.
- VI. Under Chairman's Comments, Chairman Duncan:
  - A. Advised that CJC member Susan Yoffe tendered her resignation on October 5, 2012, due to overload of her other responsibilities/obligations. He thanked her for her contributions to the CJC and wished her well in her future endeavors.
  - B. Announced the meeting of the Nominating committee to be held immediately following the full commission meeting.
  - C. Announced the celebration of the Veterans Court second anniversary celebration scheduled for Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Michelle Spangenberg invited all to attend.
- VII. Under Executive Director's comments, Mr. Rodriguez:
  - A. Advised of the 2013 CJC meeting schedule included in the agenda packet.
  - B. Spoke about his attendance at a sex offender treatment conference hosted by the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) which was held in Denver, Colorado. He said that most of the information will be shared at the Reentry Sex Offenders Committee meeting, but noted that it is evident that the sex offender population is not being served in a practical manner.
- VIII. Business Consent Item  
There were no business consent items.
- IX. Old Business
  - A. Program Monitoring and Evaluation  
Mr. Lee Waring, Chairman of the above committee presented a spread sheet on grants applied for by the CJC since 2009. The breakdown showed the grant title, source of funds, project funded/being funded, time period, status of the funds, and whether the project is active. He noted that members will be provided with updates on a quarterly basis going forward, and invited comments

and recommendations in this regard.

Mr. Rodriguez added that while the spreadsheet represent the actual grants, staff were not just doing grant reporting, but also monitoring of the grants for which most have multiple sub-contracts.

Chairman Duncan asked that the sub-contracts be included in the spreadsheet for information purposes.

Ms. Cheives inquired if the Board of County Commissioners were provided with a copy of the spread sheet, and suggested that copies be sent to them.

Members questioned why two Byrne grants were not approved. An explanation was provided.

Regarding the program monitoring and evaluation report that was presented at the previous CJC meeting, Mr. Waring advised that the report has been revised based on recommendations made. This includes obtaining feedback from Judge Alvarez, Judge Marx, and Public Defender Carey Haughwout. He said that discussions were also held with Dorrie Tying and Cristy Altaro of Court Administration.

Mr. Damir Kukec highlighted the revised sections. In his presentation, he noted the minimum performance indicators recommended by the committee for adult, civil and delinquency drug courts, as well as the reentry (RESTORE) program, for adoption by the CJC. He noted that for the first time Civil Drug Court was able to run electronic reports with the assistance of CJC staff. Statistics regarding recidivism locally and across the nation were reviewed and discussed.

Following discussion on the topic, members unanimously approved the performance indicators as recommended.

## B. Youth Violence

Mr. Rodriguez referenced the issue of youth violence in Palm Beach County that was discussed at the previous CJC meeting. He reported on discussions he had since the CJC meeting, including a meeting with the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). He noted that the BCC has since given the CJC formal directions for a proposed symposium/summit in February 2013 to look at youth violence. He said that Commissioner Vana also asked Gaetana Ebbole of the Children Services Council to look into the issue. Mr. Rodriguez met with Ms. Ebbole and they are in the process of establishing a working group to include representatives from the Children Services Council, Health Care Taxing District, Health Department, School Board, School Administration, United Way, and the Criminal Justice Commission to look at the way forward.

Mr. Elmore inquired whether the Youth Empowerment Center will be included in the review.

Ms. Cheives and Mr. Elmore will be the CJC representatives on the workgroup.

Chief Deputy Michael Gauger reported that in addition to Belle Glade, the

Sheriff's Office is working with Audrey Wolf of the County Facilities Department to open a youth facility in Pahokee. He asked members to notify him of any funding that might be available to assist in this area.

Judge Kroll remarked that her department will be looking at juvenile records from the Violent Crimes Task Force list to see how they got in the system, their ages, charges and a general history with the hope of catching them before they enter the system.

#### X. New Business

##### Juvenile Reentry Summit

Judge Kroll commented on the Juvenile Reentry Summit held on Friday, October 12, 2012 at the Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC). She said that the summit was excellently attended and thanked Brenda Oakes for all the work she did with the committee. She reported that written essays about what kids felt could be done to prevent reentry at the JAC were received. Seven of the essays were chosen and the authors were asked to participate in a panel discussion which she said was rather interesting. Some highlights from the panel discussion were that in Palm Beach County, families do not visit their kids in detention, the kids indicated that mostly turn to their Public Defender for help, and they also spoke of how important school was to them and said they were not aware of all the resources available. She said that several meetings have been held with experts and that a final meeting will be held in December after which a report will be prepared and distributed.

Ms. Brenda Oakes remarked about the three sub-committees that looked at all the entry points to get back into the school system. She noted that without additional resources, significant changes have already been made to the 12<sup>th</sup> floor. Notable are the partnerships with the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), the Gang Coordinator and Chaplaincy programs in place, as well as the approval received for designated service providers to work with the kids on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor.

Mr. Rodriguez agreed with what was highlighted from the summit and added that one thing he was struck by, was that the kids were looking for structure at home and at school, which he said will help in the decision going forward.

Judge Kroll added that the laws and the system are frustrating to parents, saying that the parents are usually seeking services and that sometimes the kids need beyond normal services for which there might be no finances.

Chief Judge Blanc commented that there are plenty of blames to share, saying that he too has experienced frustration with the parents, but noted that the child's total environment has to be addressed in order to have an impact on the child's life.

#### XI. CJC Initiatives/Updates

No CJC initiatives or updates were reported.

- XII. Under Member Comments, Mr. Chuck Shaw introduced Dr. Angela Bess, Director of Alternative Programs for the School District.

Dr. Bess noted that she has worked with juvenile judges over the last four years to make things better for struggling students and their families, and have also seen some of the frustration, but said that she is looking forward to continue working with the judges to make things better for all.

- XIII. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 a.m.