

M I N U T E S

MONDAY, March 26, 2012

PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

Business Meeting

Therapeutic Recreation Complex
2728 Lake Worth Road
Lake Worth, FL 33461

Members Present:

Rosalyn Baker
Steven Burdelski
Douglas Duncan
George Elmore
Carey Haughwout
Feirmon Johnson
Randolph K. Johnson, Sr.
William Kramer
Kathleen Kroll
Mary Olsen
Valentin Rodriguez
Chuck Shaw
Lee Waring
Susan Yoffee

Members Absent:

Peter Antonacci
James Barr
Mack Bernard
Peter Blanc
Sharon Bock
Ric Bradshaw
Daniel Dooley
Mike Driscoll
Rolando Garcia
James Kelly
Nellie King
John McKenna
Gerald Richman
Priscilla Taylor
Carmen Veneziano

Barbara Cheives, Ex-Officio Immediate Past Chair

Guests Attending:

Ronald Alvarez, 15th Judicial Circuit
Lasjonia Ambrister, Civil Drug Court
Marcia Bahia, Florida Atlantic University
Nicole Bishop, Department of Public Safety/Justice Services
Kristen Cantwell, Nope Task Force
Jeffrey Cobalth, 15th Judicial Circuit
Barbara Cox-Gerlock, Juvenile Justice Board
Barbara Dawickie, Court Administration
Mike Edmonson, Children's Services Council
Pamela Eidelberg, County Attorney's Office
Chris Harric, Mojellan
Woodrow Hay, Mayor – City of Boynton Beach
Elise Johnsen, Gulfstream Goodwill Industries
Wanda Joiner, Pride Integrated Services
Un Cha Kim, Clerk & Comptroller's Office (for Clerk Bock)
Minerva King, FCA
Jenise Link, Department of Public Safety/Justice Services

Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office
Debbie Majors, City of Boynton Beach
Wally Majors, City of Boynton Beach
Krista Marx, 15th Judicial Circuit
Karen Perry, Nope Task Force
Lynn Powell, State Attorney's Office
Mara Schiff, Florida Atlantic University
Felecia Scott, Civil Drug Court
Pat Sheffield, JDAI
Stephanie Soplop, City of Boynton Beach
Michelle Spangenberg, Court Administration
Dorrie Tyng, Public Safety
Kelly Whittles, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Audrey Wolf, Palm Beach County Facilities Department

Staff Present:

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director
Arlene Griffiths, Administrative Secretary
Becky Walker, Criminal Justice Programs Manager
Brenda Oakes, Youth Violence Prevention Planning Coordinator
Damir Kukec, Research & Planning Manager
Katherine Hatos, Criminal Justice Analyst
Mike Szakacs, Financial Analyst II
Megan Minotti, Student Intern
Candee Villapando, Criminal Justice Analyst
Tangela Walden, Student Intern
Pamela Williams, Temporary Staff

- I. Chairman Douglas Duncan called the meeting to order at approximately 8:03 a.m. Welcome was extended to members and guests. Special welcome was extended to CJC member E. Wayne Gent, Palm Beach County School District Superintendent.
- 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. Randy Johnson and second by Mr. Kramer.
- V. The minutes of the February 27, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Elmore and second by Mr. Waring.
- VI. Under Chairman's Comments, Chairman Duncan congratulated and extended welcome to interim State Attorney, Peter Antonacci in his absence. Chairman Duncan advised that he is schedule to meet Mr. Antonacci on Wednesday and hopes that he will attend future meetings.
- VII. Under Executive Director's comments, Mr. Rodriguez:

- A. Extended welcome to Assistant County Attorney Pamela Eidelberg who replaced Gentry Benjamin.
- B. Commented on the 23rd Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy graduation held on Thursday, March 15 at the West Palm Beach Police Department. Commissioner Priscilla Taylor addressed the graduates and a certificate of participation presented to each. A total of 40 participants completed the academy. Mr. Rodriguez thanked the speakers and CJC staff for a successful academy, noting how well received it was by the public.
- C. Advised members the CJC satisfaction survey result that was included in the agenda packet.
- D. Reminded members who have not completed the Code of Ethics training to do so as it is a requirement to serve on county advisory boards.

VIII. Business Consent Item

There was no business consent item.

- IX. Under Old Business, Mr. Rodriguez raised the issue of CJC staff serving on committees and asked whether CJC members were comfortable with him making decisions in this regard since one member expressed concerns to this effect, and he wanted to be sure that he was not overextending his boundaries. He gave examples of him serving on the executive committee of the Substance Abuse Coalition, which is not a direct CJC committee, and Brenda Oakes serving on the Citizens Advisory Council that deals with financially assisted agencies for the county. He said that.

X. New Business

A. Selection of Finance Committee

Mr. Rodriguez noted that it was time to reorganize the finance committee for the new fiscal year even though the CJC has not yet been notified of the available funding. Mr. Rodriguez recommended that the committee comprise Mr. Waring as the Chair by virtue of his position as treasurer, William Kramer, former treasurer and committee chair, Clarence Williams, Gerald Richman, and James Barr. He suggested that the constitutional officers or their designee be invited as non-voting members. Judge Cobalt nominated Judge Krista Marx as member, pointing to her expertise in this area. R. Johnson second the nomination.

Members unanimously approved the committee as presented.

B. Staff request CJC's approval for submission of the FY2012 Competitive Second Chance Act Grant for Adult Offender Reentry Program

Mr. Rodriguez noted that this was the third time the CJC was applying for the Second Chance Act Grant. The first was approved and a total of \$750,000 was received, but this is to extend the reentry initiatives in the County.

Members unanimously approved submission of the grant application which is

due by April 24, 2012.

C. Report from the Criminal Justice Mental Health and Substance Abuse (CJMHS) Sub-committee for Juveniles

Judge Ronald Alvarez, Barbara Cox-Gerlock and Feirmon Johnson presented the report on the CJMHS. Judge Alvarez noted that the committee was established two years ago to bring Palm Beach County into the 21st Century as it relates to mental health and substance abuse. He reported that following a study of the available programs in the County, the committee focused their efforts on two areas; one was the multiple evaluations/applications that children and families in the justice system have to submit to. The committee was able to narrow this down to one instrument that would satisfy most of the requirements of mental health and substance abuse needs. The other area was the identification of a medical model that was safe and effective for juveniles.

In presenting the recommendations, Ms. Cox-Gerlock remarked that in their research, a 84 page list of agencies were identified as service providers to juveniles in the county. As such, all the programs were looked at and a recommendation made for an external agency to review all the programs, particularly the treatment programs for substance abuse and mental health in order to develop a complete overview of what exist. It was also recommended that all the programs have the same outcomes and measured according to the same criteria.

Mr. Johnson commented on the Assessment Center, noting that a review of all the assessments carried out was made and said that many of the juveniles who enter the system are not always provided with the services needed and that they are sometimes over evaluated and given inappropriate services. He highlighted a few of the recommendations, for example as it relates to the current system assessment protocols and regulatory requirements pertaining to assessment of youth in Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) System. He noted that because of the limited funding that is sometimes not appropriate for a certain need, the right evaluation for the particular child has to be identified. He also said that the school system provide many services that can be utilized since they are for the growth and development of the child and not for academic purposes. He further commented on the evidence-based behavioral health systems, but said that it is about ensuring that the kids receive the best testing and evaluation that they need with the limited dollars available.

Mr. Rodriguez recommended that the CJC receive the recommendations as presented and following the setting of priorities at the annual planning meeting, a work plan on how these recommendations will be addressed be presented at the April CJC meeting.

Mr. Kramer sought clarification on the role of the external agency in reviewing of the programs as well as the budget and timeline that was envisioned.

Public Defended Haughwout remarked that this issue is bigger than the CJC

and that while the CJC can play a role, it is broader issue that the County should be engaged in.

Chairman Duncan suggested that this discussion be rolled over into the annual planning meeting.

XI. CJC Initiatives/Updates

A. Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC)

Audrey Wolf from the County's Facilities Department provided an update on the JAC, noting that the Secretary of DJJ is committed to relocating the JAC from 3400 Belvedere Road to the Detention Center on 45th Street. It will be operated at DJJ cost, including security, and providing space for the local providers at no cost, while continuing with the existing programs. To this end, Ms. Wolf recommended that the CJC support the move and that the local efforts be continued through the provision of staff.

B. Program Evaluation

Mr. Waring provided a review of the program evaluation and presented a working document of the programs funded by the CJC and an interim report on the outcome evaluation of selected programs. He noted that while it's a big challenge, they are trying to evaluate all the programs that are currently funded by the CJC and seeking to establish parameters for evaluation with some consistency. A comparison of results assessments for the Palm Beach County CJC programs is currently underway and will be integrated with other similar CJC programs results assessments from around the United States to determine both program and financial effectiveness.

The business meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 a.m., and transitioned into the annual planning meeting.