

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
2015 ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2015
LAKE WORTH CASINO COMPLEX
LAKE WORTH, FLORIDA 33460

Members Present:

Dave Aronberg
Rosalyn Baker
James Barr
Barbara Cheives
Jeffrey Colbath
Douglas Duncan
George Elmore
Carey Haughwout
Randolph Johnson, Sr.
Dave Kerner
Nellie King
Kathleen Kroll
Duane Little
Christina Morrison
Gerald Richman
Valentin Rodriguez
Chuck Shaw

Members Absent:

Rosalyn Baker
Nelson Berrios
Sharon Bock
Rick Bradshaw
Rolando Garcia
Barry Krischer
Bryan Kummerlen
John McKenna
Robert Shirley
Priscilla Taylor
E. Wayne Gent,
Ex-Officio Executive Comm.
(School Superintendent)

Members Present:

Brian Smith

Gregory Starling

Lee Waring

Guests Attending:

Penny Anderson

Angela Bess

Seth Bernstein

Nicole Bishop

Vince Bonvento

Michael Bornstein

Orie Bullard

Barbara Dawicke

Jeff Dougherty

Michelle Dryer

Johnnie Easton

Mike Edmondson

Brian Fernandez

Michael Gauger

Pam Gionfriddo

Ted Gonzales

Dallisa Green

Cindy Guerra

Jessica Hidalgo

Cicely Holcomb

Daniel Kreshak

Edward Latessa

Lawrence Leon

Jenise Link

Jennifer Loyless

Rosalind McCoy

Marsha Martin

Scott Maxwell

Sylvia Moffett

Brenda Oakes

Debra Oats

Bridgette Price

Judy Rebecca

Tommy Richard

Yasmin Rivera

Rita Ruggles

Kaitlin Schibli

Stephanie Sejnoha

Michelle Spangenberg

Diana Stag

Louis Tomeo

Dorrie Tyng

Denise Vidal Bennette

John Viola

Clay Walker

Staff Present:

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director

Jacquelyn Esposito, Criminal Justice Analyst

Arlene Griffiths, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst

Katherine Hatos, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst

Shahzia Jackson, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst

Damir Kukec, Research & Planning Manager

Rosalind Murray, Criminal Justice Program Development Specialist

Allison Orr, Administrative Assistant

Pamela Williams, Temporary Staff

Chairman William Kramer opened the meeting with a welcome to all. Executive Director Mr. Michael Rodriguez took the roll call, a quorum was established, and an introduction of guests was made.

APPROVAL/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: A motion to approve was made and seconded, motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL/ADDITION TO MINUTES:

A motion to approve the amended minutes to the January 26, 2015 full session Criminal Justice Commission meeting was unanimously approved.

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS: A welcome was made to Chief Brian Smith of the Juno Beach Police Department and ASAC Michael D'Alonzo, West Palm Beach FBI representative, as the newest members of the Commission. A thank you was made to Vice-Mayor Scott Maxwell and City Manager Michael Bornstein of the City of Lake Worth who greeted members and made possible the use of the venue; and all others who made the meeting successful.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS: Mr. Rodriguez brought attendee's attention to the attachments on the agenda, most notably the Re-Entry Program which was chosen to be part of the integrated re-entry strategy pilot site work by the Council of State Government Justice Center. The CJC staff is proud of this achievement, as one of three sites chosen nationwide. The Request for Proposal (RFP) for Domestic Violence Training has been sent out; responses are due by Friday, February 27, 2015.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Rodriguez brought forth the recommendation of the CJC Finance committee that the CJC adopt for future projects whenever possible the process of a RFP. Due to county, state and federal guidelines all monies allocated subject to contractual language are to be included in a RFP process. Language in the RFP will also allow rescission of the contract for non-performance or funding changes. Mr. Randy Johnson made a motion to adopt the recommendation, Mr. Waring seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. There were no other member comments.

TRANSITION TO THE ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING: Chairman Kramer transitioned the meeting into the Annual Planning session; Mr. Rodriguez introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Edward J. Latessa. Dr. Latessa's biography was included in the agenda packet. An audio excerpt is available on the Criminal Justice Commission website. Dr. Latessa presented for approximately an hour and a half, including a question and answer period.

Mr. Damir Kukec, Manager of Research and Planning at the Criminal Justice Commission, presented the State of Crime in Palm Beach County, and a second presentation of the Program Monitoring and Evaluation (PME). The power point presentations and booklets are available at the CJC offices and on the CJC website. In general, Mr. Kukec noted that overall progress is being made in crime rate reductions in Palm Beach County. He also acknowledged CJC staff members Jacquelyn Esposito, Katherine Hatos and Candee Villapando for their excellent work on the presentation. Ms. Carey Haughwout commented there have been a number of interesting studies both nationally and internationally regarding the general decline in crime statistics.

Mr. Ted Gonzalez, program manager at ISS of the countywide LEX program gave an update to the expanding use of the system.

Ms. Stephanie Sejnoha, Director of Public Safety Finance and Administrative Services presented a brief overview of the 2015 budget allocation and 2016 future funds available for allocation. A breakdown summary page of Ms. Sejnoha's presentation was included in the agenda packet provided to all members and guests.

Chairman Kramer asked the members to consider the information in the agenda packet and presentations to decide the best use of funding resources. He indicated a permanent funding source discussion will be delayed for an executive meeting regarding Drug Court; it is not currently listed as part of CJC funding; and possibly will be assigned to the Public Safety

Department. The 15th Judicial Court system is considering obtaining permanent funding for Drug Court going forward.

Mr. Rodriguez outlined the list of priorities to be considered: Re-entry Project (community side), the LEX program, and mental health/substance abuse programs, also referred to as Behavioral Health. He indicated an association of agencies within the field is needed to review programs for adults and juveniles to determine the best use of resources.

ASAC Michael D'Alonzo commented on the importance of IT systems for funding.

There was a general discussion of the members as to what sector of the Behavioral Health system needs implementation and funding, and the need for a task force to address those issues.

Ms. Haughwout spoke on behalf of the Behavioral Health effort, and recommended the members adopt it as a priority because of its impact on the criminal justice system. Ms. Haughwout expressed a desire to work with the State Attorney on a task force which is comprised of people with knowledge and interest in the behavioral health field. Mr. Aronberg indicated his willingness to work on the issue and noted the importance of identifying what sectors to address.

Chief Judge Colbath expressed an interest in the use of evidence based data/risk assessment tools to make judicial decisions more consistent, in evaluating low vs. high risk cases and training judges. Judge Kathleen Kroll echoed Judge Colbath's desire for the risk assessment issue. She also suggested the CJC task force take a closer look at the behavioral health discussion as it specifically relates to the juvenile population.

Ms. Pam Gionfriddo of the Mental Health Association mentioned there has been much discussion on this subject with many participants in a summit meeting and other meetings over the course of the year. Many areas of concern and programs have been identified; action needs to be taken to organize and move forward to implementation.

Chairman Kramer summed up the list of priorities to submit to the finance committee for funding:

Implementation and use of Risk Assessment tools (Court System Task Force to address)

Re-Entry Training program for Officers (Re-Entry Program Task Force to address)

Permanent funding (deferred)

Reentry Program

LEX system

Behavioral Health (along with implementation of a task force)

State Attorney Dave Aronberg made a motion to adopt the above three items (excepting permanent funding and established task force topics) for the Criminal Justice Commission 2015/2016 priorities. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerald Richman, and unanimous approval of the motion was carried.

Mr. Rodriguez addressed a concern expressed by Judge Kathleen Kroll at a previous meeting regarding the method or process of bringing forth issues and program presentations to the CJC. Mr. Rodriguez explained that traditionally these are brought to the full commission to decide first; if there is no interest by the full commission it is not necessary for a sub-committee to consider. Additionally, Florida State Sunshine Laws prohibit a sub-committee of the CJC to work on issues separate from the workings of the full committee. Chairman Kramer invited comments on the topic from the attendees; no other comments were made.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11: 50 a.m.