

Criminal Justice Commission
Court System Task Force
Minutes

Tuesday, January 13th, 2009 – 12:00 noon
McEaddy 12th Floor Conference Room
301 N. Olive Avenue
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Task Force Members present:

Jack Goldberger, Chairman
Alan Johnson, State Attorney's Office (Vice-Chair)
Journey Beard, CJC Crime Prevention Specialist
Capt. Frank De Mario, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Cherry Grant, Public Defender's Office
Fiermon Johnson, Department of Juvenile Justice
Judge Laura Johnson, County Court
Judge Krista Marx, Circuit Court
Michelle Spangenberg, Court Administration
Louis Tomeo, Clerk and Comptroller's Office
Judge Nancy Perez, County Court (Video Conference from Gun Club)
Gena Rowlands, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

Task Force Members absent:

Barbara Dawicke, Court Administration
Yasmin Rivera, Florida Department of Corrections
Chief Clay Walker, Manalapan Police Department

Others present:

Nicole Saunders, Justice Services
Shelby King – Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Cassandra Strachan, Community Justice Service Center
Faye Callum, Community Justice Service Center
Dorrie Tyng, Drug Court Coordinator (Video Conference from Gun Club)
Cristy Altaro, Court Administration
Judge Barry Alvarez, Juvenile Court

Staff present:

Damir Kukec, Research and Planning Manager
Jenise Link, Criminal Justice Senior Analyst
Mike Rodriguez, Executive Director
Kristie Slinsky, Criminal Justice Commission
Candee Villapando, Criminal Justice Analyst
Becky Walker, Justice Program Manager

1. Welcome

Chair Jack Goldberger called the meeting to order at 12:13 p.m., and welcomed members and guests.

2. Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Attendees introduced themselves in lieu of roll call.

3. Approval and/or Additions to the Draft Agenda

The draft meeting Agenda was approved without amendments.

4. Approval Draft Minutes

The draft minutes for the December 13th, 2008 meeting were approved without amendments.

5. Chairman's Comments

- a. Chair Goldberger welcomed Judge Nancy Perez and Dorrie Tyng, Drug Court Coordinator, who joined the meeting via teleconference from Gun Club.
- b. Chair Goldberger asked Task Force members to review the proposed 2009 Work Plan and forward any additions and/or issues.
- c. Chair Goldberger reviewed the 2009 Task Force meeting dates, 2009 CJC meeting dates, and updated Task Force member information.

6. New Business

Judge Krista Marx, Circuit Court, updated the Task Force members about the Administrative Order (4.502 – 12/08, Circuit Criminal Court Reallocation) that became effective January 1st, 2009. This AO is reorganizing the Circuit Criminal Court to streamline the processing of cases in a fair, timely, and cost-effective manner. A sample of the covered areas includes procedures for newly assigned cases, assignment of capital cases, specified arraignment days (out-of-custody and in-custody locations), mental health cases, and the use of expert witnesses.

7. Old Business

- a. **No Contact Orders** – Michelle Spangenberg, Court Administration, informed members that PBSO Central Records supervisor, Amy Barker, has resigned and a new supervisor is being appointed. Also, she reminded Task Force members that a 30-page list has been identified by Court Administration as having prior No Contact Order cases not being timely updated. This has created a potential situation of having individuals being wrongfully arrested for a violation of his/her No Contact Order, yet a Rescission of No Contact Order had been previously entered in the case. Ms. Spangenberg also spoke with PBSO Teletype & Validation staff about possibly assisting with the updating of these records, but was informed that Central Records is the proper PBSO department to be resolving this issue. The Court Admin IT staff is working with PBSO Central Records staff to update BANNER security certificates on the Central Records computers. The PBSO Jail Unit continues to manually scan the hard copies of Rescission Orders, then forwards the hard copies to PBSO Central Records, where the information is entered. It is believed that approximately 3,300 defendants have Rescission of No Contact Order cases which have not yet been updated.
- b. **Bond Jurisdiction** – Judge Laura Johnson, County Court, informed members that County Court judges are working smoothly with AO 11.110- 09/08* (Appointment of Circuit Court Judges Acting as County Court Judges / County Court Judges Acting as Circuit Court Judges) concerning 'upfiled' cases.
- c. **Suspended Driver's License Reinstatement Initiative** – Jack Goldberger, Chair, reported this issue was first brought up during a September 13th, 2005, Task Force meeting. During the past 2 ½ years, various perspectives of this issue have been discussed and explored by members. Chair Goldberger instructed Journey Beard to prepare a position paper on possible options on this initiative, and it will be ready for distribution at the February 10th meeting. Michelle Spangenberg volunteered to assist on this project. Members will be asked to read and provide comments by the March 10th meeting.

8. Updates

- a. **Drug Court.** Ms. Nicole Saunders, Justice Services Director, reported that Drug Court will be making a presentation to the CJC Finance Committee concerning funding for treatment dollars for the next fiscal year. Also, they are exploring possibly raising fees to Drug Court participants. Ms. Saunders discussed that Drug Court is submitting a DOJ Bureau of Justice Assistance grant application for co-occurring treatment of mental health and substance abuse issues. The first meeting of the Drug Court Advisory Subcommittee will be held on Monday, January 26th at 12:00 p.m. to address policy and other issues.
- b. **Juvenile Drug Court.** Judge Alvarez appeared with Cristy Altaro, and reported the Juvenile Drug Court is working well, and the juveniles are progressively through the program. There are currently five (5) participants, and two (2) more will be added during the next week. Judge Alvarez advised that, although the numbers of participants may be small, the program is operating providing significant individual attention and working successfully. This includes working with the PBC School District, and includes free tutoring and special assistance. The participants are referred by other Juvenile Court judges, and Judge Alvarez commented that he is working to create a cooperative environment between the State Attorney's Office and Public Defender's Office regarding the purpose of the Juvenile Drug Court. During Phase I, juveniles must appear every week before the Court. During Phase II, they must appear every other week. The Court meets on Wednesday afternoon beginning at 3:00 p.m. in Juvenile Division - Courtroom 2A.
- c. **BANNER.** Mr. Louis Tomeo, Clerk & Comptroller's Office noted the on-site system requirements vendor have completed their interviews with criminal justice partners, and have forwarded an ITN (Invitation to Negotiate) to possible vendors. The ITN expires February 9th, 2009. They are fielding questions from several vendors, and interested case management vendors must meet strict requirements, i.e., such as having an operating system within the State of Florida. Mike Rodriguez, CJC Executive Director, requested that CJC Research and Planning staff be consulted to provide input. Cherry Grant, Public Defender's Office, asked about the length of time it is taking for BANNER to be updated daily documents, and Mr. Tomeo replied that a state performance mandate requires no longer than a three-day turnaround time.
- d. **Community Justice Service Center:** Becky Walker reported an increase in walk-ins looking for assistance, and a computer class has been implemented during the past month. Chair Goldberger instructed Ms. Walker to report back to the Task Force by February 10th regarding additional offenses that may be suitable to be heard at Community Court hearings. Mike Rodriguez asked if the CJC could continue to explore the possibility of a Community Justice Service Center being implemented in Belle Glade, and Task Force members agreed it was a good idea.

9. Member and Guest Comments

Feirmon Johnson, Department of Juvenile Justice, reported that a Community Forum will be held at the Urban League on Saturday, January 31st, entitled "Disproportionate Minority Contact: Addressing Minority Over-Representation in the Criminal Juvenile Justice System." A special seminar will be held for government officials on Friday, January 30th. An explanatory flyer will be emailed to each Task Force member. Chair Goldberger asked Mr. Johnson to provide an update on this seminar at the next Task Force meeting.

The next meeting of the Court will be held on Tuesday, February 10th, 2009.

10. Adjournment

Given that there were no other agenda items; the meeting was adjourned at 1:11p.m.