

Criminal Justice Commission
Court System Task Force
Minutes

Tuesday, December 8th, 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
Judge Jeff Colbath, Circuit Criminal Court
Cherry Grant, Public Defender's Office
Sgt. Craig Laufer, (on behalf of Capt. Frank Demario)
Elizabeth Parker, State Attorney's Office
Michelle Spangenberg, Court Administration
Chief Clay Walker, Manalapan Police Department

Task Force Members absent:

Judge August Bonavita, County Criminal Court
Barbara Dawicke, Court Administration
Feirmon Johnson, Department of Juvenile Justice
Judge Krista Marx, Gun Club
Capt. Alan Ortman, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Yasmin Rivera, Dept. of Corrections
Gena Rowlands, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Terri Skiles, State Attorney's Office
Louis Tomeo, Clerk and Comptroller's Office

Others present:

Wanda Joiner, PRIDE Integrated Services
Bea Lovelace, Clerk & Comptroller's Office
Mary Quinlan, Court Administration
Nicole Saunders, Justice Services

Staff present:

Journey Beard, Criminal Justice Commission
Katherine Hatos, Criminal Justice Commission
Mike Rodriguez, Criminal Justice Commission

1. Welcome

Chair Jack Goldberger called the meeting, and welcomed members and guests. No quorum was present.

2. Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Attendees introduced themselves in lieu of roll call.

3. Approval and/or Additions to the Draft Agenda

Due to a quorum not being present, the draft meeting Agenda was not able to be approved.

4. Approval Draft Minutes

Due to a quorum not being present, the draft minutes for the November 10th, 2009, were not able to be approved.

5. **Chairman's Comments** – Chair Goldberger requested that members volunteer issues and/or projects for consideration before the Task Force. Journey Beard, CJC, will be surveying members via email to get their input.

6. **New Business**

7. **Old Business**

8. **Updates**

- a. **Videoconferencing Pilot Project** – Judge Jeff Colbath, Circuit Criminal Court, updated members about the Remote Court Interpreters pilot program that allows interpreters to provide services to various courtrooms while remaining at a central location. It is expected to begin in January. Additionally, Judge Colbath commented about a technology project that would allow private criminal defense attorneys to communicate with defendants located in the courthouse. There are technology and facility issues still being resolved. A discussion ensued about whether other Florida counties might be offering video or skype-type communications access between defendants in jail and private criminal defense attorneys. Journey Beard will begin contacting various FL Circuits to survey the availability of communications technology to the private criminal defense bar and/or public defender's office.
- b. **Rescission of No Contact Orders** – Michelle Spangenberg, Court Administration, reported that PBSO continues to prioritize completing the backlog of Rescission of No Contact Orders. Bea Lovelace, Clerk & Comptroller's Office, remarked the Clerk's Office is continuing to work toward eliminating the backlog. Clay Walker, Manalapan Police Dept., explained the PALMS confirmation process used by local law enforcement agencies, and Michelle Spangenberg will follow up with PBSO Central Records to determine whether there is a need to set up a protocol.
- c. **Drug Court** – Nicole Saunders, Justice Services, reported Adult Drug Court has 150 participants and 11 applicants. There are 9 participants in the grant-funded co-occurring track, and they are being referred to South County Mental Health Center for a psychiatric evaluation, monitored for medication usage, and are involved in an evidence based program specifically geared toward individuals with mental health and substance abuse issues. The grant requires that 25 people be served per year. Additionally, Nicole Saunders reported that Juvenile Drug Court has graduated 2 teenagers, and currently has 6 participants.
- d. **Community Justice Service Center**, Becky Walker, CJC, reported the first Project Ready class had 15 graduates. Employers are being contacted to request they hire these graduates.
- e. **Legal System Accessibility for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Individuals** - Chief Clay Walker, Manalapan Police Department, will present his video at the February meeting.

9. **Member and Guest Comments**

10. **Adjournment**

Given that there were no other agenda items; the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on January 12th, 2010.