

Criminal Justice Commission
Court Systems Task Force

Tuesday, April 8, 2014 – 12:00 Noon
McEaddy 12th Floor Conference Room
301 N. Olive Avenue
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
Final Minutes

Members Present:

Nellie King, Chairperson
Christine Geraghty, Public Defender's Office
Louis Tomeo, Clerk & Comptroller
Capt. Ed Jablonski, PBC Sheriff
Al Johnson, State Attorney's Office
Michelle Spangenberg, Court Administration
Jenise Link, PBC Pre-Trial
Yasmin Rivera, Department of Corrections
Judge John Kastrenakes, Criminal Court
Chief Christopher Elg

Staff Present:

Rosalind Murray, CJC
Mike Rodriguez, CJC

Guests Present: Cristy Altera, Juvenile Drug Court, Dorrie Tyng, Public Safety, Craig Spataro, CJC, Beth Williams, CJC

I. Welcome:

The meeting was opened by Nellie King at 12:10 pm.

II. Roll Call and Guests:

Ms. Murray provided a roll call and introduction of guests. A quorum was present.

III. Approval and/or Additions to the Draft Agenda

There was a motion made by Louis Tomeo and seconded by Chief Elg to approve the agenda as presented.

IV. Approval Final December 10, 2013 Meeting Minutes

There was a motion made by Judge Kastrenakes and seconded by Louis Tomeo to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2013 meeting as presented.

V. Chairman's Comments - The Chairman commented on the CJC Annual Meeting.

VI. New Business

- A. In Custody Batterer's Intervention Program – Mike Rodriguez stated that things have changed in the programs and it's been brought to our attention. DCF was the certifier of the Batterer's Intervention. It no longer is because the funding for the program was eliminated in the legislature. There have been no new programs admitted into Palm Beach County's program and there are no plans to add any. There is a question regarding the efficacy of the programs, if they work. If directed, we may want to evaluate the programs either in house or by an outside source. Some circuits have formed non-profits in the wake of the changes to formalize a process. Nellie King commented that sex

offender treatment is a problem as well. It seems to continue into perpetuity without end. It is important that we have the courts behind any program that is recommended to our citizens. There is a statutory obligation to act on this matter. We will table this topic until we can get more information on the subject.

- B. **Assessment of Out of Custody BIP** – We were told by Eric Thompson that it no longer exists at the county jail. It was eliminated for a number of reasons, space, teachers, and security.
- C. **ACF Mileposts Foundation** - Mike Rodriguez stated that this is a court recommended diversion program. Ms. Murray provided a bit of background and history. Judge Kastrenakes was surprised by the lack of contracts or official vetting of the program. He will send a letter to the Chief Judge regarding the obligation of the court and how to follow up on this. Nellie King also recommended that we look at the sex offender programs as well.

D. Jury Summons Committee Report -

Mike Rodriguez shared that in 2014 CJC with the help of the Courts and Public Safety will ask the BCC to support permanent funding for the following courts; Adult Drug Court, Civil Drug Court, Delinquency Drug Court, and Family Drug Court. Judge Shepherd commented that she is very much in favor of this. She suggested that the judiciary should be front and center on this issue.

VII. Old Business

- A. **Jury Summons** – Ms. Murray handed out the minutes of the Jury Summons Committee meeting. It appears that LAW Week has already been planned for the year. There **will not** be an opportunity to work together on this project for this year. Some of the committee discussion centered on creating an URL, the Chief Judge could help with an education campaign. We will reconvene the committee to meet and firm up the recommendations.

VIII. Updates and Initiatives

A. Adult Drug Court:

Dorrie Tyng commented that as of January 2014 there are 212 participants. Staff is working to increase the graduation rate vs. the opt out rate. Members of the Task Force mentioned the Drug Farm and reopening the facility.

- B. **Delinquency Drug Court/ Juvenile Drug Court** – The program has one graduate. There have been 30-40 referrals. The new referral process including those with mental health and substance abuse is working.

IX. Member and Guest Comments:

A BCC Workshop will be held on May 13, 2014@ 9:30 to discuss future permanent founding for the Problem Solving Courts including Adult Drug, Civil, Delinquency, and Family. It is a workshop meeting to get some direction from the BCC.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm. **The next meeting is Tuesday, June 10, 2014.**