



S U M M A R Y M I N U T E S

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2021

PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1ST ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING

Vista Center Hearing Room 1W-47
2300 N. Jog Road, West Palm Beach, FL

Members Present:

Frank Adderley - *virtual*
Dave Aronberg
Barbara Cheives
Rachel Docekal
Carey Haughwout
Joseph Ianno, Jr.
Randolph Johnson, Sr.
Kevin Jones
Christina Morrison

Members Absent:

Dave Kerner
Nellie King
Krista Marx/Cheryl Caracuzzo
Dr. Donald Fennoy (Ex-Officio)
Gerald Richman (Ex-Officio)

Others Attending:

Chris James, Burns Institute – *virtual*
Roxana Matiella – *virtual*
Chief Sean Brammer - *virtual*
Jennifer Loyless - Public Defender's Office- *virtual*
Mike Edmondson – State Attorney's Office- *virtual*

Staff Present and Online:

Jon Van Arnam, Deputy County Administrator
Regenia Herring, Executive Director
Allison Orr, Administrative Assistant
Damir Kukec, Manager, Research & Planning- *virtual*
Bert Winkler, Manager, Program Development – *virtual*
Brad Allen, Criminal Justice Analyst - *virtual*
Rosalind Murray, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst - *virtual*
Katherine Shover, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst – *virtual*
Candee Villapando - *virtual*

- I. Chairman Joseph Ianno, Jr. called the meeting to order.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.
- III. Welcome to the guests attending the meeting online.
- IV. **New Business:**
 - A. Executive Director Regenia Herring briefly discussed the need for a no-cost extension with Utrust, LLC in order to provide more time for development of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for court text messaging services. Motion to

approve made by Ms. Carey Haughwout, second by Dr. Rachel Docekal, motion was approved unanimously.

- B. Ms. Carey Haughwout gave an overview of the services the Public Defender's Office supports for those individuals needing housing and other support, both pre-trial and post-disposition. The Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC) Core Team recommends approval to expand the use of contracted funds with the Public Defender's Office to serve those post-case individuals as well. Motion to approve made by Dr. Rachel Docekal, second by Mr. Randy Johnson, motion was approved unanimously.

ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING - SUMMARY NOTES

I. Shared Values...Infusing Racial Equity – *W. Haywood Burns Institute*

Executive Director Regenia Herring introduced Mr. Chris James and Ms. Roxana Matiella of the W. Haywood Burns Institute. The Burns Institute has worked for the last two years with the County's SJC Core Team under the MacArthur grant to incorporate racial justice and racial equity concepts into the work and strategies of the SJC. The Burns Institute has designed their system of approach to decrease jail populations, while transforming justice systems into equitable systems from a grassroots movement. Mr. James and Ms. Matiella explained the policies, advocacy work and data the Burns Institute incorporates in strategies to advance racial justice. Members discussed the fact that the CJC has never taken a position on the issues of racial disparities and racial equity. The EC agreed those issues need to be addressed by the entire CJC membership and the need to infuse those values explicitly within the CJC priorities. Members discussed working to establish guiding principles and shared values with the support of the Burns Institute staff and how to use them to effect broad and long-term change. Also discussed was how to infuse those values into the various taskforces and sub-committees under the auspice of the CJC. Chair Ianno said the Racial Equity Institute (REI) Training that has been scheduled for CJC members is a step forward, and he strongly encourages all CJC members to attend. The Committee agreed the goal of the training is to help facilitate discussions among CJC members about embracing the philosophy of racial equity in the criminal justice system. Members agreed that guiding principles should be based on shared values and are different from goals. The Committee acknowledged the need to establish guiding principles; the Burns Institute offered its support to the CJC to develop those principles based on shared values. Vice-Chair Kevin Jones recommended the CJC strongly consider working with the Burns Institute to move the EC forward. The EC agreed that staff follow up with Burns for further discussion on next steps.

II. Management and Committee Structures

Chair Ianno said it was important to address management plans for the CJC structures of taskforces, subcommittees, and staff's roles and responsibilities. Director Herring said the CJC currently has 14 taskforces and subcommittees

combined; seven of which operate under the SJC.

Director Herring said she would like to codify how these taskforces and committees are to work and report to the CJC specifically, defining how taskforces and subcommittees are created, their purpose, reporting expectations and clarifying their work and any timelines. Members agreed to establishing, at a minimum, the following protocols:

1. A taskforce or subcommittee designee must be philosophically aligned with the agency they represent when appointed to a CJC task force or subcommittee,
2. A designee should have the proper authority to speak for and bind their agency/office as a representative, and
3. All taskforces or sub-committees should have an adequate number of sitting CJC members on them.
4. A CJC member should act as Chair of a taskforce or sub-committee. If this is not possible, the EC Chair should have the right to appoint a taskforcer or subcommittee chair.

The EC agreed there is a need to review all of the taskforces and subcommittees in order to streamline their focus, reporting, membership and other guidelines. Further, that the creation and/or dissolution of taskforces or subcommittees has to be approved by EC.

According to the CJC By-Laws, the original standing committees consist of the 1) Nominating Committee (NC), 2) Finance Committee (FC), 3) Law Enforcement Planning Council (LEPC), and 4) Corrections Task Force (CTF)/ Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC). The EC Members agreed the CJC Standing Committees are:

LEPC – The EC agreed to keep the structure of this taskforce as it exists. The EC agreed to update the LEPC resolution. Deputy County Administrator Jon Van Arnam said the CJC could decide matters of the LEPC’s independence, duplicity, and chair status. He confirmed it is a standing committee of the CJC – and should be a reporting body to the CJC. Chair Ianno said the LEPC has evolved to be an independent body; State Attorney Dave Aronberg said prior to COVID-19, the LEPC covered many broader issues with an expansive membership; having a large attendance of Federal, State and local law enforcement officials. Additionally, certain CJIS certified individuals hold a meeting after the general meeting is convened. Chief Sean Brammer clarified that PBSO holds an honorary seat on the Associations of Chiefs of Police and recommended that the School Safety subcommittee remain under the LEPC.

School Safety Initiative – The EC discussed whether this subcommittee should be a standing committee of the CJC, or remain a subcommittee of the LEPC. The focus

and charge of the School Safety Initiative has changed since its inception; many school safety issues have been rectified and systems put in place statewide after the shooting at Margery Stoneman Douglas High School. The School Safety Initiative has evolved into two separate tracks: School Safety and Mental Health. The EC agreed the Mental Health track has future work to do. The School Safety Committee's formal standing depends on clarification of the creation of the committee. CJC staff will research and bring back to the EC.

Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC)/Corrections Task Force (CTF) -The PSCC is established by Florida State Statute 951.26 and the CTF acts as the PSCC, as specified in CJC Resolution. EC agreed the PSCC/CTF serves as a standing CJC taskforce and the work of the MacArthur SJC Core Team, Pretrial Team, as suggested by Public Defender Carey Haughwout, should transition and be overseen by this taskforce. The Corrections Task Force work will focus on addressing the grant strategies and making recommendations to the CJC for advancing and sustaining the SJC's work.

Court Systems Task Force – This taskforce was created to review case processing and other court matter; and will be reviewing court systems and processes as well as the need for specialty courts. Members agreed the SJC Court Text Reminder System and Case Processing work should transition to this taskforce.

Probation Advisory Board (PAB) – The EC agreed to keep as is.

Community Engagement Team – The EC agreed to keep as is.

Racial Equity Team - The EC agreed to keep as is. Vice-Chair Kevin L. Jones and Director Herring voiced support for the Racial Equity Team Work plan and said it should be infused into the work of the all CJC Sub-committees. Ms. Barbara Cheives suggested a member of the RET should be involved with every CJC taskforce or subcommittee and that the RET should appoint within its membership those individuals.

It was determined the RET will get reports from other taskforces and subcommittees in order to cut down on overlap and duplication of work. Additionally this will help determine what racial impact there is on items to be voted on. Joint taskforce or subcommittee meetings were suggested as another way to increase communication and cut down on duplicate work. Barbara Cheives and Director Herring will have further discussions on these topics to bring back to the EC.

Rapid Response Team – This committee is made up of a multi-disciplinary team of departments. Its initial creation was a response to a past issue regarding the Florida Department of Children and Families' response to child deaths. Currently those matters are now under PBSO jurisdiction. After member discussion, Chair Ianno asked for a motion. Ms. Christina Morrison made a motion to dissolve any role the

CJC has in the Rapid Response Team, with a second by Ms. Carey Haughwout. The motion passed unanimously.

MacArthur SJC Committees - EC members agree these committees have taken precedence over the work of the CJC taskforces or standing committees. The EC agreed that a transition plan is needed to move under identified CJC taskforces. *PalmFUSE* – CJC staff oversees this pilot project. Responsibilities include ensuring vendor services requirements are being met, and oversight of budget and financial matters. It has established a Policy and Sustainability Committee; further review is needed by the EC to determine status and protocols.

The EC agreed to choose one or two taskforces and SJC committees at the next meeting to review membership, to ensure no member has a financial interest in the work of these committees.

On structure of Sub-committees/Task Forces, additional topics to be discussed are:

- Determine if taskforces or subcommittees need bylaws
- Design a template for taskforce and subcommittee structure
- Review the MacArthur committees work and inquire about the sustainability of an SJC work and determine which CJC taskforce to transition the work to.
- Determine if members of taskforces or subcommittees are subject to Palm Beach County Ethics Training. Mr. Jon Van Arnam said he would research this question and report to the EC.

VIII. Center for Court Innovations - Olivia Dana and Sarah Picard – The Site Coordinators for the Palm Beach County SJC project presented their findings to date on the efficacy of SJC initiatives. This project is designed to reduce jail population and racial disparities within the criminal justice system. Ms. Dana and Ms. Picard offered continued assistance with tough issues. They said further review of the drivers of disparity in pretrial detention and unsecured bonds is needed to determine effectiveness in misdemeanor cases. Other strategies were discussed, including implementation of a Population Review Team. Ms. Picard said CCI is also looking at cases with extended days in jail because of bond hearings. She said that PBC is not alone in these challenges. Ms. Picard said a public facing report from the SJC compiled by ISLG is forthcoming and will report at a higher view the challenges to-date and report on all site performances.

Members discussed:

- Review time spent in jail between first appearance and request to go before judge for bond hearing;
- Money bonds and how much of a factor they play in racial disparities;
- How to help those who cannot afford bond, or lost a job because of extended jail time waiting for a bond hearing;

- Political favoritism of money bonds;
- Achieving buy-in from judges on the use of promissory notes in lieu of cash bond;
- Why the jail population rate is down, yet racial disparity rates are climbing. Some possible factors discussed were: the reliance of judges on criminal history (the VRAI Risk Assessment Tool was cited), getting legislative movement on monetary bond processes, having someone on both the State Attorney and Public Defender sides committed to getting people out of jail.

Ms. Cheives stated inequity starts in the street, even before looking at the jails, implicit bias plays a part in the process.

IX. Resulting Priorities of the CJC EC as expressed by the Chairman:

1. Review the membership of all committees and recommendations on the what the membership should be.
2. Vice-Chair Jones and the RET to determine who will sit on committees.
3. To align SJC work to CTF for review and seek recommendations and report back to EC.
4. Establish guiding principles for the CJC and all standing committees, taskforces and subcommittees.
5. Review pretrial detention.
6. Determine level of commitment from CJC members on working from a racial equity standpoint.
7. Call a Bylaws meeting to determine specific missions/goals, Christina Morrison offered to participate.
8. Work to establish political will prior to bringing players to the table on specific issues; determine what can be accomplished to avoid stalemate or stagnation.
9. Budget – leftover funds will have recommendations for the EC to decide.

X. Top recommendations from the CJC survey of priorities, as reported by Director Herring:

1. Alternatives to arrest for juveniles
2. Behavioral health and crime

XI. Adjourn:

After no further comments, Chair Ianno adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.