



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Robert Weisman Governmental Center
Office of Finance and Budget Management Conference
Room - 7th Floor 301 N. Olive Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL 33401

MINUTES

Monday, May 13, 2024, 8:00 a.m.

Members Present

Dr. Rachel Docekal, CEO, Hanley Foundation, and CJC Chair
Glenn Kelley, Chief Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Marcia Andrews, Palm Beach County School Board Member, and CJC Treasurer
Maria Antuna, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Matt Pawlowski, Next Era Energy, and CJC Secretary
Michael Barnett, County Commissioner
Michelle Suskauer, Dimond Kaplan & Rothstein, P.A.

Members Absent

Carey Haughwout, Public Defender, 15th Judicial Circuit
Earnie Ellison, Managing Partner, Ellison Consulting Group, LLC
Lauren Whetstone, FPL Energy Services, Inc., and CJC Vice-Chair
Mike Burke, School Superintendent (**Ex-officio**)
Reverend Kevin Jones, Past Chair, Clergy

Guests Attending

Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office

CJC Staff Present

Brad Allen, Criminal Justice Analyst
Christopher Slydell, Criminal Justice Analyst
Damir Kukec, Research and Planning Manager
Dawn Caveness-Davenport, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Katherine Shover, Criminal Justice Systems Manager
Margo Smith, Criminal Justice Analyst
Rosalind Murray, Community Engagement Coordinator
Stephanie Moliere, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Todd Bonlarron, Assistant County Administrator

- I. Call to Order – Dr. Rachel Docekal, Chair**
Chair, Dr. Docekal, called the meeting to order
- II. Roll Call – Katherine Shover, Criminal Justice Systems Manager**
Ms. Shover of the CJC took roll call and confirmed a quorum was present
- III. Approval and/or corrections to the Agenda**
Chair, Dr. Docekal, requested a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was made by Chief Judge Kelley, seconded by Michelle Suskauer and approved unanimously.



IV. Approval and/or Corrections to the April 8, 2024 Minutes (see attachment)
Chair, Dr. Docekal, requested a motion to approve the Minutes. The motion was made by Marcia Andrews, seconded by Chief Judge Kelley and approved unanimously.

V. Chair's Comments

A. Reminder that due to the Memorial Day holiday, the May Full CJC meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at the Hanley Center. This will be the last Full CJC meeting until September 23, 2024.

- Reminded members that CJC Executive meeting will take place over the summer

B. The Safety and Justice Challenge Network Meeting was held on May 8-10, 2024 in Houston, Texas.

- Briefly informed members on other SJC sites in attendance and how they are utilizing support from SJC to address the reduction of their jail population.
- Racial disparity is still an issue in our local jail as well as other sites across the country; statistics show that individuals who identify as white receive more “advances” than those who identify as black, and those who identify as Hispanic receive the worst. As we advance this work through the CJC, a decision should be made to view the criminal justice systems impact nationally, as well as locally, to implement strategies that are directly based on the community’s needs.

- **Mr. Bonlarron:** There was much engagement in peer to peer conversations with other sites (New York, California, Ohio, Pennsylvania, etc.) to discuss addressing homelessness, mental health, substance use, tent cities, findings from stress tests, and the sheer scale of work to be achieved with the currently resources available. Incredible experts with lived experience provided their insights and are diversifying this work as well.

- **Ms. Shover:** The time in Houston was filled with information, especially NACo’s Behavioral Health Conference. Herself and Dawn Caveness-Davenport, of the CJC, toured facilities that support repeat offenders in gaining access to support services, received information on jail diversion programs for individuals experiencing mental health crises, and more.

- **Matt Pawlowski:** The CJC needs to attend conferences such as these to determine how we’re doing in comparison to other cities so we can improve as a county.

C. The Narcan presentation was rescheduled to May’s Full CJC meeting.

VI. Executive Director Updates



- A. Jail Trends presentation by Research and Planning Manager Damir Kukec will be held at the May 28, 2024 Full CJC meeting – *Todd Bonlarron, Assistant County Administrator*
- Reminded members that Mr. Kukec will provide an update on jail data at the next Full CJC Meeting in May.
- B. CJC Executive Director Update – *Todd Bonlarron, Assistant County Administrator*
- Stated the identified candidate and the county are conversing and he hopes to provide an update. The Selection Committee will meet soon to conduct a deeper dive in this conversation.
- C. Community Engagement Contract Update – *Todd Bonlarron, Assistant County Administrator*
- Provided a document on the finalized Scope of Work (briefly discussed the phases along with their purpose) for the one (1) year contract with Jamie Lee-Bradshaw of Community Partners of South Florida (CP). Additionally, conversations with law enforcement agencies to bring them back to the table is critical at this time to ensure the success of community engagement; much care is being taken to ensure they are willing participants.
 - CPSFL will also work with the CJC on onboarding so the opportunity can be opened up to all of our board members as we move through the summer.
 - **Chair, Dr. Docekal:** Ms. Bradshaw was an amazing panelist at the SJC Meeting mentioned earlier as well, discussing community issues/needs with other experts; the relationship between the CJC and CP is one to look forward to.
- D. Recap of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Site Visit held April 22-23, 2024 – *Todd Bonlarron, Assistant County Administrator*
- Staff of the MacArthur Foundation met with CJC board members, discussed possible improvements to the Mobile Probation Unit, Next Steps, and areas of diversification.
 - A programmatic update on the community based services provided via the Public Defender's Office was provided and Carrie Haughwout's efforts towards the success of the program is appreciated. Recommendations on the reduction of [court] continuances as we further look at reducing our jail population safely with racial disparity being factored in as well. More discussions, creative ideas, potential solutions, etc. surrounding the topic of reducing continuances will be brought back to the CJC as discussions become more robust.

Questions, Answers & Comments:

Q: Maria Antuna: What are other sites doing that we could either learn or improve from?

A: Ms. Shover: Jail Management Review Teams have been implemented at a few SJC sites to review certain cases which will fall under the Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC). A representative from the PD, SAO, Community-Based Provider, and review data on certain cases to determine if any resolution to release individuals quicker can be made.



A: Mr. Bonlarron: In particular, we want to view cases of individuals who are incarcerated for long and short periods of time (obtaining and providing data from both dockets on both groups to the board to possibly focus on these two groups and any impacts they face moving through the criminal justice system).

Michelle Suskauer: Voiced concerns over how far this effort will reach and mentioned how difficult cases can be when it comes to continuances and that each case is different and have a myriad of reasons as to why it's continued. Many judges are aware of when to try a case based on the length of time an individual has been incarcerated.

Chief Judge Kelley: Echoed Ms. Suskauer's sentiments as he is not familiar with a standard "30 day set" and can imagine how difficult it could be to do due to how complicated cases can be (generally, judges do their best to move cases along). It may prove difficult to pin point an exact cause of continuances, as it is already a complicated analysis.

Mr. Bonlarron: Affirmed the commentary regarding the complicated nature of the process. Also revealed that preliminary conversations with key stakeholders (PD, SAO, etc.) to determine how our data can best support them in making those type of decisions via a case review team has been initiated.

Ms. Andrews: Acknowledged how difficult and complex this work is along with the importance of informing the public on how the CJC's efforts are addressing the criminal justice system to be more efficient/equitable; people need to know how difficult/complicated the process is (all they know is someone is in jail with no idea as to why/how) and we're diligently working to address these matters.

VII. New Business

A. 2024 Safety and Justice Challenge Capstone Grant Application – Todd Bonlarron, Assistant County Administrator (see attachment)

- Briefly discussed projects funded by MacArthur.
 - Pretrial Position (Public Safety)
 - SJC Coordinator (CJC)
 - Next Steps Frequent Utilizers Pilot Program
 - Pilot Text Reminder
 - PD Revised Program
 - FSU Evaluations
 - Community Partners of South Florida
- The Capstone grant, due June 12th, 2024, will go through 2026, allowing us to continue in the CJC Network to address our goals with tools to maintain/improve long-term (technology, data, programs, personnel, etc.). Announcements of the \$234,000 award will be in October.

B. HB 1365 - Unauthorized Public Camping & Public Sleeping Legislation – Kasey Denny, Legislative Affairs Director (see attachment)

- Kasey provided an overview of the bill to the members...
- Beginning October 1, 2024, Florida's local governments may not authorize or allow any person to regularly engage in public sleeping or camping on any public property (this includes right of ways, under bridges, and any public property).



- Beginning January 1, 2025, a resident of the county or an owner of the business that's located in the county can bring a civil cause of action against the local government and enjoin them.
- Palm Beach County has an option to designate an encampment site (has to be moved each year and there are high penalties for non-compliance), but will more than likely not institute one due to the breadth of information needed by the State of Florida. There is a case before the Supreme Court out of the State of Oregon that's similar, not exact, in legislation/ordinance. Many jurisdictions are awaiting the results in hopes it will provide some type of guidance/framework as how to move forward. Other states have other models in place, but we don't have enough data to determine any findings yet (Miami-Dade has a model to address homelessness via a dedicated funding source).
- **Mr. Bonlarron:** Much conversation with law enforcement has taken place because we don't want our jails to become substitutes for those experiencing homelessness. The main catch to this Bill is that it holds public officials liable if someone is reported to be sleeping in an undesignated area. There will be much development on this subject matter and it will be watched closely by the CJC as well other departments and agencies. Led by Dr. James Green, the Community Services Department (CSD) is working with local partners in the community to bring forth innovative/ideas/options for our Board of County Commissioners to discuss and decide on.

Questions, Answers & Comments:

Ms. Andrews: Voiced concern over the lack of guidance will this legislation along with the quick turnaround time for the county to make a decision/provisions for residents. Concern on how certain residents (minorities, those experiencing homelessness/mental health, etc.) will potentially be incarcerated was expressed as well.

- C. FY 2024 Targeted Violence & Terrorism Prevention Grant Program: Palm Beach County School and Community Violence Prevention Enhancement Project – *Todd Bonlarron, Assistant County Administrator (see attachment)*
 - This is an opportunity for the Sheriff's Office to apply for a grant under Homeland Security's Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grant has been made available to them and they are requesting a letter of support from the CJC in their endeavors to apply.
 - The program will place an Analyst with the mobile response teams we have in place concerning schools, community, violence, & activities of terrorism. This grant will:
 1. Expand our capacity to respond to referrals and address individuals with risk factors for targeted violence & terrorism,
 2. Support us in obtaining & making data informed decisions,
 3. Increase the delivery of crisis intervention training for law enforcement personnel,
 4. Enhance access to recidivism reduction programs, and



5. Raise societal awareness around targeted violence and terrorism prevention.
- Chief Judge Kelley made a motion to provide a letter of support to the Sheriff's Office, it was seconded by Ms. Suskauer, and passed unanimously.

VIII. Old Business – NONE

IX. Discussion Items/Updates

A. Public Safety Coordinating Council's Reinvestment Grant Application – Dawn Caveness-Davenport, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst

- There are no major updates at this time. The grant applications due date was pushed back and the CJC will provide an update on the process as soon as possible.

X. Member Comments

- Ms. Andrews reminded the board of graduation season and invited all to attend (in person or online) if they would like to.
- Commissioner Barnett congratulated Ms. Suskauer on being awarded the 2024 Suzanne and John Foley Serving Justice Honoree at the recent Legal Aid Society dinner and all her efforts in the field of law.

XI. Guest Comments

XII. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Monday, June, 10, 2024- 8 AM
Robert Weisman Governmental Center
Office of Finance and Budget Management Conference (OFMB)
Room - 7th Floor 301 N. Olive Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL 33401