



PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION SUMMARY MINUTES

Monday, March 28, 2022 – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Palm Beach County Convention Center, Rooms 1DE
650 Okeechobee Boulevard
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Members Present

Joseph Abruzzo, Clerk & Comptroller of the 15th Judicial Circuit
Dave Aronberg, 15th Judicial Circuit State Attorney
Marcia Andrews, PBC School Board
Sheldon Burkett, Drug Enforcement Agency
Barbara Cheives, Converge & Associates
Rachel Docekal, Lyrae Group, LLC
George Elmore, Hardrives of Delray
Lawrence Gordon, PBC League of Cities
Carey Haughwout, 15th Judicial Public Defender
Joseph Ianno, Jr., Florida Power & Light Company
Eric Jester, ASAC, FL Department of Law Enforcement
Randolph Johnson, Sr., Communications by Johnson
Reverend Kevin Jones, Clergy
Dave Kerner, PBC BOCC, District 3
Kathleen Kroll, Admin Juvenile Judge, 15th Judicial
Christina Morrison, Christina Morrison, P.A.
Matt Pawlowski, Next Era Energy
Gregory Starling, Chief Probation Officer, FL Dept. of Juvenile Justice
Lauren Whetstone, Greenberg Traurig, P.A.

Guests Attending

Ricky Aiken, Inner City Innovators
Norman Austin, Inner City Innovators
Dave Bernhardt, BOCC, District 3
Angela Bess, PBC School District
Nicole Bishop, PBC Public Safety
Emily Blaylock, PBC Community Partners
Jaime-Lee Bradshaw, PBC Community Partners
Sean Brammer, FAU Police Department
Marie Charleus, PBC Behavioral Health Coalition
Keith Clinkscale, OFMB, Strategic Planning
Robert Crawford, Veterans Affairs Police
Michelle Cruz, PBC Court Administration
Barbara Dawicke, PBC Court Administration
Frank DeMario, Deputy Chief, PBSO
David England, Jupiter Police Department
Tammy Fields, PBC Youth Services
Marc Freeman, State Attorney's Office
William Freeman, Dialogue to Change Presenter
Barbara Gerlock, Mental Health Consultant
Josephine Gon, Jewish Federation of PBC
Michael Gregory, Boynton Beach Police Chief
Latronda Hayes, PBC Public Safety/Justice Services
Talmedge Hayes, PBC Public Affairs/Graphics Division
Richard Jones, Ocean Ridge Police Department
Kevin Lawson, Dialogue to Change Presenter
Jenica Lopez, Public Defender, 15th Judicial Circuit
Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office

Members Absent

Frank Adderley, Police Chief, City of West Palm Beach
Ric Bradshaw, PBC Sheriff's Office
William Dames, PBC Chiefs of Police Association
Douglas Duncan, Roth & Duncan, P.A.
Michelle Johns, Administrator, Dept. of Corrections
Glenn Kelley, Chief Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Nellie King, Attorney, PB Association
of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Christopher Orcinolo, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms
and Explosives
Gerald Richman, Fisher, Potter, Hodas LLC
Stephen Stepp, Police Chiefs Association
Sivashree Sundaram, U.S. Attorney's Office
Matthew Willhite, PBC Legislative Delegation

CJC Staff Present

Dawn -Davenport, Criminal Justice Analyst
Regenia Herring, Executive Director
Damir Kukec, Manager, Research & Planning
Rosalind Murray, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Allison Orr, Administrative Assistant
Katherine Shover, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Candee Villapando, Criminal Justice Analyst
Bert Winkler, Manager, Program Development

Other Palm Beach County Staff Present

Todd Bonlarron, Assistant County Administrator
Dorritt Miller, Assistant County Administrator
Jean Williams, Assistant County Attorney

Domenic Macri, Dialogue to Change Presenter
Kenya C. Madison, Healthier Together, Delray Beach
Sarah Malega, Lake Worth Beach Commissioner
Marsha Martino, PBC NAMI
Marcela Millet, OFMB, Strategic Planning
Sarah Mooney, City of West Palm Beach Police Dept.
Rose Newbold-Biffo, Dialogue to Change Presenter
Nathan Osgood, Riviera Beach Police Department
Keith Oswald, PBC School District
Ricky Petty, Healthier Together, Boynton Beach
Richard Radcliffe, PBC League of Cities
Cheo Reid, State Attorney's Office
Dallisa Rodriguez-Green, School District of Palm Beach
County/Dept. of Safe School-Justice Programs
Corey Saban, Facilitator, CS Media
Javaro Sims, Chief of Police, Delray Beach
Dave Talley, PBC CareerSource
Brett Taylor, Center for Court Innovations
Jane Tierney, Catalyst for Change
Louis Tomeo, Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller
Becky Walker, S. Florida Behavioral Health
Management
Craig Williams, State Attorney's Office, 15th Judicial
Circuit
Ketley Blaze-Williams, Founder and Owner of Can We
Talk

- I. Chairman Kevin L. Jones called the meeting to order and extended a welcome to members and guests, and turned the meeting over to Vice-Chair Rachel Docekal.
- II. Vice-Chair Docekal thanked the participants for coming, and thanked the individuals who worked on the advance planning who gave their time to bring the agenda together. She listed the objectives of the meeting:
 1. To determine the focus and direction of the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC);
 2. Set priorities for that work; and to
 3. Have all members participate in priority setting.
- III. Chairman Jones introduced Executive Director Regenia Herring who welcomed all and introduced Dr. Barbara Gerlock from the CJC's Law Enforcement Planning Council (LEPC) School & Community Safety subcommittee. Dr. Gerlock presented a PowerPoint overview on school and community safety titled "*A Snapshot on Juvenile Justice and School Safety*". Dr. Gerlock's presentation addressed juvenile violence as a public health issue and recommended funding strategies and programming to enhance successful outcomes for youth. Significant progress was cited over the last two decades in developing a system of care for youth. The snapshot is intended to show where the County currently is, the initiatives currently in place, and recommendations for continuing development.
- IV. Executive Director Herring introduced the SJC Community Engagement initiative "Dialogue to Change" project, which the County contracted Community Partners of South Florida (CPSF) to manage. She introduced Ms. Jaime-Lee Bradshaw, Chief Strategy Officer with CPSF to give an overview of the project. Ms. Bradshaw said

these nine dialogue communities began after the series of nine public Policing Forums, which began in late July 2020 through 2021. The Dialogues involved over 170 participants who worked in over 45 sessions to complete the nine community actions summarized below. Ms. Bradshaw introduced the first video presentation.

1. **Northern Palm Beach County** - Mr. Domenic Macri, representing Northern Palm Beach County (Jupiter to Lake Park) said his community hosted discussions between returning citizens, policymakers, and service organizations to provide feedback on current and proposed policies inclusive of the whole community. **The action/ask: Get Reentry information to individuals upon intake.**
2. **Riviera Beach & West Palm Beach** - Ms. Arlene Griffiths, resident and staff of the PBC Public Safety/Reentry Services and participant, spoke of her experience exploring reentry opportunities that would ensure a smooth transition for individuals returning to society from incarceration. She said it was a privilege to participate and observed a shared vision for a safer community. As a resident of West Palm Beach, Ms. Griffiths said she had hope for other communities to be able to create a resource for returning citizens, enabling access to the resources available to them. **The action/ask: Distribute a Returning Citizens Resource Video.**
3. **Lake Worth Beach** – City Commissioner Ms. Sarah Malega, said it was an honor to sit at the table with PBSO, residents, community activists and youth. She said her city is very diverse, and the group realized that not every 911 call involves a crime and there should be more mental health awareness. She said she felt it was imperative that every Lake Worth Beach resident have access to equitable resources, and not to put a stigma on a person because they may need mental health treatment. She said the group decided a partnership with PBSO to make a mental/behavioral health specialist available on a 911 call was their priority. **The action/ask: Explore & Implement a Mental Health Pilot Program.**
4. **Boynton Beach** – Resident and Healthier Boynton Beach Director Ricky Petty said his group realized there were great cultural differences between the community and law enforcement, and the result being people are operating in a hopeless mindset. Residents need to have a better understanding of the work Law Enforcement does and Law Enforcement needs to become culture competent. Mental health and racism were overarching issues and education is needed to address them. **The action/ask: Identify programs to improve Community Relations.**
5. **Delray Beach** – Ms. Rose Newbold-Biffo, an Assessment Manager with Prime Time Palm Beach County, and Co-Chair of Healthier Delray Beach, said being a participant in the group allowed her to think about the state of our communities as a former law enforcement officer. She said the group discussed ideas on how to make all private and public decision makers aware of the history of the communities they serve. She said if residents are not educated, law enforcement can use law at their discretion. The consensus of the group is there is a major problem and leaders should be educated. **The action/ask: Encourage decision makers to attend the Racial Equity Institute.**
6. **West Boynton, Delray & Boca** – Ms. Ketley Blaze-Williams, a resident of Boynton Beach, small business owner and a citizen in search of racial healing, understanding and reconciliation. Gave an overview of the thoughtful and collective experience she had with her dialogue group. She said her group had meaningful dialogues with participation of youth law enforcement and residents from the western areas of Delray, Boynton Beach and Boca Raton. **The action/ask: Use youth/officer videos to create a social media campaign.**
7. **Royal Palm Beach, Acreage, Wellington and Loxahatchee (RAWL)** – The RAWL group said they talked about the lack of information access necessary for court information, concluding that people with less access are overrepresented in the jails. **The action/ask: Pilot an ICard Distribution Program and Evaluate its Impact.**
8. **The Glades** – William Freeman, a father and returning citizen, said he participated in two of the dialogue groups, Riviera Beach and the Glades. In the Glades, his group determined it was most important to bring reentry into the Glades area. **The action/ask: Seed a reentry program within the Glades community.**

9. **Palm Beach County School District** – Ms. Emily Blaylock, a Program Coordinator with Community Partners and a recent graduate of Palm Beach Atlantic University, said she was honored to spend time with Law Enforcement, parents and community members discussing the problem of second chance opportunities for youth. **The action/ask: Develop a unified restorative justice program for Palm Beach County.**

Ms. Jaime-Lee Bradshaw thanked all participants in the Dialogue to Change Project, and the Criminal Justice Commission for continuing to honor community voices. She recognized Mr. Kevin Lawson, videographer and owner of KVL Media, for filming and editing the nine videos in a short period of time.

V. **CJC Member Thoughts on Presentations**

1. Chairman Jones and Director Herring presented Ms. Jaime-Lee Bradshaw and Ms. Barbara Cheives with acknowledgements of appreciation for their work on the Dialogue to Change project. Mr. Matthew Sagacity-Walker and Ms. Gwen Wright of Everyday Democracy were also acknowledged; however they were unable to attend.
2. Director Herring gave an overview of the dialogue/forum work that began in June 2020 after the murder of George Floyd. She recognized Chief Sean Brammer and Chief Javaro Sims for spearheading the effort to engage law enforcement in the project.

VI. **CJC At Work**

1. Vice-Chair Docekal introduced Mr. Corey Saban as the facilitator of the meeting. He specializes in leading groups to open conversation, leading to actionable results. Started weeks before the meeting, he had conversations with various CJC members to get an idea of what they perceive the focus of the CJC should be.
2. Mr. Saban started a dialogue with the CJC members asking them what the perceived purpose and objectives are for the CJC going forward.

Member Discussions:

1. Vice-Chair Docekal - The CJC School Safety Initiative has worked to compile as many resources for behavioral health and other community services as possible, the CJC wants to bridge all organizations to ensure they are working together. Vice-Chair Docekal asked to have that added to the agenda, to establish a clearinghouse for information and resources;
2. Systemic racism was a topic Mr. Saban had with CJC members prior to the meeting. How can the CJC study and put into place systems to ensure racial equity;
3. Dr. Marcia Andrews and Chairman Jones said to seek proactively the accessibility to mental health and behavioral health services for parents and students. Continue to seek opportunities to collaborate with community-based organizations – study the use of peer specialists, and coordinate services and inventory of therapists;
4. Barbara Cheives, Community Engagement Team Co-Chair – the Community Engagement subcommittee had put together listings of resources for different communities, and found a gap in communicating these services to those who need them. “Intention v Impact” - the CJC is not representative of the community;
5. Expanding reentry services in various communities with workplace training;
6. Joseph Abruzzo said it is an issue when planning jail beds based on literacy rates in children. Students on psychiatric and psychotropic pharmaceuticals is worsening the consequences of sporadic mental/behavioral health accessibility;
7. Vice-Chair Docekal said HIPPA regulations prevent sharing of health information, the Health Care District needs to be involved in these conversations, as well as SFBHN with funds being distributed. Suggested area

of study: Lee County piloted by Hanley Foundation “Teen Intervene” gives first time substance abuse work with counselor and parents without suspension. School district could pilot such a program;

8. Joe Ianno, funding for mental/behavioral health beds vs. jail;
 9. Deep study into racial inequities, from pre-school to adulthood;
 10. PBC School District has demographic data on underserved communities, with community resident working in subgroups to educate and listen to as a guide for the CJC on issues, starting on a smaller scale. There is a need to establish trust between community leaders and community residents;
 11. Behavioral health grant obtained through the Hanley Foundation focuses on West Palm Beach, which could be a pilot program for PBC; the grant would stipulate a member of the community to be the project director to determine the need, what is lacking, and build into an implementation grant request;
 12. Commissioner Kerner said there is too much fragmentation, lack of clarity and stability in funding. PBC is looking to incorporate the Health Care District Taxing Authority to provide more stability through ad valorem dollars called “ROSC (Recovery Oriented System of Care) Model” which is focused care instead of seeking random providers.
- VII. Mr. Brett Taylor, Safety & Justice Challenge (SJC) Coordinator for the MacArthur Foundation, said the common theme of all SJC sites is equity and pretrial populations, those who needlessly sit in jail for short time periods for reasons such as technical violations. He said the PBC pretrial population is sky high, the criminal justice system needs to work on getting support and services to get them out of jail faster. He noted the mental health crisis in the country, most SJC sites continue to have local jails as the biggest mental health facilities; it is a sad commentary on society today. Equity, pretrial populations and mental health is the focus of the MacArthur Foundation’s SJC Sustainability Grant.

Other issues stemming from member and public conversations: Tribalism, overrepresentation of minorities in pretrial programs, implementation of projects, communication of data, programs and information to the public, continued use of racial equity lens in all projects, beds for mental/behavioral health crisis individuals instead of jails, listen to communities to bridge the gap between law enforcement and residents. Take CJC meetings to the public, so that its work is more accessible to the communities, possibly three times a year.

CJC Members specific priority requests:

1. Create a clearinghouse of resources, including which nonprofits offer services and how to access these services.
2. Understanding who is being served, most of the Public Defender’s clients are not eligible for services that are typically available. The question is, if not, why not and how to correct the deficiency.
3. Racial Equity and demographics focus throughout all the CJC’s work to ensure the community voice is heard and considered.
4. Returning Citizen and/or a HealthCare District member should be added to the CJC Board, by revision of CJC Ordinance and Bylaws.
5. Social workers and mental health workers assigned to assist municipal law enforcement on homelessness calls.
6. More connection and collaboration with the Reentry Task Force.
7. Make recommendations to the BOCC to establish a Youth Reentry program, with support from community and the Department of Juvenile Justice.
8. ID Card Program to help reduce recidivism, the CJC can do a cost analysis for law enforcement dissemination and the commitment to use it.
9. More progress on Racial Equity is needed. However, full commitment from system players is lacking, and until all have an understanding that perceptions are different based on race and admit there is a problem, no work can go forward.

VIII. SUMMARY AND CLOSING:

Mr. Corey Saban said he heard a lot of great dialogue from both CJC members and the public and he looks forward to the work the CJC intends for the future.

Executive Director Herring recognized the CJC staff for their work in assisting her. She said it was a great idea to involve the public more in the CJC, and recognized all the participants in the Dialogue to Change Program. She also recognized PBSO Captain Foley for his work in prevention, intervention and response through the School Safety Initiative subcommittee and State Attorney Dave Aronberg recognized his staff attending, and said his main priority is mental and behavioral health.

Chairman Kevin L. Jones closed the meeting with thanks to all those who attended and thanks to the CJC staff.

MINUTES REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION:

_____ **DATE:** _____
Christina Morrison, CJC Secretary