

PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
Full CJC Committee Meeting
933 45th Street
West Palm Beach, Florida 33407

MINUTES

Monday, February 26, 2024 – 8:00 a.m.

Members Present

Carey Haughwout, Public Defender, 15th Judicial Circuit
Darcy Davis, CEO, Healthcare District of Palm Beach County
Derek Gibson, Circuit Administrator, Florida Department of Corrections
Demetrios Thomas, Special Agent Supervisor at Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Earnie Ellison, Managing Partner, Ellison Consulting Group, LLC
Glenn Kelley, Chief Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Gregory Starling, Chief Probation Officer, Circuit 15, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
Reverend Kevin Jones, Clergy, and former CJC Chair
Lauren Whetstone, FPL Energy Services, Inc., and CJC Vice-Chair (**phone**)
Lawrence Gordon, Palm Beach County League of Cities
Maria Antuna, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Marcia Andrews, Palm Beach County School Board Member & CJC Treasurer
Marty Perry, CEO, Perry & Taylor, P.A.
Matt Pawlowski, Next Era Energy, and CJC Secretary
Michael Barnett, County Commissioner
Michelle Suskauer, Attorney, Diamond Kaplan & Rothstein, P.A.
Dr. Rachel Docekal, CEO, Hanley Foundation, and CJC Chair
Randolph K. Johnson, Sr., CEO of Communications by Johnson

Members Absent

Anthony LaCosta, Asst. US Attorney, WPB
Vacant, Representative, PBC Chiefs of Police Association
Dave Aronberg, State Attorney, 15th Judicial Circuit
Frank Adderley, Chief, West Palm Beach Police Department
Joseph Abruzzo, Clerk of the PBC Circuit Court & Comptroller
Julia Dattolo, President/CEO, CareerSource PBC
Katherine Waldron, State Representative, District 92
Kathleen Kroll, Administrative Judge, Juvenile Division
Nellie King, Attorney, PBC Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Ric Bradshaw, Palm Beach County Sheriff

Guests Attending

Alfonso Starling, Captain Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Andrea Rocha, Clerk and Comptroller's Office
Christopher Thomas, CJC Nominee, Student, Palm Beach State College

Helene Hvizd, Palm Beach County Attorney
Jackson Mack, Court Administration
Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office
Karen Hansen, CJC Nominee, Founder/Principal at in.design, Inc.
Keelie Hanley, Commissioner Barnett's Office
Latronda Hayes, City of Riviera Beach
Laura Hanley, Commissioner Barnett's Office
Leah Wilhoit, CJC Nominee, Student, Palm Beach Atlantic University
Oswald Newbold, CJC Nominee, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach
Shania Grant, CJC Nominee, Student, Florida Atlantic University
Shantel Drayton, Manager of Court Services, Public Safety
Stephanie Sejnoha, Director of Palm Beach County Public Safety
Todd Bonlarron, PBC Assistant County Administrator
Vanessa Klein, CJC Nominee, Director of Reentry Services, The Lord's Place

CJC Staff Present

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

- I. Meeting called to order – *Dr. Rachel Docekal, Chair***
Chair, Dr. Docekal, called the meeting to order.
- II. Roll Call – *Katherine Shover, CJC Systems Manager***
Systems Manager, Shover, called the roll, and determined there was a quorum.
- III. Approval and/or corrections to Agenda**
The Chair, Dr. Docekal, opened the floor for a motion to approve the Agenda. The Chair entertained a motion to approve the Agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnett, seconded by Treasurer, Marcia Andrews, and passed unanimously. The agenda was approved unanimously.
- IV. Approval and/or corrections to Minutes dated January 24, 2024**
Chair, Dr. Docekal, opened the floor for a motion to approve the Minutes. A motion was made by Maria Antuna, seconded by Lawrence Gordon, and passed unanimously.
- V. Chair's Comments**
 - A.** Criminal Justice Commission and Palm Beach County staff attended the Memorial Service for Trooper Zachary Fink, Florida Highway Patrol on Monday, February 12, 2024.

- Chair, Dr. Docekal, requested a moment of silence to recognize the passing of Florida Highway Patrol Trooper Zachary Fink.
- B. Congratulations to Chief Deputy Frank DeMario, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office on his retirement and to Chief Clint Shannon, Palm Beach Gardens Police Department on his upcoming retirement.
 - Chair, Dr. Docekal, congratulated both Officers on their service and retirement.
- C. The Critical Intervention Mapping Workshop will be held March 12 - 13, 2024 at Palm Beach State College.
 - Chair, Dr. Docekal, mentioned the event and how the CJC is proud to support this event and is sponsoring lunch.
- D. A mini Citizens' Criminal Justice Academy will be held at the Vista Center March 7th through March 28th from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM (*see attachment*).
 - Chair, Dr. Docekal, reminded individuals of the upcoming event.
 - The Chair also invited attending guests the opportunity to introduce themselves.

VI. Updates

- A. Riviera Beach Police Department's Trailblazers Palm Beach County (PBC) Interview Series Featuring Special Guest Dave Aronberg, PBC State Attorney will be held on Thursday, February 29, 2024 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM at the Riviera Beach Marina Village (*see attachment*) – *Chief Michael Coleman and Serena Spates, Public, Information Officer, Riviera Beach Police Department*
 - Serena Spates discussed their new live interview series that highlights people making positive impacts in Palm Beach County, guests are welcome to attend the first series event directly mentioned above. If any members of the CJC know of a trailblazer they'd like to suggest to Ms. Spates, they can do so by contacting her directly (Sspates@rbpublicsafety.org/ (561.635.8748)).
- B. Jorge Garrido was nominated by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of PBC and the Black Chamber of Commerce of PBC nominated Leontyne Brown. Their respective appointments are scheduled for the March 5 and March 12, 2024 Board of County Commissioner meetings. – *Todd Bonlarron, Assistant County Administrator*
 - PBC Assistant County Administrator, Mr. Bonlarron, named the Black and Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Nominees. The Nominees names will go directly before the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) for ratification which is scheduled respectfully for March 5 and 12th, 2024. Hopefully, the Nominees will be sworn in and on boarded at our March 25th, 2024 Meeting. Anyone with questions can feel free to contact Mr. Bonlarron.
- C. Bond Schedule Evaluation Request – *Todd Bonlarron, Assistant County Administrator*

- Mr. Bonlarron stated he spoke with Jennifer Copp of Florida State University and Chief Judge Kelley regarding concerns members brought up regarding impacts of the new Bond Schedule and the potential for a boarder study which may boasts better outcomes (boarder v. localized); there is grant funding available that could ensure a deeper dive evaluation of the Bond Schedule and its impact(s) on the criminal justice system.
 - Chief Judge Kelley stated more time is needed to prior to conducting an evaluation to obtain better outcomes.
- D. Path to College Visit and Presentation to the CJC at the March 25th meeting (*see attachment*) –*Todd Bonlarron, Assistant County Administrator*
 - Mr. Bonlarron discussed the Path to College purpose and their upcoming Civics Day. The Executive Committee has been briefed on this as we plan to host these students in the morning to begin their day (watching our meeting and having an opportunity to present to the CJC a pending community-based issue(s) they’ve decided to tackle with solutions they’ve developed to address the issue(s). Members are open to remain after the CJC Meeting to meet with these students as well.
 - *Students will engage in a mock county commission meeting to work through an Agenda, will learn about Palm Beach County’s transportation system and more as a part of their Civics Day.*

VII. Old Business

- A. CJC Executive Director search update – *Todd Bonlarron, Assistant County Administrator*
 - Mr. Bonlarron thanked the CJC Staff and Chair, Dr. Docekal, for their hard work in the day to day issues of running the CJC and reminded everyone that this is a publicly open process (public can make comments, other interviewers are able to sit on each other’s interviews, etc.). The Selection Committee has met twice to date and will meet directly after today’s CJC Full Meeting. The initial round of interviews took place (44 applicants narrowed down to seven (7)). A Q&A was conducted with those seven (7) and four (4) applicants are slated to return for an in-person interview that will be a deeper dive into the position.
 - Mr. Bonlarron thanked the Selection Committee for their commitment to the process as well. The four (4) applicants are:
 - Vaughn Crichlow
 - Damir Kukec
 - Angelique Paquette
 - Frank Briganti

VIII. New Business

- A. CJC Nomination Committee Selections – *Dr. Rachel Docekal, CJC Chair (see attachment)*

- Over the past week the Nominating Committee interviewed the following candidates for new Board Members:
 - i. Seat 32 – Returning Citizen: Oswald Newbold
 - ii. Seat 33 – Crime Survivor: Karen Hansen
 - iii. Seat 34 – Youth 17-22 years old: Shania Grant
 - iv. Seat 35 – At Large: Vanessa Klein
 - No discussion nor questions were made concerning the Nominees. A motion to recommend the nominees was made by Michelle Suskauer, seconded by Treasurer, Marcia Andrews, and passed unanimously. Chief Judge Kelley will swear the new members in after the recommendations are approved by the BOCC.
 - Chair, Dr. Docekal, also thanked the nominees for their interest in the CJC and recognized those who were not selected for recommendation to the BOCC.
- B. Drug Abuse Trust Fund Proposal for Increase in Transfer to Public Safety of \$5,000 in Fiscal Year 2025 – *Jackson Mack, PBC Drug Court Manager***
- Court Manager, Mr. Mack, proposed a \$5,000 adjustment in their programming for the implementation of a sliding fee scale for Drug Court participants entering into their program. As they are working with participants on job placement, they have noticed that their \$20/week admission fee is a barrier to program participants. He proposed a 90 day freeze on the accruing fee with no impact on the participant’s ability to job search for ultimate job placement.

Questions, Answers and Comments:

1. **Chair, Dr. Docekal:** Will data be tracked in this program to see the impact of the sliding fee scale and how will the tracking of that data look?
Jackson Mack: Yes, data will be tracked for those purposes, but currently participants have not been tracked (as far as employment is concerned). They were able to “run some information” to discover that most unemployed participants were not able to pay their fees for quite some time. In the future, they’ll track why the participants aren’t able to pay the fee once the sliding fee scale is implemented.
2. **Secretary, Matt Pawlowski:** How many people are currently impacted?
Mr. Mack: Currently there are around 80 participants.
Earnie Ellison: For procedural purposes on incoming request, is there a paper trail to the process that identifies these participants?
Stephanie Sejnoha: The \$20 fee is through Court Administration. If approved, this would be a part of FY 2025 Budget, but again is required to be approved by the CJC to adjust the revenue and increase the transfer from the Drug Abuse Trust Fund in order to support the offset of the loss of the deferred 90 days in payment for said participants. The recommendation will go before the BOCC and be adopted in September of 2025 for the FY2025 Budget, but the CJC must approve the recommendation prior to the BOCC approving.
 - Treasurer, Marcia Andrews made a motion to approve the recommendation, it was seconded by Carey Haughwout and unanimously approved.

C. CJC Committee Work Plan (see attachment)

- Mr. Bonlarron went over each section in the 2023-2025 Work Plan. He mentioned the S.W.O.T. Analysis (identified strategic priorities along with various objectives to complete) and opened the floor for any comments, questions or concerns.

Questions, Answers and Comments:

1. **Ms. Haughwout:** Has the behavioral health task force been formed, who's the Chair, what's the membership (as she is interested in having representation on the Task Force) and hopes that all of the major stakeholders in the criminal justice system are potentially present?

Chair, Dr. Docekal: Provided an overview of how the Behavioral Health Task Force came to fruition.

Ms. Caveness-Davenport: The Chair is Captain Randy Foley and the Vice-Chair is Ms. Lisa Taylor Williams. The membership list has not gone out yet and CJC Staff will send out an email for interested parties to respond if they are interested in becoming a member of the Task Force.

Past Chair, Rev. Jones: We should reach out to groups from the Belle Glade and Delray Beach areas as well based on the Intercept Mapping completed in the past (individuals from the health and labor communities were present and we don't want to miss their voices).

2. **Ms. Haughwout:** The Court Systems Task Force (CSTF) has not met for years... is there a Chair, and along those lines... I don't see anything [referring to S.W.O.T.] for the Public Safety Coordinating Council which was a part of the Corrections Task Force; one of the most helpful task forces in keeping the board updated on jail data.

CJC RPU Manager, Mr. Damir Kukec: A meeting was scheduled with who is the current Chair of the CSTF, Judge Bristow, and she was unable to attend, but Mr. Kukec will circle back to Judge Bristow and schedule a meeting to reconvene the Task Force.

3. **Ms. Haughwout:** Is the Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) separate from or a part of the CJC? If it's separate from the CJC then why are CJC Staff involved in it?

Ms. Caveness-Davenport: The PSCC, is a continuation of the Corrections Task Force (CTF), is a separate board from the CJC, which is currently working on their work plan (to be completed at their next meeting). They will keep the CJC updated on their work.

Chair, Dr. Docekal: Will look at the PSCC historically and obtain more information to bring back to the CJC to fully answer Carey's question (speak with CJC Staff and the Assistant County Administrator, Mr. Bonlarron).

Mr. Bonlarron: Added this topic (the PSCC and its existence) will be discussed at the upcoming CJC Executive Meeting on Mar 11, 2024 at 8am. From there, the CJC will be provided with an update on the PSCC. (Mr. Bonlarron provided a brief historical snapshot on why the PSCC was created (obtain funding) and how the Florida Legislature impacts how the board operates.

4. **Mr. Ellison:** Will the new Executive Director (E.D.) be in support of/implement the current S.W.O.T.? He believes that the new E.D. must take ownership of the S.W.O.T. in order for it to be effective.

Mr. Bonlarron: We're moving forward with many of the projects identified on the S.W.O.T. and plan to bring the new E.D. up to speed on those plans to ensure a smooth transition moving forward. They will be able to bring in new ideas/directions to the CJC as well. He also mentioned other objectives they hope for the new E.D. to work on as well (more engagement on the Board of County Commissioners with hopes of change based on our research).

Secretary, Mr. Pawlowski: Mentioned the work over the past 1 ½ to 2 years put into creating the Work Plan and acknowledged that the current Work Plan is clearer, an advancement in the CJC maturing in the understanding of their work/responsibility. He expects for the E.D. to potentially make some adjustment to the Work Plan with the hope they make it their own.

5. **Treasurer, Ms. Andrews:** Thanked the CJC for their continual support with the youth population and wants to ensure they are represented in our Work Plan as well. Ultimately, she believes the CJC is doing better with this effort and is appreciative youth voices are being heard. She also extolled the new location for the CJC Full Meeting

6. **Maria Antuna:** Thanked staff putting the S.W.O.T. together and inquired on how are we dividing or subdividing all of the projects on the S.W.O.T. (committees, staff, etc.).

Chair, Dr. Docekal: Reminded everyone that the S.W.O.T. was created through a Community-Based, is the vision of the community and doesn't want the CJC to lose sight of that while CJC members may see staff members/committees working on the identified objectives. She thanked Mr. Bonlarron on the amount of time he's put into providing her with guidance and reminded the board that CJC Staff are meeting weekly to discuss the S.W.O.T., ensuring these projects stay on track.

Mr. Bonlarron: A number of internal staff are assigned to each of these projects to move them forward and staff have internal documents that directly correlate to the S.W.O.T. and achieving its objectives. He also mentioned other community partners that are invested in this work to help us in achieving our S.W.O.T. goals as well; some of this detailed information will be shared at our next CJC Meeting.

Ms. Haughwout: Will we go back to having specific staff assigned to the task forces and will we be told who they are, they just seem to appear at meetings (she isn't sure who's responsible)?

Chair, Dr. Docekal: That's currently taking place, there are designated staff to each committee/task force.

IX. **Adjournment-** Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: Monday, March 25, 2024- 8:00 a.m.

Hanley Center

(Note: Sits Directly West of St. Mary's Hospital off 45th St.)

933 45th Street

West Palm Beach, FL 33407