

PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
Full CJC Committee Meeting
559 North Military Trail, Room & A & B
West Palm Beach, Florida 33415

MINUTES

Monday, March 25, 2024 – 8:00 a.m.

Members Present

Carey Haughwout, Public Defender, 15th Judicial Circuit
Derek Gibson, Circuit Administrator, Florida Department of Corrections
Glenn Kelley, Chief Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Jorge Garrido, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Kathleen Kroll, Administrative Judge, Juvenile Division
Reverend Kevin Jones, Clergy, and former CJC Chair
Lauren Whetstone, FPL Energy Services, Inc., and CJC Vice-Chair
Lawrence Gordon, Palm Beach County League of Cities
Leontyne Brown, Black Chamber of Commerce
Maria Antuna, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Marcia Andrews, Palm Beach County School Board Member & CJC Treasurer
Marty Perry, CEO, Perry & Taylor, P.A.
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

Darcy Davis, CEO, Healthcare District of Palm Beach County
Demetrios Thomas, Special Agent Supervisor at Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Dave Aronberg, State Attorney, 15th Judicial Circuit
Erin Hand, County Administration
Frank Adderley, Chief, West Palm Beach Police Department
Gregory Starling, Chief Probation Officer, Circuit 15, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
Joseph Abruzzo, Clerk of the PBC Circuit Court & Comptroller
Julia Dattolo, President/CEO, CareerSource PBC
Katherine Waldron, State Representative, District 92
Nellie King, Attorney, PBC Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Michael Barnett, County Commissioner
Ric Bradshaw, Palm Beach County Sheriff
Earnie Ellison, Managing Partner, Ellison Consulting Group, LLC
Matt Pawlowski, Next Era Energy, and CJC Secretary (**Phone**)
Vacant, Representative, PBC Chiefs of Police Association

Guests Attending

Aracely Mateo, Path to College Student
Arlene Griffiths, Palm Beach County Public Safety Department

Ayman Najhi, Path to College Student
Bryan Felix, Path to College Student
Bryan Means Jr., Path to College Student
Christine Sylvain, Path to College
Craig Williams, Assistant State Attorney
Da’Naja Dellue, Path to College Student
Daniela Buenrostro, Path to College Student
Daniela Romero, Path to College Student
Georgena Elma, Path to College Student
Helene Hvizd, Palm Beach County Attorney
Jaime Akkusu, Path to College Student
Jallaine Marie Millare, Path to College Student
Jamie-Lee Bradshaw, Chief Strategy Officer, Community Partners of South Florida
James Green, Director of Community Services Department
Jessica Hidalgo, Palm Beach County Public Safety Department
Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender’s Office
Livery Garcia-Avelar, Path to College Student
Melissa Neider, Path to College Student
Mohammad Farha, Path to College Student
Nicholas Black, Path to College Student
Shania Grant, CJC Nominee, Student, Florida Atlantic University
Shantel Drayton, Manager of Court Services, Public Safety
Shirley Luna-Momotoc, Path to College Student
Shayanne Saht-Thelus, Path to College Student
Stephanie Sejnoha, Director of Palm Beach County Public Safety
Terriana Polynice, Path to College Student
Theresa Dorval, Path to College Student
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. A motion was made by Maria Antuna, seconded by Michelle Suskauer, and passed unanimously.

IV. Approval and/or corrections to Minutes dated February 26, 2024

Chair, Dr. Docekal, opened the floor for a motion to approve the Minutes. A motion was made by Maria Antuna, seconded by Rev. Kevin Jones, and passed unanimously.

V. Chair's Comments

- A.** Congratulations and welcome to Jorge Garrido, PBC Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and Leontyne Brown, PBC Black Chamber of Commerce.
- B.** Florida Atlantic University School of Criminology and Criminal Justice would like to invite CJC members to attend the Women in Corrections virtual panel that is being held on Tuesday March 26th from 6-7 PM. (*see attachment*).
- C.** Congratulations to Damir Kukec, Research and Planning Unit Manager, Rosalind Murray, Community Engagement Coordinator, and Katherine Shover, Criminal Justice Systems Manager, for 15 years of service to the Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission.
- D.** Laurie Garduque, Director of Criminal Justice, MacArthur Foundation, and Brett Taylor, JD, Director, Center for Justice Innovation, will attend the April 22nd CJC meeting and conduct a site visit from April 22-23, 2024.
- E.** Narcan presentation by EMS Division Chief Timothy Alvin from the City of Riviera Beach will be held at the April 22nd CJC meeting at the Hanley Center.
- F.** Now I Have My Key”: The Impact of Housing Stability on Recovery and Recidivism Reduction Using a Recovery Capital Framework research findings and Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant and Substance Use program presentation by PBC Community Services Director II James Green and Senior Program Manager John Hulick will be held at the April 22nd CJC meeting at the Hanley Center.
 - Chair, Dr. Docekal, reminded everyone that the regular CJC Full Meeting will be held at the Hanley Center moving forward; there was a scheduling issue that has been resolved. This will be a great follow up presentation to the one provided last fall by Darcy Davis and Dr. Andric of the Health Care District of Palm Beach County.

VI. Discussion Items/Updates

- A.** Community Engagement Contract Update – *Todd Bonlarron, Assistant*
 - Addressed a few points of discussion from the last CJC Executive Meeting (March 11, 2024) regarding concerns as to why the Community Engagement Teams contract with Community Partners.
 - Todd, and Jamie Lee Bradshaw of Community Partners, have worked over the past month or so on various components of the contract. While there are concerns over the lack of involvement with law enforcement there is history as to why it has taking some time to have preliminary plans prior to signing the contract. With this knowledge, Todd engaged with several law enforcement officials, including Chief's, around Palm

Beach County to discuss how law enforcement can be reengaged in these conversations. Follow up from the community conversations, and primarily what happens next, was a major concern for law enforcement. Moving forward, there must be better follow up and intentional continuity on items brought forward from these conversations. The factors mentioned will be addressed prior to engaging in another round of community dialogue. Todd will meet with CJC staff to work diligently on the follow up portion to ensure we address those concerns and provide more support.

- Discussed some disconnects between law enforcement and the community discussions taking place...this is to be expected given the gravity of the topics being discussed. Regardless, we must do all that is possible to bring law enforcement back to the table and foster value on both sides that promotes meaningful conversations.
- The MacArthur Foundation and Todd discussed these items and have no issues/concerns with the contract not being signed as of yet. They are aware as to why there has been more strategic conversations prior to signing the contract; next steps moving into the future will be meaningful, impactful and yield outcomes that have been intentionally envisioned. Todd will iron out various matters of interest that will allow for the contract to be signed within the first quarter of the year and is on track to achieve this goal.
- Todd will go over key strategies that he and Jamie- Lee Bradshaw developed in order to address issues of follow up/through moving forward at today's Community Engagement Team meeting scheduled for 12pm.
- The original contract has a four (4) phase component, and the updated contract has a five (5) phase component:
 - **Phase 1-** Implemented from March-July 2024, is called "Reengagement-reengaging law enforcement agencies to recommit to partnership and collaboration."
 - **Phase 2- Board Orientation.** Engaging new and existing board members on the mission, history, structure, and ensuring engagement/relationship building with the entire CJC board.
 - **Phase 3- Reconnecting and assessing** some of the nine (9) regions and those participants perception of the CJC and identifying individuals interested in engaging with our committees and task forces.
 - **Phase 4- Capacity building** that implements participant dialogues that stem from the resident leadership academy.
 - **Phase 5- Sustainability of regional participants** that will support our board and task forces with establishing long-term engagement.
 - Completion of phases one through four will take us through March of 2025.
 - Rev. Jones spoke with Mr. Bonlarron regarding the contract. He supports the plan of action created with Ms. Bradshaw moving forward, appreciates the clarity provided and looks forward to participating however way he can.

Questions, Answers and Comments:

1. **Leontyne Brown:** Would like to understand what took place in the community when the engagement was high?

Jamie-Lee Bradshaw: Guided conversations by Everyday Democracies Dialogue to Change came up as an opportunity for Palm Beach County Residents and Law Enforcement to engage in ongoing dialogues (in the summer of 2021 the death of George Floyd promoted feelings of uncertainty from the public and law enforcement; remote community engagement took place to address these matters with high participation on both sides). There were five (5) weeks of guided dialogue with two (2) facilitators and one (1) scribe in nine (9) regions with an engagement of 172 individuals. Engaging in dialogue for two to three months on how to plan around the identified action steps was the next goal, but while this work was taking place, the contract for Ms. Bradshaw to work on this community engagement was moving closer to being terming and expired on 12/21/21. The CJC was to take those actions steps and disperse them to the most appropriate task forces to move those issues forward, along with continued engagement with the community. Ultimately, Residents had no follow through/ follow up to the work they invested in with law enforcement; that loss was a huge disappointment to those involved. Moving forward there is intentionality around the reengagement and follow through of systemic change that will echo into future decades by way of infusing leadership into existing systems.

Leontyne Brown: Thanked Jamie-Lee for her work and stated that even the Black Chamber of Commerce Social Action Committee, created in a response to social action taking place due the death of George Floyd, became lost after such diligent work was carved out to promote social action (protest, conversations, etc.). Ultimately the Black Chamber of Commerce is highly interested and invested in reengaging in these activities.

VII. Presentations

A. Path to College Visit and Presentation –*Todd Bonlarron, Assistant County Administrator (see attachment)*

- Mr. Bonlarron invited students Georgena Elma, Ayman Najhi and Aracely Mateo with Christine Sylvain from Path to College to present student’s findings/solutions on matters concerning children of incarcerated parents who are falling behind [academically/socially].
 - “Flame of Chance” presentation discussed the needs (support, tutors and mentors), barriers (access to mentors, pro-social activities, resources and continued education), overall impacts (rates of incarceration, elevated issues with mental and behavioral health), and solutions (mentorship, internships, continual support to children of incarcerated parents and collaborating with local organizations/employers to expand available services) to a multitude of cyclical issues plaguing children of incarcerated parents.

Questions, Answers and Comments:

1. **Jorge Garrido:** Points discussed in the presentation are is an issue in the Hispanic community, and finding mentors, specifically male, to address these concerns is difficult. A

collaboration between Path to College and the CJC to research how to bring mentors to the table.

Marcia Andrews: Is committed to supporting Path to College and will speak with the Superintendent of the Palm Beach County School Board to expand on the work (mentorship) she currently partakes in by way of Take Stock in Children to find more mentors. Identifying the students in need of this programming is important on the front end.

2. **Judge Kathleen Kroll:** Does our Public Defender programming identify those sentenced with children connected to the Palm Beach County School Board? There are education liaisons assigned to the to the Juvenile Division in connection with the Palm Beach County School Board; following up with the work they've achieved and looking at sentenced parents who may want services for the children may be a good start. While mentorship may be an issue, this is something that can be established without them at this time to at least connect these children to needed services. In the Juvenile Division literature is provided to parents to connect students with Path to College, a list of non-profits that financially support students in applying to College; the list should be provided to the community. A new program through United Way is being utilized as well by way of infusing trained mentors in difficult cases with children/families, a program funded by Youth Services and Taxpayers.

Carey Haughwout: While information is collected on clients, there is no data on the information discussed nor a tracking system to identify sentenced clients with children in Palm Beach County Schools. Caution should be made due to the sensitive topic of children with incarcerated parents due to stigmas of shame. Identifying these students has to be done in a general way. Sago Palm Reentry Center had a program to reconnect parents and children in a healthy manner, but more can be done. There are some programs under the Department of Juvenile Justice that are not accessible to children. Ultimately, this an area of concern that needs to addressed as firsthand witness to the generational incarceration of many residents.

3. **Maria Antuna:** We have the Black and Hispanic Chamber here along with other organizations...how can we help?

Christine Sylvain: Mentorship is the key ingredient to Path to College and its success. Christine is willing to speak with United Way, as they have a mentor network, to determine how a relationship between the CJC, the school board, Mentor Network Center and Path to College can be created. Students are also in need of internship opportunities to develop hands on experience in various careers.

4. **Michelle Suskauer:** Since we aren't currently collecting data, how do we go about collecting data from incarcerated individuals to truly determine what's needed/going on in our neighborhoods?

5. **Chair, Dr. Docekal:** Does the school board now if a student's parent is incarcerated Ms. Andrews? A Behavioral health Task Force is starting up (meeting is April 23, 2024) and we may make this matter a part of their work; an invitation for Christine to take part in those future conversations was extended.

Ms. Andrews: Not to her knowledge, but she will look into how tracking such data can take place.

Mr. Garrido: The Department of Justice and Corrections track such data and have funded mentorship programs in the past, and continue to do so (Youth Mentoring Grant- housed by the U.S. Department of Justice and managed by the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Program). Broward County, amongst other cities in the state, created a program called “Bigs in Schools” (mentors from Big Brothers Big Sisters mentored and tutored students), but the lack of mentors posed a barrier; work towards receiving those funds and coordination with local agencies/Path to College is needed.

Derek Gibson: Will contact the prison side of the Department of Corrections (DOC) to see if they have any data as suggested by Mr. Garrido. There are also internship programs available through DOC.

Ms. Andrews: Believes the school board should be out front given the fact they interact with students daily. She would like to serve on any committee created for this matter as well.

6. **Ms. Brown:** Is there a relationship with the Divine Nine (Black Fraternities and Sororities) and Path to College to recruit mentors?

Ms. Sylvain: There is a current standing relationship and they also match students with scholarships. There is also a relationship with the Black Chamber of Commerce and Path to College; as members, are last year’s Non-Profit of the Year recipient. We must start tracking this goal [finding mentors] to identify and address areas of concern (run Public Service Announcements, promotions, billboard, etc.).

- B. Jail Trends –Damir Kukec, Research and Planning Manager (see attachment)**
- Presentation was rescheduled for the next Full CJC Meeting due to time constraints.

VIII. Old Business

- A. CJC Executive Director Search Update: Todd Bonlarron, Assistant County Administrator**
- Candidates for the position will be interviewed in person on April, 4, 2024 at the Hanley Center. Candidates will provide presentations based on criteria provided to them and will answer a second round of questions from the Selection Committee. There will hopefully be feedback to the CJC by the next Full CJC Meeting in towards the end of April.
- B. CJC Nomination Selections will be presented at the following Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meetings: Todd Bonlarron, Assistant County Administrator**
- A. Seat 19 – Black Chamber: Leontyne Brown (approved)**
 - B. Seat 20 – Hispanic Chamber: Jorge Garrido (approved)**
 - C. Seat 32 – Returning Citizen: Oswald Newbold (4/9 BOCC Meeting)**
 - D. Seat 33 – Crime Survivor: Karen Hansen (4/9 BOCC Meeting)**
 - E. Seat 34 – Youth 17-22 years old: Shania Grant (4/9 BOCC Meeting)**
 - F. Seat 35 – At Large: Vanessa Klein (4/9 BOCC Meeting)**
- C. Public Safety Coordinating Council and CJC Committee Updates with Assigned Staff Names (see attachment)**
- Staff supporting committees and task forces were provided to members of the board for informative purposes.

IX. New Business

A. Appropriation Letter: *Todd Bonlarron, Assistant County Administrator*

- We were successful in getting into the Legislative Budget this year; we've been fortunate to infuse this appropriation into the budget for the past four to five years. We received \$500,000 this year in the state budget for the "Restore Reentry Program," an initiative that began in 2011 with the CJC and moved under Public Safety in 2014.
- We have provided comprehensive services to over 11,000 individuals who have been released throughout the State of Florida with a goal of reducing recidivism, future victimization, enhance public safety and improved the lives of county residents; the national recidivism rate in 2023 for one year of rearrests is 43% compared to Palm Beach County's 15%, a direct correlation to the reentry services provided to returning residents.
- Chair, Dr. Docekal, moved for a motion to sign the Appropriation Letter. Motion moved by Carey Haughwout, seconded by Rev. Jones, and passed unanimously (will sign at the conclusion of the meeting and hand directly to Mr. Bonlarron).

X. Member Comments

- Ms. Andrews attended last week's Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy (CCJA) and was impressed by the plethora of information provided by 911, 211, the Sheriff's Office CSI unit, to name a few, along with data provided to the public on their dispensed services; a room full of people from all walks of life (age, gender, race, ability, etc.) learned, asked phenomenal questions, and were better informed on work taking place in Palm Beach County on behalf of residents. All are encouraged to meet with residents of the county more to hear their voices and amplify their lives in a positive way.

XI. Public Comments

- Arlene Johnson reminded everyone of "Second Chance Month" during April (a time to bring awareness to the challenges of individuals returning from incarceration). A copy of scheduled events was provided to the CJC and Arlene will email a flier to the Black Chamber of Commerce per Ms. Brown's request (info@blackchamberpbc.com).

XII. Adjournment- Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: Monday, April 22, 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