



**Palm Beach County
Board of County Commissioners
Public Safety Department**

PBC Reentry Task Force's Five Year Strategic Plan 2020 to 2025

Last Updated: April 2021

Mission

To reintegrate individuals returning from incarceration into the community by creating opportunities that reduce recidivism.

Vision

Inspire hope and create inclusion.

Values

- Data-Driven: Decisions dependent on the analysis of data.
- Innovative: Featuring new methods; original and creative in thinking.
- Person-Centered: Treating people as individuals.
- Collaborative: Accomplished by working together with others.
- Equity: Dealing fairly with all concerned.
- Opportunity: A good position, chance or prospect.

PBC Reentry Task Force's Strategic Plan is continually updated to reflect changes in countywide programs. Therefore, this strategic plan is a dynamic, rather than static, document that is subject to modifications and periodic updates. Each subcommittee has an internal work plan with more details about tasks for each objective, performance metrics, lead organizations, and timeline.

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The Palm Beach County Reentry Task Force

Overview

The Palm Beach County (PBC) Reentry Task Force is under the Board of County Commissioners' Public Safety Department - Justice Services Division. The PBC Reentry Task Force is a community coalition that consists of over 40 members from across the local criminal justice system, including representatives from the Public Defender's Office, State Attorney's Office, judges, law enforcement, mental health professionals, substance use professionals, community-based service providers, victim advocates, and people who have lived experiences. There are six subcommittees within the task force: 1) Employment, Training, and Education 2) Sustainability 3) Sexual Offenses 4) Youth Reentry 5) Data and Evaluation, and 6) Housing. The full task force and all subcommittees meet on a quarterly basis.

PBC's reentry system is funded on the local, state, and federal levels. PBC currently contracts with three community-based service providers who use evidence-based practices to work with reentry participants: 1) The City of Riviera Beach Reentry Center, 2) The Lord's Place, Inc. and 3) Gulfstream Goodwill Industries, Inc.

What is Reentry?

The United States accounts for five percent of the world's population, but houses 25 percent of the world's prison population. It costs taxpayers \$18,000 per year to house one adult in the Florida Department of Corrections, \$48,910 per year in the local jail, and \$81,395 per year to house one youth in the Department of Juvenile Justice facilities. People with a criminal history are faced with various obstacles in order to successfully reintegrate back into society, such as finding employment, housing, substance use treatment, and mental health treatment.

Nationally, over 95 percent of people who are sentenced to prison or jail will return back to the community. About two-thirds of these individuals are estimated to be re-arrested within three years. In PBC, about 1,200 adults are released from prison annually and about 120 youth are released from residential commitment facilities annually.

The purpose of the PBC reentry system is to provide various services to returning residents (adults and youth) who are transitioning back to the community after a period of incarceration in jail or prison. This includes case management and client support services. Case management includes conducting validated risk and needs assessments, using motivational interviewing skills, and holding one-on-one meetings with reentry participants. Client support services includes cognitive behavioral programming, pro-social activities, substance use treatment, mental health treatment, housing, employment, family reunification counseling, educational classes, and vocational training for reentry participants.

While PBC's reentry system is data-driven and uses evidence-based practices to inform systems-level changes, more work needs to be done to reduce recidivism and increase successful outcomes for reentry participants. The PBC Reentry Task Force provides advice on these systemic changes.

Ongoing Responsibilities

Coordinate and Facilitate Resources

- Build a coordinated reentry service delivery plan by enhancing existing infrastructure.
- Increase employment opportunities for returning residents.
- Increase opportunities to educate returning residents about services that are provided in the community.
- Facilitate sharing of resources among agencies and service providers.

Maintain and Develop Partnerships

- Identify new partners and determine how and when to bring additional partners into the initiative.
- Maintain the reentry subcommittee structure.
- Work with the Florida Department of Corrections, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office to support returning residents from each system.
- Engage federal, state and local officials.

Evaluate and Implement Changes

- Identify gaps in reentry services and prioritize the needs.
- Map pre-release and post-release services to determine when services are most effectively delivered.
- Annually evaluate reentry programs for effectiveness to determine funding recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners.
- Update the Strategic Plan annually by fine tuning goals and tasks as needed, based on circumstances.

Sustainability of Reentry Services

- Influence policies that allow for more effective transition between pre-release and post-release.
- Identify and seek additional funding opportunities in order to close service gaps.
- Determine feasibility of shifting county/state/federal-funded programming to community-based funding.
- Develop a plan to secure the financial sustainability of reentry services and programs utilizing diverse funding sources.

Overall Intended Outcomes

1. Increase public safety
2. Reduce recidivism rates
3. Decrease number of crime victims
4. Improve quality of life for PBC residents

Voting Members

1. **Chair**, Dr. Angela Bess, PBC School District
2. **Vice-Chair**, Chief Gregory Starling, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
3. John Cohen, League of Cities
4. Julia Dattolo, CareerSource

5. Carey Haughwout, Public Defender
6. Michelle Johns, Florida Department of Corrections
7. Alan Johnson, State Attorney's Office
8. Kevin Jones, City of West Palm Beach Mayor's Office and member of the PBC Criminal Justice Commission
9. Justin Kunzelman, Rebel Recovery Florida, Inc.
10. Marsha Martino, National Alliance on Mental Illness, PBC Chapter
11. Oswald Newbold, Returning Resident
12. Tamara Starks, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office

Advisory Members

1. Dr. Cassandra Atkin-Plunk, Florida Atlantic University
2. Ann Berner, Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network
3. Nicole Bishop, PBC Public Safety Department
4. Orié Bullard, City of Riviera Beach Reentry Center
5. Barbara Cheives, Converge and Associates Consulting
6. Elisa Cramer, Florida Department of Children and Families
7. Adam Davis, PBC Library Department
8. Armando Fana, City of West Palm Beach
9. William Freeman, People of Purpose, Inc.
10. The Honorable Jeff Gillen, 15th Judicial Circuit
11. Robert Graham, True Fast Ministries, Inc.
12. Nikole Konieczny, Palm Beach State College
13. The Honorable Kathleen Kroll, 15th Judicial Circuit
14. Geeta Loach-Jacobson, PBC Youth Services Department
15. Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office
16. Tyrus McCloud, Prison Fellowship
17. Audrey McDonough, Literacy Coalition
18. Serena Marlow, Florida Department of Corrections
19. Dhiny Mercedes, CareerSource
20. Patricia Mikulan, Salvation Army
21. Peter Noel, Alpha & Omega, Inc.
22. Meredith Powers-Lupo, Veteran's Administration
23. Ted Rodarm, Restoration Destination
24. Steven Spaulding, Legal Aid Society of PBC
25. Joe Speicher, South County Mental Health Center
26. Diana Stanley, The Lord's Place, Inc.
27. Alton Taylor, Drug Abuse Foundation
28. Charisse Van Biesen, Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network
29. Laura Waterman, Gulfstream Goodwill Industries, Inc.
30. Bert Winkler, PBC Criminal Justice Commission

Employment, Training, and Education Subcommittee

Objectives

1. Educate employers and city municipalities about Banning the Box.
2. Provide returning residents with educational and training opportunities.
3. Increase number of employers who hire returning residents.

Membership (* = voting member, ** = advisory member)

1. **Chair**, Dhiny Mercedes, CareerSource**
2. **Vice-Chair**, VACANT
3. Cristy Altaro, Court Administration
4. Marcia Bahia, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
5. Orié Bullard, The City of Riviera Beach Reentry Center**
6. Barbara Cheives, Converge and Associations Consulting**
7. Julia Dattolo, CareerSource*
8. Wenfred Dorsey, The Lord's Place, Inc.
9. Maria Figueroa, PBC Human Resources Department
10. The Honorable Jeff Gillen, 15th Judicial Circuit
11. Shahzia Jackson, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
12. Nikole Konieczny, Palm Beach State College**
13. Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office**
14. Marsha Martino, National Alliance on Mental Illness, PBC Chapter*
15. Jeff McGinley, Florida Training Services, Inc.
16. Michael Morrell, Gulfstream Goodwill Industries, Inc.
17. Raynisha Perry, CareerSource
18. Jim Rhoads, The Lord's Place, Inc.
19. Gary Ross, Allies in Leadership
20. Shirlon St. Amour, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
21. Tamara Starks, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office*
22. Laura Waterman, Gulfstream Goodwill Industries, Inc.**
23. Mark Williams, ENACCS
24. Melissa Wise, United Way of PBC
25. Maggie Witherow, Restoration Destination

Sustainability Subcommittee

Objectives

1. Identify funding sources to sustain current reentry services and develop enhancements.
2. Raise awareness about reentry barriers and successes among policymakers, community leaders, private sector, and the media.
3. Implement and evaluate innovative programs that reduce recidivism.

Membership (* = voting member, ** = advisory member)

1. **Chair**, Diana Stanley, The Lord's Place, Inc.**
2. **Vice-Chair**, Tamara Starks, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office*
3. Nicole Bishop, PBC Public Safety Department**
4. Orié Bullard, The City of Riviera Beach Reentry Center**
5. Adam Davis, PBC Library Department**
6. Natalie Dixon-Williams, Florida Department of Corrections
7. Michelle Johns, Florida Department of Corrections*
8. Justin Kunzelman, Rebel Recovery Florida, Inc.*
9. Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office**
10. Marsha Martino, National Alliance on Mental Illness, PBC Chapter*
11. Greg Starling, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice*
12. Laura Waterman, Gulfstream Goodwill Industries, Inc.**
13. Maggie Witherow, Restoration Destination

Sexual Offenses Subcommittee

Objectives

1. Increase awareness about barriers for people convicted of sexual offenses.
2. Encourage city municipalities to align city ordinance with county ordinance regarding residency restrictions.
3. Develop programs and locate resources specifically for people convicted of sexual offenses.
4. Support judicial authority to remove elderly and disabled individuals from the sex registry, in order to allow for more assisted living opportunities.

Membership (* = voting member, ** = advisory member)

1. **Chair**, Ted Rodarm, Restoration Destination**
2. **Vice-Chair**, Meredith Powers-Lupo, Veteran's Administration**
3. Lori Butts, Clinical and Forensic Institute, Inc.
4. Ron Dixon, City of Riviera Beach Reentry Center
5. Wenfred Dorsey, The Lord's Place, Inc.
6. Holly Goller, Clinical and Forensic Institute, Inc.
7. Robert Graham, True Fast Ministries, Inc.**
8. Carey Haughwout, Public Defender*
9. Michelle Johns, Florida Department of Corrections*
10. Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office**
11. Cristina Lucier, The Lord's Place, Inc.
12. Gena Rowlands, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
13. Steven Spaulding, Legal Aid Society**
14. Ben Taylor, B&K Counseling
15. Laura Waterman, Gulfstream Goodwill Industries, Inc.**
16. Maggie Witherow, Restoration Destination

Youth Reentry Subcommittee

Objectives

1. Strengthen pre-release relationships, especially at local residential commitment facilities.
2. Better coordinate youth-based initiatives to streamline processes and ensure youth and families have access to available resources.
3. Reform policies that allow more youth from PBC to be placed in a local residential commitment facility, regardless of their needs.
4. Research and seek funding in order to establish a transitional step-down program that implements evidence-based services and develops optimal conditions of confinement.

Membership (* = voting member, ** = advisory member)

1. **Chair**, The Honorable Kathleen Kroll, 15th Judicial Circuit**
2. **Vice-Chair**, Geeta Loach-Jacobson, PBC Youth Services Department**
3. Cristy Altaro, Court Administration
4. Marcia Bahia, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
5. Dhiny Mercedes, CareerSource PBC
6. Dr. Angela Bess, PBC School District*
7. Elisa Cramer, Florida Department of Children and Families
8. Megan Eaton, Public Defender's Office
9. Tanner Ellis, Former Youth Reentry Participant
10. Tommy Henderson, Eckerd Project Bridge
11. Shahzia Jackson, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
12. Emily McBay, Gulfstream Goodwill Industries, Inc.
13. Danielle Ouellette, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
14. Cheo Reid, State Attorney's Office
15. Larry Rein, Childnet
16. Shirlon St. Amour, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
17. Greg Starling, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice*
18. Lynn Trimble, Choice to Change
19. Laura Waterman, Gulfstream Goodwill Industries, Inc.**

Data & Evaluation Subcommittee

Objectives

1. Create an improved data framework.
2. Create quality assurance measures, processes, and reports for ensuring appropriate, timely, and accurate data entry by funded agencies.
3. Create ongoing “dashboard” reports through RENEW to assess agreed upon outcome measures.
4. Assist in ongoing data analysis to adjust the delivery of programming, obtain new funding, and respond to subcommittee requests.
5. Complete an evaluation of reentry programming and services in PBC.

Membership (* = voting member, ** = advisory member)

1. **Chair**, Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender’s Office**
2. **Vice-Chair**, Cristina Lucier, The Lord’s Place, Inc.
3. Cristy Altaro, Court Administration
4. Dr. Cassandra Atkin-Plunk, Florida Atlantic University**
5. Orié Bullard, The City of Riviera Beach Reentry Center**
6. Elisa Cramer, Florida Department of Children and Families**
7. Megan Eaton, Public Defender’s Office
8. Shahzia Jackson, Palm Beach Sheriff’s Office
9. Damir Kukec, PBC Criminal Justice Commission
10. Tiffany Quinton, Clerk and Comptroller’s Office
11. Cheo Reid, State Attorney’s Office
12. Tamara Starks, Palm Beach Sheriff’s Office*
13. Greg Starling, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice*
14. Laura Waterman, Gulfstream Goodwill Industries, Inc.**

Housing Subcommittee

Objectives

1. Identify resources for supportive, transitional, and permanent housing.
2. Provide returning residents with one-year, tenant-based housing vouchers.
3. Increase housing options for specific populations, including women, youth, people convicted of sexual offenses, and people with mental health and/or substance use issues.

Membership (* = voting member, ** = advisory member)

1. **Chair**, Armando Fana**
2. **Vice-Chair**, Peter Noel, Alpha & Omega House**
3. Orié Bullard, City of Riviera Beach Reentry Center**
4. Whitney Chaffin, Whitney's Place
5. Elisa Cramer, Florida Department of Children and Families**
6. Natalie Dixon-Williams, Florida Department of Corrections
7. Wenfred Dorsey, The Lord's Place, Inc.
8. Robert Graham, True Fast Ministries**
9. Katherine Hammer, Lewis Center
10. John Hurt, Riviera Beach Housing Authority
11. Annetta Jenkins, Riviera Beach CRA
12. Michelle Johns, Florida Department of Corrections*
13. Linda Kane, Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network
14. Lisa Kemp, City of West Palm Beach
15. Lee Lipsick, West Palm Beach Housing Authority
16. Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office**
17. Marsha Martino, National Alliance on Mental Illness, PBC Chapter*
18. Patricia Mikulan, Salvation Army**
19. Barbara Moody-Holbrook, Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network
20. Wendy Morse, City of West Palm Beach
21. Linda Odum, West Palm Beach Housing Authority
22. Corbin Personti, Farr Online
23. John Pescosolido, St. Ann Place
24. Meredith Powers-Lupo, Veteran's Administration**
25. Laurel Robinson, West Palm Beach Housing Authority
26. Ted Rodarm, Restoration Destination**
27. John Scannell, Boca Housing
28. Jacqueline Schoenfeld, PBC Criminal Justice Commission
29. Carlos Serrano, PBC Housing and Economic Development Department
30. Craig Spataro, GEO Group
31. Steven Spaulding, Legal Aid Society of PBC**
32. Tamara Starks, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office*
33. Wendy Tippett, PBC Community Services Department
34. Laura Waterman, Gulfstream Goodwill Industries, Inc.**
35. Maggie Witherow, Restoration Destination
36. Jessica Younts, Florida Rights Restoration Coalition

Notable Accomplishments

2020

- Providers rendered reentry services to approximately 565 adults and 90 youth, including case management, transitional housing, employment assistance, substance use treatment, and mental health treatment.
- County lobbied for more funds from the Florida Department of Corrections for reentry services and received almost double the amount from the previous fiscal year, from \$250,000 to \$470,000.
- Employment Subcommittee facilitated a two-day virtual Trades Fair in partnership with Palm Beach State College, United Way, and CareerSource. The goal was to inform reentry participants about education opportunities and funding available for individuals interested in pursuing a career in the trades. The fair was recorded so that the information presented could be provided to reentry participants on a regular basis.
- County negotiated expanded use of funding from the Florida Department of Corrections to include stipends for reentry participants for transitional jobs, bike and bike equipment, and other support services.
- Housing Subcommittee completed a Housing Pilot Project, in collaboration with the City of West Palm Beach and West Palm Beach Housing Authority, where reentry participants were provided a housing voucher to pay for rent for up to 12 months. Of the selected returning residents, 100% received employment and 75% did not get rearrested.
- Worked with the Florida Atlantic University to complete a one-year outcome report for the Innovations in Reentry Initiative grant, which showed that if people received a transitional job coupled with cognitive behavioral programming, then they are less likely to be rearrested, reconvicted, and reincarcerated.
- Held two strategic planning meetings with PBC Reentry Task Force members to enhance the five year strategic plan and revise the mission, vision, and values statement.
- Held 26 meetings with the PBC Reentry Task Force and six subcommittees, which includes over 100 stakeholders and criminal justice experts, to implement data-driven objectives outlined in the five year strategic plan.
- County updated contracts with providers to add basic technology (such as tablets and cell phones) as an allowable expense to help reentry participants communicate with case managers, potential employers, and other people during the pandemic.
- County updated youth reentry contract with provider to add family members for pro-social activities and gift cards in an effort to strength family engagement.
- Established in-person pre-release contact between youth and reentry case managers at local residential commitment facilities to help build rapport and trust, as well as an improved transition plan.
- Pastor Tony Lowden, Executive Director of the Federal Interagency Council on Crime Prevention and Improving Reentry, visited PBC to learn more about local reentry efforts and how this model can be replicated for the federal prison system.
- Reentry case managers received trainings from the PBC Youth Services Department regarding cultural competency, PBC Library Services, Jack the Bike Man, Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network, and CareerSource.

- Reentry Task Force Voting Members selected the Florida Atlantic University to conduct a comprehensive reentry evaluation for adult and youth populations.
- Revised reentry informational materials for marketing purposes, including a brochure, post cards, book mark, and magnet.
- The Lord's Place, in partnership with The City of Riviera Beach Reentry Center, Gulfstream Goodwill Industries Inc., Florida Atlantic University, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office, and PBC Public Safety Department, received a U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance Second Chance Act grant. This grant focuses on people convicted of a violent or sex offense and can benefit from a Circles of Support and Accountability program.

2019

- Conducts quarterly meetings to implement objectives in the strategic plan, garner advice from key stakeholders and subject matter experts in the criminal justice field, and continue to improve the PBC's reentry system.
- Receives proclamation by then-Mayor Mack Bernard in honor of Second Chance Month and to recognize efforts made by PBC and partners to help people transition back to the community after a period of incarceration, reduce recidivism, and increase public safety.
- Holds multiple events and meetings in honor of Second Chance Month, including a service at Tabernacle Baptist Church, Reentry Awareness event at Riviera Beach Marina Center, Job and Resource Fair at Sago Palm Reentry Center, and a Give Back Event at St. Ann's Place.
- Participates in a Reentry Simulation Training hosted by the United States Attorney's Office and the City of West Palm Beach.
- Hosts a Circles of Support and Accountability Training with instructors from the National Criminal Justice Training Center- Fox Valley Technical College.
- Continues to implement the Bureau of Justice Assistance's Innovation in Reentry Initiative grant, which couples cognitive behavioral programming with transitional employment for reentry participants deemed high risk by the Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) assessment and less job ready by a job readiness assessment.
- Solicits proposals from qualifying agencies for a three year contract to provide services related to adult and juvenile reentry services, including client support services and case management.
- Works with the Urban Institute to complete a data analysis on a sample size of reentry participants to determine if the LSI-R assessment is appropriately classifying individual's risk level.
- Presents at the American Correctional Association conference in Boston, MA about the Integrated Reentry and Employment Strategies (IRES) Pilot Project.
- Presents at the PBC Criminal Justice Commission's Citizens Criminal Justice Academy.
- Presents at the LHUM Restoration Center Inc.
- Implements a housing pilot project with the City of West Palm Beach to provide housing vouchers to returning residents for up to one year.
- Participates in a state legislative roundtable, in partnership with the PBC's contracted reentry service providers, to discuss successes and barriers related to reentry policies.

- Participates in peer learning opportunity in Chicago, IL as part of PBC’s Innovations in Reentry Initiative grant and meets with Readi Chicago, a Heartland Alliance program, and Safer Foundation.

2018

- Hosts a Reentry Summit where over 250 people attend from across the country to share best practices and identify opportunities to collaborate on reentry solutions and programs. Workshops addressed a variety of topics including innovative funding solutions, integration of peer specialists, overcoming barriers, behavioral health care, housing, employment, creating a reentry system, racial diversity, gender responsiveness, evidence based practices, juvenile services, and many more related topics.
- Works with Breakthroughs to increase the number of businesses that will hire people with a criminal history.
- Receives \$250,000 from the State of Florida to continue to service people returning from Florida Department of Corrections facilities.
- Receives \$520,000 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance for the Innovations in Reentry Initiative to enhance existing reentry services by providing resources for transitional jobs programs and cognitive-based interventions for reentry clients.
- Partners with the City of West Palm Beach to create the Mayor’s Village Initiative Action Plan.
- Trains 25 staff to use the LSI-R with each reentry participant.

2017

- Receives \$500,000 from the State of Florida to continue to serve people returning from Florida Department of Corrections facilities.
- Receives \$850,000 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance for the Innovations in Reentry Initiative to enhance existing reentry services by providing resources for transitional jobs programs and cognitive-based interventions for reentry clients.
- Begins implementation phase of the IRES Pilot Project.
- Delivers presentations in New York, Denver, Milwaukee, and to the PBC Homeland Security group on the community-based reentry model.
- Participates in the City of West Palm Beach Peace Walk.
- Meets with then-Florida Department of Corrections Secretary, Julie Jones, and develops methods to strengthen the partnership with PBC.
- Signs a Memorandum of Agreement with CareerSource PBC that creates specialized career paths for returning residents.
- Officially moves under the PBC Public Safety Department as a county advisory board.
- Develops a Tri-County Reentry Coalition with Broward and Miami-Dade Counties to explore strategies to better serve returning residents statewide.
- Implements a pilot project for Florida Department of Corrections “Youthful Offenders” returning to PBC.
- Trains 38 staff in “Employment Retention: Principles and Practices” by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC).
- Drafts Memorandum of Agreement with The GEO Group to improve services for returning residents through their facilities.

- Trains 40 staff in the cognitive-behavioral treatment program, Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT).
- Reduces recidivism rates by 50 percent for all county-funded reentry initiatives.
- Starts planning for a Reentry Summit in 2018.
- Receives an in-depth technical assistance site visit by Heartland Alliance focusing on transitional jobs for returning residents.

2016

- The Regional and State Transitional Offender Reentry (RESTORE) Initiative receives the Local and Statewide “Reentry Award” from the Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency for outstanding work in the reentry field.
- The City of Riviera Beach, Mangonia Park, and South Bay joins PBC, Delray Beach, Boynton Beach, and the City of West Palm Beach as the only jurisdictions that have banned the box in PBC.
- Drafts Memorandum of Agreement with the five local Housing Authorities that develops a process for them to accept successful reentry clients on housing authority leases.
- Receives 389 signatures from the general public pledging to support second chances
- Contracts with Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network to improve Mental Health and Substance Abuse services for PBC reentry clients.
- Delivers presentation, “Correctional and Workforce Development Leadership in Integrated Reentry and Employment Strategies,” at the National Second Chance Act Conference.
- Renews and extends the Memorandum of Agreement with the Florida Department of Corrections, which allows services to continue for three more years at the Sago Palm Reentry Center.
- Provides technical assistance to reentry staff in Rhode Island, Chicago, and California on how to create a collaboration between government and community-based organizations
- Receives \$500,000 from the State of Florida to continue to serve returning residents released from Florida Department of Corrections facilities.
- Holds a Business Engagement Event, in partnership with CareerSource, engaging local businesses from the construction sector to develop career pathways for reentry clients
- Recognizes Officer Maurice Cromer as the first Correctional Officer of the Quarter for his efforts in assisting returning residents in their transition back to PBC.
- Holds the first ever joint staff meeting between probation officers and reentry staff to develop relationships, share resources, and brainstorm strategies to enhance the existing reentry process.
- University of Miami completes an evaluation of Juvenile Reentry services
- Kelly Tractor donates a forklift to the Sago Palm Reentry Center to be used as part of a pre-release certification program.
- Forms a partnership with the State Department of Motor Vehicles who now provide pre-release CDL testing at the Sago Palm Reentry Center.
- The Youth Reentry Subcommittee develops a visitation informational sheet for family members of incarcerated youth on the 12th floor of the jail that resulted in a 700% increase in visitation.

- Institutes Aggression Replacement Training (ART) for youth in the PBC jail to address criminal thinking of the youth.

2015

- PBC is one of two sites in the country selected to participate in the Integrated Reentry and Employment Strategies Pilot Project.
- Meets with leaders from the Department of Justice, Department of Labor, and The Council of State Governments Justice Center in Washington, DC to provide input on how to leverage funding to improve employment outcomes for returning residents
- PBC is one of seven sites nationally participating in an evaluation of Second Chance Act programs.
- PBC and Boynton Beach joins the City of West Palm Beach as the only jurisdictions that have banned the box in PBC.
- Back to a Future offers first Aggression Replacement class for juveniles incarcerated on the 12th floor of the jail.
- PBC is one of 20 sites nationally awarded a \$150,000 planning grant from the MacArthur Foundation to look at strategies to decrease the jail population.
- Receives \$500,000 Department of Labor grant to establish the Pre Release Employment Preparation And Reentry Engagement (PREPARE) Program in the local jail.
- Receives \$250,000 in Ad Valorem contributions for the first time.
- Establishes a permanent reentry unit responsible for all PBC reentry programs under the PBC Public Safety Department's Justice Services Division.
- Creates uniform transition process for all youth returning to PBC.
- Meets the goal of reducing recidivism by 50 percent for those individuals enrolled in county-funded reentry programs.
- Reentry clients are defined as a special population in the PBC's Consolidated Action Plan
- Formalizes PBC Reentry Task Force Bylaws.

2014

- Begins implementing the juvenile reentry program called Back to a Future.
- Establishes the Mental Wellness Subcommittee.
- Establishes the Reentry Housing Subcommittee.
- Palm Beach Sheriff's Office begins to make electronic referrals to community-based reentry providers using the REentry NETWork (RENEW).
- RENEW adapts to accept juvenile clients.
- County sentenced youth begins receiving reentry services for the first time.
- Palm Beach Sheriff's Office begins connecting with juvenile mentoring program.
- PBC reduces residency restrictions for people convicted of sex offenses.

2013

- Renews and extends the Memorandum of Agreement with the Florida Department of Corrections, which allows services to continue for three more years at the Sago Palm Reentry Center.
- University of South Florida (USF) conducts evaluation of reentry services completed

- RESTORE selected as a participant in a national evaluation of reentry services (\$1,500,000).
- Solidifies uniform outcome measures, county-wide assessments, data collection systems, and evaluation methods.
- Creates a link for primary health care for PBC returning residents.
- Receives \$750,000 from the Second Chance Act grant for juvenile reentry implementation.
- Palm Beach County School District, in partnership with Palm Beach Sheriff's Office, creates educational transition staffing for direct filed youth.
- Establishes new Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Reentry Unit 104.
- Palm Beach Sheriff's Office establishes a free tattoo removal program.
- Boynton Beach Mayor establishes Team of Hope, a group of community leaders that recruits local businesses to hire returning residents.

2012

- Creates RENEW to allow for uniform data collection.
- Palm Beach State College visits the Sago Palm Reentry Center and establishes pre-release vocational education.
- First Pre-Release Family Reunification Class at the Sago Palm Reentry Center for reentry participants and their families.
- Receives \$750,000 from the Second Chance Act grant for adult reentry services
- Develops formal RESTORE policies and procedures.
- Establishes community reentry policies and procedures.
- USF begins evaluation of PBC reentry services.

2011

- Representatives from the Bureau of Justice Assistance visits PBC.
- Develops coordinated map of service areas.
- Conducts first countywide Thinking for a Change training.
- Pre-Release reentry staff begins work at the Sago Palm Reentry Center.
- Portal of Entry coordinates "felon registration" with the delivery of reentry services
- Transition from Jail to Community begins through The Lord's Place.
- Conducts first formal countywide LSI-R training.
- Releases first reentry participant from the Sago Palm Reentry Center.
- Begins Inside-Out-Dads parenting class for reentry participants.
- Participates in technical assistance site visit from The Council of State Governments Justice Center.
- Receives \$75,000 for Juvenile Reentry Planning grant.
- All county-funded reentry programs utilizes LSI-R.

2010

- PBC Criminal Justice Commission hosts first Reentry Transition Fair.
- Signs initial Memorandum of Agreement with the Florida Department of Corrections.
- The Florida Department of Corrections opens the Sago Palm Reentry Center.

- Receives \$750,000 for Second Chance Act Grant for adult reentry services.
- Submits application for another Second Chance Act grant.
- Establishes the RESTORE Initiative.
- Hosts statewide reentry conference.

2009

- Develops a detailed assessment of reentry services.
- Submits first Second Chance Act grant.
- Establishes Reentry Task Force subcommittees.
- Hosts first Reentry Employer Reception.
- Then-Florida Department of Corrections Secretary McNeil visits PBC.

2008

- PBC Criminal Justice Commission temporarily establishes the PBC Reentry Task Force.
- PBC Criminal Justice Commission formally adopts the PBC Reentry Task Force as an ongoing committee.

2001

- PBC Criminal Justice Commission establishes Reentry Workgroup under the Corrections Task Force.
- The PBC Public Defender's Office agrees to operate PBC's first reentry program, focusing on the sentenced jail population.

History

In 2001, PBC reentry efforts began within the PBC Criminal Justice Commission under the Corrections Task Force as a Reentry Workgroup. The Reentry Workgroup focused only on the PBC sentenced jail population and what could be done to help them transition back to the community in order to reduce recidivism. As a result, the PBC Public Defender's Office began a small reentry program consisting of one social worker.

In February 2008, the Reentry Workgroup was renamed the PBC Criminal Justice Commission's Reentry Task Force, comprised of elected officials, returning residents, and other community stakeholders. The PBC Criminal Justice Commission's Reentry Task Force was initially charged with examining any remaining, unresolved issues from former Florida Governor Jeb Bush's Statewide Reentry Initiative. The PBC Criminal Justice Commission's Reentry Task Force developed a detailed county-wide assessment of all reentry services in PBC. The result was a clearer picture of what reentry services were being offered, but more importantly, what services were lacking due to geographical, financial, or other barriers.

In November 2008, the PBC Criminal Justice Commission formally adopted the Reentry Task Force as an ongoing committee. PBC Public Defender Carey Haughwout and former Congressman Harry Johnston co-chaired the initial effort. The PBC Criminal Justice

Commission’s Reentry Task Force then developed a Five Year Strategic Plan to create a strategy for filling the service gaps identified in the county-wide assessment.

In 2017, the PBC Criminal Justice Commission’s Reentry Task Force was designated as an official PBC Board of County Commissioner’s advisory board, moved under the auspices of the PBC Public Safety Department, and renamed the PBC Reentry Task Force.

The current PBC Reentry Task Force is now responsible for the overall implementation and sustainability of the Strategic Plan and includes six subcommittees that are responsible for various tasks that lead to the achievement of specific goals described in the plan.

Glossary of Terms

Access Points: Community-Based providers that offer returning resident reentry services.

Ad Valorem: Local tax dollars generated through property values.

Back to A Future (BTAF): A Department of Justice initiated juvenile reentry program. Juveniles are recidivating at a higher rate than adults. This critical service provides additional opportunities for youth that are returning from residential facilities in order to make sure they stay out of the system.

Community Reentry Programs: Those programs that serve returning residents returning to PBC from the Florida Department of Corrections that did not have the benefit of pre-release programming at the Sago Palm Reentry Center.

Countywide Reentry Assessment: The initial analysis of PBC reentry programs that identified strengths and service gaps.

Returning resident: Eligible clients who were “convicted in” and “returning to” PBC after incarceration in a local, state, or federal facility.

Family Reunification Curriculum: Developed locally by Family Preservation Services of Florida, this curriculum is designed to transition incarcerated parents back into established households.

Florida Department of Corrections: A state funded agency. Mission: To promote safety of the public, our staff and offenders by providing security, supervision, and care, offering opportunities for successful re-entry into society, and capitalizing on partnerships to continue to improve the quality of life in Florida.

Inside-Out-Dad Curriculum: Inside-Out-Dad is a curriculum for incarcerated fathers that bridges the gap between the inmate father and his children. Through the program, inmate dads deal with their pasts in order to discover their futures—and the possibility that they can parent differently from their own, often absent, fathers.

Integrated Reentry and Employment Strategies (IRES): The IRES Pilot Project was designed to enhance employment training and employment outcomes for returning residents. The project was based on a white paper developed by The Council of State Governments Justice Center. PBC was one of only two sites in the country selected to pilot the outlined strategies.

Justice Services Division: A division of the PBC Public Safety Department that provides professional assistance to the Justice System and the citizens of PBC. This division now houses the permanent Reentry Unit.

Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R): A validated risk/need assessment tool which identifies problem areas in an individual's life and predicts his/her risk of recidivism. It is a 54-item instrument which assesses offenders across 10 domains known to be related to an individual's likelihood of returning to prison. Addressing need areas through prison rehabilitative interventions can ultimately reduce an individual's probability of re-incarceration. LSI-R's are completed by trained assessors who conduct interviews with individuals and verify the information through external sources, when possible.

Memorandum of Agreement: A written document describing a cooperative relationship between two parties wishing to work together on a project or to meet an agreed upon objective. A Memorandum of Agreement serves as a legal document and describes the terms and details of the partnership agreement.

National Reentry Resource Center: Funded by the Second Chance Act of 2008, and launched by the Council of State Governments Justice Center in 2009, the National Reentry Resource Center provides education, training, and technical assistance to states, tribes, territories, local governments, service providers, non-profit organizations, and corrections institutions working on prisoner reentry.

PBC Criminal Justice Commission: The PBC Criminal Justice Commission was created by a PBC ordinance in 1988. It has 21 public sector members representing local, state, and federal criminal justice and governmental agencies, and 12 private sector business leaders representing the Economic Council of PBC. It has an established history of building strong partnerships to improve the criminal justice system in the County.

Vision

Cultivate and enrich local criminal justice practice, policy, and program development

Mission

Serve as a catalyst to bring together criminal justice and related agencies in partnerships

Portal of Entry: People returning to PBC are required to register with the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office. The Portal of Entry, or Felon registration, provides a transition point from pre-release services to community-based service providers. Through the Portal concept, returning residents are linked to a variety of needs-based programs, including legal, health, housing, work release, child support and family counseling, mental health, substance abuse, life skills,

mentoring, job training and placement, education and employment, community resources and transitional and permanent housing.

Pre-Release Employment Preparation and Reentry Engagement (PREPARE): The PREPARE program established an American Job Center inside the local jail. The program was established through a \$500,000 grant through the Department of Labor in 2015.

Public Safety: The welfare and protection of the general public.

Recidivism: One of the most fundamental concepts in criminal justice. It refers to a person's relapse into criminal behavior, often after the person receives sanctions or undergoes intervention for a previous crime.

Reentry Network (RENEW): A case management system, RENEW, was developed to ensure individual risk and criminogenic needs are identified and addressed in an effort to lower risk and reduce recidivism and victimization. This system is intended to focus the majority of resources on moderate and high risk individuals and shall include the following elements: on-going risk and needs assessment, responsibility, case planning, case plan follow-up and documentation, transfer of records, staff training and quality assurance. A RENEW User Manual has been published and is available.

Regional and State Transitional Offender Reentry Initiative (RESTORE): Adult reentry program in PBC.

Sago Palm Reentry Center: A 384-bed Florida Department of Corrections facility located in Pahokee, opened in October 2010 as the second reentry prison in the State of Florida dedicated to preparing inmates for a smooth transition back into society. The Center delivers pre-release services that assist in inmate transition.

Second Chance Act: Signed into law on April 9, 2008, the Second Chance Act (P.L. 110-199) was designed to improve outcomes for people returning to communities after incarceration. This first-of-its-kind legislation authorizes federal grants to government agencies and nonprofit organizations to provide support strategies and services designed to reduce recidivism by improving outcomes for people returning from prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities.

“Sex Offender”: A person convicted of (or who has pled no contest or guilty to) a sex offense involving a minor and who is released on or after October 1, 1997, from the sanction imposed as a result of the offense. Offenses include, but are not limited to, child pornography, sexual performance by a child under 18 and a person under 18 for purposes of prostitution.

“Sex Predator”: A person convicted of a first-degree felony sex crime, or two second-degree felony sex crimes (with offenses, convictions, or released from court sanctions occurring within 10 years) and which occurred after October 1, 1993. In addition, the court must issue a written order finding a predator status.

Sustainability Plan: The ongoing effort between PBC, the Florida Department of Corrections, and the Community-Based Service Providers who:

- (1) Advocate for policy change and develop policies that will positively shape future reentry funding and
- (2) Identify a realistic and comprehensive funding plan.

More specifically, the sustainability plan involves three strategies:

- (1) Community Ownership
- (2) Multiple Funding Streams
- (3) Replication of Proven Essential Elements.

Thinking for a Change (T4C): is an integrated, cognitive behavioral change program for returning residents that includes cognitive restructuring, social skills development, and development of problem solving skills.

TJC (Transition from Jail to the Community): A privately funded local jail reentry program delivered in partnership with the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office and The Lord's Place.

Victim Impact Curriculum- In 1998, the California Youth Authority and Mothers Against Drunk Driving developed the first comprehensive national victim impact curriculum with funding from OVC. Since then, the victim impact program has been replicated in many states, in both juvenile and adult facilities.

OVC recognized the need for a standardized curriculum that could be used with adults and juveniles—one that puts “victims first,” and in 2005, it awarded funding to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to develop one.

Victim Impact consists of 13 units, built around 10 core crime topics: property crime, assault, robbery, hate and bias, gang violence, sexual assault, child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, drunk and impaired driving, and homicide.

The basic precepts of the Victim Impact Curriculum are—

- Victims and the impact of crime on them are the focus.
- Victims' personal experiences are the centerpiece.
- Victims deserve to have their rights enforced and their voices heard.
- Anyone can become a victim of crime.
- Victimization creates a “ripple effect” throughout the community.
- People with a criminal history have the opportunity to change their thinking and their behavior.
- People with a criminal history have an obligation to make amends to their victims, directly and indirectly.

“Youthful Offender”: People sentenced or classified as “Youthful Offenders” are assigned to one of several designated “Youthful Offender” Florida Department of Corrections’ facilities.

- The Court may sentence a person as a youthful offender if the crime was committed prior to his or her twenty-first birthday (F.S. 958.04).

- The Department of Corrections may classify a person as a “Youthful Offender” if he or she is 24 years old or under, with a sentence of 10 years or less. Vulnerable inmates who are 19 or under with a sentence of more than 10 years may also be classified as “Youthful Offenders”, if their safety would be jeopardized in an adult institution.
- During FY95-96, 50 people were at some point classified in “Youthful Offender” status for protective reasons.
- Capital or life sentences may not be classified or sentenced as “Youthful offenders”.
- “Youthful Offenders” who are ages 14-18 years old must be separated from “Youthful Offenders” ages 19-24 years old.

Reentry Contact Information

For more information about the PBC Reentry Task Force or PBC’s reentry system in general, contact the following PBC Public Safety Department Staff:

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