



PALM BEACH COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT
PBC Reentry Task Force
 City of West Palm Beach City Hall
 401 Clematis Street, West Palm Beach, FL 33401

SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 22, 2020
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Members & Guests Present:

Angela Bess, School District of Palm Beach County
 Michelle Johns, Department of Corrections
 Laura Johnson, 15th Judicial Circuit
 Kevin Jones, City of West Palm Beach
 Marsha Martino, NAMI
 Gregory Starling, Department of Juvenile Justice
 Julia Dattolo, CareerSource PBC
 Oswald Newbold, PBC Resident
 Tamara Starks, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
 Adam Davis, Palm Beach County Library
 Armando Fana, City of West Palm Beach
 Ted Rodarm, Restoration Destination
 Maggie Witherow, Restoration Destination
 Meusim Baraksiz, Drug Abuse Foundation
 Cassandra Atkin-Plunk, Florida Atlantic University
 Peter Noel, Alpha & Omega House
 Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office
 ADP JD. State Attorney's Office
 Nikole Konieczny, Palm Beach State College
 Craig Spataro, GEO Group
 Charisse Van Biesen. SEFBHN
 Shirlon St. Amour, Department of Juvenile Justice

Wenfred D. Dorsey, The Lord's Place
 Mona Duffus, The Lord's Place
 Patricia Williams, The Lord's Place
 Laura Waterman, Gulfstream Goodwill
 Lasendra Sandy Wilson, Gulfstream Goodwill
 Negaysha Walcott, Gulfstream Goodwill
 Bert Winkler, Criminal Justice Commission
 Damir Kukec, Criminal Justice Commission

PBC Public Safety Staff Present:

Stephanie Sejnoha, Palm Beach County Public Safety
 Nicole Bishop, Palm Beach County Public Safety
 Chenise Bonilla, Palm Beach County Public Safety
 Arlene Griffiths, Palm Beach County Public Safety
 Jessica Hidalgo, Palm Beach County Public Safety
 Randi Taylor, Palm Beach County Public Safety
 Sarah Sanchez, Palm Beach County Public Safety

Members Absent:

Carey Haughwout, Public Defender's Office
 Alan Johnson, State Attorney's Office
 John Cohen, League of Cities
 Justin Kunzleman, Rebel Recovery

I. Welcome and opening comments

Chair, Dr. Bess extended welcome to members and guests.

II. Introduction of members and guests

Meeting attendees introduced themselves in lieu of roll call.

III. Approval and/or additions to the Agenda

Meeting agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

IV. Approval and/or corrections to the 10/23/2019 minutes of the Reentry Task Force

Minutes were unanimously approved.

V. Late Officer Maurice Cromer, Sago Palm Reentry Center

Condolence was extended to family of the Late Officer Maurice Cromer who served the Sago Palm Reentry Center and was named Reentry Officer of the Year in 2016.

VI. Subcommittee Updates

- Employment, Training, and Education Subcommittee, *Ms. Lasendra Hoggins-Wilson, Co-Chair*

Ms. Hoggins-Wilson reported that the subcommittee continues to focus on employment trainings. CareerSource will review the 100 day list and provide an update upon completion. An update was provided on the IRI program and an evaluation report will be presented at the Reentry Task Force meeting grant including highlights and lessons learnt from the peer learning in Chicago. A job fair is also scheduled to take place at SAGO Palm in April.
- Data and Evaluation Subcommittee, *Ms. Jennifer Loyless, Chair*

Ms. Loyless stated that efforts are underway to obtain accurate and more useful data to improve reentry outcomes. The Youth Subcommittee is engaged in this effort as it seeks to determine how to measure recidivism. The need for RENEW database to be updated was noted, and thanks expressed to Public Safety for investing the time and energy in this regard. Task Force and subcommittee members were encouraged to inform the Data Subcommittee of their needs in order to guide them in decision making.
- Housing Subcommittee, Armando Fana, Chair
An update was provided on The City of West Palm Beach Housing pilot where Chair Fana highlighted the issues and how West Palm Beach Housing Authority and reentry Case Managers are working through them on the participant's behalf. The idea of sending thank you letters to landlords that are housing individuals under this pilot, while trying to engage other housing providers. He advised of various affordable housing initiatives, including housing for the elderly being undertaken by the City. Plans to engage city and county commissioners were also noted. Ms. Bishop mentioned a grant received by PBC Community Services Department to address the Opioid crisis that includes reentry housing, the narrative, she noted is being finalized for approval, and will update the Task Force accordingly.
- Sex Offender Subcommittee, *Ted Rodarm, Chair*

No meeting was held during the reporting period, however, Chair Rodarm noted that the Subcommittee continues to advocate for policy changes and to identify resources to assist the population. Efforts are underway to build a commitment for the members to attend each meeting, as well as reengaging the Department of Corrections. It was also mentioned that an email should be sent out a couple of days before the meeting.
- Sustainability Subcommittee, *Diana Stanley, Chair*

Vive Chair, Tamara Starks reported on continued efforts to ensure sustainability of reentry in the County, and advised of additional funding obtained from the Department of Justice by the three reentry providers to enhance reentry services currently available.
- Youth Reentry Subcommittee, *The Honorable Kathleen Kroll, Chair*

Ms. Randi Taylor reported on Judge Kroll's collaboration with Children Services Council that brought a national expert on problem behavioral in youth from the University of Colorado to Palm Beach County in December. The presentation focused on youth violence and preventing problematic behavior and provided guidance on facilitating evidence based programs and implement them in services. The Ad Hoc Data workgroup that was established to focus on youth met a number of times to define recidivism. The Subcommittees is also partnering with the trades

workgroup under the Employment Subcommittee to focus on prerelease engagement with the help of CareerSource, Palm Beach State College and other stake holders.

VII. Reentry Task Force Amended Bylaws,

Chair, Dr. Bess, spoke of the importance of a quorum in order to effectively carry out the Task Force duties, noting that in several meetings there was no quorum. As such, the idea of merging the voting members and the advisory members is being looked at. The bylaws were distributed and members were asked to review and prepare for discussion at a future meeting. The concern of possible conflicts was noted, however, if and when that occurs, the individual(s) could recuse themselves. There was also the issue of the reentry service providers becoming Chair of the Task Force since they are funded by the County which could result in a conflict of interest. It was pointed out that the move to Public Safety Department might have contributed to the more formal structure of the Task Force that required a maximum number of members per the County's policy on Task Force/Advisory Boards. Ms. Bishop however, clarified, that this is not a County Advisory Board. It was suggested that expansion should not be based on people but rather on roles or functions. Public Safety staff will seek advice from County Attorney as noted by Ms. Stephanie Sejnoha. The need for inclusivity and having the right people at the table was noted. After extensive discussion including whether it should be called a task force or a coalition as well as the purpose of the members, it was suggested that a small group co-chaired by Ms. Loyless and Dr. Atkin-Plunk be established to look into this and present a proposal to the Task Force.

VIII. Strategic Plan,

Ms. Chenise Bonilla commented on the strategic plan that is being updated, and provided outcomes of the strategic planning meeting held recently. Members were asked to provide feedback prior to the finalization of the plan that will include the mission, vision and values of the Task Force.

IX. RENEW Data Review

Mr. Damir Kukec, Manager of Research and Planning Unit at the Criminal Justice Commission provided an overview of data obtained from RENEW, outlining the case processing, outcomes and recidivism data for pre and post release reentry participants.

X. Reentry Summit 2020

Dr. Cassandra Atkin-Plunk, reported that the reentry summit will be held from October 21-23, 2020 at the Airport Hilton Hotel. The first keynote speaker is identified and a call for presentation is out for additional speakers.

XI. Second Chance Month - April 2020

Ms. Arlene Griffiths announced the observance of Second Chance Month and highlighted events scheduled to take place. One of the main events will be the reentry simulation that Rev. Kevin Jones added will focus on engaging the business community.

XII. Additional member and guest comments

- a. Christina Farah, Case Manager at Gulfstream Goodwill that was in a bad accident is scheduled to return to work.
- b. Brevard County received Department of Corrections funding for reentry and will use Palm Beach County's reentry model as noted in their press release.

XIII. Next Steps

- a. Recap Action Items:
 - i. CareerSource to review 100-day list and provide update at future meeting

- ii. Ms. Bishop to update Task Force on Community Services grant for reentry housing
 - iii. Small work group to review and present feedback on current Bylaws
 - iv. Members to review Strategic Plan and provide feedback to staff
- b. Next meeting date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020

XIV. Adjourn

DRAFT