



**PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT
REENTRY TASK FORCE MEETING**

Palm Beach County Governmental Center
301 N. Olive Avenue, 12th Floor
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401
Wednesday, January 24, 2018

SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

A. Welcome and opening comments

Chair Sylvia Moffett called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. Under Chair her comments, Chair Moffett:

- Advised that the number of petitions required for amendment of the restoration of voting rights were collected and will be on the ballot. She expressed thanks for the hard work and support of those involved, and stressed the importance of the work ahead to get the votes to pass the amendment in November.
- Announced the end of her tenure as Chair of the Reentry Task Force due to her retirement as City Commissioner effective April 6, 2018. She however will continue to participate in the reentry efforts.

B. Introduction of members and guests

Participants introduced themselves in lieu of a roll call. A total of 39 persons attended.

C. Approval and/or additions to the Agenda

The agenda unanimously approved.

D. Approval and/or corrections to the 10/25/2017 minutes of the Reentry Task Force

The Minutes of the previous meeting unanimously approved.

E. Old Business

Reentry Summit

Diana Stanley, Co-Chair of the summit planning committee provided an update on the inaugural reentry summit scheduled for October 3-5, 2018 at the Airport Hilton Hotel in West Palm Beach. This she noted is a national summit that starts with a reception on Wednesday, all day sessions on Thursday, and half day on Friday. Several renowned speakers and panelists will participate. The targeted number of participants is 250, hence the opening of early registration in February for VIP invitees. Cost for early registration is \$275 and \$300 for late registration. Members and guests were encouraged to provide names of potential VIP invitees to Ms. Stanley. Ms. Stanley mentioned the subcommittees and invited individuals interested in serving to join a committee. Information regarding sponsorship was also provided and Ms. Stanly noted that \$20,000 need to be collected in sponsorship in order to break even, but said it is not expected to gain a profit since this is the first summit. She asked for support in seeking sponsorship for the event.

F. New Business

- a) Mr. Spatara sought approval to submit application for a grant to expand substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and related recovery and reentry services to sentenced adult offenders/ex-offenders with a SUD and/or co-occurring substance use and mental disorders for reentry clients. The grant is through SAHMSA, the Department of Health for a total of \$425,000 per year for five years, Funds will be used for assessment, peer navigators, housing, and other support services as identified. Florida Atlantic University will be the research partner for the grant.
- b) Dr. Angela Bess from the School District approved to serve as interim chair of the Reentry Task Force for the April and July meetings. Elections for a Chair will take place in October.

G. Task Force Initiatives/Updates

- a) Department of Corrections Site Visits

As part of the Department of Corrections contractual partnership with Palm Beach County, program site visits were conducted on January 16th, 18th, and 23rd to three provider agencies. Ms. Arnia Perpignand reported that all three agencies appeared to be providing quality reentry services. She commented on the evidenced-based strategies used to engage clients and noted that the case managers are very knowledgeable. She remarked about an issue observed during the visits regarding the express suspension of their drivers licensed and the accumulated fees assessed while incarcerated. She recommended that the Task Force look into the issue.

Ms. Jennifer Loyless was noted that this is a very complicated matter that the most comprehensive fix would require legislative changes, there are also payment plans are usually available for clients.

Mr. Oswald Newbold added that driver's license and child support are two main issues that incarcerate individuals worry about. He said that a deferment for six months can be requested for child support, but that a DC6 clearance is required to receive a payment plan for driver's license, however, reinstatement of the of driver's license depends on the source(s) of suspension. It was also noted that community service may also be used to offset outstanding fees. Diana inquired about the percentage of individuals released are impacted by the enormous fees.

After a suggestion to create a small group to look into the issue, Mr. Al Johnson recommended that the issue be referred to the Employment, Training and Education Subcommittee for review and further action.

- b) Reentry Simulation

Chair Moffett announced the reentry simulation scheduled for February 23, 2018 at the Salvation Army Community Center on Rosemary Avenue. Mr. Spatara added that the planning committee is looking for individuals (example businesses, Chamber of

Commerce, employees) that are not been exposed to reentry, to experience some of the real life issues encountered by returning residents.

c) Smart Reentry Grant

This is a \$850,000 grant to provide transitional jobs for high risk, low job ready individuals that are returning from prisons and jails. Clients to be employed for 8-10 weeks by one of the contracted agencies where they will work four days each week and attend classes, including cognitive intervention on the fifth day. Heartland Alliance will provide technical assistance in this regard.

d) National Reentry Week

The planning committee are in the process of finalizing events for the week. The week will be kicked off with a church service at a church to be determine, while other churches will be encouraged to craft their message around forgiveness/second chances on that Sunday. Remainder of the week include a reentry awareness event, city walks, FDC meet and greet, give back event at St. Ann, tour of Sago Palm, Youth Summit, and The Lord's Place B-B-Q. Recommendations were made for next year reentry week.

H. Subcommittee Reports

a) Youth Reentry

Craig Spatara advised of a call scheduled with the Department of juvenile Justice (DJJ) Secretary to determine a better strategy to serve the youth that are returning to the community. Judge Kroll is in dialogue with Secretary Daly. DJJ has funding to provide in this regard, and one idea being explored is a step down facility similar to Sago Palm Reentry Center where services can be provided to better prepare them for the community. Mr. Greg Starling added that this would allow more time and more support services for the youth.

b) Sex Offender

Chair Ted Rodham advised that the high priority for this year is to better prepare for hurricane season. He provided an example of an individual in a wheel chair that was released under the emergency release and had no place to go. Mathew 25 Ministries provided assistance, but the need for better preparation is of great importance. PBC will seek to work with the Classification Officers at Department of Corrections in this regard.

I. Additional Member and guest comments

- a) Mr. Newbold remarked about the tendency to wait until the last six months before individuals start preparations for release. Discussion around preparedness pursued, and it was noted that reentry should start at intake, and resources provided while incarcerated. Mention was made of a program available to prepare individuals of white-collar crimes. Lack of resources was cited as a huge barrier to providing these services.

- b) Dina Hill of CareerSource announced the Employment, Training, and Education Subcommittee meeting scheduled for March 21st. She asked for suggestions as we move forward.
- c) Margie Yansura thanked Commissioner Moffett for her services to reentry.
- d) Chrysalis Health, a mental health agency spoke about their mental health and substance abuse services. Brochures with available resources were provided
- e) CC Holloman spoke about her involvement in reentry services and expressed her interest in working particularly with the Employment. She noted the importance of preparing the community for the return of justice involved individuals.

J. Adjourn

With no further items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned.