

PALM BEACH COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

Reentry Task Force

McEaddy Conference Room

12th Floor, Governmental Center

301 North Olive Ave., West Palm Beach, FL 33401



SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome and opening comments- Chair Dr. Angela Bess PBC School District

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 7/24/2019 minutes of the Reentry Task Force

Minutes of the July 24th meeting were unanimously approved.

V. Old Business

a. Urban Institute – Public Safety Risk Assessment Clearinghouse Project.

Ms. Nicole Bishop provided an update on the risk assessment clearing house project, noting that the Urban Institute is working with Public Safety to look at data in RENEW to determine how well the LSI-r accurately predicts well for the reentry population. Preliminary data provided thus far indicated missing data for various reasons such as data not captured in RENEW where it's not mandatory as well as continuous additions to RENEW resulting in lack of information for prior enrolled clients. Staff will continue to work with the Urban Institute and present results to the Reentry Data and Evaluation Subcommittee for review and presentation to the Task Force.

b. Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA)

The National Criminal Justice Training Center (NCJTC) via Fox Valley provided training to a total of 45 reentry staff and stakeholders on the Circles of Support and Accountability model for all reentry stakeholders. The model is an evidence-based practice that focuses on volunteer-driven circles that provide wraparound support for sex offenders, that can also be used for certain vulnerable and needy populations, to reduce recidivism.

Ms. Bishop noted that the technical assistance dollars came through a grant received for Victim Services, and will be available for future coordination and implementation efforts. Over the next couple of months, staff and services providers will explore how this model can be implemented to assist the individuals returning to the community

VI. New Business

a. Women's advocacy Initiative

Ms. Vanessa Coe *Senior Attorney/Project Manager, Wage Dispute Project and Community ID of the Palm Beaches, Legal Aid Society of PBC* discussed the initiative of a bail payments for women exiting jails. They are looking to start in the Fall and is also working towards hiring staff to provide services to these women. The aim is to collaborate with reentry providers in this regard. Ms. Mona Duffus, Chief Operating Office of The Lord's Place noted that presentation was made to TLP women services. Some outcomes would be to reduced recidivism, family reunification, employment, continuing education.

Public Defender Carey Haughwout pointed out the issues with low risk individuals stating that while it is a well-intended initiative, she noted that it would be better to collaborate on how to make the program more effective in providing services for women, rather than just paying the bond, noting that cash bail is the main issue that is affecting Palm Beach County residents. Other members concurred with the Public Defender's observation, and highlighted the need for total wraparound services for these women. Public Defender Haughwout further mentioned the MacArthur program that is looking at pre-trial services in the County.

b. Reentry Summit 2020

Dr. Cassandra Atkin-Plunk & Ms. Jennifer Loyless, co-chairs of the summit, provided an update on the upcoming summit, noting that the tentative date is October 21-23, and that a planning committee is in place that is meeting monthly and currently seeking to identify a venue for the summit. The committee will meet next on August 21st at 3:30 pm, and an invitation extended for others to join the planning meeting.

c. Reentry Strategic Plan

Ms. Chenise Bonilla reported that staff is working with the reentry subcommittees to update the various goals objectives, and will present the updated version at the October meeting.

VII. Presentations

a. Amendment 4 Status

Ms. Sharon Maddison, Reentry Coalition Coordinator of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition updated the meeting on the status of Amendment 4. She advised of a scheduled meeting in Miami on August 29th that will provide further update, but noted that the Coalition is currently raising funds to assist returning citizens with paying their fees and fines to restore their voting rights. She highlighted the website where Individuals may go to apply for financial assistances. They are also looking to connect with more partners and gather information to bring back to Tallahassee. Members inquired about the amount of fees owed to which she responded that while there are some estimates and guesses, they are not sure of the figure at this time.

It was noted that the PBC Public Defender's Office has a process to determine what their clients owe & how to register for financial assistance. The PBC Clerk's Office and other stakeholders are also exploring ways to assist returning citizens in this regard.

b. Innovations in Reentry Initiative Grant (SMART)

6-Month Implementation Report, *Dr. Cassandra Atkin-Plunk*

Ms. Atkin-Plunk presented the six-month implementation report for the SMART grant. In her presentation, she noted that the County received funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for transitional employment for residents returning from prisons and jails that less job ready and are at a higher risk of reoffending. The three reentry providers initiate their transitional employment program for their clients, while CareerSource is providing long-term employment outcomes and data for the project. The concept is to place returning individuals in subsidized employment along with cognitive behavioral intervention. To date 119 clients are participating in the program (54 randomized, 65 in controlled group). Breakdown is as follows:

- Riviera Beach construction project: 24 hours work, 4 hours MRT
- GGI: 12-week retail/warehouse job: 16 hours work, 4 hours MRT
- TLP: 8-week culinary: 14 hours work, 2 hours CBI

Dr. Atkin-Plunk noted that a no-cost extension may be sought given the current status of the project. Members discussed the project and sought clarification on various areas.

VIII. Update(s)

Sago Palm Reentry Center

Ms. Arlene Griffiths reported that six individuals have recently obtained their GED and 37 completed vocational program. The facility is installing a bigger and better sign for the entrance, and is also in the process of beautifying the grounds and the building. She

commented on the efforts to obtain a storage container or shed for the forklift at Sago Palm as rats have been destroying cords.

IX. Subcommittee Reports

a. Employment, Training, & Education
There was no update for this subcommittee.

b. Data & Evaluation
There was no update for this subcommittee.

c. Housing

In the absence of Mr. Armando Fana, Assistant City Administrator, City of West Palm Beach and Chair of the Housing Subcommittee, Ms. Griffiths introduced Ms. Jennifer Ferriol, who is the new Director of the City of West Palm Beach.

Ms. Ferriol noted that nine individuals have been identified to participate in the housing pilot that provides tenant-based housing vouchers for up to one year, to assist individuals in reintegrating into the community with wraparound services through the reentry service providers. Of the nine individuals, three have been housed and Reentry Case Managers are tirelessly working with the West Palm Beach Housing Authority and the other six individuals to identify housing. The City of West Palm Beach is having a household item drive to give to individuals that are in need.

Ms. Ferriol mentioned a household drive that the City has undertaken to assist with items for the participants, and also spoke about a press briefing that is being explored to bring awareness to the housing issues.

d. Sex Offender, *Ted Rodarm,*

Mr. Ted Rodarm, *Executive Director, Restoration Destination* and Chairman of the Subcommittee thanked Public Safety for bringing the CoSA training and also discussed the need for implementation of this model. He remarked about the elderly sex offenders lack of resources and restrictions, noting that stable housing, employment, and support systems helps reduce recidivism and future victimization. Elderly sex offenders are a main focus due to resources and restrictions.

e. Sustainability

Ms. Tamara Starks, Vice Chair of the Subcommittee, reported that reentry service providers applied for a second chance community grant. It is hope that this will be awarded, which would additional resources to assist those returning to PBC.

f. Youth Reentry

The Honorable Kathleen Kroll of the 15th Judicial Circuit, and Chair of the Subcommittee provided an update on the step down project for youth. She talked about the strategic plan objectives and how the system has failed the youth. She mentioned the Department of Juvenile's Justice (DJJ) Secretary's offer to the County for funding, but highlighted various issues that prevented the project moving forward

at this time. Judge Kroll further noted that staff will be look at programs that exists in the County, collect data, and also analyze the outcomes for a presentation at the Youth Reentry Subcommittee on September 26th.

X. Additional member and guest comments

- a. Staff from Senator Bobby Powell's office who were in attendance, introduced themselves, and commented on the Senator's passion in this area, and offered their assistance where possible.
- b. Ms. Geeta Jacobson discussed the County's Youth Services Department and their various funding to community-based agencies.
- c. Ms. Jada Hunter mentioned the Children of Inmates presence in Sago Palm Reentry Center and South Bay prison.

XI. Adjourn Additional member and guest comments

With no further items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:40pm.

Next meeting date-noted as Wednesday, October 23, 2019 from noon to 1:30pm at 301 N. Olive Avenue, 12th Floor, McEaddy Conference Room, West Palm Beach, FL 3340.

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