

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



PARTICIPANTS PRESENT:

Angela Bess, School District of Palm Beach County	Ronald Glass, Palm Beach County Library
Daniel Suev, Court Admin	Peter Noel, Alpha & Omega House
Larry Dunnon, The Lord's Place	Marsha Martino, NAMI
Marcia Bahia, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office	Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office
Craig Spataro, GEO	Carlos Cardonos, ABC East Coast
Derek Gibson, Department Corrections	Cristy Altaro, Court Admin
Michelle Johns, Department of Corrections	Lynn Trimble, Choice to Change
Charisse Van Biesen. SEFBHN	Oswald Newbold
Shirlon St. Amour, Department of Juvenile Justice	Patricia Mikubn, Salvation Army
Meredith Powers-Lupo, VA	Orie Bullard, the Reentry Center
Mike Edmondson, State Attorney's Office	Ron Dixon, the Reentry Center
Wenfred D. Dorsey, The Lord's Place	Susan Kowalski, the Reentry Center
Kevin Jones, City of West Palm Beach	Nikole Konieczny, Palm Beach State College
Mona Duffus, The Lord's Place	Tamara Starks, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Laura Waterman, Gulfstream Goodwill	Shahzia Jackson, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Alan Johnson, State Attorney's Office	Natalie Dixon-William, Department of Corrections
Cassandra Atkin-Plunk, Florida Atlantic University	Negaysha Walcott, Gulfstream Goodwill
Nicole Bishop, PBC PSD	Anthony Hoskims, the Lord's Place
Ted Rodarm, Restoration Destination	Paulina Pasquarelli, Court Admin
Violet Howard, Optimistic Journey Inc.	Charlotte Perkins, Brevard Reentry
Alia Spencer, Palm Beach State College	Chenise Bonilla, Palm Beach County Public Safety
Patricia Williams, The Lord's Place	Arlene Griffiths, Palm Beach County Public Safety
Meusim Baraksiz, Drug Abuse Foundation	Jessica Hidalgo, Palm Beach County Public Safety
Sade Lyons, The Lord's Place	Randi Taylor, Palm Beach County Public Safety
Taral King, The Lord's Place	Sarah Sanchez, Palm Beach County Public Safety
Jazmine Lopez, Palm Beach County Library	

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 7/24/2019 minutes of the Reentry Task Force

Minutes were unanimously approved after corrections on page 3 regarding the IRI grant to read "To date, 54 participants have been randomized; 21 in the controlled group and 32 in treatment group."

V. The Reentry Task Force thanked Kimber Heddon for her services and contributions to Palm Beach County, and extended welcome to new Circuit Administrator, Michelle Johns.

VI. Get well wishes were extended to Assistant Warden Javier Jones of Sago Palm Reentry Center, and Christina Farah, Case Manager at Gulfstream Goodwill who was in a motor vehicle accident.

VII. Old Business

- a) Dr. Cassandra Atkin-Plunk, Assistant Professor, Florida Atlantic University provided an update on the 2020 Reentry Summit to be held from October 21-23. She noted that . and Jennifer Loyless, Project Coordinator, PBC Public Defender's Office (Reentry Summit Co-Chairs)
- b) Reentry Strategic Plan/Survey – Ms. Chenise Bonilla, Manager of Criminal Justice Programs PBC Public Safety Department- Justice Services Division, provided an overview of the survey responses from voting, advisory, and subcommittee members. The data, she noted, will be used to achieve the overarching goals to be updated in the Strategic Plan, and highlighted the importance of member participation. She said that while a lot of work is being done, there may be a gap in ensuring that individuals are informed of the progress. A planning retreat to brainstorm and inform strategic plan was announced. She remarked that there might be a need to re-evaluate the membership and attendance of the voting members, and possibly a revision of the bylaws since not all voting member attend the meetings. The visibility of reentry was mentioned, and the need for a Newsletter as a form of communication was recommended.
- c) Reentry Logo - Ms. Nicole Bishop, Director of Justice and Victim Services, PBC Public Safety Department presented the proposed new reentry logo and how we got to this point of the new logo designed by Steven Plunk. She noted the delay in getting the logo finalized because of the purchasing process, and remarked about the possibility of purchasing through one of the reentry providers. A discussion also pursued regarding the use of the logo by reentry partners. The Due to the lack of a quorum this was not voted on, however a consensus subsequently reached to revisit same and present at the next meeting.

VIII. New Business

- a) Reentry Funding for FY2020 – Ms. Bonilla reported on the current fiscal year contracts and funding streams. The total funds and a breakdown of funding as well as active participants being served was highlighted. A contract orientation was held with the three provider agencies.
- b) Second C Chance Act Grant Funding for Reentry Service Providers
Ms. Diana Stanley, Chief Executive Officer, The Lord's Place reported on the three year implementation grant awarded to the three reentry providers by the Department of Justice for \$1M to do reentry services. Ms. Mona Duffus added that

this will enhance the reentry work in PBC, and that Ms. Atkin-Plunk of FAU will evaluate to determine its success. The grant includes a one-year planning phase, and the focus will be on more innovative and evidence-based practice for reentry. A one-pager with further details was distributed. The Taskforce congratulated the agencies on their award. Members were asked to provide recommendations/suggestions to assist in this efforts.

IX. Presentations

Creating a stronger sustainable community – Ms. Violet Howard, President of Optimistic Journey, Inc. shared her journey as a returning resident and what lead her to start her organization. The program currently exists in Alabama and focus on skills, trades, and employment opportunities returning residents and in particular, veterans. She is looking to expand to Florida, but unfortunately is battling with land pricing. She also partners with another agency to build houses form shipping containers, and is assisting Bahamas with their rebuilding efforts.

X. Program Updates

- a) Innovations in Reentry Initiative Grant - Dr. Cassandra Atkin-Plunk reported a total of 88 individuals have been referred to the transitional jobs program across the three agencies; 52 have been randomized into treatment group and 36 in the controlled group. She is now conducting site visits, and will have the one-year report by the end of the year. Ms. Hidalgo added that the team is looking to do a peer learning conference later this year in Chicago.

Sago Palm Reentry Center, *Sheila Kurzen, Classification Supervisor, Florida Department of Corrections*

Ms. Arlene Griffiths mentioned the Domestic Violence class graduation recently held at Sago, and announced the Resource and Job Fair schedule for November 1st.

Reentry Statistics, *Chenise Bonilla*

- a. Ms. Bonilla gave an overview of our EKPI report that gets distributed to our BCC; the work that has been put in on improving data entry and points of capture should help to improve the number of enrollments and completions as well as the quality of the statistics.

Brevard County Reentry using RENEW Database, *Arlene Griffiths Reentry Program Coordinator, PBC Public Safety Department- Justice Services Division*

- b. Brevard has recently received some grant funding for reentry services; they are working with ISS to utilize RENEW. Looking to start their process as soon as possible.

Subcommittee Reports

Employment, Training & Education Subcommittee, *Sharon Hodges, Reentry Career Consultant, CareerSource and Lasendra Hoggins-Wilson, Employment Consultant Gulfstream Goodwill Industries*

- c. Updating strategic plan goals/objectives; last Sago Job Fair
Data & Evaluation Subcommittee, *Jennifer Loyless*

- d. Framework of data points; monthly activity reports for each agency.
Housing Subcommittee, *Armando Fana, Assistant City Administrator, City of West Palm Beach*
- e. Focusing on strategic plan; prioritizing housing pilot project and the barriers on finding housing for our returning citizens.
Sex Offender Subcommittee, *Ted Rodarm, Executive Director, Restoration Destination*
- f. Focused on the need to focus on legislative reforms to reduce the barriers of sex offenders.
Sustainability Subcommittee, *Diana Stanley, Chief Executive Officer, The Lord's Place, and Tamara Starks, Unit Manager, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office*
Youth Reentry Subcommittee, *the Honorable Kathleen Kroll, 15th Judicial Circuit and Geeta Loach-Jacobson, Director of Outreach and Community Programming, PBC Youth Services*

XI. Additional member and guest comments

- a. Sealing/Expunction Seminar is coming up – handouts
- b. Kevin Jones – Alpha Phi Alpha help a public panel discussion on Amendment 4 last week & demonstrates the need to continually involve the faith-based organizations at the local level.

XII. Adjourn at 1:32PM

- XIII. Next meeting date** – Wednesday, January 22, 2020 from noon to 1:30 p.m. Venue to be determined.