



PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

CORRECTIONS TASK FORCE/ Public Safety Coordinating Council

Palm Beach County Governmental Center
301 N. Olive Avenue, 12th Floor, McEaddy Conference Room
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Wednesday, December 4, 2019; 12:00 P.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Douglas Duncan, Chair, Roth and Duncan, P.A.
Alfonso Starling, Vice-Chair, Major, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Sherri Collins, Administrative Judge, County Court, 15th Judicial Circuit (telephonic)
Latronda Hayes, Court Services
Michelle Johns, Florida Department of Corrections
Joseph Marx, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Tommy Richards, Palm Beach County Bail Agent Association
David H. Talley, PBC CareerSource
Louis Tomeo, Office of the Clerk and Comptroller

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ted Booras, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Glenny Cueto, Professional Probation Services, Inc.
Daniel Eisinger, Public Defender's Office
Brian Fernandes, Office of the State Attorney
William Genem, Coalition for Independent Living Options, Inc.
Dave Kerner, Commissioner, Palm Beach County
Alton Taylor, Drug Abuse Foundation

GUESTS PRESENT:

Mevsim Bacaksiz, Drug Abuse Foundation
Keith Burden, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Michelle Cruz, Court Administration
Colleen Farnsworth, DCF Legal
Xavier Hall, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Aaron Jones, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Al Pefley, CBS 12
Mamine Saintil, Major, Superintendent, Department of Juvenile Justice
Hanna Morris, Palm Beach Post
KH Rivera, CBS 12
James Snowden, Public Defender's Office (for Daniel Eisinger)
Jon Van Arnam, County Administration
Craig Williams, Office of the State Attorney

CJC STAFF PRESENT:

Kristina Henson, Executive Director
Damir Kukec, Research and Planning Manager
Brad Allen, Criminal Justice Commission
Jonathan Hackley, Criminal Justice Commission
Allison Orr, Criminal Justice Commission
Katherine Shover, Criminal Justice Commission
Candee Villapando, Criminal Justice Commission

I. Welcome, Opening Comments by Chairman Douglas Duncan

Chair Douglas Duncan welcomed new members Judge Sherri Collins, new County Court Administrative Judge; and Michelle Johns, new DOC Circuit Administrator. Appreciation to Judge Sheree Cunningham and Kimber Heddon for their service to the committee.

II. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests by Damir Kukec

III. Approval and/or Amendments/Additions to the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

IV. Approval and/or Amendments to the Corrections Task Force/Public Safety Coordinating Council April 3, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the September 18, 2019 meeting were approved without changes.

V. Reports

A. Jail Population and In House Arrest

Major Alfonso Starling reported their facility count as of that morning was 1,697. Total In-House Arrest population was 163: 83 pretrial, including 6 direct filed juveniles; 80 county sentenced, 0 probation; 0 DJJ; AO zero. Total Pay N Gos for the month of November was 160.

B. Pretrial Services

Latrona Hayes reported that as of December 3, there were a total of 850 defendants on SOR; 601 of those individuals were on SOR only, 259 were on SOR with a money bond. Of the 850 defendants on SOR only, 15 remained in custody, with 2 awaiting treatment, and 13 on bonds or no bonds on other charges/holds. Of the 259 individuals on SOR with a bond, 68 remained in custody due to other holds. The total out of custody SOR population was 777. Of the 777 individuals out of custody, 10 failed to appear for court and 16 had no criminal activity. There was a total of 44 violations. Their SOR numbers were up when compared to this time last month and last year.

C. Juvenile Detention Center

Superintendent Mamine Saintil reported their population of 42 youth; 36 males, 6 females, with 8 pending direct file charges.

D. Misdemeanor Probation

No presentation, but November report was provided.

E. Felony Probation

No report presented.

VI. New Business - *No new business.*

VII. Old Business

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office: Work Release Program Evaluation Report (CJC Staff Draft)

Chair Duncan opened up the discussion with a few questions. The discussions revolved around eligibility criteria changes; implications of the recommendation for PBSO to have separate policies governing the Work Release and In-House Arrest Programs, and the recommendation for eligibility requirements for Work Release Participants to have personal medical insurance to prevent county taxpayers from incurring medical costs for accidents or injuries that occur outside of the detention center. Also discussed were possible explanation for the decline in the number of people on in-house arrest, and the conclusion of placing participants in In House Arrest Program in lieu of the Work Release Program which was considered to not be cost effective.

Chair Duncan called for a vote on the recommendations 1 to 4 below which all passed. Chair Duncan stated that the committee did not need to vote on item 5.

1. The sliding scale for the daily subsistence fee was adopted in 1994 (25 years old and should be updated to meet current program costs.
2. PBSO should have separate policies governing the Work Release and In-House Arrest Programs as there are differences sufficient to provide justification for this and the combination of both programs in one policy provides confusion.
3. Discontinuance of the Work Release Program should be considered given the cost ramifications of housing minimum to medium custody inmates in a maximum custody facility.
4. Eligibility requirements for Work Release Participants should require personal medical insurance to prevent county taxpayers from incurring medical costs for accidents or injuries that occur outside of the detention center.

5. Consideration should be given to discontinue the Work Release Program and place those eligible participants instead in the PBSO In-House Arrest Program given the cost savings and the low utilization of the program by the courts.

Chair Duncan thanked staff for outstanding job, the Sheriff's Office cooperation in working with the staff in preparing the report. He reiterated that this was not an investigation of specific cases or participants who have been in work release in the past. The report will be presented at the full CJC meeting on December 16 for approval.

MacArthur Foundation Safety & Justice Challenge Project Update

Ms. Henson shared that the Dean of the FSU College of Criminology and Criminal Justice and staff were here yesterday to present their report on the validation study of pretrial assessment tool they put in place in September 2017. They will be working with the pretrial team to look at ways of improving the tool further. The current grant was extended to September 2020, and they should hear from MacArthur sometime this month on the renewal application from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021.

VIII. Additional Member and Guest Comments

Chair Duncan announced the next meeting in January. He thanked all the committee members for their hard work this year, and the staff for their assistance; and wished everyone happy holidays.

IX. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 8, 2020; 12:00 P.M.