



Criminal Justice Commission Full CJC Committee Meeting

Clayton E. Hutchinson Agricultural Services Center
559 North Military Trail, Room A & B
West Palm Beach, FL 33415

Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 8:00 am

Meeting Minutes

Members Present

Anthony LaCosta, Asst. US Attorney, WPB
Carey Haughwout, Public Defender, 15th Judicial Circuit
Darcy Davis, CEO, Healthcare District
Dave Aronberg, State Attorney, 15th Judicial Circuit
Earnie Ellison, Managing Partner, Ellison Consulting Group, LLC
Glenn Kelley, Chief Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Gregory Starling, Circuit 15 Manager, District 9, Florida DJJ
Julia Dattolo, President/CEO, CareerSource PBC
Kathleen Kroll, Administrative Judge, Juvenile Division
Kevin Jones, Reverend, Clergy, and CJC Chair
Lauren Whetstone, Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Lawrence Gordon, Palm Beach County League of Cities
Marcia Andrews, Palm Beach County School Board Member
Maria Antuna, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Matt Pawlowski, Next Era Energy, and CJC Treasurer
Michael Barnett, County Commissioner
Michelle Suskauer, Attorney, Diamond Kaplan & Rothstein, P.A.
Nellie King, Attorney, PBC Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Rachel Docekal, CEO, Hanley Foundation, and CJC Vice-Chair
Randolph K. Johnson, Sr., Communications by Johnson

Members Absent

Carmen Mattox, Representative, PBC Chiefs of Police Association
Christopher Caldwell, Senior Representative in PBC, FBI
Eric Jester, Special Agent Supervisor, FDLE
Frank Adderley, Chief, West Palm Beach PD
Joseph Abruzzo, Clerk of the PBC Circuit Court & Comptroller
Joseph Ianno, Jr., Florida Power & Light Company
Katherine Waldron, State Representative, District 93
Kelly Skidmore, State Representative, District 92
Michael D Barbercheck, Supervisory Special Agent, Federal Bureau of ATF
Michelle Johns, Circuit Administrator, Florida DOC, 15th Judicial Circuit
Ric Bradshaw, Palm Beach County Sheriff
Sheldon Burkett, Resident in Charge, PBC Office, DEA

Guests Attending

Laura Hanley, Commissioner Barnett's Office Staff
Jessica Hidalgo, Manger Criminal Justice Programs, Public Safety
Kasey Denny, PBC Legislative Affairs
Hal Hutchins, FAU Police Department
Andrea Rocha, Clerk's Office
Cheo Reid, State Attorney's Office

CJC Staff Present

Regenia Herring, Executive Director
Katherine Shover, Criminal Justice Systems Manager
Damir Kukec, Manager, Research & Planning
Dawn Davenport, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Stephanie Moliere, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Chris Slydell, Criminal Justice Analyst
Margo Smith, Criminal Justice Analyst
Rosalind Murray, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst – Racial Equity Coordinator
Amii Blount, Administrative Assistant III
Taylor Davis, Student Paraprofessional

I. Meeting called to order – Rev. Kevin Jones, Chair

Chair Rev. Kevin Jones called the meeting to order at 8:04 AM

II. Roll Call – Regenia Herring, CJC Executive Director

Director Herring called the roll and determined there was a quorum.

III. Approval and/or corrections to Agenda

Motion to approve Agenda. Motion was made by Marcia Andrews, motion to second was made by Randy Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Approval and/or corrections to Minutes May 22, 2023

Motion to approve Minutes. Motion was made by Michelle Suskauer, motion to second was made by Carey Haughwout. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Chair's Comments

Reverend Jones welcomed Maria Antuna to the board, she was nominated by the Economic Council and was appointed by the BOCC on August 22, 2023. She is the CEO of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Palm Beach County. He also welcomed Christopher Slydell, who is the new Criminal Justice Analyst on the CJC staff.

We were reminded of the Stress test being held on September 27th at the Government Center and we also had a recap of the Sequential Mapping Intercept event that took place September 13th and 14th at Palm Beach State College. The event had a great turnout and there will be a report presented about topics that were discussed at the event.

Director Herring spoke about the two grants, the FDLE Justice Assistance Countywide Grant and the BJA Justice Assistance Grant, stating that the dollar amount that would be allotted to the Lord's Place and for the City of Riviera Beach and \$82,000 will be used for law enforcement equipment for both of the grants. She stated that in the past several years, most of that money has gone to reentry, and now we have been able to allot some of that to law enforcement because they are a critical partner. Many of the smaller agencies don't have support, but yet we have to have 51% of their participation in order to get these funds.

Director Herring then spoke about the nominating committee and their upcoming tasks. The nomination committee will consist of six members. These members will include the current CJC chair, vice chair, two most recent past chairs, and two public sector members for one term or consecutive terms at the CJC chair's discretion. If

anyone is interested in these positions, please Director Herring or Chair Jones know in advance.

Rosalind Murray gave a brief update on the Citizen's Academy: We're at week three of six. We have six consecutive weeks of meetings that take place at the Belle Glade Library and we've had just record participation since there was record demand. In six weeks we discuss various topic each weeks we have also been partnering with PBSO for the meetings. We have a lot of individuals who are eager to learn about criminal justice and earn their community service hours.

Chair Jones spoke about the CJC's end of the year meeting which is tentatively planned for Monday, December 18th.

Chair Jones also spoke about enhancements to the Mental Health Court and that Public Defender Carey Haughwout has agreed to provide an update at the next CJC meeting

There was discussion on providing a report or a summary for all CJC grants and their outcomes. We have had some reporting on outcomes of how grant funds are being used from Re-entry. We have not done a formal evaluation, but we can work on a presentation.

There was also discussion on the mental health court topic. Discussion was had by Earnie Ellison and Carey Haughwout. Carey mentioned: we have a misdemeanor mental health court that has now been in place for about four months. The felony mental health court was established in order to move those clients through a little faster than they were happening when they were spread out through all the divisions. It also oversees people who are released like on conditional release or in the community. So the misdemeanor mental health court was established a little bit along those lines. But frankly, it is a much more open court where we have folks who are obviously suffering from mental health issues. That's what brought them into the criminal justice system. And we're using it as a way of expediting their cases so they're not having to come to court a bunch. And I've devoted a social worker to it so that we're also working on services for those people. But it's still a limited, I'm sure in terms of the SIP, this is a big issue all the way around.

Earnie Ellison states that when he reviewed the data, it seemed that there were some areas where we really need to dig deeper to look at what policies are affected and what some of the outcomes are. He states that was also a lack of cohesiveness. The reviews seemed to be more surface versus having a detailed understanding of what we need to do to affect policy.

Chair Jones states that Carey will give a detailed presentation on the Mental Health Court at another meeting. He says there are many resources it's just a matter of how to link these different resources to the services they are needed for.

VI. New Business

There was a presentation by Dr. Jennifer Coop, associate professor with FSU – College of Criminology and Criminal Justice on *Evaluating the Efficacy of Pretrial Changes Intended to Reduce the Jail Population.*

There was a discussion on forwarding the report to other judges and colleagues of Judge Kelley. There was also discussion on budget for 2024 and moving forward as is or making changes. There was a motion to present the report to both the judges and also to the BOCC (Board of County Commissioners) with a cover letter at the future BOCC meeting. Matt Pawlowski made the first motion, second motion was made by Marcia

Andrews. Motion passed unanimously.

Director Herring brought up the PBC School and Community Safety Recommendations. The goal of this was really to look at why this committee was created as a subcommittee of the Law Enforcement Planning Council. We had a litany of participants from law enforcement, behavioral health, school board –they were all active. These partners came together to look at Palm Beach County and where the gaps are and what should be filled in. And so this is what they've come up with; some of the accomplishments as a result of what they have done, what is unfinished and some of the recommendations. Ms. Andrews also joined the conversation and wanted to thank everyone who worked cooperatively together on this such a critical area of mental health right now and the different agencies. Motion was made to accept the report. Motion was made by Marcia Andrews, motion to second was made by Commissioner Barnett. Motion passed unanimously.

Director Herring discussed the CJC Ordinance and changes that are being brought to the Board. It shifts from 32 members and we increase it to 33 members. This will allow for a little bit more diversity and voice around the table. Some of our many of our federal partners, with the exception of the U.S. attorney, those federal partners will leverage those and continue to have their voice at the Law Enforcement Planning Council because that's their primary focus is law enforcement and leverage that work there. We can utilize those seats to be able to provide a little bit more diversity around the table for having someone who has lived experience, someone who's had experience a victim of crime, we said we also wanted to add a seat for a young adult person to have some perspective around the table, and we also wanted to have the Black chamber and the Hispanic chamber represented because the economic has 10 seats and they've been gracious to be able to provide two of those seats to the career source and healthcare district as well as give us some diversity around that. Motion was made to accept the CJC Ordinance. Motion was made by Commissioner Barnett, motion to second was made by Marcia Andrews. Motion passed unanimously.

The last discussion was by Judge Glenn Kelly on behalf of Carey Haughwout on the Circuit Consolidation issue. There was discussion around the table about how this consolidation would affect Palm Beach County. It was recommended that the CJC write a letter on where it stands with the circuit consolidating and to send it to Judge Glenn Kelly to forward to his colleagues.

VII. Next Meeting

Chair Jones announced that the next meeting will be held in the Auditorium building in the front.

VIII. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 9:13 am

Next Meeting: Monday October 23, 2023
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531 North Military Trail, Auditorium,
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