

**M I N U T E S**

**MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019**

**PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION**

McEaddy Conference Room  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor, 301 N. Olive Avenue  
West Palm Beach, FL

***Members Present:***

Marcia Andrews  
Sheldon Burkett  
William Dames  
Rachel Docekal  
Douglas Duncan  
Justin Fleck  
Joseph Ianno, Jr.  
Randolph Johnson, Sr.  
James Martz  
Frank Mercurio  
Sarah Mooney  
Gerald Richman  
Greg Starling  
Lee Waring

***Members Absent:***

Dave Aronberg  
Sharon Bock  
Ric Bradshaw  
Barbara Cheives  
Ellen Cohen  
George Elmore  
Carey Haughwout  
Kimber Heddon  
Keith James  
Kevin Jones  
Dave Kerner  
Nellie King  
Barry Krischer  
Krista Marx  
Christina Morrison  
Tina Polsky  
Robert Shirley  
Stephen Stepp

***Guests Attending:***

Louis Tomeo, Clerk & Comptroller's Office  
Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office  
Mike Edmondson, State Attorney's Office  
Debra Oats, Court Administration  
Susan Carlini, Public Safety Department  
Nicole Bishop, Public Safety Department  
Chenise Bonilla, Public Safety Department  
Latronda Hayes, Public Safety Department  
Cassandra Atkin-Plunk, Florida Atlantic University  
Vaughn Crichlow, Florida Atlantic University  
Robert Rease, Representative Tina Polsky District 81  
Caroline Ramsey-Hamilton, PBC Crime Prevention Officers Association

***Staff Present:***

Kristina Henson, Executive Director  
Danny Kreshak, Financial Analyst  
Damir Kukec, Manager, Research & Planning  
Althea Mones, Temporary Clerical Staff  
Allison Orr, Administrative Assistant  
Katherine Shover, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst

- I. Chairman Gerald Richman called the meeting to order and extended a welcome to members and guests.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.
- III. Chair Richman invited guests to introduce themselves.
- IV. The Agenda for the March 25, 2019 meeting was unanimously approved upon a motion by Mr. Joseph Ianno, Jr. and a second by Mr. Randy Johnson.
- V. The Minutes of the February 25, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved upon a motion by Judge James Martz and a second by Mr. Joseph Ianno, Jr.

## **VI. Chairman's Comments**

- A. Chair Richman announced the annual Palm Beach County Youth Summit on April 6, 2019.
- B. Chair Richman reminded members the week of April 7 – 13 is National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Events are listed in the Palm Beach County Victims' Rights Coalition brochure.
- C. Chair Richman announced April 2019 is National Reentry Month with many events scheduled countywide.

## **VII. Executive Director Comments:**

- A. Executive Director Henson introduced Ms. Chenise Bonilla, Manager of Reentry Programs for the PBC Public Safety Department.
- B. Director Henson announced Dr. Tom Blomberg, Dean of FSU College of Criminology and Criminal Justice and his staff recently conducted a site visit to meet with staff and First Appearance Judges Ted Booras and Dina Keever to discuss the pretrial risk assessment instrument. He also introduced PhD candidate William Casey who will be assisting CJC staff with data related to the MacArthur grant project and the risk assessment validation study.
- C. Director Henson gave a brief overview of the Community Engagement Team's public event on March 13, 2019 which was a book discussion on Bryan Stevenson's "Just Mercy". A panel of speakers addressed questions from approximately 40 attendees. More Community Engagement events are planned including one on March 27, 2019 with a panel discussion on race and the criminal justice system.
- D. Director Henson announced former Palm Beach County Deputy County Administrator Jon Van Arnam has returned to his position.

## **VIII. Old Business:**

- A. Executive Director Kristina Henson introduced Ms. Nicole Bishop, PBC Public

Safety Dept., Director of Victim and Justice Services. Ms. Bishop gave an update on the Battered Women's Justice Project, voted by the CJC last year to be funded through the Domestic Violence Trust Fund. The main objective of the project is to promote systemic change ensuring effective and just response to victims, perpetrators, and children exposed to violence. This objective is achieved by a documented systematic evaluation of response within the community, various types of law enforcement training and data analysis. Phase 1 was implemented in October 2018 and is Phase 4 is ready to commence. Meetings with identified partners continue in an effort to assess the general response within the community. The project will come to a close in September, 2021.

#### **IX. New Business:**

None at this time.

#### **X. Update on CJC Initiatives:**

- A. Director Henson gave an update on the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge:
  - 1) The text-based Court Reminder System is running at a 98% appearance rate with approximately 3,000 enrolled. The Core Team is looking to expand the access points for defendants to those receiving notices to appear by law enforcement. A pilot project is in planning with the City of West Palm Beach to add the signed consent for the text messages to their notice to appear form;
  - 2) May 7-9, 2019 is the bi-annual All Sites meeting in San Diego, CA to exchange information and ideas with other core sites. A nine-member delegation will attend including Judges Jeffrey Colbath and Glenn Kelly, State Attorney Dave Aronberg, Jennifer Loyless from the Public Defender's Office, Latronda Hayes from County Pretrial Services, and CJC staff;
  - 3) MacArthur Strategic Allies, Everyday Democracy and Nexus Community Partners, will be choosing three sites to provide technical assistance on community engagement and the Community Engagement Team has had preliminary discussions with Everyday Democracy to be one of those sites. A decision is to be made in the next month; and
  - 4) Data collection and analysis on the various strategies continues to be refined and monthly reports developed to monitor progress.
  
- B. Judge James Martz, Chair of the CJC's Law Enforcement Planning Council's, School Safety Subcommittee gave an update on the progress of the mental health track of this initiative. He said the members have had ongoing discussions on how to brand one specific message that includes a list of behaviors for people to look out for in children and who to contact to get help. This message would be blanketed on all social media and websites of behavioral health providers, government agencies, and non-profits across the County and become easily identified. He also spoke to efforts to review the response to the Palm Beach Central Highschool football shooting incident. He explained that he reviewed the 911 and Sheriff's Office dispatch calls from that incident and spoke with law enforcement officials on

lesson learned. Director Henson added that Chief Frank Kitzerow is conducting unified command meetings monthly to determine shared protocols and training. She also said she would be inviting the school district staff to a future CJC meeting to inform the members of the new school safety initiatives and behavioral health resources they have implemented. Ms. Marcia Andrews said the school district is expanding programs at South Tech Charter School, and is in the process of hiring an assistant superintendent to oversee new programs and innovations for school safety.

#### **XI. Member Comments:**

Chair Richman mentioned a recent edition of the Florida Bar Journal includes an article on the criminal justice system and suggested it be circulated to CJC members.

Mr. Lee Waring asked how the judges were working with the pretrial risk assessment instrument. Director Henson said there is good communication with the first appearance judges to identify areas for improvement. The pilot two-year project will conclude in September 2019 with FSU's validation of the tool's performance. With that data, the Pretrial Team will work with national experts available through the MacArthur and FSU to amend the tool and the matrix.

#### **XII. Adjourn:**

With no further Member comments, Chair Richman adjourned the meeting at 8:34 a.m.