

M I N U T E S

MONDAY, January 28, 2008 - 8:00 a.m.

PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION MEETING

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

Members Present:

Commissioner Burt Aaronson
Moses Baker
James Barr
Stephen Barborini
Steven Burdelski
Delsa Bush
Barbara Cheives
Max Davis
Mike Driscoll
Douglas Duncan
George Elmore
Rolando Garcia
Carey Haughwout
Feirmon Johnson
Randolph K. Johnson, Sr.
Barry Krischer
Kathleen Kroll
Martin Millar
Debra Robinson
Richard Staudinger
Stephen Stepp

Members Absent:

Rosalyn Baker
Sharon Bock
Ric Bradshaw
William Kramer
Luis Perez
Gerald Richman
Carmen Veneziano
Art Johnson
(Ex officio Exec. Committee)
Harry A. Johnston, II
(Ex officio Exec. Committee)

Guests Attending:

Alex Bess, Dominion Ministries
Carlton Cartwright, The Children's Coalition Inc. (TCCI)
Barbara Dawicke, Court Administration
James Kelly, PBC School District Police Department
Michael McAuliffe, McAuliffe Law Group
Andre Pecora, Volunteer Chaplain – PBSO Jail
Louis Tomeo, Clerk & Comptroller

Staff Present:

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director
Journey Beard, Crime Prevention Project Specialist
Arlene Burton, Administrative Secretary
Wayne English, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst
Jenise Gibson, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst
Katherine Hatos, Criminal Justice Analyst
Rosalind Murray, Program Development Specialist

Glenna Nowalk, Clerical Specialist
Brenda Oakes, Youth Violence Prevention Planning Coordinator
Mike Szakacs, Financial Analyst II
Becky Walker, Criminal Justice Programs Manager

- I. Chairman Barr called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.
- III. Chairman Barr welcomed members and guests to the first full meeting of the year and thanked them for their participation and commitment.
- IV. The agenda was unanimously approved after amended to add “Update on Youth Violence Project” under Item XI. Motion to approve move by Mr. Elmore and second by Mr. R. Johnson.
- V. The minutes of the December 10, 2007 Full Commission meeting were unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Davis and second by Mr. Elmore.
- VI. Under Chairman’s Comments, Chair Barr
 - A. Welcomed new CJC member Maria Sachs, representative from the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation. Ms. Sachs was unable to attend as she had a meeting conflict.
 - B. Congratulated Chief Stephen Stepp of the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department who was installed as Chairman of the Palm Beach County Chiefs of Police Association.
 - C. Congratulated Rolando Garcia of the US Attorney’s office who was recently sworn in as the Chairman of the Weed and Seed Steering Committee.
 - D. Announced the grand opening of the Boynton Beach Youth Empowerment Center to be held at the Carolyn Sims Center, 225 N.W. 12th Avenue, Boynton Beach on Saturday, February 9, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. He extended an invitation for everyone to attend if possible.
 - E. Announced that Florida State University (FSU) College of Criminology Center for Public Policy will be presenting their first year evaluation of the youth empowerment centers to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Rodriguez pointed out that it was a change from the previously announced date, as he gave up that spot to another county department. This will also allow FSU additional time for preparation of the report. He also said that the report will be available to the CJC before the presentation date.

- VII. Under Executive Director’s Comments, Mr. Rodriguez
 - A. Reminded the meeting that there are currently three (3) vacancies on the Commission. He said they are all Economic Council appointees and that the Council’s Nominating Committee would be meeting on February 6th and the nominations would be confirmed on February 7th. The following three names were submitted to the Council for consideration: Douglas Duncan, Yvette Trelles of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; and Joseph Bernadel who runs the Toussaint L’Ouverture Charter School in Boynton Beach. He noted however,

that the Council also has two (2) of their members that are interested in CJC membership but that he was unable to ascertain their names before the meeting. He also mentioned that if anyone had an interest in advocating for someone, they could contact Maria Woodson at the Economic Council.

Chair Barr added that he met with Mike Jones of the Economic Council last week to express the importance of following through with the membership through them, and that he agreed to continue to encourage his members to be members of the CJC.

Mr. Davis suggested that the Chairman make a presentation on the CJC to the Economic Council.

- B. Reported that the Federal Fiscal Year 2008 Appropriations Bill for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program was approved for \$175 million, representing a 67% reduction from last fiscal year. He noted that if the 67% reduction is applied uniformly across the state and the counties, it would be a significant hit (possibly up to one half of a million dollars) for the CJC. He also said that Mr. Wilder of FDLE suggested that it would be in the CJC's best interest to start lobbying now to get those funds reinstated next year.
- C. Announced that the CJC is in the process of updating its website and is seeking to have uniform photos of members and staff. To that end, persons were invited to attend one of two photo sessions conducted by King Brown, Crime Scene Supervisor at the West Palm Beach Police Department. The first session would take place immediately after the CJC meeting and the second following the February full CJC meeting at the West Palm Beach Police Department. Members were also asked to submit their biography, and update existing ones if required.
- D. Announced the first CJC Youth Criminal Justice Academy to begin on Tuesday, January 29, 2008 at the Northwood Youth Empowerment Center from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. The first 50 youths to submit their application will participate. An overview of the four day program was provided, which will include a tour of the main detention center and a graduation ceremony at the completion.
- E. Announced the 21st Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy to begin on Wednesday, March 5, 2008 through Wednesday, May 21, 2008 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- F. Advised the meeting of a letter received from the Forensic Biology Unit thanking the CJC for the financial support of \$92,000 to advance the DNA capabilities of their unit.
- G. Reported that recently, a youth at one of the youth empowerment centers was in need of a pair of glasses and that Journey Beard, CJC staff was able to provide it from contacts in the community. He advised of another situation where a youth is in need of a great deal of dental work that he is unable to finance and that he is trying to get his life straight. He has had some trouble in the past but is now actively involved in the youth empowerment center. Mr. Rodriguez advised that if anyone was aware of a dentist who would be willing to do some pro bono work to let him know; at which time Dr. Robinson volunteered to obtain assistance for the youth.

Mr. Cartwright advised that the Palm Beach Community College runs a program which provides assistance for which he might be eligible.

Mr. Rodriguez wanted members to be updated on the activities of the Youth Super Group because they are trying to help youth such as the two previously mentioned.

Ms Beard, Coordinator of the Youth Super Group provided members with a brief overview. She pointed to the posters on display that were made by members of the group through a competition where youths had to portrait prevention and or reduction of youth violence and also incorporate the name of the group – Saving The Youth Lives Everywhere (S.T.Y.L.E.). The winning posters will be featured on bus shelter displays around the county. She noted that the group participated in the Martin Luther King Parade as well as the Kaleidoscope festival where about 8,000 to 10,000 youths were present, promoting youth violence prevention and the youth empowerment centers. A weekend youth conference will be hosted from June 12-14, 2008 at a venue to be confirmed in West Palm Beach. She also mentioned a survey on youth violence that is currently being conducted.

Commissioner Aaronson suggested that Ms. Beard contact Palm Tran to have the posters displayed on buses as well as to target the movie theatres as a medium for promoting youth violence prevention.

Mr. Davis added that Mr. Randy Johnson has volunteered to head up the speaker's bureau panel to address youth violence with the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club to speak on the happenings of the CJC. Each member of the panel will appear before the Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club to provide information on what the CJC is doing.

Mr. Rodriguez noted that Ms. Murray, CJC staff would be helping with the coordination of the speaker's bureau.

Chief Bush inquired about the end result of the survey. She advised of an electronic program "Survey Monkey" available at a reasonable cost for doing surveys, which can be used as an alternative to reaching the masses. She thinks it is a wonderful tool and remarked that the West Palm Beach Police Department currently uses this program.

Ms. Beard responded that she was working with Dr. King and that the results would be used in any way that would prove meaningful. FSU will also be using the findings in their evaluation.

Dr. Robinson inquired if the schools were contacted and whether the data could be used by schools in providing feedback, in terms of how the young people see their schools as well as the community, which would help the school board in targeting their initiatives.

Chief Bush remarked that most surveys require consent and sometimes by the parents, which deters a lot of surveys from entering the schools.

VIII. Business Consent item(s)

There were no business consent items.

IX. Old Business

- A. Recommendation by the Executive Committee for all Subcommittees and Task Forces to seek and actively solicit clergy representation was unanimously

approved after motion by Commissioner Aaronson and second by Mr. Staudinger.

Ms. Cheives recommended that the CJC exercise some oversight on this issue. Mr. Staudinger suggested that staff provide an update every couple of months.

- B. After a brief discussion regarding the Permanent Funding Solutions Committee, the list of 20 members recommended by the Executive Committee was unanimously approved after motion by Mr. R. Johnson and second by Mr. Elmore.
- C. Mr. Rodriguez provided a summary of the recommendation by Commissioner Koons to revisit the issue of alternatives to incarceration, adding that he thinks the CJC should inform the commissioners of other alternatives and allow them to decide whether or not to fund them.

Dr. Robinson commented that in her opinion, the reason to look for alternatives to incarceration is that we may be more likely to rehabilitate and save young people outside of the jails.

Motion moved by Ms. Cheives and seconded by Dr. Robinson to revisit the issue of alternatives to incarceration and to have the Corrections Task Force investigate the issue and make appropriate recommendations to the CJC and BCC. It was also recommended that the CJC canvass the commissioners individually to determine the level of interest in this issue.

- D. Mr. Rodriguez reported that two Fridays ago we were advised that the CJC scored 94% on the application to the state for the Criminal Justice Substance Abuse Mental Health and Substance Reinvestment Grant Program. This was higher than any other jurisdiction for either planning or implementation, resulting in CJC's approval for \$100,000. He thanked Jenise Gibson who coordinated the effort with assistance from the State Attorney's Office, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office, Public Defender's office, Court Administration and Langton and Associates.

X. New Business

- A. Following the approval/recommendation of the LEPC and the CJC Executive Committee, the full CJC was asked to approve the funding of an additional Bullet Catcher, using funds from the Youth Violence Prevention funds in the amount of \$9,500.

Mr. Krischer argued that the additional Bullet Catcher was needed to help local agencies to process shootings more efficiently.

Motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Krischer for approval to fund the Bullet Catcher from Youth Violence Prevention funds in the amount of \$9,500.

- B. Ms. Haughwout reported that she met with Harry Johnston, Rosalind Murray and Jennifer Loyless to discuss the formation of the Reentry Committee. It was agreed that they would start with the Reentry Council's previous members, with the additions of a few others. She noted however, that a complete membership list would not be in place until after the first meeting in February. Ms. Haughwout said that the proposed work plan for the Reentry Committee would include a survey of the available services and implement recommendations accordingly.
- C. Mr. Rodriguez updated the CJC on the issue of school notification for juveniles being released from detention. He said the issue was raised by Commissioner

Kanjian who indicated he wants the CJC to look into this matter. He reported that at the January 2008 CJC Executive Committee meeting, Dr. Johnston and Chief Kroll agreed to examine this issue before the next full meeting.

Chief Kroll said she has since spoken with Dr. Johnson who again committed the four teachers to work with Court Administration. A meeting is scheduled to discuss the matter, and she will also speak with Commissioner Kanjian before they meet to ascertain his concerns.

XI. CJC Initiatives / Updates

- A. Ms. Walker reported that the alternative to suspension program started a week ago at the Northwood Youth Empowerment Center, initially with the Bear Lakes Middle School as the feeder school, and that three students attended. More schools are scheduled to join the program which will increase the number of participants.

She commented on the various activities undertaken by the Youth Super Group, noting that Boynton Beach has been working out of a number of different centers but will be in their own center, Carolyn Sims, which opens on February 9th. A contract was signed with Belle Glade and they are in the process of hiring a coordinator. West Palm is moving along and Riviera Beach has a new center which they are in the process of renovating. Lake Worth ran out of space and has started expanding into the gym.

Ms. Haughwout inquired about the activities of the youths in the alternative to suspension program.

Ms. Walker said that while they have problems receiving their own school work, a curriculum is in place that provides the youths with academic work.

Dr. Robinson added that their time at the centers will be considered an “excused absence” and they will be allowed to make up 100% of their work when they return to school. The issue, she said, relates to transportation of the school work for which the system will not take responsibility. She also added that she is pushing to ensure that job occupational skills are offered at the sites as well.

Ms. Cheives questioned whether the centers would prove to be more attractive than the school environment.

Ms. Walker responded that the goal of the centers is to put enough pressure on the kids for them to feel that it is no different from the school environment; which will ultimately see them wanting to return to school.

- B. Mr. Rodriguez pointed out the monthly updates included in the agenda packet and encouraged members to read them.

XII. Member Comments

Ms. Haughwout requested an update on the Westgate Community Justice Service Center for the next CJC meeting.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:05 a.m.