

M I N U T E S

MONDAY, December 13 2010

PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

Annual Meeting

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

Members Present:

Rosalyn Baker
Peter Blanc
Barbara Cheives
Douglas Duncan
George Elmore
Feirmon Johnson
Nellie King
William Kramer
Kathleen Kroll
Wesley Lauer
Michael McAuliffe
Chuck Shaw
Priscilla Taylor
Lee Waring

James Barr, Ex-Officio Executive Committee
Art Johnson, Ex-Officio Executive Committee

Guests Attending:

Vince Bonvento, Asst. County Administrator
Sarah Alsofrom, State Attorney's Office
Gentry Benjamin, County Attorney's Office
August Bonavita, County Court Judge
Maureen Brickous, Pride Probation
Mark Broderick, Clerk & Comptroller, Represented Sharon Bock
Lillian Chappelle, Resident
Sabrina Cornish, Headstart
Wanda Joiner, Pride Probation
Max Davis, Former CJC member
Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office
Michelle Spangenberg, Court Administration

Staff Present:

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director
Arlene Burton, Administrative Secretary
Shahzia Hashmi, Intern

Members Absent:

Delsa Bush
Stephen Barborini
Sharon Bock
Ric Bradshaw
Steven Burdelski
Mike Driscoll
Rolando Garcia
Carey Haughwout
Randolph K. Johnson, Sr.
Frank Kitzerow
Marti LaTour
John McKenna
Gerald Richman
Valentin Rodriguez
Carmen Veneziano

Katherine Hatos, Criminal Justice Analyst
Damir Kucek, Research & Planning Manager
Jenise Link, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst
Brenda Oakes, Youth Violence Prevention Planning Coordinator
Candee Villapando, Criminal Justice Analyst
Becky Walker, Criminal Justice Programs Manager

- I. Chair Cheives called the meeting to order at approximately 8:05 a.m. Welcome was extended to members and guests.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.
- III. Chair Cheives invited guests to introduce themselves.
- IV. The agenda was unanimously approved after motion by Commissioner Priscilla Taylor and second by Mr. William Kramer.
- V. The minutes of the November 22, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Douglas Duncan and second by Chief Judge Peter Blanc.
- VI. Under Chairman's Comments, Chair Barbara Cheives:
 - A. Welcome back Chuck Shaw to the CJC. He will serve as the school board representative.
 - B. Thanked Doug Duncan for sitting in her stead at the recent Board of County Commissioners (BCC) meeting.
 - C. Announced that Nominating Committee will be meeting to nominate the 2011 CJC officers and executive committee members.
- VII. Under Executive Director's comments, Mr. Michael Rodriguez:
 - A. Reported that the Community Justice Service Center closed its doors on Friday, December 12, 2010. He noted that the CJC was unsuccessful in its attempts to get the City of West Palm Beach to keep the Centre operating.
 - B. Advised that a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Network is being established at the federal level. They are inviting criminal justice commissions and coordinating councils across the country to join the network, which he said involves an application process and will be no cost to the County.
 - C. Reported that Jenise Link had her baby girl (Natalie) on December 10, 2010 and that they were both doing good.
- VIII. Under Old Business Mr. Rodriguez provided an update on Pride Integrated Services. He noted that the Inspector General (IG) prepared a final draft report outlining recommendations including the need to do a Request for Proposal (RFP) and to submit for bidding, as well as getting someone on staff with auditing expertise. He also met with Assistant County Attorney, Gentry Benjamin and reported that there was no clause in the contract that would allow the CJC to terminate Pride's contract for no cause. He advised however that a letter of correction was issued to Pride who has so far complied with the corrections, and said that the matter would be further discussed with Assistant County Administrator Vince Bonvento. Mr. Rodriguez further noted that a response to the IG's report was prepared by Chair Cheives but that according to the IG's policy the draft report is not available for public review.

Miss Maureen Brickous added that a lot of financial information was submitted to the IG. She also noted that the issues were cured by Pride and that there quarterly reports have been provided to demonstrate that.

IX. There were no new business items.

X. The following persons were recognized for their support and dedication to the Criminal Justice Commission:

Task Force/Committee Chairs

August A. Bonavita, Probation Advisory Board
Edith Bush, Community Justice Service Center – West Palm Beach
Douglas Duncan, PSCC/Corrections Task Force
Rolando Garcia, Weed and Seed Steering Committee
Jack Goldberger, Court System Task Force
Carey Haughwout, Re-Entry Task Force
Matt Immler, Law Enforcement Planning Council
Harry Johnston, Re-Entry Task Force
William Kramer, Finance Committee
Priscilla A. Taylor, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Planning

Outgoing Members

Monroe Benaim, School Board
Flynn Bertisch, Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
Mary Brandenburg, Legislative Delegation
Max Davis, Economic Development Council
Beth Kigel, Economic Development Council
Frank Kitzerow, Chiefs of Police Association
Karen Marcus, Board of County Commissioners
Luis Perez, Drug Enforcement Administration

Community Justice Service Center Staff

Sammie Caldwell
Fay Callam
Sabrina Cornish
Dolores Cutlip
Lillian Chappelle

XI. Member Comments:

A. Vice Chair Douglas Duncan provided feedback on the BCC's workshop. He said that he thinks the Commissioners wants the CJC to justify its role as an advisor to them. He also commented on the Pride Probation situation, noting that the BCC would have liked the CJC to bring this matter to their attention prior to it reaching this stage.

Mr. Rodriguez added that the CJC will seek to meet more frequently with the County

Commissioners, and will be happy to carry out whatever tasks they wish for the CJC. He also remarked about the change in how things are done over the years.

Chair Cheives noted that Mr. Kukec continues to work on completing the research and evaluation of projects for presentation to the BCC.

Members further discussed what they thought the Commissions were looking for from the CJC and possible strategies to meet these demands.

- B. Dr. Johnson reported that Palm Beach County in the Urban Seven, had the highest high school grades in the State of Florida, with 87% of high schools rated either A's or B's, and reported no D's or F's. Of note also is that of the 67 Counties in the State of Florida, regardless of size or economic status, Palm Beach County has the greatest number of "A" high schools, and has the highest graduation rate (83%) in the State. He also noted that the school board will be taking its meetings on the road as of January 2011, and advised of an upcoming workshop on the school house and jail house phenomenon to take place on January 5th. He encouraged persons interested in participating to contact him. He thanked the CJC for their support.

Chief Judge Peter Blanc commended Dr. Johnson for providing liaisons from the school district to work with the juvenile court, and noted the significant improvement taking place in getting students back in schools.

There being no further item for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50 a.m.