

M I N U T E S

MONDAY, October 28, 2013

PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

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

Members Present:

Daniel Alexander
Chris Allen
Dave Aronberg
Rosalyn Baker
Nelson Berrios
Jeffrey Colbath
Douglas Duncan
George Elmore
Randy Johnson, Sr.
Dave Kerner
Nellie King
William Kramer
Christina Morrison
Gerald Richman
Valentin Rodriguez
Chuck Shaw
Greg Starling
Priscilla Taylor

Members Absent:

Sharon Bock
Ric Bradshaw
Barbara Cheives
Vincent Demasi
Timothy Donovan
Rolando Garcia
Carey Haughwout
Barry Krischer
Kathleen Kroll
Duane Little
Marshall Manley
John McKenna
Robert Shirley
Lee Waring

Guests Attending:

Mimi Coenen, Workforce Alliance
Vern Crawford, Palm Beach County School District
Barbara Dawickie, Court Administration
Mike Edmondson, State Attorney's Office
Pamela Eidelberg, County Attorney's Office
Pat Kramer, Department of Children and Families
Lawrence J. Leon, School District Police Chief
Jenise Link, Justice Services
Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office
D. Louis Mitchell, Federal Bureau of Investigation (for
Michele Nelson, Clerk & Comptroller's Office (for Clerk Bock)
Terrill Pyburn, City of Delray Beach
Richard Radcliffe, PBC League of Cities

Staff Present:

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director
Arlene Griffiths, Administrative Assistant
Katherine Hatos, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Shahzia Jackson, Criminal Justice Analyst
Damir Kukec, Research & Planning Manager
Rosalind Murray, Criminal Justice Program Development Specialist
Brenda Oakes, Youth Violence Prevention Planning Coordinator
Craig Spatara, RESTORE Initiative Program Manager

Student Intern:

Samantha Santiago, Florida Atlantic University

- I. Chairman Douglas Duncan called the meeting to order and extended welcome to members and guests.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.
- III. Chairman Duncan invited guests to introduce themselves.
- IV. The agenda was unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Chuck Shaw and second by Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath.
- V. The minutes of the September 23, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved after motion by Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath and second by Mr. George Elmore.
- VI. Under Chairman's Comments, Chair Duncan:
 - A. Advised of the scheduled nominating committee meeting to recommend candidates for 2014 officers and executive committee. Ms. Rosalyn Baker and Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath were appointed by Chair Duncan to sit on the committee.
 - B. Announced the annual Judge Marvin Mounts prison tour scheduled for March 26 to 27, 2014, and invited a CJC volunteer to take the tour. Mr. Rodriguez added that a CJC staff and a police chief are also invited to join the tour.
- VII. Under Executive Director's comments, Mr. Rodriguez:
 - A. Reported that the CJC was recently awarded an implementation grant in the amount of \$750,000 for juvenile reentry. He noted that the competitive application was submitted on the heels of a two year planning phase, and that the funds will be focused on supportive housing, job training and placement, and completion of probation.
 - B. Reported that the 25th Citizens Criminal Justice Academy received over 70 applications and close to 60 participants attended the first day. Classes continue each Monday through December 16, 2013, with the exception of November 11th (federal holiday) from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00.

- C. Reported that the community youth symposium held at the convention center on Wednesday, September 25, 2013 was well attended with participants from the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), the School Board, the Board of Children's Services Council as well as many other. The symposium is available on the county's website.
- D. Advised that three youth empowerment centers will be funded by the BCC from ad valorem dollars to the tune of \$420,000 for the upcoming fiscal year. The sites to be funded are Belle Glade, Lake Worth and Riviera Beach.
- E. Expressed best wishes to Ms. Becky Walker on her retirement. He thanked Ms. Walker for the support provided over the years.
- F. Advised of memo distributed to members seeking their input on priorities and goals for the coming year, for discussion at the upcoming CJC annual planning meeting.
- G. Reported that the CJC is still struggling with Tallahassee to obtain \$162,000 in grant funding for a summer youth program. Ms. Brenda Oakes added that the funds will be used for different programs for the youth empowerment centers. Members assistance were sought in contacting the Secretary to get this going.

VIII. Business Consent Item

There were no business consent items.

- IX. Under old business, Chairman Duncan reported that a forth draft of the proposed changes to FS 985 relating to juvenile is being penned, and the newly formed sub-committee will meet as soon as the draft becomes available

There were no old business items for discussion.

X. New Business

A. Baker Act for Juvenile

Members unanimously approved request for the Criminal Justice Mental Health and Substance Abuse Committee on Juvenile Populations to look into the Baker Act process for juveniles as outlined by Ms. Becky Walker.

- B. Members unanimously approved recommendation from the Criminal Justice Mental Health and Substance Abuse Committee on Juvenile Populations to look into the availability of beds for substance abuse treatment, particularly relating to kids held in the Detention Center as presented by Ms. Walker.

C. Ban the Box

Ms. Michelle Dryer provided a brief overview of the issue and the reason for wanting to ban the box from employment applications. She outlined the expected benefits and possible consequences, noting that the Reentry Employment Subcommittee is recommending that the "box" be banned from employment applications at the beginning of the process on a county-wide basis. This she said is to facilitate successful reentry, provide ex-offenders with a pathway to productivity, reduce recidivism rates, increase public safety, and to

increase productivity in the county. She referred to a current Bill that will ask all employers to cease looking at the “box”. She recommended that the CJC and the Reentry Task Force take the lead on this initiative.

Members expressed concerns, and sought clarification on various aspects including evidence to support the benefits relating to the “box”. The issue of the private sector embracing the idea was also discussed, as well as the legal implications.

Vice Mayor Taylor remarked about the sentencing guidelines noting that many young people are sentenced based on non violent crimes. She noted that she would have no problem bringing the issue before to the BCC for consideration, knowing that the opportunity to conduct criminal background checks will not be eliminated, but that this would rather give individuals a chance.

Mr. Richard Radcliffe of the League of Cities commented on the problem with the wording of the Bill, but noted that he would take it to the League of Cities executive board as he feels the issue needs to be addressed, and the importance of getting people back into the system.

After extensively discussion on the issue, Chairman Duncan requested that the issue be taken back to the Reentry Subcommittee for clarification on what the CJC is being asked to support, and to also provide the CJC with data and additional information.

D. Sober Houses

Ms. Pat Kramer drew attention to the report in the agenda packet prepared by the Department of Children and Families that looked at recovery residences in Florida. She provided a brief on the issue of the sober houses in the area and commented on the undesirable acts that takes place in some of these houses. She highlighted some findings in the report including the lack of treatment providers in the residences and the lack of government oversight.

Assistant City Attorney for Delray Beach, Terrill Pyburn commented on the mismanagement and the predatory aspects of these houses, as well as the lack of accountability. She noted that a Bill is being sponsored by Senator Jeff Clemens in the Senate and Representative Bill Hager in the House in this regard. She further remarked about the issues with the Fair Housing Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. She outlined several areas that the City is seeking seeking to address such as registration of sober houses and background requirements.

After further discussion, Chairman Duncan recommended that the issue be brought back to the next CJC meeting when Mr. Barry Krischer is present.

XI. CJC Initiatives/Updates

There were no CJC initiatives or updates for reporting.

XII. Member Comments

There were no member comments. .

XIII. With no further items for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.