

# MINUTES

Monday, January 11, 2021 12:10 P.M.

## Palm Beach County School & Community Safety Initiative Behavioral Health Track

Online via Zoom



### Members Present:

**Chairman Judge James Martz**, Circuit Court Judge

**Dr. Angela Bess**, Director of Educational Alternatives, Palm Beach County School District

**Chief Sean Brammer**, LEPC Chairman, FAU Police Department

**June Eassa, Ed.S**, Assistant Superintendent of Student Wellness, Palm Beach County School District

**Megan Eaton**, Circuit 15 Juvenile Justice Advisory Board Co-Chair and Public Defender's Office

**Tammy Fields**, Director, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department

**Lt. Randy Foley**, Behavioral Services Division, PBC Sheriff's Office

**Nicole Gasparri, CGFO**, Emergency Manager/Organizational Program Manager, City of Boca Raton, City Managers Department

**Barbara Gerlock, Ph.D.**, Organizational Development Consultant

**Deputy Chief Robin Griffin-Kitzerow**, Florida Atlantic University Police Department

**Sharon L'Herrou**, President/CEO, 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast

**Beau Lynch**, Behavioral Health Executive Director, JFK Medical Center North Campus

**Danielle Ouellette, LCSW**, Behavioral Services Division, PBC Sheriff's Office

**Dr. Gena Rowlands**, Senior Planner, PBC Sheriff's Office

**Robin Russo**, Director of Student Well Being, Palm Beach State College

**Judge Rosemarie Scher**, 15th Judicial Circuit

**Jill Sorensen**, Director of Children's System of Care, Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network

**Sara Talley**, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation

**Sharon Tarlow**, Education Coordinator, JFK Medical Center North Campus

**Magistrate Maxine Williams**, 15th Judicial Circuit

**Craig Williams**, State Attorney's Office 15th Judicial Circuit

**Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D.**, CEO, Children's Services Council

**Lauren Zuchman, LCSW**, Executive Director, BeWellPBC

**Guests Present:**

**Cassandra Atkin-Plunk, Ph.D.**, Associate Director and Associate Professor, Florida Atlantic University

**Vaughn Crichlow, Ph.D.**, Associate Dean and Associate Professor, Florida Atlantic University

**Karyn Green**, South County Mental Health Center

**Dr. Mary Claire Mucenic**, Director of Behavioral and Mental Health

**CJC Staff Present:**

**Regenia Herring**, Executive Director

**Katherine Shover**, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst

I. Welcome and Opening Comments – Chairman Martz

Mentioned that he would like the group to have a workshop similar to the Children's Services Council where they set a day to work on their goals for the year. He mentioned the need to have an environment where we continue to pay attention to mental health. He feels that it is one of the most important things that we do in Palm Beach County and the United States. He also recommended creating a work space where we continue to convene that is similar to the Criminal Justice Commission with standing meetings. He noted that he was looking forward to the presentation by Chief Kitzerow concerning ASHER. He mentioned that there are a lot of parallels to this group.

II. Introductions were made.

III. The agenda/minutes were approved by consent.

IV. Active Shooter Hostile Event Response (ASHER) Countywide Standard Operating Guideline Update: Chief Frank Kitzerow, PBC School District Police Department provided an overview of ASHER. He noted that it is a major milestone that every law enforcement agency, fire department and all trauma centers have agreed how they would handle a catastrophic event. All of the work has been done upfront that takes time at the scene. It is important for all first responders that will be heading to an event to be on the same page and speak the same language. They need to know who is in charge of what and when. It is essential for them to be coordinated from eliminating the threat to getting rescue services to those in need. He mentioned that they should have a training video this week that will go over the policy and terminology. He also reported that for the first time in their history as a school police department, they have school based police officers on every campus in Palm Beach County. That is quite an accomplishment given the

magnitude of schools. They have hired 187 new police officers during this time. Chief Kitzerow also mentioned the importance of the prevention and intervention piece. Mental health are working to prevent grievances that start the pathway to violence. He recognized the partnerships with June Eassa and Kevin McCormick. The last piece they are working on is the reunification process. He will share more at a future meeting. Chairman Martz recognized Chief Kitzerow for this monumental project. Chief Brammer thanked Chief Kitzerow for his ingenuity in bringing it all together. He also recognized Deputy Chief Alexander for his work in his current role with the School Police Department and also his time served as Chief of the Boca Raton Police Department. In addition, Chief Brammer thanked Chairman Martz for leading this group on behalf of the Law Enforcement Planning Council and recognized the importance of this endeavor.

- V. FDLE Update: Lieutenant Randy Foley, Behavioral Services Unit, PBC Sheriff's Office advised that he would be providing an update on FDLE mandates and what Behavioral Services is doing for PBC. He noted that Behavioral Services is more of a community task force not just restricted to the Sheriff's Office anymore. He mentioned that the School Board has been an amazing partner. They are also working with Boca Raton, West Palm Beach, Delray Beach, Palm Beach Gardens, FBI, and FDLE. They are all formal partners that are setting up MOUs to do threat mitigation. The goal of Behavioral Services is intervention and prevention. He explained how they address possible threats. In addition, he reported that FDLE as of January 1<sup>st</sup> has mandated regional teams. Florida is divided into seven regions. Region 7 covers from Palm Beach County to Key West which is approximately 40% of Florida's population. The teams fall under FDLE and the Regional Domestic Security Task Force. Their job is to look for any community threats and terrorism in the area. He noted that he has been named a Chair of the Region 7 Threat Mitigation Team. FDLE has asked them to develop a blueprint for the other six regions in Florida. He noted that they are getting calls nationally about what they are doing in PBC. The Team will be similar to this group with quarterly meetings. They are going to focus on unified training for the region, information sharing, de-confliction on a statewide level, and sharing of resources. He mentioned that this is a chance for law enforcement, community resource organizations, and mental health to get involved from the ground up and set the stage for the entire state and hopefully on a national level. He asked for anyone that is interested to please reach out to him directly. Chief Kitzerow and Lt. Foley commented on the great working relationships for these projects. Lt. Foley mentioned they will be having unified training for all the law enforcement officers in the region on de-escalation and de-confliction. Chairman Martz recognized the foresight to work on mental health before it became an issue. Lt. Foley mentioned that they started working on a program in 2013.

- VI. Business

**Branding and Informational Campaign Update:**

- *DOJ Grant Requirements* – Lieutenant Randy Foley, PBC Sheriff's Office thanked the group for keeping the project on track to meet the requirements of the grant.
- *Campaign Timeline* – Danielle Ouellette, LCSW, PBC Sheriff's Office reported that there are four goals for the grant. She provided an overview of the fourth goal which is the community awareness campaign. They have a small group that has been working on this project. At the most recent meeting, they came up with a draft of the campaign timeline and worked extensively on the website design. She mentioned that Stephen Plunk has been a great asset to the group. They are hoping to have the site ready by the end of the month. The second area on the timeline is public service announcement materials. This will include magnets, billboards, bus stops, as well as informational cards that law enforcement can share with the community. The third area is consultation for the public service announcements. They will be working with Channel 20 with the intent of broadcasting by June 2021. The fourth goal is a 5K event with the planning phase scheduled for July 2021-February 2022. They would like to have the 5K in March 2022. The group will be looking at development of t-shirts and medals. They would like to have vendors at the event to share information with the community.
- *Branding, Website and Magnet* – Stephen Plunk, Graphic Designer, Plunk Designs reported that he has been working on revisions to the website. He shared a general mockup of the site. They wanted to make sure that the purpose of the site was clear to users. He mentioned that the magnets and advertisements will match the website to ensure branding and continuity. The most recent rendition includes the main slogan as the focal point. Immediately following there will be a synopsis explaining how to prevent mass violence and report suspicious behavior. The biggest take away is creating a uniform brand for the site and materials. Dr. Gerlock asked if the site will be in multiple languages. Mr. Plunk noted that most browsers have a translation button. Chairman Martz recognized Mr. Plunk for his work on the site. He also asked the group to share any comments or concerns. There was a discussion about creating an easy way for users to report suspicious behavior. Feedback should be provided as soon as possible as they would like to have the site ready by the end of the month. Several members asked if the 211 and 911 buttons could be larger. Jill Sorensen suggested that 211 be added in the prevention and intervention section with the SAMHSA national suicide prevention lifeline as they have community wide mobile response teams that can be dispatched via 211. There was a discussion about sending the site out to those that aren't in the business for their input. Dr. Gerlock also suggested adding the School District's Mental Health Plan to the site or adding it to the Caring First site. She will follow-up with June Eassa and Danielle Ouellette about this recommendation.

VII. Next Meeting Date – February 8, 2021

VIII. Adjourn