

MINUTES

Monday, March 8, 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

Elisa Cramer, Community Development Administrator, Florida Dept. of Children and Families

Dr. Rachel Docekal, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Lyrae Group, Economic Council member of the CJC

Megan Eaton, Circuit 15 Juvenile Justice Advisory Board Co-Chair

Tammy Fields, Director, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department

Captain Randy Foley, Behavioral Services Division, PBC Sheriff's Office

Nicholas Fricke, Director of Acute Care, South County Mental Health Center, Inc.

Nicole Gasparri, Emergency Manager, City of Boca Raton, City Managers Department

Barbara Gerlock, Ph.D., Organizational Development Consultant

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

Danielle Ouellette, LCSW, Behavioral Services Division Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

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

Jill Sorensen, Director of Children's System of Care, SE FL Behavioral Health Network

Greg Starling, Chief Probation Officer, Department of Juvenile Justice

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, FAU

Vaughn Crichlow, Ph.D., Associate Dean and Associate Professor, FAU

Sergeant Chelsea John-Williams, FAU Police Department

Stephen Plunk, Graphic Designer, Plunk Designs

Jan Cairnes, CEO, Hanley Foundation

CJC Staff Present:

Regenia Herring, Executive Director

Katherine Shover, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst

Brad Allen, Criminal Justice Analyst

- I. Welcome and Opening Comments – Chairman Martz mentioned the positive changes they are seeing with more people in the courthouse as COVID is becoming less of an influence in our lives and things are getting back to normal.
- II. Introductions - Chairman Martz welcomed Greg Starling, Chief Probation Officer, Department of Juvenile Justice and Elisa Cramer, Community Development Administrator, Florida Department of Children and Families. Ms. Cramer mentioned that they are here to support and provide any information that they can to the committee. She also shared the invitation with their substance abuse and mental health program office leaders. Chairman Martz mentioned that both members are valuable additions to the committee.
- III. The agenda/minutes were approved by consent. Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D. made the motion that was seconded by Barbara Gerlock, Ph.D.
- IV. Branding and Informational Campaign Update: Stephen Plunk, Graphic Designer, Plunk Designs presented the website design which is live right now. The page can be accessed at awareandcarepbc.com or awareandcarepbc.org. He mentioned that the written content hasn't changed. The branding that includes the logo, message, and new color scheme is now consistent on each page. He also recognized Sophia Dang, Senior Manager, PBC Information Systems Services for all her help in executing the site. Chairman Martz thought that the branding and call to action really helps users to understand the purpose of the site. Tammy Fields remarked that she really likes the layout and the graphic of the person on the site. She suggested that we let members know when we are ready for a press release so that they can add the link on their sites. Chairman Martz mentioned that he would like the ability to report directly before the site is released. There was a discussion

about who would manage the responses that are submitted directly to the site. Dr. Rowlands and Captain Foley noted that they are trying to determine the most efficient process and whether the reports should come directly to the Behavioral Services Unit. They should have an update by the next meeting. Tammy Fields also mentioned that there could be a liability issue if the site isn't manned 24/7.

- V. Review of the 2/22 Systems Leader Table Meeting: Lauren Zuchman, LCSW, Executive Director, BeWellPBC advised that approximately 60 leaders attended the meeting in which the Achieving Greater Impact from the System of Care report was reviewed by the authors Dr. David Shern and Dr. Mary Armstrong. The main recommendations included the development of a child and family governance model, data integration, and supporting the Healthier Together and Bridges initiatives. They also recommended that pediatricians get quick referrals to address behavioral health challenges. Another recommendation was the Rethink Health Core Team that includes BeWellPBC, PBC Youth Services, PBC Community Services, and the Children's Services Council. The last recommendation was focused on health disparities to ensure that the most marginalized communities receive the best support. The meeting gave them a chance to talk through the recommendations and develop action steps. Lauren Zuchman and Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D. were both pleased about the synergy between all of the breakout groups. The groups expressed the importance that the conversation going forward should include an integrated leaders table with system providers and community leaders in order to codesign solutions with the community. Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D. also mentioned that all of the recommendations are important, but the group determined that they need to focus on one or two things.

Tammy Fields and Lauren Zuchman were really excited to report that PBC is one of the nine finalists for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Prize. Palm Healthcare Foundation, PBC Youth Services, Children's Services Council, and BeWellPBC were part of the application. They should know by fall if they are a finalist. The Foundation supports very forward thinking ideas of how to support community solutions within larger communities throughout the country.

- VI. The CJC's approval, at the recommendation of the Public Safety Coordinating Council/Corrections Taskforce, for the Hanley Foundation to apply for the planning portion of the Florida DCF, Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse (CJMHS) Reinvestment Grant Program. Jan Cairnes, CEO, Hanley Foundation and Dr. Rachel Docekal, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Lyrae Group, Economic Council member of the CJC discussed the planning grant that will bring together all of the groups that are focused on behavioral health solutions and look at the north end of West Palm Beach. Hanley Foundation is focusing with Rise which is a community revitalization project. They want to take a deep dive into that area to determine the issues and put together a plan of solutions. They are looking at an implementation grant that would be three years and approximately \$400,000 a year

that would go directly into the community. Chairman Martz mentioned that he worked for years in the area through the Weed and Seed program and the success of the program in Delray. He noted that they didn't displace community through this project and it made life better for everyone that lived there.

- VII. Tammy Fields mentioned that she had been hearing comments about an increase in suicides due to the changes in remote learning and other factors. She went to the Medical Examiner's Office to see if there were any changes and determined that suicides are actually down for both adults and teens in 2020. This data doesn't address where attempts have been made. The most frequent method of committing suicide by young adults was by hanging 61.5% and followed closely by gunshot wounds to the head. There was only one that was a drug overdose during this timeframe. Chairman Martz said that this is good news that Palm Beach County doesn't seem to be following national trends.

Year	Adults	Under the age of 21
2018	254	11
2019	241	17
2020	172	10
2021*	35	2

*Number of suicides so far this year.

- VIII. Sharon L'Herrou, President/CEO, 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast provided an update that the 988 number will replace the 10 digit national suicide lifeline number. Locally 211 will be responding to those calls. She noted that there are a lot of logistics in the roll out of the 988 number with the telecom industry, as well as state by state in shortening the number. Florida did receive a planning grant in which DCF will lead the implementation of the grant. She noted that she will be serving on the steering committee and many of the other 211s will be represented. The deadline for the telecoms to have it operational is by next July. She mentioned that 211 also received a Google grant award for Google awareness efforts that will help with search engine optimization. In addition, there is a potential opportunity for targeted outreach for youth from a local private foundation. Concerning the COVID-19 response, the state of Florida did receive a federal award for a crisis counseling prevention initiative which recently went live with 211.
- IX. Chairman Martz mentioned that there is a lot of work going on behind the scenes with subcommittees and also formalizing the work of the group. He asked members to let him know if they have any suggestions or feedback.
- X. Next Meeting Date – April 12, 2021