

MINUTES

Monday, September 13, 2021 12:10 P.M.

Law Enforcement Planning Council Palm Beach County School & Community Safety Initiative Behavioral Health Track

Online via Zoom



Members Present:

Nicole Bishop, Director, PBC Justice and Victim Services Division

Mary Blakeney, Director, PBC Emergency Management, Public Safety Department

Chief Sean Brammer, Chair, CJC Law Enforcement Planning Council and Chief of Police, Florida Atlantic University Police Department

Patrick Chapman, Chief Operating Officer, JFK Medical Center North Campus

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

Darcy J. Davis, Chief Executive Officer, Health Care District of Palm Beach County

Tammy Fields, Director, PBC Youth Services Department

Dr. Barbara Cox Gerlock, Organizational Development Consultant, Systems Integration Services

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

Sharon L'Herrou, President/Chief Executive Officer, 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast

Alexa Lee, M.S., Director of Programs, Palm Beach County Substance Abuse Coalition

Kevin McCormick, Director, Exceptional Student Education, PBC School District

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, Behavioral Health Services, JFK Medical Center North Campus

Heather Thomas, Case Manager, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

Major Michael Waites, PBC School District Police Department

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

Magistrate Maxine Williams, 15th Judicial Circuit

Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer, Children's Services Council of PBC
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

Sarah Phillips, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

Abigail Langweiler, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

Sergeant Mike Tramonte, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

CJC Staff Present:

Regenia Herring, Executive Director

Katherine Shover, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst

- I. Welcome and Opening Comments by Katherine Shover as Judge Martz was unable to attend the meeting.
- II. The agenda/minutes were approved by consent.
- III. Presentations/Updates

Rethinking School Safety and Reinvesting in our Community: Sarah Phillips and Abigail Langweiler shared information about their organization, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. Ms. Phillips mentioned that they are the largest non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots organization seeking to end gun violence in America. They use research and data to create the best methods of reducing gun violence in communities. Ms. Phillips noted that in 1975 one percent of schools were patrolled by police. Since then that number has climbed to almost half of all public schools. After the Parkland tragedy, Florida was the first state to require armed staff or law enforcement officers be present at every public school K-12. They noted concern about the negative impact and effectiveness of these policies. In addition, they made the following recommendations to increase the number of mental health and medical staff at each school.

- There are 461 students to 1 counselor even though the recommended ratio is 250:1.
- There are 1,240 students to 1 school nurse even though the recommended ratio is 750:1.
- There are 1,961 students to 1 school psychologist even though the recommended ratio is 500:1.

- There are 2,013 students to 1 social worker even though the recommended ratio is 250:1.

Additional recommendations from the presentation are listed below.

- Create specific protocols for police presence at school.
- Mandate police training on adolescent development, implicit bias, communication, and de-escalation.
- Provide trauma-informed services and trainings.
- Urge funding for school-based medical and mental health providers.
- End routine policing practices inside schools in favor of ensuring perimeter safety.
- End the practice of arrests and referrals to LEOs for common adolescent behaviors.
- End punitive diversionary programs in favor of community programs.
- Refer students to community-based violence intervention programs.

There was a general discussion about the presentation. Members expressed concern about the veracity of the data. They decided to create a small working group to provide local data for Ms. Philips and Ms. Langweiler as they mentioned that they would like to see Palm Beach County become the model for the state.

IV. Adjournment