

MINUTES

Tuesday, November 6, 2018 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Palm Beach County School Safety Initiative Behavioral Health Track

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



Members Present:

Chairman Judge James Martz, Administrative Juvenile Division Judge
Seth Bernstein, Psy.D., Senior Vice President for Community Investments, United Way
Darcy Davis, CEO, Heath Care District of PBC
Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D., CEO Children's Services Council
Becky Walker, COO, Southeast Behavioral Health Network
Pat McNamara, President and CEO, Palm Healthcare Foundation
Sharon Tarlow, Education Coordinator, JFK Medical Center
Dr. Barbara Gerlock, Circuit 15 Juvenile Justice Advisory Board Chair
Magistrate Judette Fanelli, 15th Judicial Circuit
Judge Rosemarie Scher, 15th Judicial Circuit
June Eassa, Ed.S, Director Department of Safe Schools, PBC School District
Keith Oswald, Deputy Superintendent and Chief of Schools, PBC School District
Pat Kenny, Division Manager, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Sharon L'Herrou, President CEO 211, Palm Beach/Treasure Coast
Dr. Rachel Pappert Docekal, Founder and CEO, Lyrae Group, Economic Council Member of the CJC

Guests Present:

Greg Starling, Chief Probation Officer, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
Cassandra Atkin-Plunk, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Florida Atlantic University
Vaughn Crichlow, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Florida Atlantic University
Jenn Munoz, PBC Children's Services Council

CJC Staff Present:**Kristina Henson**, Executive Director, PBC Criminal Justice Commission**Jonathan Hackley**, Criminal Justice Analyst, PBC Criminal Justice Commission

- I. Welcome and Opening Comments – Chairman Martz
 - a. Welcomed all members and guests.
 - b. Provided an overview of the purpose and objectives for the subcommittee and points to ponder.
 - i. Identify categories of services each individual agency provides in Palm Beach County.
 - ii. Identify gaps in mental health services as they may pertain to school safety.
 - iii. Ensure a quality continuum of care exists for juveniles and others identified as threats to safety.
 - c. Director Henson provided an overview of the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) and a brief synopsis of the October 12, 2018 LEPC training symposium.
- II. Introductions were made.
- III. Business:
 - a. Brain Storming:
 - i. Pat Kenny provided information about the PBSO Behavioral Health Unit and Palm Beach County Fusion Center. He explained the role of the Fusion Center in identifying threats and addressing them in real time. In response to the Chair's question about needs, he said "gate keepers" are needed for the kids that his Unit identifies in crisis in order to determine who the Unit can call after stabilization to ensure the right services are provided and that someone is keeping track of them
 - ii. Sharon Tarlow discussed gaps in mental health services from the hospital administrator's position. Challenges include the difficulty in obtaining consent to provide information to schools. She suggested legislation and MOUs to help better support the process. Other limitations are that Baker Acts are only 72 hours and some individuals are not deemed not committable and have no place to go. There has also been an increase in the number of Baker Acts because parents want an evaluation and the patients must be Baker Acted to receive one. Finally, families are not following through on recommendations.
 - iii. Chairman Martz inquired about a previous court monitored system for therapeutic mental health care similar to Drug Court. He was advised that Major Robin Griffin-Kitzerow and Lynn Powell are working on a level 4 Diversion Program. Magistrate Fanelli felt the therapeutic court system was effective.
 - iv. Additional discussion - The Sheriff's office and the Department of Safe Schools

are working together to provide mental health advocates similar to the Guardian ad Litem program. June Eassa presented information on the CAPE (Crisis Assessment, Prevention, and Education) Teams. Chairman Martz requested that his court liaisons receive training on the process for referring to the team. It was also noted that due to Senate Bill 7026, all children who make threats are expelled and placed into alternative schools.

- v. Dr. Seth Bernstein suggested that not having fully funded care coordination as well as a lack of quality mental health professionals in the community are gaps in service.
- vi. Lisa Williams-Taylor presented information on the Bridges Program, which serve as community hubs that provide community resources, parenting education, and developmental assessments to families. These hubs located throughout the county should be incorporated into whatever plans the committee develops.

IV. Next Steps and Future Meeting(s):

- i. June Eassa suggested a discussion around the expulsion of students for threats that may result in arrests for the purpose of getting the youth into the mental health system. These youth who may not have means of carrying out the threats are now placed into the alternative school system with other youth who have access to weapons.
- ii. Identify ways to engage the population not signing releases in hospitals in order to do more targeted outreach.
- iii. Create a road map for everyone that has contact information at every step of the process.
- iv. Once crisis intervention takes place law enforcement needs additional support to do a safety plan and psychosocial assessments for the children involved (for those not deemed to be criminal offenses).
- v. Need more long-term placement for children. Too much "red tape" and long processes to get children into programs/placement.
- vi. DCF Family Builder's Program – a 6-week program for families who were facing DCF removal.
- vii. Possible additions to the team (3rd meeting) – Lynn Powell, DCF, Meagan Eaton, James Green and possibly providers (Hanley Center, etc.) Keep groups small and branch out as needed for decisions/additional information.

V. Next Meeting date

- i. Monday December 17, 2018 from 12:00 - 2:00 P.M.

II. Adjourn