

MINUTES

Monday, December 17, 2018 12:00 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
Melody Bonomo, Director of Behavioral Health, Prestige Health Choice
Darcy Davis, CEO, Health Care District of PBC
June Eassa, Ed.S., Director Department of Safe Schools, PBC School District
Magistrate Judette Fanelli, 15th Judicial Circuit
Tammy Fields, Director, PBC Youth Services
Major Robin Griffin-Kitzerow, PBC School District Police Department
Sharon L'Herrou, President CEO 211, Palm Beach/Treasure Coast (Representative)
Jeff Kadel, Executive Direct, PBC Substance Abuse Coalition
Pat Kenny, Ph.D. Division Manager, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Pat McNamara, President and CEO, Palm Healthcare Foundation
Keith Oswald, Deputy Superintendent and Chief of Schools, PBC School District
Judge Rosemarie Scher, 15th Judicial Circuit
Sharon Tarlow, Education Coordinator, JFK Medical Center
Becky Walker, COO, Southeast Behavioral Health Network
Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D., CEO Children's Services Council
Dr. Rachel Docekal, Founder and CEO, Lyrae Group, Economic Council Member of the CJC

Guests Present:

Cassandra Atkin-Plunk, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Florida Atlantic University
Vaughn Crichlow, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Florida Atlantic University
Diana Matty, Fire Chief, West Palm Beach Fire Department

CJC Staff Present:

Kristina Henson, Executive Director, PBC Criminal Justice Commission

Katherine Shover, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst, 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.
- II. Introductions were made.
- III. Business:
 - a. Brain Storming on Threat Identification: the following people and entities are identifiers of children displaying threatening behaviors:
 1. Schools – teachers, administrators, resource officers/school police, students, counselors, therapists
 2. Courts through hearings and service assessments
 3. Law enforcement through calls for service or observation
 4. Parents, friends, neighbors through observation and personal experience
 5. Behavioral health professionals in the delivery of services
 6. Fire Rescue responding to a medical issue and observe issues
 7. Social service providers like the Youth Empowerment Centers
 8. Student Protect App of PBSO
 - b. Brain Storming on gaps/issues:
 1. Lacking resources and concentration on therapy for the entire family. Treating kids in schools is not enough as they go back into troubled families. CSC has a project to address the lack of qualified professionals in the County. Palm Healthcare is also working with FAU on this issue.
 2. List of kids identified by the different agencies as threats – how to get through HIPPA and FERPA regulations on information sharing. List of providers and resources to help in referring kids to the proper place dependent on their particular needs. Kids identified as threats are usually sent to alternative schools which are not equipped to handle the complex behavioral health needs. Residential options need to be identified like the former PBSO Eagle Academy in Belle Glade.
 3. Biopsychosocial assessment was suggested to identify issues so that the therapist can then craft a treatment plan. There should be a review of the elements of the different agencies who do these assessments to ensure they include elements such as access to firearms.

4. Issue with Baker Act in which parents can't voluntarily commit their child. There is a glitch that has always existed in the Baker Act but has only recently been identified and challenged by Christian Scientists. Also a concern about the decline in prosecution of cases with the new charge by the MSD Act of "written threats to a school." How to proceed if not able to Baker Act.

5. A general discussion was held on what to do when parents are uncooperative or don't want to stigmatize the child by being in treatment. Won't sign releases to share information about the child across agencies. Need to figure out how to destigmatize mental health disorders. School Police have a training called Youth Mental Health First Aid.

c. Resources Identified

1. Darcy Davis described the resources available for behavioral health therapy from her agency's new initiative to expand their services from strictly medical care. Judges Martz and Scher were unaware of these resources and encouraged and asked that she provide more details at our next meeting.

d. Next Steps and Future Meeting(s):

1. Darcy Davis and her clinical director to give a presentation at our next meeting on the new behavioral health services of her agency.

2. Tammy Fields to provide standardized definitions for Trauma Informed Care

3. Becky Walker and Melody Bonomo to present on treatment tracks

4. Develop goals and objectives draft for this groups work to meet needs of FAU PBSO grant

5. Have June present on the Threat Assessment Team or at following meeting if agenda full

6. Conduct a Table Top Exercise at a near future meeting taking sampling of some cases across systems

7. Staff to finalize big picture flowcharts on school and behavioral health

IV. Next Meeting date

I. Adjourn