



Palm Beach County
Criminal Justice Commission
Improving Justice Outcomes

Public Safety Coordinating Council

301 N. Olive Ave., 12th Floor, McEaddy Conference Room
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Minutes

Tuesday, August 15, 2023, 12:00 PM

Members Present:

Jan Underwood, *Lived Experience Representative*

Nicole Bishop, *PBC Director of Justice & Victim Services*

Daniel Ramos, *Senior Program Manager, PBC Community Services Department*

Barbara Dawicke, *Trial Court Administrator, 15th Judicial Circuit, Represented by Michelle Cruz*

John Viola, *PBC Bail Bond Association*

Jessica Durant, *Regional Community Forensic Liaison, Office of Substance Abuse & Mental Health, Florida Dept. of Children and Families*

Ann Berner, *Chief Executive Officer, Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network, Represented by Becky Walker*

Andrea Rocha, *Criminal Courts Director, Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller (nominee)*

Nellie King, *Criminal Defense Lawyer*

Dan Eisinger, *Assistant Public Defender, Public Defender's Office, 15th Judicial Circuit designee of Carey Haughwout, Represented by Carey Haughwout, Public Defender*

Jenica Lopez, *Assistant State Attorney, State Attorney's Office, 15th Judicial Represented by Craig Williams, Chief Assistant State Attorney*

Members Absent

Judge Daliah Weiss, *Administrative Judge, Criminal Division, 15th Judicial Circuit*

Judge Ashley Zuckerman, *Administrative Judge, County Criminal Court, 15th Judicial Circuit (nominee)*

Major Michael Devoter, *Commanding Officer, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office*

Chief Gregory Starling, *Chief Probation Officer, Department of Juvenile Justice*

Michelle Johns, *Circuit Administrator, Department of Corrections, Probation Services*

Alton Taylor, *President and Chief Executive Officer, Drug Abuse Foundation of PBC, Inc.*

Chief Gus Medina, *President, Association of Chiefs of Police, Chief of Tequesta Police Department*

Julia Dattolo, *President and Chief Executive Officer, CareerSource PBC*

Mornae Randall, *Lived Experience Representative*

Nancy McConnell, *Lived Experience Representative (nominee)*

CJC Staff Present:

Regenia Herring, Executive Director, CJC

Dawn Caveness-Davenport, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst, CJC

Katherine Shover, Criminal Justice Systems Manager, CJC

I. Welcome and Opening Comments – *Commissioner Michael A. Barnett, Chair*

II. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests – *Dawn Caveness-Davenport*

III. Approval of and/or Additions to the Meeting Agenda – Agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

IV. Discussion Items:

A. Review PSCC Purpose, Objectives and Authorities (*see attachment*) and the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant

Regenia Herring led the discussion about the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Use Reinvestment grant. In order to apply for the grant, the Corrections Task Force needed to be updated to comply with Florida Statutes. The Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) is now the new Corrections Task Force, to comply with the F.S. Palm Beach County (PBC). The PSCC can now apply for Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Use Reinvestment grant. Members were added to those PSCC so that we meet the requirements for that grant. What the CJC had in its Corrections Task Force, some of those same members fell over into the PSCC. Many roles are still the same, but the statute has some specific things that this group should address and follow through on that are listed in terms of Purpose and Objectives. Another difference is that PSCC memberships must be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). Some positions are by virtue of their position, and other positions are appointed every four years. At the advice of our PSCC, we can create bylaws for the PSCC. Executive Director Herring continued to talk about the PSCC is role and what it should be doing, as it reports directly to the BOCC.. Executive Director Herring stated that as CJC staff, we staff both boards. Still, both boards should work collaboratively because the CJC has an overarching role in all things within the criminal justice system. The group decided to wait until October to elect a chair.

Public Defender Carey Haughwout talked about the Re-Entry Task Force aspect of the responsibilities and not being part of the PSCC. Executive Director Herring agreed it would be good to share information. Ms. Haughwout is looking forward to going back to having regular reports about the jail population, release status,

house arrest, and updated reports. The report will be attached and discussed at the next meeting. There was no representation from the jail present to have the jail discussion.

Executive Director Herring talked again about the reinvestment grant and the importance of the PSCC, looking at the grant requirements and how the funding can be used. She mentioned that the grant has a planning component, and she would like the group to be ready because the solicitation will be released sometime in March 2024. Some of the initiatives the grant can be used for can help fill the holes as to what is happening in the criminal justice system and the gaps in mental health. The reinvestment grant involves mental health courts, but the key is lowering recidivism. Ms. Haughwout talked about how sometimes we get bogged down with getting too much data. One of the crucial issues that is going to impact the jail and mental health is statutory changes that require people who have been hospitalized to be transported within seven days of a report from the hospital. Ms. Haughwout stated that we can get information from the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office (PBSO) about their process for administering medications before going to a hospital. It may be a process or people issue, not a data issue, and if it is a people issue, then we need somebody here who can explain what, if any, changes they are undertaking to address this.

B. Frequency of Meetings

The task force should start meeting every month until there is an understanding of the work plan, and then the task force can move to quarterly meetings, but since PSCC is being structured, meeting monthly will be effective for now. The PSCC should have the same schedule as the Corrections Task Force meeting, which is the first Wednesday of every month.

C. Development of a Work Plan/ Task Force Priorities

The group decided to wait until the next meeting to develop a work plan due to wanting someone from Well Path present and waiting to review the data reports. Ms King is advocating for mental health as a priority in the jail. Executive Director Herring suggested looking at the data reports and the authorities; that information might be good to start sparking some of those conversations. Regarding population status, Ms. Haughwout suggested we should talk again with the Sheriff about changing electronic monitoring to GPS monitoring. Electronic monitoring requires an antiquated and expensive phone in a person's home. Ms. Haughwout stated it took someone three and a half weeks to get released on house arrest because AT&T had to set up a phone line that most people don't have now. The Department of Corrections also uses GPS. Mr. Viola suggested the use of subcontractors as they are very expeditious at getting things done. Doing the monitoring in-house is a bit slower because you run out of monitors and you also have to pay \$168 to the

alternative custody unit. Then, when you go in, you must prove you have car insurance and that your driver's license is valid.

There was also a discussion about the delay in terms of individuals being released from jail. It was agreed to have this discussion when there was a PBSO jail representative present and suggested that Sergeant Hall be invited from the alternative custody unit at PBSO.

D. Appointment of a Chair

John Viola made a motion to wait on voting for a chair until the October 2023 meeting, and there was a consensus to wait.

E. The upcoming SIM and the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant

Executive Director Herring talked about the Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) Workshop that will be held September 13 and 14, 2023. The goal is to look at mental health, behavioral health, and substance abuse within all the criminal justice systems and intersecting systems such as education, human services and housing, that impact the criminal justice system. The goal is to examine how we keep people out of the criminal justice system who need other services. Stabilizing folks with housing and mental health services keeps them out of the criminal justice system. Policy Research, Inc. is the provider and they'll be facilitating the SIM at Palm Beach State College.

V. Next Meeting: *October 4th, 202*

VI. Adjournment *was approved by unanimous consent.*