

M I N U T E S

MONDAY, June 13, 2011 – 8:00 a.m.

**PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

McEaddy Conference Room
12th Floor, 301 N. Olive Avenue
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Members Present:

Rosalyn Baker
Barbara Cheives
George Elmore
Carey Haughwout
Feirmon Johnson
William Kramer
Marti LaTour
Gerald Richman
Clarence Williams

Members Absent:

Peter Blanc
Douglas Duncan
Michael McAuliffe

James Barr
Ex-Officio Executive Committee

Bill Malone
Ex-Officio Executive Committee

CJC Member Attending:

Mack Bernard

Guests Attending:

Jeremy Baker, OFMB
Jeannie Damato, OFMB
Jim Kelly, PBC School District
Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office
Richard Markoe, Clerk and Comptroller (for Clerk Bock)
Donna, Public Defender's Office
Bobby Powell, Representative Bernard's office
Paul Zacks, State Attorney's Office (for State Attorney McAuliffe)

Staff Present:

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director
Arlene Griffiths, Administrative Secretary
Katherine Hatos, Criminal Justice Analyst
Jenise Link, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst
Brenda Oakes, Youth Violence Prevention Planning Coordinator
Jyota Snyder, Temporary Professional
Craig Spatara, RESTORE Initiative Program Manager
Mike Szakacs, Financial Analyst II
Becky Walker, Criminal Justice Programs Manager

- I. Chair Barbara Cheives called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present. Marti LaTour and Gerald Richman attended the meeting via telephone.
- III. Chair Cheives welcomed members and invited guests to introduce themselves. Special welcome was extended to Representative Mack Bernard and School Superintendent Bill Malone to their first CJC meeting.
- IV. The agenda was unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Elmore and second by Mr. Barr.
- V. The minutes of the October 12, 2010 Executive meeting were unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Elmore and second by Mr. Kramer.
- VI. Under Chairman's Comments, Chair Cheives:
 - A. Commented on her recent visit to Tallahassee where she met the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Secretary Wansley Walters. She said that Ms Walters praised Miami and Palm Beach counties at a statewide meeting, pointing to their decline in detention centers. She also noted that Palm Beach was the only county with an amazing collaboration on the frontend between the stake holders as it relates to prevention.
 - B. Highlighted a newspaper article about a recent bill signed by Governor Scott to crack down on baggy pants in public high schools. Chair Cheives noted her concern with respect to how the law will be enforced and where it goes beyond baggy pants.
 - C. Provided members with copy of a news paper article on the Belle Glade Youth Empowerment Center and the terrific work being done there. She congratulated the persons that are working with the centers. She also noted the closure of the Northwood center and advised that the Northwood students were attending the Pleasant City or Gaines Park center. All centers are funded through March 2012, but staff continues to look for grants to sustain them.
- VII. Under Executive Director's Comments, Mr. Rodriguez:
 - A. Reported that Palm Beach County bed capacity for juvenile justice has been reduced from 93 to 65. He also reported that two staff positions and 16 vacant positions were lost.
 - B. Announced the upcoming free youth violence training being hosted by the 15th Judicial Circuit on Tuesday, June 28, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The venue was not yet determined, but interested persons were advised to register at www.15thcircuit.com, and to contact Cristy Altaro at 355-6586 or caltaro@pbcgov.org for additional information.
 - C. Invited interested persons to watch the first public budget hearing at 6:00 p.m.
 - D. Reported that the first formula grant was received which is 20% less

than anticipated. The finance committee will meet as soon as the second grant is received to determine how the funds will be distributed.

VIII. Business Consent Item

There were no business consent items.

IX. Old Business:

A. Sunshine Statute

Chair Cheives commented on the letter received from Torcivia & Associates regarding Attorney Glen Torcivia's opinion on the CJC and the sunshine law, and his recommendations for possible language as it relates to the CJC's make up. She expressed sympathy to Mr. Torcivia who was unable to attend the meeting due to the passing of his mother. Chair Cheives invited member comments on the letter.

Mr. Elmore concurred with Mr. Torcivia's recommendation to approach the Attorney General for a waiver and suggested that the Law Enforcement Planning Council (LEPC) be considered for a waiver as well since they too are having issues with the sunshine law. Mr. Kramer and Ms. LaTour both agreed that it's time to move forward with seeking a legislative solution. Mr. Richman added that the contents of the letter present an opportunity for the CJC to proceed with drafting the letter to the Attorney General

Mr. Kramer moved the motion for the executive committee to allow Mr. Richman to draft a legislative request to the Attorney General, using the letter from Torcivia & Associates as a basis to allowing the CJC to work as it has been. Ms. LaTour and Chief Williams will work with Mr. Richman on the request. The motion was second by Mr. Elmore and unanimously approved by members.

Representative Bernard noted that if a legislative fix will be sought, the request needs to be submitted as soon as possible since session begins in January instead of March. He said that his office would therefore need to get this bill into drafting before August as committee meetings start in September.

A taskforce for the legislative solution was established and will meet before the next executive meeting. Representative Bernard and Legislative Affairs Director, Todd Bonlarron will be invited to join the meeting.

B. Members were presented with a revised list of the issues that are currently discussed or have been discussed by CJC and its taskforces/committees over the past year.

Public Defender Carey Haughwout commented on the issue regarding people in custody for extended period of time that was brought up at a recent taskforce meeting which she thought was not an appropriate taskforce issues and should be resolved outside of public meeting. In

light of this, she noted the need to educate the taskforces/committees and other partners to understand the difference between appropriate CJC issues versus issues that should be resolved outside of the CJC process.

A suggestion was made for taskforce/committee chairs to discuss this issue and for the CJC to also have in writing the appropriate process and issues to be referred to the CJC.

Mr. Rodriguez advised of his commitment to reverting to the process and criteria for addressing CJC issues

X. New Business

A. Reentry Issues

Mr. Rodriguez reported that the Reentry Taskforce is seeking CJC's approval on reallocation of existing staffing dollars to the evaluation of multiple reentry programs, especially those funded by the CJC and also the reallocation of dollars currently provided to the Public Defender's Office to purchase identification for persons coming out of jails and prisons directly to the providers for a more efficient process.

Public Defender Carey Haughwout added that the reallocation of dollars directly to the providers would streamline the identification process a little better. With regards to the evaluation aspect, she noted that the taskforce has decided that it was more important to spend the funds on evaluation than on a staff position. She further noted that an outside evaluation will provide some direction on what is working and what needs to be done for the future.

Members unanimously approved the reallocation of dollars as recommended by the Reentry Taskforce after motion by Mr. Elmore and second by Mr. Johnson.

B. County run drug lab

Mr. Rodriguez reported on his recent visit to the St. Lucie County drug testing lab which is funded by the county. He sought the CJC's input in looking at the issue of a local county drug testing lab instead of using private labs for drug testing as is currently done in Palm Beach. He noted that the St. Lucie drug testing lab is reportedly cheaper to run and that the county gets a profit of a couple hundred dollars each year.

Mr. Kramer commented that he would like the CJC to see the financial model as to how it works, showing the inputs and outputs in order to get an idea of the real revenue and cost flows before recommending that this be looked at as an alternative.

Mr. Rodriguez advised that he was in possession of the St. Lucie budget information but that he would obtain additional information if required.

Ms. Baker added that the Department of Corrections do onsite drug

testing for people in drug court as a cost saving to the department. When a positive result is obtained however, it is sent to a private facility for confirmation.

Mr. Elmore noted that this issue was raised some years ago and that it proved that the private sector could provide the service at a cheaper cost depending on the level of testing required which could get very expensive.

After further discussion, a decision was reached for the executive director to provide the CJC with a paper on the issue before making a decision on going forward.

XI. CJC Initiatives / Updates

There were no CJC initiatives or updates for discussion.

XII. Under member comments, Chair Cheives inquired about the CJC's presentation to the Board of County Commissioners on July 19th.

Mr. Rodriguez advised that the two items to be presented are the sunshine issue and the youth violence prevention project evaluation. He noted that the data have been received from the school board and the Department of Florida Law Enforcement (FDLE), and that a draft evaluation will be ready for presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:05 a.m.