

M I N U T E S

MONDAY, October 26, 2009

PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

FULL COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Members Present:

James Barr
Peter Blanc
Barbara Cheives
Max Davis
Douglas Duncan
George Elmore
Carey Haughwout
Matt Immler
Feirmon Johnson
Kathleen Kroll
Marti LaTour
Wesley Lauer
Karen Marcus
Michael McAuliffe
Gerald Richman
Carmen Veneziano
Lee Waring

Members Absent:

Rosalyn Baker
Stephen Barborini
Joseph Bernadel
Flynn Bertisch
Sharon Bock
Delsa Bush
Ted Deutch
Mike Driscoll
Rolando Garcia
Randolph K. Johnson, Sr.
William Kramer
Luis Perez
Debra Robinson
Charles Shaw
William Stern

Art Johnson, (Ex-Officio Executive Committee)

Guests Attending:

Sandra Bosso-Pardo, County Court Judge/Court Administration
Maureen Brickous, PRIDE Integrated Services, Inc.
Kim Collins, Clerk & Comptroller
Jim Garrett, Office of Financial Management & Budget
Shelby King, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office
Justine Patterson, Department of Corrections

Staff Present:

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director
Journey Beard, Crime Prevention Project Specialist
Arlene Burton, Administrative Secretary
Shahzia Hashmi, Intern
Katherine Hatos, Criminal Justice Analyst
Damir Kukec, Research & Planning Manager

Jenise Link, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst
Rosalind Murray, Program Development Specialist
Brenda Oakes, Youth Violence Prevention Planning Coordinator
Mike Szakacs, Financial Analyst II
Candee Villapando, Criminal Justice Analyst
Becky Walker, Criminal Justice Programs Manager

- I. Chairman Barr called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. Welcome was extended to members and guests.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.
- III. Chairman Barr invited guests to introduce themselves.
- IV. Chairman Barr amended the agenda to allow the presentation of the Probation Advisory Board report as the first item. Agenda was unanimously approved as amended after motion by Commissioner Marcus and second by Chief Judge Blanc.
- V. The minutes of the September 29, 2009 full commission meeting were unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Elmore and second by Commissioner Marcus.
- VI. Under Chairman's Comments, Chairman Barr reminded persons to use the microphone when speaking so that everyone can hear.
- VII. Under Executive Director's Comments, Mr. Rodriguez:
 - A. Announced that the 22nd Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy has started and will run through December 17, 2009 from 6 to 9 p.m. Classes are held at the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (3228 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach) with tours at other criminal justice locations in the county.
 - B. Reminded the meeting of the Criminal Justice Commission's Strategic Planning Meeting scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- VIII. Under Updates, Mr. Rodriguez reported:
 - A. That the CJC has been advised that Tallahassee and Washington are swamped by all the additional millions of dollars in stimulus funds, which has caused the delay in processing the grants for the various programs. He noted the commitments for funds for many of the programs but indicated that we are still waiting to receive the award letters. This he said will result in a late start of some of the programs. Additionally, there are new staffs in Tallahassee that we have to deal with, which has also contributed to the delay in the process.

Ms. Haughwout inquired about the time frames given by Washington and Tallahassee.

Mr. Rodriguez said that he was not given a time frame despite his request for same, but noted that they are being a lot more meticulous with the details which has resulted in projects been sent back for changes several times.
 - B. That the performance measures report prepared by Damir Kukec has been distributed to members via email as well as in hard copy format. He suggested that members review the report for further discussion at the Strategic Planning Meeting, to which members agreed.

Mr. Kukec added that the report is a work in progress and asked members to contact

him if they have questions and/or comments.

IX. Business Consent item(s)

There were no business consent items.

X. Under Old Business, Mr. Rodriguez:

- A. Reported that as instructed by the CJC, Chairman Barr, Mr. Davis and staff met with County Administrator Bob Weisman and some county commissioners regarding the evaluation of the Youth Violence Prevention Project, and are scheduled to meet with Commissioner Abrams in the coming week. Mr. Rodriguez requested CJC's direction for staff to present to the BCC with regards to continuing with Florida State University (FSU) or to proceeding with the Request for Proposal (RFP). He said that FSU has indicated that they will not participate in an RFP, as they feel it would be an indication that we do not wish to continue with FSU. He also pointed out that there is an agreement in principle with FSU for \$100,000 per year, and that there was no guarantee that we will receive a bid for less than \$100,000. The RFP process would also take approximately 3 or 4 months which could delay the third year evaluation for possibly 9 months.

Mr. Davis suggested that the CJC allow FSU to complete what we contracted with them and in doing so, will also allow more time for a RFP process for future evaluations.

Mr. Richman, while agreeing with Mr. Davis, inquired about the concerns of having FSU completing the evaluation. Members gave different opinions such as the control sites, as well as FSU's bad presentation to the BCC which resulted in the request for other options.

Chief Judge Blanc commented on the repeated discussions on the balance of Mr. Davis' concerns with starting fresh after allowing FSU to complete the third year evaluation, which presents more positives than negatives. However, he remarked that the message at the last meeting was for the CJC to explain the concerns on both sides and get a feel from the commissioners.

Chairman Barr noted that Bob Weisman specifically indicated during their meeting that he had no problem in moving ahead with FSU.

State Attorney McAuliffe inquired if there are any discussions around FSU completing the final year evaluation at a less cost.

Mr. Rodriguez said it was discussed with FSU and that he was informed that the evaluation could not be completed for less as there is more work as a result of the increased sites.

Commissioner Marcus inquired about the outreach for the RFP process, and commented that there has to be a group out there with more local knowledge that is able to complete evaluation process, that we are not reaching.

Dr. Johnson inquired about the possibility of using a local university to do the research analysis, noting that the school district does most of its research, and that the \$100,000 could be used otherwise. He also asked what the results would be used for and whether the results would affect funding.

Mr. Rodriguez said that while we could use the data in-house and contract a university

to do a review of the report, it was always felt that an outside evaluation is more credible.

After further discussions, a decision was made to have staff put the data together and approach a local university to complete the review.

Ms. Haughwout added that it would be useful to do a cost analysis for staff to do the evaluation with the outside review versus using an outside institution to complete the process.

- B. Ms. Tana Ebbole of the Children's Services Council (CSC) presented an overview of her organization's status as it relates to the CJC's evaluation/planning process and CJC's intentions of using Dr. Alan Brown's management system which was implemented at CSC.

Ms. Ebbole indicated that in looking at the planning process and working in a direction where specific outcomes to be achieved are targeted, the first task is to decide what are the outcomes. She noted that the CSC's beginning point was identifying, based on research and data, where they could have the greatest impact in the future well being and child outcomes for children in Palm Beach County. She went through the various steps involved which lead to the creation of a logic model, highlighting the critical steps such as available resources before reaching the point of determining their niche. Recognizing that the CSC did not have the financial capacity to do it all, their roles became more of an advocacy rather than a provider of services.

She highlighted the importance of commitment to playing each role, including CSC's Board, whose role was making the policy decisions around the outcomes, based on extensive research, development, literature, and what the staff brought forward in workshops so that the Board had information and data to make good decisions. They then recognized, based on their fiscal and resource capacity, what could be achieved. CSC decided that they would demand from other organizations what they should be doing as they were no longer willing to use their dollars to do somebody else's job, which became a critical principle. Measurable conditions were identified, followed by key strategies or interventions which could impact those conditions and finally, the identification of evidence based programs that could successfully implement those interventions. She pointed out however, that evidence based programs will not fit every situation hence the need to identify a very specific target population and the problem to be solved, then tailor and find the right program to solve that problem.

She concluded that it is a journey which begins with having a sound logic model or program design with specificity, followed by evaluation. She said that the CJC therefore needs to identify its end, the measurable conditions, strategies to get there based on research and data, and the programs or services to be imbedded in those strategies. She noted however, that if there is a question about the validity and reliability of the evaluation itself, then the evaluation is of no value, noting that the question should be where the quality evaluation can be had and not who is doing it.

She said this can be done but just requires organization and commitment and making significant policy decisions regarding what the CJC wishes to change in this community that is within its capacity. She noted that in her organization's case, the CSC Board and staff did most of the work, while the experts provide access to information that would not

otherwise be accessible to the CSC.

Ms. Ebbole extended an invitation to all to an evidence-based workshop to be held in Palm Beach County from February 25-26, 2010. The workshop will look at all evidence-based programs for all disciplines for children nationally.

Chief Judge Blanc noted that he was not clear on what Dr. Brown would be offering the CJC, hence the invitation to hear Ms. Ebbole's experience.

Chairman Barr thanked Ms. Ebbole for her presentation.

- C. The Reentry Task Force Proposed Strategic Plan was deferred to the next full meeting in the interest of time.

XI. Under New Business,

- A. Ms. Candee Villapando presented highlights of the Probation Advisory Board (PAB) report.

In her presentation, Ms. Villapando provided a brief background on PAB which is a sub-committee of the CJC created by the Board of County Commission (BCC) to monitor and review service contracts for misdemeanor probation services in Palm Beach County. Judge Sandra Bosso-Pardo is the current chair of PAB. As part of the monitoring process, each year the CJC staff conducts a review of PRIDE services under the direction of PAB.

Ms. Villapando noted that for FY 2007-2008, staff examined data for all terminated misdemeanor probation cases which totaled 5,487. Electronic data was also reviewed for those cases in addition to 544 physical case files, client notes for information not available from the electronic data, as well as Pride's compliance with the service contract and scope of work requirements. The review covered three office locations from which Pride operates namely; West Palm Beach, Delray Beach and Belle Glade. The report indicated the client characteristics and the supervision outcomes.

A review of some of the provisions in Pride's services contract and scope of work revealed that Pride satisfied the requirements such as maintaining insurance and licenses, making timely payments to the county, and providing complete access to their records. In terms of client supervision, the findings revealed that during the intake, Pride probation officers conducted the required sexual predator/offender search and criminal record check, it filed a copy of the probation order/PTI agreement in the offenders case folders, verified and updated clients employment and address, referred clients to services as indicated in the needs assessment, and reported violations of probation. As it relates to administration, it was found that Pride verified the eligibility requirements of new hires, conducted criminal background checks, submitted required quarterly reports to the Chief Judge and to PAB in a timely manner, as well as made restitution payments to victims within 14 days as required.

The report concluded that Pride was in compliance with the service contract and scope of work provisions, and the needs assessment survey indicated that employment was a need for most clients. A recommendation was made for improvement in Pride's needs and assessment referral process.

Ms. Villapando noted that Pride supports the findings of the report, and in an effort to improve their processes, they requested and obtained approval for funding from the

CJC for the hiring of a Community Referral Manager and funding to update the referral database. Pride also requested an on-site technical assistance on risk/needs assessment from the National Institute of Corrections.

Public Defender Carey Haughwout inquired if Pride had given any thought to using the newly established position to assist with job development instead of just referrals.

Ms. Brickous responded that some direct services such as assistance with resume, jobs, skill development etc. will be provided. She also noted that Pride welcomes any recommendation in terms of what can be done to assist their clients.

Commissioner Marcus inquired about the make-up of the PAB committee.

Ms. Cheives commented that the CJC has had previous discussions about assisting with employment and that it was time get Workforce Alliance involved.

Mr. Rodriguez reported that he, along with staff, met with Katherine Schmidt and Randy Johnson, director and current chair of Workforce Alliance respectively. He noted that while they listened to what CJC had to offer and made some progress, he was not satisfied with the level of support that he feels Workforce Alliance will be providing, especially as it relates to kids ages 16 to 18 and ex-offenders.

Ms. Cheives remarked that she sat on the Workforce Alliance's Board and had the opportunity of travelling to national conferences, and said that there are workforce alliances around the country that are doing an incredible job with ex-offenders. She noted also that she was in Broward County this past summer where she trained kids ages 15 to 17 for job readiness.

Ms. LaTour inquired if there are agencies that provide training for entrepreneurial or computer skills for ex-offenders.

Mr. Rodriguez noted that the CJC started free computer classes at the Criminal Justice Service Center earlier this year but that he was not aware of any entrepreneurial opportunities.

Superintendent Art Johnson sought clarification on the term ex-offender, and whether it refers to school age students or post school, noting that when the judicial system sends high school students back to school, they often end up in career academies, where they are taught computer programming among other skills.

Mr. Davis inquired about what was being done in Riviera Beach with ex-offenders.

Ms. Walker noted that the Justice Service Center in Riviera Beach has a job coach who works with ex-offenders to obtain jobs, as well as working with employers in the area. She said that the West Palm Beach Community Justice Service Center also started a similar program.

Ms. Brickous commented that Pride is currently collecting data and that this data could be presented to PAB which would be the starting point of pulling all the information together.

Ms. Villapando advised that the report was reviewed and approved by PAB, and that they are now seeking CJC's endorsement of the report for submission to the BCC.

Members unanimously approved endorsement of the PAB report for submission to the

BCC after a motion by Ms. Haughwout and second by Mr. Elmore.

Mr. Elmore requested a report on the CJC's meeting with Workforce Alliance.

Mr. Lauer asked if the county, as a large employer, has an existing program or policy for interviewing an ex-offender.

Commission Marcus responded, saying that while the county doesn't do an outreach in this regard, if the ex-offender shows up or does an application on line, he would be treated as a general applicant and the most qualified hired.

XII. CJC Initiatives/Updates

CJC programs Newsletters were distributed to members.

XIII. Under Member Comments:

There were no member comments.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 a.m.