

M I N U T E S

TUESDAY, September 29, 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

Art Johnson, Ex-Officio

Guests Attending:

Maureen Brickous, PRIDE
Kim Collins, Clerk & Comptroller
Barbara Dawicke, Court Administration
Jim Garrett, Office of Financial Management & Budget
Marianne Rantala, Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
Maria Sachs, Florida House of Representative
Michelle Spangenberg, Court Administration

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

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
William Stern

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 approximately 8:05 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. The agenda was unanimously approved after motion by Mr. George Elmore and second by Mr. Max Davis.
- V. The minutes of the May 11, 2009 full commission special call meeting were unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Davis and second by Mr. Mike Driscoll.
- VI. Under Chairman's Comments, Chairman Barr:
 - A. Welcomed new CJC members: Senator Ted Deutch - Legislative Delegation, Flynn Bertisch – Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, and returning member Kathleen Kroll – Administrative Juvenile Judge.
 - B. Congratulated George Elmore on his accomplishment as the recipient of the 2009 Economic Development Leadership Award.
 - C. Announced that the CJC Nominating Committee would be meeting in October to nominate 2010 CJC officers and executive committee members. The Nominating Committee comprises James Barr, Barbara Cheives, Max Davis, Harry Johnston, II, Carey Haughwout and Peter Blanc.
 - D. Reminded persons to use the microphone when speaking so that everyone can hear.
 - E. Congratulated Ms. Rosalind Murray on a job well done at the Reentry Transition Fair held at the Clayton Hutcheson Agricultural Center on September 25, 2009. He noted that the Fair was very well attended and that participants were enthusiastic about being there, but pointed out the one issue being the lack of employers representing jobs.

Ms. Murray commended the team of persons who assisted in making the Fair a success. She added that though invitation was sent to 50 employers only one accepted, and contributed it to the present economic climate as well as the reluctance of employers to be publicly known to hire ex-offenders, which she said is part of the public relations the CJC will continue to work on. She noted that attendees were provided with assistance in obtaining drivers licenses and social security among other services.
- VII. Under Executive Director's Comments, Mr. Rodriguez announced that :
 - A. The 22nd Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy starts on Thursday, October 8, 2009 through December 17, 2009 from 6 to 9 p.m. Classes will be 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. To date, a total of 53 persons have registered for the classes.
 - B. Palm Beach County jointly with the Oakwood Center of the Palm Beaches Inc. was

awarded the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program Grant by the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance for \$250,000. Palm Beach is the first Florida County to be awarded this BJA grant. The grant will be used for enhanced Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training and for a pilot project for intensive forensic case management. The period will begin October 1, 2009 for 30 months. Special thanks to Jenise Link for her efforts in obtaining this grant.

VIII. Special presentations

Presentation of plaques was made to former CJC members Representative Maria Sachs, Marianne Rantala and Judge Moses Baker for their contribution to the Criminal Justice Commission. Judge Baker was absent from the meeting.

In accepting the plaque, Representative Sachs thanked CJC for the opportunity to serve and remarked that she sees it as a key to come back to the CJC to discuss criminal justice issues.

IX. Under Updates, Mr. Rodriguez :

A. Reported that there have been no changes to the CJC's budget but noted that next fiscal year could see a worsening of the budget situation.

B. Briefed members on the draft Performance Measures document prepared by Damir Kukec, for monitoring and evaluation of the projects being funded by the CJC. A decision was made by members to review the document for discussion at the next full commission meeting. He further noted that along with this document, there would be an interlocal agreement or contract with each provider that will provide more details relative to the performance measures, outcomes and data collections.

Mr. Waring inquired whether the outcomes would be quantified. Mr. Rodriguez said that everything will be quantified to the extent that they are able.

Mr. Elmore commented on the proportion of funds provided to each city.

Ms. Cheives remarked that Pahokee was the only city mentioned which was not a targeted specific program.

X. Business Consent item(s)

There were no business consent items.

XI. Old Business

There were no old business items.

XII. Under New Business,

A. Members unanimously approved recommendations by the Executive Committee for approval of a no-cost contract extension and revision on the jail ID pilot project being administered by the Office of the Public Defender, after a motion by Mr. Elmore and second by Mrs. Rosalind Baker.

Mr. Rodriguez added that no new money was involved but rather an extension to allow for the use of existing funds as the contract period is about to expire. He also noted that this now serves the County jails, but that the extension will allow for expansion to include all the County's Correctional facilities.

B. Members unanimously approved recommendations by the Executive Committee for

changes to the CJC Bylaws after a motion by Chief Judge Blanc and seconded by Mr. Elmore. The changes are as follows :

ARTICLE I

Section 11. Meetings

C) Annual Meeting

The Criminal Justice Commission holds an all day Annual Planning Meeting on the regularly scheduled Executive Committee date each year in ~~November~~ February/March. This meeting will include a brief training session on ethics for members and staff as provided by the Palm Beach County Attorney's Office or their designee.

Chairman Barr added that the Executive Committee thought it might prove more useful for the planning meeting to be held in February or March as members will be more prepared for the planning process and that the new members would also be on board at that time.

C. Florida State University FSU) Evaluation of the Youth Violence Prevention Project

Mr. Rodriguez reminded the meeting of the CJC's presentation of the 2nd year YVPP evaluation to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). The BCC has since declined to sign the extension for the 3rd year of the contract, and instead has asked the CJC to seek alternative ways of getting the evaluation done, possibly by an institution with more local knowledge and present the findings to the BCC. He noted that the original plan was to have FSU do the evaluation for a three year period, though each contract is for one year.

As requested by Mr. Elmore in a previous meeting, Mr. Rodriguez said that the county attorney advised that there would be no legal implications if the CJC did not wish to renew the contract with FSU. The Executive Committee also recommended that the CJC send out Request For Proposals (RFP) to institutions including FSU, but noted that the Programs staff expressed their preference in continuing with FSU since a research instrument already exists. This could also be delayed if a full RFP is done, as well as the risk of not being able to use the same data collection tool currently used by FSU.

Mr. Rodriguez noted that a request for information was done and three (3) responses were received; one from a Canadian based company; one from Washington; and one from Tallahassee. He said that the request for doing the evaluation at a lower cost was also asked of FSU but that they would not agree to this, noting that there have been more sites added since the start of the program thereby creating more work.

Mr. Davis remarked that he would hate to fire FSU at this stage and suggested that the CJC continue with FSU for this last year which is already close to ending. This he said will allow CJC time to do a RFP to identify other alternatives.

Mr. Randy Johnson commented that his impression from the BCC's meeting was that the County Commissioners felt that the comparison sites (Mangonia Park and Riviera Beach) specific numbers were lopsided and not likely to provide good results. He feels that if this issue can be addressed, the CJC could pursue moving forward with FSU.

Mr. Rodriguez responded that while that was a major issue, the comparison sites need

not be the same size to be valid comparison sites.

Mr. Davis suggested that some CJC members meet with County Administrator Bob Weisman for a resolution.

Chairman Barr noted that it was the Executive Committee's recommendation to proceed with an RFP since it was felt that an RFP would provide full disclosure while identifying other alternatives. He said the new recommendation would however be tabled if that is how the CJC wishes to proceed.

State Attorney Michael McAuliffe remarked that he was not receptive to the idea of rejecting the Executive Committee's recommendation and proceeding to renew the contract for a third year without speaking with some members of the BCC individually. He said the CJC could run the risk of getting into a public spot over FSU, even though the CJC has a long history in relationship with them which probably needs to be heard, as well as why it might be better to close out the current relationship before opening it up. He is however strongly in favor of an RFP process going forward, depending on how "going forward" is defined.

Chief Judge Blanc commented that his recollection of the Executive Committee's discussion is that they would try to balance the openness of an RFP against the problems caused by the delay of an RFP. He feels that the CJC could take Max Davis' suggestion and take those issues to respective Commissioners and Mr. Weisman to present the case of where we are.

After further discussion, it was agreed to table the recommendation by the Executive Committee in respect of this issue and proceed to meet with some members of the BCC and Mr. Weisman on an individual basis, and report back to the CJC at the next full meeting.

D. CJC Evaluation/Planning

Mr. Rodriguez reported on Dr. Allan Brown's presentation to the Executive Committee on the development of a comprehensive performance and research management system for the CJC. He noted that it ties in with the need expressed for an effective evaluation of all CJC programs. Dr. Brown has worked with the Children's Services Council in helping with their process which is now in its third or fourth year. Mr. Rodriguez noted that following Chief Judge Blanc's request for a clear sense of what this all means to the CJC and what the process looks like, he further discussed the matter with Dr. Brown but was not pleased with the response received. He said Dr. Brown's estimates are that he would report to the Executive Committee monthly or bi monthly for an hour or two as he moves along, hold one or two special meetings with the full commission and also meet with managing staff for a couple days per month, while doing other work by phone and email. Mr. Rodriguez noted that the specifics of how we get there was still not determined. While there would be a frame work that involves setting a strategic policy agenda, evidenced based programs, policies and practices it remains unclear as to how to get to that point.

Mr. Rodriguez suggested that if the CJC wishes, he could invite Tana Ebbole of the Children's Services Council to explain how the process works with the Children's Services Council.

Chairman Barr noted that since the CJC approved moving the planning process to

February/March, the CJC could focus on this issue on the scheduled annual meeting date in November.

Mr. Rodriguez added that this would involve the Executive Committee members to use the half day to look at a strategic plan for the CJC.

Mr. Elmore inquired about the cost associated with hiring Dr. Brown, to which Mr. Rodriguez responded \$60,000.00 which is negotiable for one year.

Mr. Gerald Richman inquired about the possibility of identifying sources other than Dr. Brown who could provide this resource.

After further discussions, the Commission agreed to proceed with the CJC's strategic meeting in November after which a determination will be made on going forward with Dr. Brown or someone else.

- E. Chairman Barr invited volunteers from the private sector to serve as chairpersons for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Committee on Adult populations and for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Committee on Juvenile populations. Mr. Barr expressed his interest as one of the volunteers and noted that he will proceed to make direct inquiries with individual members since no one volunteered during the meeting.

XIII. CJC Initiatives/Updates

There were no CJC Initiatives or Updates.

XIV. Under Member Comments:

- A. Mr. Davis announced that CNN would be visiting the Northwood Youth Empowerment Center.
- B. Former CJC member Marianne Rantala inquired about the location where criminal defense lawyers are able to access details on the Reentry Transition Fair. Ms. Murray advised that this was available on the CJC's website.
- C. Ms. Baker thanked the CJC in particular Ms. Murray and her team for the work done at the Reentry Transition Fair. She noted that despite the absence of employers, attendees were provided with useful resources, and she hopes that this will be a continued effort as the need for such services do exist.
- D. Ms. Cheives encouraged persons to support the CJC Step Out team to fight diabetes. She noted that the event is co-chaired by Chief Delsa Busha and that the resources will assist the American Diabetes Association in its fight against diabetes. Persons were asked to contact Arlene Burton for further details.

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