

M I N U T E S

MONDAY, January 24, 2011

PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

Annual Meeting

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

Members Present:

Rosalyn Baker
Stephen Barborini
Peter Blanc
Delsa Bush
Barbara Cheives
Douglas Duncan
George Elmore
Carey Haughwout
Feirmon Johnson
Nellie King
William Kramer
Kathleen Kroll
Wesley Lauer
Marti LaTour
Michael McAuliffe
Chuck Shaw
Gerald Richman
Lee Waring
Clarence Williams

James Barr, Ex-Officio Executive Committee
Art Johnson, Ex-Officio Executive Committee

Guests Attending:

Sarah Alsofrom, State Attorney's Office
August Bonavita, County Court Judge
Maureen Brickous, Pride Probation
Jeannie Damato, OFMB
Wanda Joiner, Pride Probation
Kim Kelly, PBC School District
Un Cha Kim, Clerk and Comptroller
Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office
Robrt Masters, Drug Enforcement Agency, represent John McKenna
Pat Sheffield, JDAI
Louis Tomeo, Clerk and Comptroller
Chief Yannuzzi, Ocean Ridge Police Department

Members Absent:

Sharon Bock
Ric Bradshaw
Steven Burdelski
Mike Driscoll
Rolando Garcia
Randolph K. Johnson, Sr.
John McKenna
Priscilla Taylor
Valentin Rodriguez
Carmen Veneziano

Staff Present:

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director
Arlene Burton, Administrative Secretary
Shahzia Hashmi, Intern
Katherine Hatos, Criminal Justice Analyst
Damir Kukec, Research & Planning Manager
Jenise Link, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst
Brenda Oakes, Youth Violence Prevention Planning Coordinator
Jyota Snyder, Student Intern
Candee Villapando, Criminal Justice Analyst
Becky Walker, Criminal Justice Programs Manager

- I. Chair Barbara Cheives 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. Chair Cheives invited guests to introduce themselves.
- IV. The agenda was unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Doug Duncan and second by Mr. George Elmore.
- V. The minutes of the December 13, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Duncan and second by Mr. Elmore.
- VI. Under Chairman's Comments, Chair Cheives welcome new member Chief Clarence Williams as the Chiefs Association representative. Chief Williams replaced Chief Kitzerow who will be the new Law Enforcement Planning Council Chairman.
- VII. Under New Business, Chair Cheives reported that the Nominating Committee met and voted to keep the 2010 officers to remain in their position for 2011. They are as follows:

Vice Chairman -	Douglas Duncan
Treasurer -	William Kramer
Secretary -	Carey Haughwout

The Committee also recommended the following members for the 2011 Executive Committee:

Private Sector:

George Elmore	Gerald Richman
Marti LaTour	

Public sector:

Rosalyn Baker	Michael McAuliffe
Peter Blanc	Clarence Williams
Fiermon Johnson	

James Barr, immediate past Chair and Art Johnson, School District Superintendent will serve as ex officio members of the Executive Committee.

Members unanimously approved the committee's recommendation after motion by Mr. William Kramer and second by Mr. George Elmore.

VIII. Old Business

A. Pride Integrated Services

Mr. Rodriguez provided a brief report on Pride, noting that the company has been the County's misdemeanor probation provider for many years and that he has been aware of one complaint to the CJC regarding their services since his ten years with the County. This he said was investigated and the CJC satisfied that things were in order. With regards to the issue of victim restitution funds, he said that there were no statutory mandate as it relates to time limits, but noted that it was the CJC's decision to include a 14 day limit on the funds being sent back to the victims. Mr. Rodriguez said that it is that one provision of the contract that has proven to be a problem when CJC staff realized three (3) years ago that the funds were not being tracked as required by contract.

He further noted that the County's Attorney position which was outlined in a letter stated that Pride's contract could not be terminated without first issuing a letter and giving Pride time to cure. This has been accomplished.

Ms. Maureen Brickous from Pride noted that the company continues to work with Judge Bonavita and the Probation Advisory Board (PAB). She commented on the financial crisis that Pride has been experiencing for several years, noting that Pride operates as a non-profit that is totally user fee based. She said that Pride's struggle has been trying to maintain their service delivery while stabilizing the company, and that while some mistakes were made during the process, those have been corrected and Pride is now current with all their contractual requirements. She outlined some of what is involved in the provision of misdemeanor probation services on a user fee basis, the financial challenges and measures/initiatives undertaken to improve their situation.

Ms. Brickous remarked that the quality of the audit has significantly improved with the knowledge and expertise of Mr. Damir Kukec. She said that Pride is now asked for documents that has never been requested before and thinks that the CJC staff is on the right track as evident in their improved communication and documentation process.

Members expressed concerns regarding the review of Pride's financial documents, the co-mingling of funds, and the allegation of documents being shredded. Members also inquired whether self reporting requirements and termination clauses were included into the current contract. After extensive discussion on the issue, Pride was asked to provide a status report outlining progress made in dealing with their deficit during the current fiscal year.

Executive Director Michael Rodriguez noted that the termination clause for Pride's contract was different from the standard county termination clause, but remarked that there will be many changes with the new contract.

Mr. Tony Smith, Chairman of Pride's board added that the company has a good management about its programs and that its losses were covered by trimming cost through staff cuts where necessary and the elimination and or modification of programs that were underperforming. He also noted that the board provides good oversight of the programs to ensure that things are running efficiently.

PAB's Chairman Judge Bonavita outlined PAB's recommendations in a letter to the CJC. He noted that the upcoming RFP process will incorporate a lot of the issues raised by the Inspector General (IG) into the new contract. He said that oversight is the big issue but

commented that the many oversight ideas will ensure that the activities of the new service provider can be monitored. He said that more transparency of corporate records and better understanding of how the company operates will be essential in going forward. He commended Pride on their responsiveness to PAB during the investigation.

Judge Bonavita further noted that the recommendations were discussed at the last PAB meeting but due to a lack of quorum, another meeting was scheduled to vote on the recommendations to be presented to the IG and the CJC.

Members unanimously approved accepting the recommendations contingent on PAB's ratification of said recommendations at their next meeting. Motion was moved by Mr. Elmore and second by Mr. Wesley Lauer.

Chair Cheives thanked Pride for taking the corrective action needed, Judge Bonavita for all the work done by PAB, and the CJC staff, Damir Kukec in particular for monitoring Pride.

- B. Mr. William Kramer, Finance Committee Chairman presented the recommendations for allocation of CJC funds for the 2012 financial year. He noted that while there are limited funds available for the various projects, a top down decision must be made in terms of providing the Finance Committee with direction regarding its allocation. This will be discussed in details at the annual planning meeting on February 28, 2011.

Members unanimously approved the Finance Committee's recommendations as presented.

IX. Member Comments:

- A. Mr. Kramer thanked staff for their continuous efforts in preparing the necessary information required for the Finance Committee's meetings.
- B. Mr. Duncan suggested that a response be sent to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) regarding the status and or progress made regarding Pride's issue.

There being no further item for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 a.m.