



PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

CORRECTIONS TASK FORCE/ Public Safety Coordinating Council

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

Wednesday, September 2, 2015; 12:00 P.M.

http://www.pbcgov.com/criminaljustice/task_force/corrections/

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Douglas Duncan, Roth and Duncan, P.A.
Rosalyn Baker, Florida Department of Corrections
Paulette Burdick, Commissioner, Palm Beach County
Glenny Cueto, Professional Probation Services, Inc.
Brian Fernandes, Office of the State Attorney
Leonard Hanser, Administrative Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
John Kastrenakes, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Jenise Link, Manager, Palm Beach County Pretrial Services Agency
Tommy Richards, Palm Beach County Bail Bond Association
Alfonso Starling, Major, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Alton Taylor, Executive Director, Drug Abuse Foundation
Barbara White, Public Defender's Office

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jeffrey Colbath, Administrative Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Michelle Dyer, Workforce Alliance
Brandy Macaluso, Victims Rights Coalition
Joseph Marx, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Caroline Shepherd, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
James Smigel, Captain, West Palm Beach Police Department
Louis Tomeo, Director Criminal Court Services, Office of the Clerk and Comptroller

GUESTS PRESENT:

Mevsim Bocaksiz, Drug Abuse Foundation
Sharon Edmonds, DOC Probation & Parole
Mike Edmondson, Office of the State Attorney
Colleen Farnsworth, DCF Legal
Latronda Hayes, Palm Beach County Pretrial Services Agency
E. Kleinberg, Palm Beach Post
Richard Markoe, Office of the Clerk and Comptroller (for Louis Tomeo)
Tanya Meade, Coalition for Independent Living Options
Meagan Rappatta, Magellan Complete Care

Gena Rowlands, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Schnelle Tonge, Public Defender's Office

CJC STAFF PRESENT:

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director
Damir Kukec, Research and Planning Manager
Jeanette Marshall, Safety & Justice Challenge Coordinator
Allison Orr, Administrative Assistant
Craig Spatara, Criminal Justice Programs Manager
Candee Villapando, Criminal Justice Analyst
Rosalind Murray, Criminal Justice Program Development Specialist

I. Welcome, Opening Comments by Chairman Douglas Duncan

Chair Douglas Duncan thanked Mr. Michael Rodriguez for chairing the last meeting, as he was at his parents' 65th wedding anniversary.

II. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests

Damir Kukec did the roll call, and Chair Duncan asked the guests to introduce themselves.

III. Approval and/or Additions to the agenda

The agenda was approved without changes.

IV. Approval and/or Amendments to the August 5, 2015 Minutes of the Corrections Task Force/Public Safety Coordinating Council Meeting

Chair Duncan mentioned he shared with staff that he found some minor grammatical errors, but there were no substantive changes, so the minutes of the August 5, 2015 meeting were approved.

V. Reports

A. Jail Population Report

Major Alfonso Starling reported that the average jail population as of this morning was 2,307.

B. In House Arrest Report

Total In-House Arrest population was 228; pretrial 108 (including 3 direct filed juveniles); 110 county sentenced – 10 misdemeanor probation, zero DJJ; and zero AO. Chair Duncan wondered if IHA was up; Major Starling said it actually went down from 255.

C. Pretrial Services Report

As of yesterday, there were a total of 1,047 defendants on SOR, the largest they have had for years; 558 of these individuals were on SOR only, and 489 were on SOR with accompanying money bond. Of the 558 on SOR only, 16 remained in custody; 6 awaiting treatment, and 10 due to other charges or holds. Of the 489 individuals on SOR with a bond, 119 remained in custody due to holds or bonds. Total SOR population out of custody was 912. Compared to last month, the numbers were similar; but compared to this time last year, total numbers were up by 175. Chair Duncan asked Ms. Link's opinion on anything significant in the increase. Ms. Link responded that the biggest thing they were seeing was the court's use of the special conditions for SOR, mostly the random drug testing being ordered more often for which they are asked to monitor and report back. Mr. Rodriguez asked if the individuals pay for that on their own; Ms. Link answered yes. Mr. Rodriguez asked for SOR awaiting treatment, if they know how long the wait is; Ms. Link said it is usually just a couple of days and that they have not really seen long waiting periods.

D. Juvenile Detention Center Report

Mr. Kukec reported that Mr. Kane had moved on to another county and that he had been replaced. Staff had reached out to the new Superintendent and is hoping to have her at the next meeting.

E. Misdemeanor Probation Report

Ms. Cueto was in Belle Glade and unable to give the report, but a hand out on the monthly report was included in the packet. Judge Leonard Hanser took the opportunity to give an update on the Probation Advisory Board subcommittee meetings wherein they are looking for ways to reduce costs; addressing affidavits of violations of probation by providing county court judges alternate ways other than just setting bonds, keeping people out of jail, and SOR as well; and restructuring their procedures to accommodate these changes.

VI. Old Business

A. Palm Beach Juvenile Correctional Facility

Mr. Rodriguez reported that Youth Services International (YSI) had decided to drop their contract. The DJJ Secretary was scheduled to speak before the Board of County Commissioners yesterday, but was moved to October 6th, because Mayor Vana who requested the meeting was out of town. Chair Duncan reported that they reached out to Secretary Daly and thanked her for coming and giving the presentation at the last meeting, and offered support and assistance from the committee in any way. They are hoping to meet with her when she returns to PBC.

Ms. Schnelle Tonge added that DJJ is looking at reducing the size of the program and that according to Mr. Greg Starling, population may be reduced from 100 to 70 around March 2016. The population will be split to 50 mental health and 20 substance abuse youth. DJJ is also opening a new substance abuse residential program here which, once open, will be a 70 bed mental health facility. This will happen later in 2016 and will reduce the juvenile correctional facility population, one of the requests made to DJJ at their last visit. Chair Duncan asked how this will affect placement or waiting list. Ms. Tonge said that it will impact placement, but that looking at the bigger picture, will give youth that need intensive treatment the services they need. Chair Duncan expressed his concern about the alarming number of dually diagnosed youth for which the services are lacking. Judge Hanser shared that in the county court judges' conference in July, one of the state representatives indicated that he will be supporting a bill that will essentially do away with the Marchman Act and Baker Act and combine it into a behavioral health bill, which he thought was very interesting and perhaps a step in the right direction. Mr. Alton Taylor expressed that one of their concerns about putting the Marchman Act and Baker Act in one item and not funding it. He recalled that Marchman Act when it was instituted was never funded. He noted that Marchman Act clients are not among the DCF priority client population. Another concern is potentially taking away a client's civil rights just because they have substance abuse issue, and they are not sure right now how that is all going to play out. They are working with their association, FADAA to make sure that if that bill moves forward, it will reflect the concerns they have. Chair Duncan asked to put this issue on the agenda for next month.

Mr. Rodriguez followed up on one of Ms. Tonge's point. He said that there is local interest in dedicating part of the juvenile facility strictly for PBC kids returning to PBC. He wanted to know if the committee wants to tackle this issue as a group, but he does not know what DJJ's opinion will be regarding doing something like this. Ms. Tonge said one of the concerns would be whether there would be enough youth from PBC that will meet the criteria of a high risk residential treatment; Mr. Rodriguez said we need to know that information first. Ms. Colleen Farnsworth asked whether residence has ever been a factor in placement; Ms. Tonge said no,

that placement is based on a comprehensive evaluation and the availability of a bed.

B. 12th Floor Jail Population Committee Update

Chair Schnelle Tonge reported that they have not met as they were still waiting on additional data from the SAO in order to continue their analysis. In the interim, they have continued to track the average daily population of males on the 12th floor on a monthly basis, from 2011 to present. She noted a slight uptick in July and August, but they do know the reason for this and were still looking into it. She will report back as soon as they get the data and have continued their analysis. Chair Duncan again thanked Ms. Tonge for the committee's work.

C. Palm Beach County Safety & Justice Challenge

Ms. Jeanette Marshall, Safety & Justice Challenge Coordinator, gave an overview of the initiative. PBC was one of 20 counties (out of around 200) in the nation awarded preliminary funding by the MacArthur Foundation to look at the safety and justice challenges we face in the county. They wanted to know how we can safely reduce the jail size without impacting public safety and what innovative resources they can bring to the county to aid in this challenge. She briefly talked about the goals of the program and her responsibilities as one of the coordinators. She offered her card and encouraged anyone interested to contact her for information, share ideas, and participate in any way. She also mentioned about community meetings being held related to this topic; the next meeting will be in October. Their proposal will be submitted in January 2016 and this opportunity can award PBC up to \$10M for up to five years to implement this endeavor, if selected as one of ten awardees. Chair Duncan asked about who are in the committee. Mr. Rodriguez added that this first phase is the planning phase where there is a lot of data crunching and generating ideas. The focus of the project overlaps with what this committee does in terms of jail population, mental health and behavioral issues, etc. The next phase will be the implementation phase wherein they have to generate concrete plans. They will come back to share the plan with the committee for input or feedback. Chair Duncan hopes the committee can be involved in the project.

VII. New Business

No new business discussed.

VIII. Additional member and guest comment

No additional member and guest comments.

IX. Adjournment

Next Meeting: October 7, 2015; 12:00 P.M.