



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, November 4, 2020; 12:00 P.M.
Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Douglas Duncan, Chair, Roth and Duncan, P.A.
Alfonso Starling, Vice-Chair, Major, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Cheryl Caracuzzo, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Glenny Cueto, Professional Probation Services, Inc.
Latronda Hayes, Court Services
David H. Talley, PBC CareerSource
Louis Tomeo, Office of the Clerk and Comptroller

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ted Booras, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Sherri Collins, Administrative Judge, County Court, 15th Judicial Circuit
Daniel Eisinger, Public Defender's Office
Brian Fernandes, Office of the State Attorney
William Genem, Coalition for Independent Living Options, Inc.
Michelle Johns, Florida Department of Corrections
Dave Kerner, Commissioner, Palm Beach County
Tommy Richards, Palm Beach County Bail Agent Association
Alton Taylor, Drug Abuse Foundation

GUESTS PRESENT:

Chenise Bonilla, Public Safety Reentry
Michelle Cruz, Court Administration
Paul Damico, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit (*for Judge Sherri Collins*)
Colleen Farnsworth, DCF Legal
Kathleen Kroll, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Felicia A. Scott, Riviera Beach Civil Drug Court
Tamara Starks, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Randi Taylor, Public Safety Reentry
Leah Vail Compton, Florida Department of Children and Families
Craig Williams, Office of the State Attorney (*for Brian Fernandes*)

CJC STAFF PRESENT:

Regenia Herring, Executive Director
Damir Kukec, Research and Planning Manager
Brad Allen, Criminal Justice Commission
Rosalind Murray, Criminal Justice Commission
Candee Villapando, Criminal Justice Commission
Bert Winkler, Criminal Justice Commission

I. Welcome, Opening Comments by Chairman Douglas Duncan

Chair Douglas Duncan welcomed Judge Cheryl Caracuzzo, new Circuit Criminal Administrative Judge; and thanked Judge Joseph Marx for his service to the committee.

II. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests by Damir Kukec

Members were asked to sign in to the chat box in lieu of a roll call.

III. Approval and/or Amendments to the Agenda

The agenda was approved without amendments.

IV. Approval and/or Amendments to the September 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

Approval of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

V. Old Business

Private Attorneys' access to desktop video visitation with clients housed in the jail update

Major Alfonso Starling reported that plans to provide access to private attorneys to video visitation at the Main and West detention centers, same as access given to Public Defenders, are on schedule. There is no exact date yet when it will start, but probably around the middle of December. Attorney Michael Salnick had volunteered to be one of the first attorneys to try the system as soon as it goes online. Chair Duncan thanked Major Starling and the Sheriff's Office for moving forward with this undertaking.

VI. New Business

A. Youth Reentry

Chenise Bonilla, Manager of Criminal Justice Programs and Randi Taylor, Reentry Program Coordinator gave a presentation and discussion of their youth reentry program called Back to a Future. They also gave an overview of the Palm Beach County Reentry Task Force, chaired by Dr. Angela Bess; and their Youth Reentry Subcommittee, chaired by Judge Kathleen Kroll. They provided a calendar of their 2021 meeting schedule and invited interested members to attend any of their meetings which are open to the public. Judge Kroll expressed thanks for the opportunity to connect with the committee in a more formal fashion. She said she had previously asked Chair Duncan if the committee could add juvenile statistics in the data they monitor. There was a discussion of the challenges faced in the collection or monitoring of juvenile data. Ms. Regenia Herring, CJC Executive Director, acknowledged the importance of coordination and alliances in working on this issue. Chair Duncan thanked Ms. Bonilla, Ms. Taylor, and Judge Kroll presenting before the committee. He noted that he and Ms. Herring have talked about looking into this issue moving forward.

B. Treating Civil Drug Court participants in our County jail system

Ms. Felicia A. Scott, Riviera Beach Civil Drug Court Program Manager discussed the history and gave an overview of the Civil Drug Court which was founded in 1991 by Honorable Judge Edward Rogers. It was created to promote and provide care and treatment to those suffering from substance abuse as an alternative to incarceration and to offer support to their loved ones. Ms. Scott is asking for support or assistance in terms of working closely with PBSO and other agencies in looking into the needs of clients while incarcerated. Chair Duncan asked Ms. Scott how many clients are in jail for on a civil contempt order; currently there are three individuals. Major Starling asked Ms. Scott to give him a call to discuss her concerns and help her out. Ms. Herring also will follow up with Ms. Scott regarding this issue.

C. Overall decline in jail ADP, but with widening disparities.

Damir Kukec reported an overall reduction in the average daily jail population by about 27% from the MacArthur baseline in May 2016 up to September 2020. However, despite the decline, there is an apparent disparity in the population in terms of race; people of color are still incarcerated at a higher rate than whites. Mr. Kukec posed a plea to the committee to help understand this issue. Ms. Herring noted the City University of New York (CUNY) Institute for State and Local Government, working with CJC in the MacArthur initiative, is helping them understand why. Mr. Kukec invited the committee to share with staff their views; and Ms. Herring added further, that data would be even more helpful. Chair Duncan encouraged the members to follow up and send their thoughts to Mr. Kukec, and perhaps set up a subcommittee, and a round table to start the discussion. Ms. Herring noted that the Safety and Justice Challenge grant from the MacArthur foundation will be sunset in about a year or so and stated that they have to start thinking about how the committee can take over looking at the jail

population, which the committee has been tasked and has been doing anyway, for the long term.

VII. Reports

A. Jail Population and In House Arrest

Major Alfonso Starling reported their facility count as of that morning was 1,797. Total In-House Arrest population as of October was 185: 148 pretrial, including 4 direct filed juveniles; 36 county sentenced, 1 probation; 0 DJJ; AO zero. Total Pay N Gos was 96.

Rosalind Murray requested to include a race breakdown in the jail population report, as well as from the other agencies in future reports.

B. Pretrial Services

Latronda Hayes noted and cautioned that pretrial captures race only as black and white. Ms. Herring asked why, and Ms. Hayes said it is not currently asked their current interviews but that they could consider including it in the future. Ms. Hayes reported that as of October 30th, there were a total of 1,023 defendants on SOR; 785 of those individuals were on SOR only, 238 were on SOR with a money bond. Of the 1,023 defendants on SOR only, 40 remained in custody, with 2 awaiting treatment, and 38 on bonds or no bonds on other charges/holds. Of the 238 individuals on SOR with a bond, 34 remained in custody due to other holds. The total out of custody SOR population was 949. Of the 949 individuals out of custody, 25 failed to appear for court and 25 had no criminal activity. There was a total of 74 violations. Their SOR numbers were down when compared to this time last month, but were up when compared to last year.

C. Juvenile Detention Center

No report presented.

D. Misdemeanor Probation

Glenny Cueto reported they had a total of 155 new cases for the month of October; 1,551 total active cases; 131 successfully completed cases; 25 revoked; 31 on ICE hold.

E. Felony Probation

No report presented.

VIII. Additional Comments

Louis Tomeo announced that the Palm Beach County Clerk's Office will be having another Operation Greenlight on November 16-20, 2020. Operation Greenlight is a program where the Clerk's Office calls cases from collection agencies for people who haven't been able to pay their fines and fees. Collection agency fees are normally 30-40% on top of the regular unpaid fines and fees. It is a virtual event where they will be taking payments over the phone from 8 am to 5 pm that week. They also have a payment vendor that will be taking payments up to 10 pm. Payments can also be made online on their web system, which is up 24/7, from Monday until Friday at midnight. Chair Duncan noted that it was a huge success last year, and thanked the Clerk's Office for bringing it back.

IX. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 2, 2020; 12:00 P.M.