



**Also sits as the Public Safety Coordinating Council and
Criminal Justice Mental Health and Substance Abuse Planning Council**

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday, September 1, 2021; 12:00 PM

- M I N U T E S -

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Douglas Duncan, Chair, Roth and Duncan, P.A.
Ted Booras, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Sherri Collins, Administrative Judge, County Court, 15th Judicial Circuit
Glenny Cueto, Professional Probation Services, Inc.
Daniel Eisinger, Public Defender's Office
Caitlin Fehrs, Coalition for Independent Living Options
Latronda Hayes, Court Services
Tommy Richards, Palm Beach County Bail Agent Association
David H. Talley, PBC CareerSource
Alton Taylor, Drug Abuse Foundation
Craig Williams, Office of the State Attorney

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Alfonso Starling, Vice-Chair, Colonel, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Charles Burton, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Cheryl Caracuzzo, Administrative Judge, Criminal Court, 15th Judicial Circuit
Michelle Johns, Florida Department of Corrections
Dave Kerner, Commissioner, Palm Beach County
Louis Tomeo, Office of the Clerk and Comptroller

GUESTS PRESENT:

Mevsim Bacaksiz, Drug Abuse Foundation
Nicole Bishop, Public Safety Department
Jennifer Copp, Florida State University
Tyrell Siagi, County Administration
Mike Edmondson, Office of the State Attorney
Colleen Farnsworth, DCF Legal
Diane McCarthy, Office of the Clerk and Comptroller (*for Louis Tomeo*)
Josh, South County Bail Bonds
Ilaiza Simorian, _
Stephanie, _
John Viola, Palm Beach County Bail Agent Association

CJC STAFF PRESENT:

Regenia Herring, Executive Director
Damir Kukec, Research and Planning Manager
Jacqueline Jackson, FUSE Program Coordinator
Rosalind Murray, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Candee Villapando, Criminal Justice Analyst
Bert Winkler, Criminal Justice Programs Manager

I. Welcome and Opening Comments, *Chairman Douglas Duncan*

II. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests

Participants signed in the chat box for attendance in lieu of roll call and introductions of guests.

III. Approval of Meeting Agenda

The meeting agenda was approved without any changes.

IV. Approval of June 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were approved without amendments.

V. New Business

- Preliminary report on the impact of Judicial Administrative Order during Covid-19 that reduced bonds for some third degree felonies from \$3,000 to \$1,000

Dr. Jennifer Copp, Associate Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Florida State University presented and discussed preliminary findings regarding the impact of the said AO on felony bond, pretrial release, court appearance, and new criminal activity in Palm Beach County, i.e., whether the objectives of the AO were achieved and whether these changes had an impact on court appearances and new criminal filings. From the data, Dr. Copp presented the following conclusions: As expected, the AO reduced overall bond amounts for individuals booked on eligible third-degree felonies; these reductions led to shorter detention lengths and higher rates of pretrial release. Taken together, these findings suggested that the two main objectives of the AO were achieved as bond amounts were reduced which facilitated pretrial release for a greater share of individuals; and these releases occurred, on average, more expeditiously. Although the initial focus of the AO was lowering bonds to facilitate releases in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, an important question is whether the AO

impacted levels of non-appearance and rearrests. The findings suggest that the AO did not result in increases in either non-appearance or new criminal activity. In fact, the share of individuals who failed to appear in court or were rebooked on a new crime actually declined following the implementation of the AO. John Viola thanked Dr. Copp for their work and expressed that he would like to work with them on bonds data. Dr. Copp stated that they wanted to present basic findings just with the overall impact for now and that the next steps would be to see were there disparate impacts on race and gender. The report would include data and analyses that would break down data, especially in terms of race and gender which should be ready by the end of October.

- Discuss testing an unsecured bond option along with evaluation

Ms. Regenia Herring introduced the concept of testing an unsecured bond option along with evaluation. i.e., perform a deeper dive into the bond and bond options brought to the Corrections Task Force by the Criminal Justice Commission Executive Committee. Dr. Jennifer Copp briefly discussed alternatives to secured money bonds as already practiced around the country, e.g., unsecured financial bonds. She suggested to conduct an experiment in PBC to compare the effectiveness of secured vs. unsecured money bonds.

VI. Old Business/Program Updates

- Update on the MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge Grant

Ms. Regenia Herring reminded the committee about the changes towards the conclusion in the SJC grant in recent years, and how the CJC has proposed to shift some of the responsibilities of the different SJC committees to the CTF. Ms. Herring briefly discussed proposals on how to use of existing funds, e.g., the initial award (2017-2019); the renewal award (2020-2021); and the Sustainability Planning Grant.

VII. Reports

A. Jail Population and In-House Arrest

No report was presented.

B. Pretrial Services, Latronda Hayes, Palm Beach County Justice Services

Ms. Latronda Hayes reported that as of August 27th there were a total of 890 defendants on SOR; 641 of these individuals were on SOR only; 249 were on SOR with a money bond. Of the 890 individuals on SOR, 37 remained in custody; due to 3 awaiting in-patient treatment. There were 34 individuals had bonds or no bonds on other charges or holds. Of the 249 individuals on SOR with accompanying money bond, 53 remained in custody.

The total out of custody SOR population was 800; of which 7 failed to appear for court and 20 had new criminal activity. They had a total of 54 technical violations. For population that remained in custody: 43 were white, 47 black. For those granted supervised release by race: 489 were white, 401 black. Their numbers were down when compared to this time last month and this time last year. Their warrants have been averaging at 75.

C. Juvenile Detention Center

No report was presented.

D. Misdemeanor Probation, *Glenny Cueto, Professional Probation Services*

Ms. Glenny Cueto reported they had a total of 169 new cases for the month of August; 2,146 total active cases; 141 successfully completed cases; 28 revoked; 19 on ICE hold. Total active cases broken down by race: 682 black; 492 white, 586 black/Latino, 386 white/Latino.

E. Felony Probation, *Michelle Johns, Florida Department of Corrections*

No report was presented.

VIII. Additional Comments

No additional comments.

IX. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 12 PM.