

MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2015

PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
McEaddy Conference Room
12th Floor, 301 N. Olive Avenue
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Members Present:

Dave Aronberg
Roselyn Baker
Barbara Cheives
Jeffrey Colbath
George Elmore
Randolph Johnson, Sr.
Nellie King
William Kramer
Christina Morrison
Lee Waring

Douglas Duncan
Ex-Officio and Immediate Past Chair

Guests Attending:

James Brako, County Attorney's Office
Amy Karpf, Office of Financial and Budget Mgmt.
Barry Krischer, Economic Council of Palm Beach County
Jenise Link, Justice Services
Duane Little, Special Agent Supervisor, FDLE
Louis Tomeo, Clerk & Comptroller's Office
Mike Edmondson, State Attorney's Office

Staff Present:

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director
Jacquelyn Esposito, Criminal Justice Analyst
Katherine Hatos, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Damir Kukec, Research & Planning Manager
Rosalind Murray, Criminal Justice Program Development Specialist
Allison Orr, Administrative Assistant
Craig Spatara, Manager, Criminal Justice Programs

Members Absent:

Carey Haughwout
Gerald Richman

E. Wayne Gent
Ex-Officio Executive Committee

Temporary Staff:

Pamela Williams

- I. Chairman William Kramer welcomed all attendees and called the meeting to order at approximately 8:05 a.m.
- II. Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.
- III. Chairman Kramer welcomed members and invited guests to introduce themselves.
- IV. The agenda was unanimously approved after motion by Mr. George Elmore and second by Mr. Lee Waring.
- V. The minutes of the September 8, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved after motion by Mr. George Elmore and second by Mr. Lee Waring.

VI. Under Chairman's Comments, Chairman Kramer:

- A. Announced the commencement of classes of the 26th annual Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy at the West Palm Beach Police Department at 6:00 p.m., Banyan Boulevard, West Palm Beach. He outlined the various venues where the classes will be held throughout the duration of the Academy, and gave contact information to be directed to Rosalind Murray of the Criminal Justice Commission for further information. Mr. Kramer announced the Academy had received 115 applications, and is pleased the Criminal Justice Commission continues to sponsor this learning experience. He praised the efforts of the Academy to date, and stressed that it is a worthwhile endeavor and great opportunity for citizens to participate in the Justice system.

VII. Under Director's Comments, Michael Rodriguez:

- A. Introduced and welcomed two new Criminal Justice Staff members, Jacquelyn Esposito, Criminal Justice Analyst, and Allison Orr, Administrative Assistant.
 - B. Brenda Oakes has been formally transitioned into the Youth Services department and is now a part of their staff, Michael is meeting with their director later this month to discuss the responsibilities these departments will have. He noted there are two programs currently under the Criminal Justice Commission, one being the Law Enforcement Workgroup, a group that was created along with the Youth Empowerment Center and the Violence Prevention Project, which meets quarterly to discuss crime prevention issues with

youth, which may or may not transition to Youth Services; and the Juvenile Re-Entry Program, a grant funded position which later in the year will depend on the grant funding status to determine where that program will be.

- C. Announced the resignation of Financial Analyst II, Elizabeth Williams from the Criminal Justice Commission staff, and wished her well in future endeavors.
- D. Introduced Mr. James Brako, the new County Attorney representative.

VIII. Old Business – Regular Item(s):

Under Old Business, Chairman William Kramer requested a status report from Michael Rodriguez on funding issues. and the process of obtaining Requests for Proposals (RFP) for money to be used and the specific requirements on that process.

Mr. Michael Rodriguez responded, explaining the Criminal Justice Commission staff is in the process of developing recommendations for an RFP process, to ensure it is a competitive process, and to give the various groups interested the opportunity to use the funds that have been set aside for domestic violence training. CJC staff sent out an email to the Law Enforcement Planning Council to ascertain the number of officers to be committed for training, however the results were sporadic. The CJC staff plans to go ahead and develop the RFP based on the current information available. They will make the RFP available to anyone including the group that made application for domestic violence training. The staff is working toward having the RFP finished and circulated by the end of the month. Mr. Kramer encouraged the CJC staff to treat this process as a top priority moving forward.

Mr. Barry Krischer remarked there had been a communication from Mr. Clay Walker regarding this topic, in that communication it was indicated that the law enforcement community had more interest in the idea of “training the trainer”. He indicated the need to have communication with the chiefs of the various law enforcement agencies; as t the consensus was to not spend funds for overtime to train groups of officers.

Ms. Nellie King remarked that in the last executive meeting there was a discussion as to how to expend this resource and what percentage of officers would attend; Ms. King indicated that there was, at best, a lukewarm response from the law enforcement agency representatives. She indicated that the concerns there would not be enough officers participating to justify the resources spent do bear further analysis. She agreed the consensus seems to favor the “train the trainer” approach.

Chairman Kramer encouraged moving in that direction as the most effective process.

IX. New Business

Mr. Kramer asked about inquired as to the status of discussions for the Annual Planning Meeting, particularly the process of funding issues critical to the Finance Committee, and encouraged review at the next CJC full meeting.

X. CJC Initiatives/Updates:

Mr. Michael Rodriguez reported that the CJC Staff had a financially challenging year, which prompted thinking in terms of better ways to approach funding allocations. He outlined the need for this, particularly because the 2014 Federal guidelines are becoming stricter in terms of creating open, fair and competitive bid process for recipients of federal/trust money and streamlining to one process. He gave the LEX project as an example of justification of using a sole source provider; the complications in that area using the competitive process. He discussed Staff recommendations and options for the creation of a more consistent process to guide finance committee, specifically a three year contract processes vs. one year. These ideas will be presented to the Commission to gain feedback to better direct staff.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Chairman Kramer asked if there are federal processes in place for a 3 year funding outlook.

Mr. Rodriguez responded that all contracts have a clause which stipulates that funding is available, he cited there are currently two 2 formula federal grants; (one federal and one federal/state), that has the stipulated language that the amounts funded would vary from year to year.

Chairman Kramer expressed concern as to any changes or modifications the receiving agencies would have to make for their budget planning and allocations.

Mr. Barry Krischer discussed whether to set priorities first, and then fund based on availability, and how to determine the degree of certainty for longer term funding. He cited that over the last 6 years, there has been a 50% decrease in annual funding, making it difficult to determine on a year to year basis the funding priorities most effective for CJC. He also expressed concern that the RFP process might become competition for who has best presentations, resulting in a time-consuming process where there is a lack of resources for reviewing.

Ms. Nellie King commented she sees an extension of PME, and agrees that a mechanism for streamlining the process of funding should be in place. She expressed concern whether or not current staffing would be able to meet the resulting increased workload.

Mr. Michael Rodriguez illustrated the current process with Drug Court as an example of contracting with agencies as service providers under a 3 year contract. He questioned whether the transfer of money is the CJC's responsibility to make sure they are competitively bidding for

services. He indicated if the bid process was consistent, there would be no need for additional staff.

Mr. Barry Krischer inquired as to Federal guidelines, particularly any exceptional language that would be needed in the contracts. Ms. Jenise Link gave some examples of drug abuse providers on three year contracts from a bid process through Drug Court.

Mr. Barry Krischer expressed the idea of establishing a Special taxing district to fund programs. He specified earmarking these tax revenues for crime reduction, focusing on juveniles; he suggested further discussion of this topic at the Annual Planning Meeting. He emphasized the need to generate dollars independently, and suggested a Subcommittee be re-formed to explore this possibility, citing the public opinion on the matter of the Childrens Services Council. School district also talking about taxing district, Ms. Cheives indicated the sub-committee would have some success talking to the Board of County Commissioners, as Commissioner Taylor had indicated Drug Court needed its own funding.

Mr. Barry Krischer and Ms. Barbara Cheives volunteered for the subcommittee to explore a Special Taxing District. Mr. Kramer acknowledged them and requested they move forward. Mr. Lee Waring also suggested a "Plan B" be put in place for funding cycles in the interim. There was general consensus among members to move forward quickly.

Mr. Lee waring remarked in terms of notification and execution of paperwork, it is difficult to determine what programs and be funded without proper us of allocation.

Ms. Nellie King commented on time frame estimation draft/outreach/advertisement committees to evaluate programs, set priorities, and what to do in the interim.

Mr. James Barr suggested bringing the Commission together to set up priorities prior to sitting with BOCC.

Mr. Mike Edmonson remarked there are fundamental structural questions as to who has legislative authorization and control of various districts, prior to requesting a Special Taxing District.

Mr. Rodriguez pointed out that CJC funds have been allocated for three programs for some time, modifying the funding process would allow for the introduction of other programs. Mr. Waring agreed that these are topics for the Annual Planning Meeting; to identify funding priorities, how to proceed in the interim, and if funding cycles would solve the funding expectations for the CJC. He expressed concern that current funding is going to the same three programs annually, programs of a continuing nature will not be sustainable unless they get a significant source of funding.

Mr. Michael Rodriguez gave an update on the status of Domestic Violence Training. Mr. Vince Bonvento of Public Safety received \$125,000 for Domestic Violence Training funding; pending approval of the State Attorney to use for Drug Court funding. This will leave at year end \$200,000 in the Trust Fund, leaving Drug Court fully funded for the next fiscal year. Mr. Mike Edmondson remarked the State Attorney's office will meet with Mr. Bonvento to do a budget transfer from the Sheriff's budget to Drug Court fund; meeting is scheduled for the 15th of this month.

Mr. Barry Krischer commented that continual short fixes alleviate the need of permanent solutions by the Board of County Commissioners to fund Drug Court. The Drug Court plans to go in front of the Board of County Commissioners along with Re-Entry programs for direct funding.

Mr. Mike Edmonson added the County has authority to make funds transfer whether or not it is disagreed with.

With no further items for discussion, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:05 am.