

**PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Monday, April 25, 2022 – 8:00 a.m.

ROBERT WEISMAN GOVERNMENT CENTER
MCEADDY CONFERENCE ROOM, 12TH FLOOR
301 N. OLIVE AVENUE, WEST PALM BEACH, FL

Members Present

Rachel Docekal, Lyrae Group, LLC – *Vice Chair*
Christina Morrison, Christina Morrison, P.A. - *Secretary*
Marcia Andrews, PBC School Board
Douglas Duncan, Roth & Duncan, P.A.
George Elmore, Hardrives of Delray
Lawrence Gordon, PBC League of Cities
Michelle Johns, Administrator, Dept. of Corrections
Randolph Johnson, Sr., Communications by Johnson
Nellie King, PB Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Kathleen Kroll, Admin Juvenile Judge, 15th Judicial
Gregory Starling, Chief Probation Officer, FL DJJ
Lauren Whetstone, Greenberg Traurig, P.A.

Guests Attending

Chief Deputy Frank DeMario, PBSO
Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office
Craig Williams, State Attorney's Office
Stephanie Sejnoha, PBC Public Safety
Judge April Bristow, 15th Judicial Circuit
Louis Tomeo, Clerk & Comptroller's Office
Jessica Hidalgo, PBC Public Safety/Reentry Division
Arlene Griffiths, PBC Public Safety/Reentry Division
Latronda Hayes, PBC Public Safety/Pretrial Services
Daniela Bocanegra, PBC Legislative Affairs
Alexandra Barry, Sibling of Murdered Siblings
Sheila Jaffe, CRC FACTS
Bob Jaffe, FACTS-NOW

Members Absent

Chief Frank Adderley, City of West Palm Beach Police Dept.
Joseph Abruzzo, Clerk & Comptroller, 15th Judicial Circuit
Dave Aronberg, 15th Judicial Circuit State Attorney
Ric Bradshaw, PBC Sheriff's Office
Sheldon Burkett, Drug Enforcement Agency
William Dames, PBC Chiefs of Police Association
Barbara Cheives, Converge & Associates
Carey Haughwout, 15th Judicial Public Defender
Joseph Ianno, Jr., Florida Power & Light Company
Eric Jester, ASAC, FL Department of Law Enforcement
Reverend Kevin Jones, Clergy
Chief Judge Glenn Kelley, 15th Judicial Circuit
Commissioner Dave Kerner, PBC BOCC, District 3
Christopher Orcinolo, Bureau of ATF
Matt Pawlowski, Next Era Energy
Gerald Richman, Fisher, Potter, Hodas LLC
Stephen Stepp, Police Chiefs Association
Sivashree Sundaram, U.S. Attorney's Office
Matthew Willhite, PBC Legislative Delegation

CJC Staff Present

Regenia Herring, Executive Director
Brad Allen, Criminal Justice Analyst
Dawn Davenport, Criminal Justice Analyst
Damir Kukec, Manager, Research & Planning
Rosalind Murray, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Allison Orr, Administrative Assistant
Katherine Shover, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst

Other Palm Beach County Staff Present

Jean Williams, Assistant County Attorney

- I. Vice-Chair Dr. Rachel Docekal called the meeting to order on behalf of Chairman Kevin L. Jones, who was unable to attend the meeting.
- II. Per the request of Vice-Chair Docekal, Allison Orr took roll call and noted a quorum was present.
- III. Vice-Chair Docekal invited guests to introduce themselves. Vice-Chair Docekal explained she is acting Chair per the request of Chairman Kevin Jones who is out of town. She said the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) is holding meetings in-person, and encouraged CJC members to attend regularly. She thanked all those who attended and participated in the 2022 CJC Annual Planning Meeting (APM). She gave an overview of the agenda; the "old business" consists of the listing of staff recommendations that came from the community engagement project, Dialogue to Change. The "new business" is the listing of CJC recommendations from the 2022 CJC APM.

- IV. Vice-Chair Docekal requested a motion be made to approve the April 25, 2022 Agenda; Mr. George Elmore made a motion to approve, with a second by Mrs. Marcia Andrews; the motion passed unanimously.
- V. Vice-Chair Docekal requested a motion be made to approve the CJC Annual Planning Meeting Summary Minutes of March 28, 2022; Mr. Randy Johnson, Sr. made a motion to approve, with a second by Mr. George Elmore; the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Old Business:

- A. Director Regenia Herring reviewed the entire list of the recommendations from the Dialogue to Change participants. Director Herring noted there were a number of communities citing issues regarding reentry services; they are West Palm Beach, North Palm Beach and the Glades communities. She recommended the reentry concerns be referred to the Reentry Task force chaired by Public Defender (PD) Carey Haughwout, under the Palm Beach County (PBC) Public Safety department. Ms. Jennifer Loyless said PD Haughwout was interested in the number of reentry initiatives coming from the Dialogue to Change project and thought it was time to update the CJC on its activities. This overview of the work of the PBC Reentry program will cover its processes from the time it was transferred from the CJC to the PBC Public Safety department. She said perhaps there is a possibility of collaboration or piloting something with the CJC, utilizing the funds CJC uses for the Reentry program, as has been consistent in past years. Vice-Chair Docekal requested a reentry presentation be added to the agenda for the next full session CJC meeting in May. Secretary Christina Morrison asked if all nine of the Dialogue to Change recommendations would be implemented, Director Herring responded not all nine would be implemented; some would be referred to another committee for further review. Director Herring said the three basic community recommendations the CJC could implement would be the iCard recommendation, Explore & Implement Mental Health Pilot Program. She added further clarification is needed on the Boynton Beach request to identify programs to improve Community Relations. The agenda listed all of the recommendations from CJC Administration for items 1 through 9 and are listed below:

Item 1: RAWL – iCard distribution and evaluate its impact. The CJC Administration (ADMIN) recommendation is to oversee coordinating a pilot and evaluation project. CJC staff could implement and test it in partnership with PBSO. She indicated Major Coleman worked with the group and he could be instrumental in its coordination.

Item 2: WPB/PB – Distribute a Returning Citizens Resource Video. The ADMIN recommends referral to the Public Safety Department/Reentry Taskforce.

Item 3: Lake Worth – Explore & Implement Mental Health pilot Program. The ADMIN recommend PBSO work with the LEPC's School & Community Safety subcommittee to explore this concept.

Item 4: Northern Palm Beach – Get reentry information to individuals upon intake. The ADMIN recommends referral to the Public Safety Department/Reentry Taskforce.

Item 5: Boynton Beach – Identify programs to improve Community Relations. The ADMIN will work with Boynton Beach directly to clarify their request.

Item 6: Delray Beach – Encourage decision makers to attend the Racial Equity Institute. The ADMIN recommends support of this request; however, consideration of HB7 is needed.

Item 7: West Boynton, Delray and Boca – Use youth/Officer videos to create a social media campaign. The ADMIN will work with Public Affairs in support of this request.

Item 8: The Glades – Seed a reentry program within the Glades communities. The ADMIN will refer this to the Public Safety/Reentry Taskforce.

Item 9: PBC Schools – Develop a unified restorative justice program. The ADMIN will refer this to the PBC School Board and recommends developing a unified restorative justice program that is delivered consistently throughout the district.

Secretary Morrison said there should be oversight and monitoring of these requests, she said the goals exist, and if Director Herring felt it necessary to set up benchmarks and timelines, she would like to work with her on the implementation, to ensure the work is done. Vice-Chair Docekal asked Mrs. Marcia Andrews if she could work with her on the restorative justice item. Mrs. Andrews said the PBC School Board is working on the issue, and Mr. Keith Oswald is the contact person for the PBC School District on this subject. Mr. Randy Johnson, Sr. commented on when he participated in the Annual Judge Mounts Prison Tour, he got the impression the Florida Department of Corrections (FDLE) did little to educate and prepare those coming back to society from being institutionalized, and asked if the attitude toward reentry has changed at all. Ms. Jennifer Loyless said the PD has a great relationship with the Florida Department of Corrections (DOC); there has been some new Secretaries and other high-level officials who have helped with returning citizens programs, and will be part of the reentry presentation next month.

Judge Kathleen Kroll said she would like to work with Chief Greg Starling on the restorative justice work with the PBC School Board. Secretary Morrison brought up job training at the Sago Palm Facility and the status of those programs, it was agreed that conversation would be added to the reentry presentation as well. Vice-Chair Docekal assured there would be ample time allowed for these discussions on the next agenda.

Secretary Christina Morrison made a motion to approve all nine community action requests and the CJC to monitor and coordinate, and set benchmarks and timelines for completion; with a second by Mr. Randy Johnson Sr., the motion passed unanimously. Vice-Chair Docekal thanked Director Herring and the CJC Staff for putting together these recommendations for review.

VII. New Business:

- A. Vice-Chair Docekal asked members for comments or general ideas to help plan for future APMs, she commended Director Herring's work with the group as a whole. Ms. Lauren Whetstone supported the need for a facilitator and asked if topics and questions could be shared with the CJC members prior to the meeting.

Mrs. Sheila Jaffe, a participant in the Dialogue to Change Initiative, said if the CJC meetings could be shared virtually, it would be a good opportunity for those participants who wish to be more active and involved.

Vice-Chair Docekal asked Judge April Bristow, Chair of the Court Systems Task Force to introduce herself.

Mrs. Marcia Andrews praised the testimonials and teams from the Dialogue to Change project, and was happy to see those participants ask for more involvement and support.

Director Regenia Herring reviewed the requests that came from the CJC members at the March 28, 2022 APM. She listed:

1. Create a clearinghouse of resources – this is referred to the CJC's Community Engagement Team for development.
2. Analysis of population being served to determine why most of the PD's clients are not eligible for services, identify and address any deficiency – this is referred to the Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC) Core Team. Director Herring said it could be an area for funding recommendations.
3. Racial Equity and demographics focus throughout all the CJC's work to ensure the community voice is heard and considered – Director Herring said CJC staff is already working on various data and breaking it down to find disparities.
4. Returning Citizen and/or a HealthCare District member should be added to the CJC Board, by revision of CJC Ordinance and Bylaws - this has been a discussion within the CJC for some time, the CJC needs to approve this recommendation and then bring to the PBC Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) for approval. The CJC Ordinance and Bylaws would be amended accordingly. Secretary Morrison asked if

there was a mechanism that would allow a trial period allowing for these changes, Assistant County Attorney Williams said no. Director Herring said the PBC Economic Council (EC) nominates the private sector members; they do not have to be a member of the EC, and the EC would have an option to nominate either a returning citizen or healthcare district member. Ms. Lauren Whetstone interjected the need to review the revisions approved by the Bylaws Committee earlier this year; she asked they be made part of the next CJC meeting agenda. She added the EC has been open to the language and request for diversity and she volunteered to consult with EC Director Ms. Michelle Jacobs to find individuals to nominate, Vice-Chair Docekal offered to consult with Dr. Darcy Davis of the HealthCare District for possible nominations as well.

5. Social Workers and mental health workers assigned to assist municipal law enforcement on homelessness calls - requested by the City of Delray Beach, will be referred to the LEPC School & Community Safety subcommittee.
6. More connection and collaboration with the Reentry Task Force. Need for more workforce training during incarceration and access to more training and career paths upon reentry - will be referred to PBC Public Safety Reentry Task Force.
7. Make recommendations to the BOCC to establish a Youth Reentry program, with support from the community and the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) - will be referred to the Reentry Task Force.
8. iCard Program to help reduce recidivism. CJC can do a cost analysis for law enforcement dissemination and the commitment to use the program - will be referred to CJC Administration to implement and evaluate.
9. More progress on Racial Equity is needed with full commitment from system players. All CJC Members and subcommittee members take the Racial Equity Institute (REI) training to help all fully understand implied and implicit bias and its impact on criminal justice and society in general - Director Herring referred to the recent Florida legislation bill HB7 being somewhat problematic, and said this will warrant more discussion.
10. Reentry procedures are needed, including peer support, job training, goals and objectives to set up for success, a "See It – Be It" model, to start during incarceration and continue into the reentry process – will be referred back to the Public Safety Reentry Taskforce to address.

Vice-Chair Docekal said there was some confusion in terms of reentry as to what issues were already being addressed and which were not; she said it would be helpful to get a clear update to understand what is happening.

Judge Kathleen Kroll said there was much support needed to address the Youth Reentry program process, including the DJJ, and asked this to be a part of next meeting's agenda. Director Herring said Mr. Doug Duncan, Chair of the CJC Corrections Task Force and Public Safety Coordinating Council could possibly be able to play a role in that as well.

Mrs. Andrews commented there should be a component in place for employment by tying into the PBC School Districts technical schools that have many training programs to support individuals returning to society. There was discussion on various technical programs available through the Florida DOC which is has a new Secretary who is very supportive of reentry and the PBC School District. Chief Greg Starling of the DJJ also voiced his support for Youth Reentry services especially in certain areas that data points to where more services are needed. Vice-Chair Docekal asked Chief Starling to participate in the group that will be presenting on Youth Reentry at the next meeting.

Vice-Chair Docekal asked for a motion to accept the CJC Staff recommendations, Board and Visitor comments. The motion was made by Mr. Doug Duncan, with a second by Mrs. Marcia Andrews, motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Taskforce Reports:

- A. Corrections Taskforce – Chair Doug Duncan said the Taskforce was asked by the CJC to review the Administrative Order that details what third degree felonies warrant a first-appearance before a judge prior to being released on bond. Additionally, they are reviewing the Administrative Order entered by former Chief Judge Krista Marx during the height of COVID-19, which lowered the third degree bond amount from \$3,000.00 to \$1,000.00. Also of concern voiced by Commissioner Dave Kerner, is what violent crimes are included in the list of third degree felonies; he asked for a review of those crimes considered violent in nature and those that must see a judge. The Taskforce did find changes were necessary, and anticipates bringing their findings to the next CJC meeting on May 23.
- B. Court System Task Force – Chair Judge April Bristow said case processing is a focus, the committee's goal is to determine where case processing can be more efficient. The Taskforce started their review of third degree felonies and found those processes to be efficient, as well as the processing of 2nd degree felonies. She said another area of focus is incentive for probationers, eventually leading to early termination of the probation. The Taskforce is also moving forward with a study from FSU to discover if there are discrepancies between bonds set by duty judges and regular judges. Judge Bristow stated she suspects that duty judges are typically setting higher bonds. She said it would be helpful to create a checklist for duty judges to inform them of typical bond amounts. Mr. Duncan responded that several years ago Judge Nelson Bailey created a handbook for first appearance duty judges, and asked if it was still available and updated, Judge Bristow responded yes they did review it and it is accessible online. Ms. Michelle Johns offered Judge Bristow assistance in creating probationer incentives; she said the DOC has many resources and incentives they use that are effective.
- C. Law Enforcement Planning Council - Ms. Katherine Shover gave the subcommittee report in Chairman Javaro Sim's absence. Ms. Shover announced because of Chief Sim's absence the LEPC would not meet again until May 26, 2022. She said the LEPC School & Community Safety Committee Safety Initiative is in process of scheduling a trauma informed care train-the-trainer program, offered through Policy Research Associates, in conjunction with the Criminal Justice Institute (CJI), which is a partnership involving CJI and PBSO. Ms. Shover added that PBSO Captain Foley and Lisa Williams-Taylor have been very helpful guides to the School & Community Safety Committee in examining prevention, intervention and reaction points to develop a comprehensive response that will tie into the PBC overall Emergency Response Plan. She said the committee hopes to have this completed by October. In addition, they are making a transition to the FDLE incident based reporting system. The Aware and Care Campaign is in the process of developing a business card and magnet that will be sent out in the county water bill. It will include information as to when to call 211 and when to call 911.
- D. Community Engagement Team – In the absence of Co-Chair Barbara Cheives, Ms. Rosalind Murray gave the update. She said there is a long list of activities to study; it is the list of recommendations from the Dialogue to Change project.
- E. Racial Equity Team – In the absence of Chairman Jones, Ms. Rosalind Murray gave the update. She said the Racial Equity Team (RET) is holding a meeting this Thursday, the first in-person meeting in two years. As an active partner with the committee, the Burns Institute will attend and assist in the data study and try to create new initiatives.
- F. Safety & Justice Challenge Core Team – Ms. Jennifer Loyless gave the update in Chair Carey Haughwout and Program Manager Bert Winkler's absence. She stated there is a million dollars of unspent funds from the previous two grants. The Core Team is working on the application for the MacArthur Safety & Justice Challenge (SJC) sustainability grant of \$700,000. She said they are reviewing past initiatives and looking at data to see what has worked and what has not. Ms. Loyless said the team is looking at programming and evaluation for sustainability funding, in order to make permanently funded programs. She said the next Core Team meeting is on May 1, with the sustainability application due in June. She said a much more detailed report would be brought to the full session CJC for review prior to submission. Director Herring said she has a meeting with the Director of the MacArthur Foundation Safety & Justice Challenge tomorrow to discuss details.

XI. Member Comments:

Vice-Chair Docekal said Chairman Jones and Director Herring have been working on getting the CJC members back to the table. She noted this meeting is the first meeting held completely in-person in two years. She asked if anyone had suggestions on how to bring the members together, and if so to please call her or Director Herring. Vice-Chair Docekal stressed the importance of getting the CJC attendance numbers up. She said it is important to have full participation, as the CJC is designed as a cross-functional team. She added it was a deliberate decision to not have a virtual option, because the virtual option did not really work for the CJC, Vice-Chair Docekal stressed that whatever can be done to bring people in and back to the meetings will be done.

Ms. Nellie King said the county needs to address the problem of parking. She said she was in support of robust engagement with the community as well as members, and if the expectation is to have people come downtown, there is a need for a place to park.

Mrs. Marcia Anderson commented that coming to the meeting in McEaddy is a good thing, and she would like to see the CJC periodically hold evening meetings so that community members can attend, at least once or twice a year. She said the CJC could travel for a meeting to the Glades and other areas, to let residents know who the CJC is and what it does. Secretary Christina Morrison said the CJC used to hold meetings in other areas, and she supported the idea for future meetings.

Ms. Alexandra Barry, an attending guest, said she had come to the meeting to see how the CJC looks at the importance of restorative justice; she stressed the importance for restorative justice action in the school, jail and correctional systems. She added that as a victim of a murdered brother, she is on a list to pursue restoring justice for the loss of her brother's life, and said the department has not been responsive. She is a member of the Florida Restorative Justice Association that meets once a month. She said PBC staff member Ms. Megan Eaton shared at a recent meeting the challenges she faces and Ms. Barry said there is a lack of tools available. Ms. Barry asked the CJC if any members could be of help to Ms. Eaton.

XII. Adjournment:

With no other member comments, Vice-Chair Docekal called for adjournment at 8:56 a.m. Secretary Christina Morrison made a motion to adjourn, and with a second by Mr. Randy Johnson, Sr., motion passed.

MINUTES REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION:

_____ DATE: _____
Christina Morrison, CJC Secretary