



## **Criminal Justice Commission**

Hilton Palm Beach Airport  
150 Australian Avenue  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

**Monday, February 27, 2023, at 8:00 am**

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### ***Members Present***

Reverend Kevin Jones, Clergy, and CJC Chair  
Matt Pawlowski, Next Era Energy, and CJC Treasurer  
Marcia Andrews, Palm Beach County School Board Member  
Rachel Docekal, Lyrae Group, LLC, and CJC Vice-Chair  
Carey Haughwout, Public Defender, 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit  
Glenn Kelley, Chief Judge, 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit  
Michael Barnett, County Commissioner  
Randolph K. Johnson, Sr., Communications by Johnson  
Kathleen Kroll, Administrative Judge, Juvenile Division  
Gregory Starling, Circuit 15 Manager, District 9, Florida DJJ  
Sheldon Burkett, Resident in Charge, PBC Office, DEA  
Christopher Caldwell, Senior Representative in PBC, FBI  
Dave Aronberg, State Attorney, 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit  
Nellie King, Attorney, PBC Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers  
Lauren Whetstone, Greenberg Traurig, LLP  
Kelly Skidmore, State Representative, District 92  
Lawrence Gordon, Palm Beach County League of Cities

#### ***Members Absent***

Joseph Abruzzo, Clerk of the PBC Circuit Court & Comptroller  
Carmen Mattox, Representative, PBC Chiefs of Police Association  
Michael D Barbercheck, Supervisory Special Agent, Federal Bureau of ATF  
Ric Bradshaw, Palm Beach County Sheriff  
Frank Adderley, Chief, West Palm Beach PD  
Joseph Ianno, Jr., Florida Power & Light Company  
Eric Jester, Special Agent Supervisor, FDLE  
Michelle Johns, Circuit Administrator, Florida DOC, 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit  
Anthony LaCosta, Asst. US Attorney, WPB

#### ***Guests Attending***

Pat McCutcheon, PBC School District Police Department  
Eric Chan, HIS  
Michael Devotor, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office  
Earnie Ellison, New Board Nominee  
Michelle Cruz, Court Administrator  
Shirlon St. Amour, PBC Public Safety  
Jon Van Arnam, Healthcare District PBC  
Jamie-Lee Bradshaw, Community Partners of S. Florida  
Richard Radcliffe, PBC League of Cities  
Troy Walker, FDLE SAC  
Dr. Barbara Gerlock, JJAB

Andrea Rocha, PBC Clerk's Office  
Judge April Bristow, 15<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court  
Laurie Garduque, MacArthur Foundation  
Robyn Welch, JFK North Hospital  
Michelle Beatty, JFK North Hospital  
Nicole Bishop, PBC Victim Services  
Christina Morrison, PA, CPM  
Todd Bonlarron, PBC Administration  
Frank Demario, Chief Law Enforcement, PBSO – *for Sheriff Bradshaw*  
Latronda Hayes, Court Services  
Marc Freeman, SAO  
Keith Oswald, SDPBC  
Jeanette Gordon, Palm Health  
Ontario Johnson, Neighborhood Resilience  
Patrick Livingston, Arms of Hope Community, Inc.  
Ricky Petty, Healthier Boynton Beach  
Thyme Presley, PBG, Boca, Palm Springs Rep  
Nancy McConnell, Rebel Recovery  
Annie Ifill, Healthier Glades  
Ralph Behr, PBC  
Justine Patterson, FDC  
Tamara Sparks, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office  
Helene Hvizd, County Attorney's Office  
Chief Richard Jones, Ocean Ridge PD  
Arlene Griffiths, PBC Re-Entry  
Hal Hutchins, FAU PD/Assistant Police Chief  
Russ Mager, Delray Beach Police Department Chief  
Marcia Bahia, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office  
Chris Keane, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office  
Laura Waterman, Gulfstream Goodwill  
Craig Williams, SAO  
David E. England, Jupiter Police Department Chief  
Brett Taylor, Center for Justice Innovation  
Jen Loyless, Public Defender's Office  
Jessica Hidalgo, PBC Public Safety  
Marcela Millett, PBC Strategic Planning  
Becky Walker, Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network  
Tammy Fields, PBC Youth Services Department  
Lisa Williams-Taylor, CSC  
Mary Beth Creighton, Invited by Commissioner Barnett  
Adam McMichael, US Attorney's Office  
Cristy Altaro, Court Administrator  
Carmelle Marcelin-Chapman, Healthier Lake Worth  
Stephanie Sejnoha, PBC Public Safety Director  
Lauren Zuchman, Be Well PBC  
Kenya Madison, Healthier Delray Beach  
Sheree Wolliston, PBC  
Jane Tiereny, Center for Justice Unity  
Keith Clinkscale, Director Strategic Planning and Performance Management

**CJC Staff Present**

Regenia Herring, Executive Director  
Amii Trivedi, Administrative Assistant III  
Margo Smith, Criminal Justice Analyst  
Dawn Davenport, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst  
Damir Kukec, Manager, Research & Planning  
Rosalind Murray, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst – Racial Equity Coordinator  
Katherine Shover, Criminal Justice Systems Manager

**I. Meeting called to order**

Chair Rev. Kevin Jones *called the meeting to order at 8:11 AM*

Chair Jones welcomed Laurie Garduque from the MacArthur Foundation and Brett Taylor from Center for Court Innovations and SJC site coordinator.

**II. Roll Call – Regenia Herring, Director**

Director Regenia Herring called the roll and determined there was a quorum.

**III. Approval and/or corrections to Agenda**

Motion to approve Agenda. Motion was made by Matt Pawlowski, motion to second was made by Rachel Docekal. Motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Approval and/or corrections to Minutes dated January 23, 2023**

Motion to approve Minutes. Motion was made by Marcia Andrews, motion to second was made by Rachel Docekal. Motion passed unanimously.

**V. Chair’s Comments**

Chair Jones, informed everyone that the Youth Summit of Palm Beach County is back and is scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 29, 2023 at Palm Beach Central High School. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Chair Jones reviewed the attachment and mentioned how important the Youth Summit was for Palm Beach County and hope many of the community members from Palm Beach County are able to attend or sponsor the event.

Chair Jones commented on the attachment on the Operation Greenlight project sponsored by the Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller’s Office that will be held March 13th-17th. Customers with outstanding court fines referred to a collection agency will have the collection agency surcharge waived during this week. In addition, customers will save money on collection agency fees and may be eligible for Driver’s License reinstatement. Payments will be accepted online or by phone. The Call Center (561-274-1530) will be open daily from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM for this special event. Chair Jones reviewed the attachment; he hopes that many of those who have outstanding court fines take advantage of this opportunity.

Chair Jones commented on the attached article “Crime in real time: How PBSO’s new livestreaming body camera actually works.” He indicated he was pleased that the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s office has begun using cutting-edge body cameras for the first time.

Chair Jones acknowledged the Chiefs from West Palm Beach and Delray Beach who heard residents’ concerns at town hall meetings in their respective cities. He indicated that Chief Frank Adderley and Chief Russ Mager answered

questions for more than an hour during town hall meetings in wake of Trye Nichol's death.

Chair Jones highlighted the attached article on *'Fentanyl affects everyone': Police chiefs detail their biggest concerns in South Florida*, which addressed a roundtable that was held on Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> with South Florida law enforcement leaders to discuss the issues of the fentanyl epidemic and border security.

Chair Jones gave a public thank you to Rep. Jervonte Edmonds for sponsoring the County's Appropriations Project Request in the amount of \$367,420 to fund a Balanced Community Justice Project. He shared that this project will be in partnership with the West Palm Beach Police Department to provide an alternative community-based solution to arresting individuals dealing with mental health, opioids, fentanyl and other debilitating drug abuse issues from recycling through the criminal justice system.

Chair Jones congratulated Colonel Alfonso Starling on his retirement from the PBSO effective February 28, 2023 and recognized the tremendous asset Col. Starling has been to the PBSO and strong supporter of the CJC as a member of the Corrections Taskforce.

Chair Jones recognized the five individuals nominated by the Economic Council to serve as members of the CJC. They are 1) Earnie Ellison, Managing Partner, Ellison Consulting Group, LLC; 2) Darcy Davis, CEO, Healthcare District PBC; 3) Michelle Suskauer, Attorney, Dimond Kaplan & Rothstein, P.A.; 4) Julie Dattalo, President/CEO, CareerSource PBC; and 5) Marty Perry, Founding member, Perry & Taylor, P.A.

## **I. Old Business**

Chair Jones and Director Herring spoke about an update that Ms. Haughwout has asked that the board provide since this item will be going in front of the Board of County Commissioners during the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. They reviewed the side by side comparison on the handout in the packet that showed the Public Safety Coordinating Council's work is very specific versus the work that the CJC does, which is broader. The CJC will be staffing both committees and we will communicate between the two committees so that the work that is being done is synchronized and coordinated. There was no vote on the item.

## **II. New Business**

Chair Jones wanted to thank Ms. Marcia Andrews for her willingness to take on the role of Secretary for the CJC for this year. Motion is made by Rachel Docekal, motion to second was made by Matt Pawlowski. Motion passed unanimously. Chair Jones welcomed Ms. Andrews to the CJC Executive Committee.

Adam McMichael came to the podium to discuss the re-entry simulation. He spoke about all the challenges that individuals face when they re-enter the community after they are released. The simulation will take place at the beginning of April which is also Re-Entry month. It will really show the process of what citizens go through when they are released. Chair Jones mentioned that there is no financial obligation to attend the simulation event. He encouraged people to attend, especially those on the board as it is an eye-opening experience as they will learn first-hand what it's like to re-enter society. Motion to support the co-sponsorship of the re-entry simulation was made by Commissioner Barnett, motion to second was made by Carey Haughwout.

Motion was passed unanimously.

Carey Haughwout spoke about increasing the number of re-entry individuals from 30 to 60. Currently the grant provides services for 30 individuals. They are asking for an additional \$200K in grant funding for the 30 additional participants. The re-entry Taskforce discussed the increase and brought it to the board, but there were not enough members for a quorum and a vote last time, therefore, it is being brought up once again. The additional funding would be beneficial to the participants in the re-entry system in the Glades. The increase would only serve about a fraction of the individuals that are being released in the Glades, but it's a start. Chair Jones added that these items are needed to really build the re-entry services in the Glades so that the individuals there don't have to come to the coast and mentioned it would be a worthy program to support. Motion to support the increase was made by Marcia Andrews, motion to second was made by Rachel Docekal. Motion was passed unanimously.

Discussion was held about the Youth Summit. Marcia Bahia spoke about the event and how it would include some of the same speakers who would be attending the re-entry simulation event. The event has grown over the years, and it was held virtually for the past few years, but is back in person this year. A lot of the kids who attend the event are getting community service hours. It is for both male and female kids and they are able to learn about the event and register online on the Palm Beach County website. The main contributor for the event is the Sheriff's office where the event and program first started off. The event has many strong community agencies supporting it such as the School District, School Police, and West Palm Beach Police Department. This is a great investment in the young people in our community. Ms. Andrews spoke about how it is a great event and program that she has had the opportunity to attend as a volunteer on behalf of the Palm Beach County School Board. The kids really love the event, they love wearing the shirts and participating in the events held during the summit. They discuss issues such as the mental health issue which is big right now, and like having adults around them for support. Motion to provide sponsorship support for \$3500.00 was made by Rachel Docekal, motion to second was made by Marcia Andrews. Motion was passed unanimously.

Director Herring spoke about the three grants and how CJC staff has been getting with stakeholders and speaking about these opportunities. There are three different applications with grant funding totaling a little over 3 million dollars. One of the grants is due at the end of March, it's a hard task, but it can be done. There is a second grant that's the innovative prosecutor grant which is about half a million dollars in grant funding. We will be meeting with Dave Aronberg and his team this week to discuss data and how we can take advantage of this funding. The last one is the Justice Coordination grant that we are doing now. Chair Jones asked for a motion. There was discussion with Carey Haughwout and Director Herring about presenting the grant information and updates at the March meeting. No motions were made at this time.

### **III. Annual Planning Meeting Presentations**

Judge April Bristow gave a brief report and presented the recommendations and outcomes from the Court Systems Taskforce. Purpose of the taskforce is to evaluate any court program policies and see if there is anything that can be done more efficiently, cost efficiently or anything in that line. They looked at pre-trial

practices in the county and also at case processing and what can be differentiated to see if there is a criminal aspect and the court could be more efficient.

Chief Richard Jones and Captain Foley gave a brief report and presented the recommendations and outcomes from the Law Enforcement Planning Council. Chief Jones spoke about the issues and challenges faced in the community. He also mentioned a few accomplishments that were successful within the community. One of these is the Trauma Train the Trainer. This training has made its way through the Sheriff's department and also through the public safety training facilities through Palm Beach County. He discussed effective communication with all law enforcement agencies all the way down to each municipality as well as state and federal partners and being able to discuss the issues they are all facing. Captain Foley spoke about the three sections that were identified: Prevention and looking at how to educate people who are in crisis, Intervention where law enforcement had to get involved and collaborate with mental health providers, and Reaction where they examined what protocols are in place for mass violence. They identified several gaps and have been looking at what's been done so far. They also established a subgroup. The subgroup's focus is on gaps in the community. Identifying what has been done already and what can still be done. They are also working on several projects, one of which is the evaluation of the Delray Beach Police Department Community Outreach Program. This project has a more mental health focus and if it is sufficient enough for the community and hopefully taking it to an even bigger countywide approach. He also spoke about their challenges, which included homelessness, behavioral health issues, mental health treatment programs and staffing. These have been challenges for not only local areas but also across the nation. They will focus on these challenges and also continue focus on how they can do better for the people in their community. There was discussion with Rachel Docekal and Captain Foley about the school district police department being involved in the taskforce as well. And also about the difference between cases of pure substance abuse and pure mental health disorders. The Chief spoke about the substance abuse foundation and the mental health component with different cases and deciding whether individuals are qualified for treatment.

Dan Eisinger gave a brief report and presented the recommendations and outcomes from the Probation Advisory Board (PAB). He spoke about the purpose of the PAB to provide continuing oversight and ensure contract compliance with a private vendor for misdemeanor probation services in the county. The taskforce conducts annual review of misdemeanor probation operations and services which include an overview of all clients' socio-demographic characteristics and random case file audits on selected offender files from all of the service provider's offices. They focus on accuracy, timeliness, quality and contract compliance for the county. He also spoke about their accomplishments and challenges. One focus is to make sure that people are going on misdemeanor probation and are going to tackle that issue this year with the help of Judge Collins's guidance.

A brief report and presented the recommendations and outcomes from the Community Engagement Taskforce. CJC Board has been in place for 16 years and has really gained momentum with the safety and justice challenge and they

have done a lot of work as it relates to community engagement and dialogue to change. They have also been successful with the Criminal Justice Citizens Academy and facilitating the community forums on policing. Some of their challenges have been keeping dialogue and members up to date on what is happening with their projects and also looking to do some type of newsletter that would update everyone going forward. The taskforce is doing more systemic items versus projects and building more community and criminal justice partnerships throughout the county. The center of cultural education awareness across police and community relations and encouraging more communications is their focus. They are also working collaboratively with the racial equity taskforce. Discussion was had with Carey Haughwout and Rosalind Murray about the status of the iCard project. Work is being done with the Clerk's office and combining strategies and the iCard information going on to our text reminder system so that when people get a text reminder of that court date, there would be a link or a code to the public defender's office and also to the clerk's site. The project will be completed shortly. Discussion was held with Carey Haughwout and Rosalind Murray about the text reminder system. The text reminders have stopped and it's affecting notices to appear. They have seen the largest number of failures to appear in court. West Palm Beach is still using the text notification system. We are hoping to get more law enforcement agencies on board. It has been presented to the Law Enforcement Planning Council. There was no opposition we are just in discussion about what is needed to move forward.

Rev. Kevin Jones gave a brief report and presented the recommendations and outcomes from the Racial Equity Taskforce. Purpose is to identify drivers behind the racial and ethnic disparities in the Palm Beach County Criminal Justice (CJC) System and based upon data and research, make recommendations for a specific strategies to the CJC. A lot of the work in the taskforce has been involved with the pre-trial incarceration. Some of the accomplishments were a reset of the taskforce to establish foundational covenant agreements essential to engaging racial equity work. We had a historical conversation and out of that we developed a shared value statement that reflects our core values. We also made recommendations to the CJC to request implementation of Zoom hearings in county court. It is really important for us to work with the community engagement taskforce. There are also concerns about the Florida legislative position on race education and training data and research that is often met with skepticism. That it is just a big challenge where the system players challenge us on one case. It is a broader systemic issue that we are looking at and addressing. We are trying to figure out how to make our justice system fair and equitable for everyone in Palm Beach County. Jamie-Lee Bradshaw reviewed a slide that showed the difference between inequality and equality and also equity vs justice.

Damir Kukec from the Criminal Justice Commission gave a brief data report that included data from FDLE. Data was also given to all the attendees. It costs quite a bit for us to house a person in the jails anywhere from \$135 to \$140 a day, and based on our population here in Palm Beach County, which has grown significantly. African Americans represent only 19% of Palm Beach County's population, yet they made 57% of the jail population and that number is pretty much still the same today. The number of days when we talk about length of stay, how long they've been retained in jail, African Americans were retained 44 days, Hispanics 40 days, and Whites 25 days. So the data shows at the time

what those disparities were. We have made some progress but there is still work to be done. If we are doing things right, then we can really help people become productive citizens. There are some challenges that we will have and we have to look at the system because if we can't get people into this program, something's wrong, especially when we say there is a crisis and people need help. So we have to figure that out, and collectively we have the right people at the table to make that happen. We are doing a deeper dive with our data thankful to Palm Beach County who is building a data warehouse. We will have artificial intelligence that can help us do that and we can get a number of reports out. We rely on FDLE data and we rely on the Sheriff's office to send us data which helps us get that data into the clerk's office. Palm County has grown over since 2010 to 2021, and the population that's grown the most is the Hispanic population which is about 5% increase. African Americans probably about 2% increase and White population is reduced about this rate that you'd see from the Hispanic population. But we are seeing it's growing in diversity. We have to be able to look at this growth that is occurring in our county. These next few data slides are important because primarily this is about one of the biggest challenges for the commission which is the reduction of crime on a permanent basis. These slides will show what they call index crime offenses and number of arrests. So the index offenses are current primary charges that is measurement of how the offenses are being committed, both in the state of Florida as well as in Palm Beach County, and those index crimes are related to specific offenses, not overall crime. We have something like a 62% reduction in index crime offenses in each county. Discussion was had with Rachel Docekal and Damir Kukec about distribution of the data report and how everyone attending will get a copy of the slides that were reviewed.

**IX. Strategic Planning Session** – *Matt Pawlowski, CJC Treasurer & Keith Clinkscale, Director, PBC Strategic Planning & Performance Management*

Matt Pawlowski and Keith Clinkscale reviewed the Strategic Plan project that the CJC Committee is working on. They went over a slide presentation that was given to all the attendees. Attendees were also asked to participate in an activity where each table was assigned to a topic from the CJC Survey that was sent out. Each table was asked to contribute a few items that related to their topic. The topics were based on the top items that members listed as a matter of importance for the CJC Strategic Plan.

**X. Public & Member Comments** - None

**XI. Adjournment** – *Meeting adjourned at 11:54 AM*

***Next Meeting: Monday, April 24, 2023- 8am***