

PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

Full CJC Committee Meeting

Clayton E. Hutchinson Agricultural Services Center
559 North Military Trail, Room A & B
West Palm Beach, Florida 33415

MINUTES

Monday, November 27, 2023 – 8:00 a.m.

Members Present

Kevin Jones, Reverend, Clergy, and CJC Chair
Rachel Docekal, CEO, Hanley Foundation, and CJC Vice-Chair
Darcy Davis, CEO, Healthcare District
Derek Gibson, Circuit Administrator, Florida Department of Corrections
Earnie Ellison, Managing Partner, Ellison Consulting Group, LLC
Glenn Kelley, Chief Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Julia Dattolo, President/CEO, CareerSource PBC
Kathleen Kroll, Administrative Judge, Juvenile Division
Lauren Whetstone, Next Era Energy
Lawrence Gordon, Palm Beach County League of Cities
Maria Antuna, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Marcia Andrews, Palm Beach County School Board Member
Michael Barnett, County Commissioner
Michelle Suskauer, Attorney, Diamond Kaplan & Rothstein, P.A.
Marc Freeman, State Attorney's Office

Members Absent

Anthony LaCosta, Asst. US Attorney, WPB
Carey Haughwout, Public Defender, 15th Judicial Circuit
Carmen Mattox, Representative, PBC Chiefs of Police Association
Christopher Caldwell, Senior Representative in PBC, FBI
Dave Aronberg, State Attorney, 15th Judicial Circuit
Eric Jester, Special Agent Supervisor, FDLE
Frank Adderley, Chief, West Palm Beach PD
Gregory Starling, Circuit 15 Manager, District 9, Florida DJJ
Joseph Abruzzo, Clerk of the PBC Circuit Court & Comptroller
Katherine Waldron, State Representative, District 92
Matt Pawlowski, Next Era Energy, and CJC Treasurer
Michael D Barbercheck, Supervisory Special Agent, Federal Bureau of ATF
Michelle Johns, Circuit Administrator, Florida DOC, 15th Judicial Circuit
Nellie King, Attorney, PBC Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Randolph K. Johnson, Sr., Communications by Johnson
Ric Bradshaw, Palm Beach County Sheriff
Sheldon Burkett, Resident in Charge, PBC Office, DEA

Guests Attending

Dr. Belma Andric, Palm Beach County Health Care District
Jessica Hidalgo, Manger Criminal Justice Programs, Public Safety
Jen Loyless, Public Defender's Office
Todd Bonlarron, PBC Assistant County Administrator
William Freeman, People of Purpose
Paulina Pasquarelli, Court Administration
Helene Hvizd, County Attorney
Andrea Rocha, Clerk and Comptroller's Office

CJC Staff Present

Regenia Herring, Executive Director
Katherine Shover, Criminal Justice Systems Manager
Damir Kukec, Manager, Research & Planning
Rosalind Murray, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst – Racial Equity Coordinator
Dawn Caveness- Davenport, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Stephanie Moliere, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Margo Smith, Criminal Justice Analyst
Christopher Slydell, Criminal Justice Analyst

I. Meeting called to order – *Rev. Kevin Jones, Chair*

Chair Rev. Kevin Jones *called the meeting to order.*

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

Director 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 Lauren Whetstone, motion to second was made by Lawrence Gordon. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Motion to approve Minutes. Motion was made by Lawrence Gordon, motion to second was made by Michelle Suskauer. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Chairs Comments

A. Congratulations to CJC Secretary, Marcia Andrews, for being recognized by the Palm Beach Post as one of the top Palm Beach County Professionals, business people on the move for the week of November 6, 2023.

B. Sympathies on the sudden passing of Clinton B. Forbes, Executive Director of Palm Tran. His Celebration of Life service was held Monday, November 13, 2023. We send our condolences to the Palm Beach County BOCC, County Administration and all of its employees during this time of loss.

- C. The County's Community Services Department will conduct its annual Point-In-Time Count on Thursday, January 25, 2024 from 4am-12pm.
- D. A Countywide survey is being provided to Palm Beach County residents to seek their input to help identify what is most important to Residents. This will be open until December 1, 2023. Go to <https://arcg.is/0XfnaS1> or contact Keith Clinkscale at 561.355.4075/kclinkscale@pbcgov.org for more information.
- E. The Hanley Foundation is hosting its 3rd Annual Brice Makris Brunch on Sunday, December 10, 2023 from 11am-2pm at the Boca West Country Club. This event will raise money towards addiction treatment scholarships.
- F. On November 7, 2023, DCF released the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program which offers funding for two types grant funding: 1. Planning Grant (\$100,000 per County for 12 months), or 2. Implementation and Expansion Grant (\$1,200,000 per County for 36 months). The Public Safety Coordinating Council serves as the planning council for the Reinvestment Grant Program and will oversee this grant should the county pursue. Link for solicitation is [https://vendor.myfloridamarketplace.com/search/bids/detail/7053\[vendor.myfloridamarketplace.com\]](https://vendor.myfloridamarketplace.com/search/bids/detail/7053[vendor.myfloridamarketplace.com]).
- G. Regenia Herring is retiring as Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Commission. Her last day is Friday, December 22, 2023.

VI. Presentations

- A. Palm Beach County Healthcare District Crisis Stabilization Project by Dr. Belma Andric (Crisis Now Model). Darcy Davis of the Palm Beach County Health Care District (HCD) provided a brief history on the creation and function(s) of the HCD.
 - The Addiction Stabilization Unit Model is one that the Governor models & funds throughout the State of Florida (the Core Program started prior to Covid-19).
 - Darcy Davis introduced Dr. Andric. Dr. Andric stated that due to a mental health crisis, there was a decision to determine what more can be done from an evidence based model, along with determining the best practices of care in developing a synchronized system of care for every patient regardless of their mental health status, issues with

addiction, and homelessness. The need for the use of science based real world tested practices was stressed.

- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration SAMHSA provides clear guidelines on the elements of care to implement a Crisis Now Model. We are missing many of the elements that are utilized by other communities with systems of care that have been tested and implemented for over the past 20 years.
- Policy, adequate space, management, and precise execution to implement a sustainable and effective Crisis Now Model are necessary. Strategic planning at the HCD has been going on since March of 2022 with an independent consultant with national presence. The final report will be presented at the HCD's December 14, 2023 Board Meeting which is available to the Committee via Zoom if they desire.
- Elements of the Crisis Now Model are: 1. Having someone to call, 2. Having someone to respond to the call, and 3. Having someone to go out to attend the call received.
- Ways to address crisis: SAMHSA Evidenced Based Guidance
 - A Centralized Tech savvy call center to filter various intervals of a community members experienced crisis (ex. 988 or 211 Hotline). *Treatment starts here and Georgia has successfully integrated a Centralized Call Center*
 - Someone to go out- A Mobile Crisis Unit with 2-3 trained staffed providing outreach in lieu of the Police tending the call (at location in under 15 minutes) with direct access to available beds in the community, patient appointments which will reduce the use of high level services, such as the police and/or fire department.
 - Creation of a Crisis Stabilization Facility - a facility that acts as an emergency room with Specialists that are ready to take in community for Psychiatric Evaluations with a Specialist in various disciplines of care. Determination for programmatic services such as Housing, Employment, Job Training/Development, Medication Assistance, Voluntary in or outpatient treatment, etc. is decided at this level.
 - People, Place and Purpose- must understand the relationship between people, their support systems, positive environment that support healthy life choices, and the fact that everyone's life has purpose.
 - *The Crisis Now Calculator is a support tool that helps to determine how many calls should be received at the call center, how many beds will be needed for the community, the number of mobile units needed, and more. Ultimately,*

instead of paying \$281 million dollars per year for Law Enforcement to address these issues/concerns, we can reduce that amount to around \$138 million dollars a year (saved in police officers not being deployed or ER's being heavily used). This will simultaneously provide relief on our system of care as well.

Questions & Statements regarding the Crisis Now Model:

1. Members asked if the Model has decreased the number of homeless individuals in a community.
A: Dr. Andric stated the Housing First Models are commonly used, but there is less data on whether this Model drives homelessness down. Homelessness is also based on market availability/rates which may impact the data.
2. Members also asked for statistics on any positive resulting impact on misdemeanors from using the Crisis Now Model?
A: Dr. Andric stated that data from Judge Leifman in Miami supports her findings and there is more focus on the amount of jail admissions and the number of Officers responding to crisis based calls.
3. Per Marcia Andrews, the School District of Palm Beach County is looking to increase counseling services by identifying issues and putting processes in place prior to the “event.”
 - Next steps for the HCD- a small focus group, approval or denial from their Board to move forward, and determining Roles and Responsibilities of those in the system have to be determined to address who is going to do what to actualize the Crisis Now Model.
 - Director Herring stated the Criminal Justice Commission can evaluate the impact of the Crisis Now Model Project on the criminal justice system from its inception (look at jail reduction, homelessness, and various other impacts). Data from the evaluation will then be provided to the Board of County Commissioners for the determination of next steps.
 - The Chair mentioned that in the most recent Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM), the need for a facility to address the needs of the community, in lieu of the police being initially contacted, was identified and he extended his support and well wishes for the program.

- B. Mental Health Court- Rev. Jones acknowledged that Public Defender, Carey Haughwout, is in trial and moved the presentation to the next meeting or availability.

VII. New Business

- A. Nomination committee recommended the following slate of members (**bold**) to serve on the Executive Committee (minimum of 50% must represent the private sector).

1. Rachael Docekal, Chair (Private Sector)
2. Lauren Whetstone, Chair (Private Sector)
3. Matt Pawlowski, Secretary (Private Sector)
4. Marcia Andrews, Treasurer
5. **Commissioner Michael Barnett, BOCC District 3**
6. **Kevin Jones (Past Chair), (Private Sector)**
7. **Maria Antuna (Private Sector)**
8. **Michelle Suskauer (Private Sector)**
9. **Earnie Ellison (Private Sector)**
10. **Carey Haughwout, Public Defender**
11. **Glenn Kelley, Chief Judge**
12. **Superintendent Mike Burke (Ex- Officio Member)**
13. **Recommendation for a Law Enforcement Representative**

- Chair entertained a motion to accept recommendations, so moved by Rachael Docekal. Motion to second was made by Darcy Davis, approved.
 - Lauren Whetstone requested that the record reflect that she wasn't aware of the new slate of members, and Michelle Suskauer, a Criminal Attorney on the Executive Committee, would be a good recommendation for the next year's slate of recommended members since there is no standing member with her background in Criminal Justice/Law.
 - Director Herring questioned if the Superintendent of Schools is aware of their seat on the Executive Committee. Marcia Andrews stated she will contact him to confirm.
 - Regarding the recommendation for the law enforcement seat, Director Herring spoke with Chief Sean Bramer of Florida Atlantic University Police Department and he's going to confirm whether he can serve in that position, as he's been active in the

LEPC and was a representative from the Chiefs when he was the President of the Chief of Police Association.

- B. Director Herring confirmed that the Ordinance revisions were passed by the Board of County Commissioner's at Tuesday's meeting and the by-laws will be updated. The bylaws committee will have to review first and produce a draft for the full Board to review with any needed revisions (will hopefully be available in the two weeks or so). By-law Committee Members are stated in the Ordinance and will be contacted.

- C. Creation of Selection Committee for Executive Director position-
Per Assistant County Administrator, the posting for a new Executive Director for the CJC will be posted online through Human Resources soon. A Selection Committee will consist of Representatives from the County's Human Resources, Administration and the CJC to work together to identify the best candidate for the position. The Chairman will work with Assistant County Administrator, as needed. Todd Bonlarron will contact committee members in the near future to formalize the process; Lauren Whetstone, Michelle Suskauer, Racheal Docekal, Marcia Andrews are interested in serving on the Committee and will be contacted by Todd Bonlarron. Director Herring will be engaged with Assistant County Administrator Bonlarron-as well during this process. Current CJC Staff will fill in as needed until the role is filled.

VIII. Old Business

- A. Per Director Herring, the CJC is tentatively scheduled for the January 30, 2023 BOCC Workshop to present the Evaluating of the Efficacy of Pretrial Changes Intended to Reduce the Jail Population report developed by FSU and to present its 35- Year Historical Update Report.

IX. Reports- NONE

X. Director's Update

- A. Director Herring provided an update on a partnership application with FSU issued by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). The grant's emphasis is on alternatives to money bail through an empirical study, which would be the first of its kind in the nation.

Per Chief Judge Kelley, indicated that in the short-term, the Court System is not in a position to implement this evaluation as they are currently tasked with implementing a statewide bond schedule coupled with statutory changes, which require detention hearings in additional cases, and there is no final Administrative Order since the Supreme Court has yet to submit their final Administrative Order (their order will be submitted in December). He stated nothing will be implemented until the Court System can get through the current statutory changes and bring all Judges up to speed via training on the new bond schedule and detention requirements. More information will be available in the next few months.

- B. Director Herring provided the CJC with information that Palm Beach County School Board received funding for a Sequential Intercept Mapping for juveniles.
- C. Director Herring confirmed that the Reentry Juvenile presentation will be made at the next meeting.

XI. Adjournment- meeting adjourned

Next Meeting: Monday December 18, 2023- 8:00 a.m.
*Clayton E. Hutchinson Agricultural Services Center,
559 North Military Trail, Rooms A & B,
West Palm Beach, FL 33415*