Palm Beach County
Criminal Justice Commission
Improving Justice Outcomes

ANNUAL 2025 REPORT

Advancing Justice, Enhancing Safety

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As of Sept. 30, 2025.

Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners

Maria G. Marino, Mayor
District 1

Sara Baxter, Vice Mayor
District 6

Gregg K. Weiss
District 2

Joel G. Flores
District 3

Marci Woodward
District 4

Maria Sachs
District 5

Bobby Powell Jr.
District 7

Message from the CHAIR

Rachel Docekal

Serving as chair of the Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) over the past two years has been both an honor and a responsibility I have carried with deep appreciation. The commission's work is grounded in collaboration, leadership, and a shared commitment to strengthening our justice system in service of Palm Beach County. This year, we advanced that mission while navigating moments of growth, transition, and reflection.

A defining accomplishment of the year was the launch of the inaugural CJC Justice Leadership Academy. For the first time, twelve participants from across disciplines came together to learn, collaborate, and develop as justice leaders. Their graduation represents a meaningful investment in the future of our system and affirms the commission's role in cultivating informed, thoughtful leadership.

We also took important steps to strengthen the commission's sustainability and effectiveness. The Finance and Fundraising Committee was reinstated, and formalized processes were established to enhance transparency, accountability, and long-term planning. In addition, the commission successfully updated its bylaws for the first time since 2016, ensuring that our governance structure remains responsive, clear, and aligned with the work ahead.

This year brought significant transitions among our membership. We extend our sincere gratitude to Reverend Kevin Jones for his service and the perspective he brought to the commission, and we warmly welcome Cesar Daniel Arbolaez, our new clergy member. We also recognize the retirement of Mrs. Marcia Andrews, a longtime commission member and Palm Beach County School Board representative, whose leadership and dedication have made a lasting impact.

We were deeply saddened by the loss of Representative Joe Casello. His commitment to public service and his contributions to the commission's work will be remembered with respect and appreciation.

As my term concludes, I am pleased to congratulate the incoming officers of the CJC. I have great confidence in their leadership and vision as they guide the commission forward. Please join me in congratulating incoming Chair, Michelle Suskauer incoming Vice Chair, Maria Antuña, incoming Treasurer, Jorge Garrido, and incoming Secretary, Karen Hansen as they step into these important roles.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to the CJC's Executive Director Angelique Pickett and the dedicated staff of the CJC. Their professionalism, expertise, and unwavering commitment are the backbone of the commission's work. Through their leadership, attention to detail, and steady support of the commission and its members, they ensure that our initiatives move from vision to action. I am deeply grateful for their dedication and the essential role they play in advancing the commission's mission each day.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve as chair and to work alongside colleagues who bring integrity, dedication, and care to this work every day. Leading the commission during the past year of growth and transition has been both a privilege and a responsibility, and I am proud of what we have accomplished together. I leave this role encouraged by the foundation we have built and confident in the leadership that will carry the CJC forward, continuing to foster collaboration, thoughtful dialogue, and meaningful progress.

Respectfully,

Rachel Docekal, MBA, Ed.D.

Chair

Message from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Angelique J. Pickett

Fiscal year 2025 was a year of purposeful collaboration, thoughtful innovation, and measurable progress for the Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission (CJC). Guided by our mission to advance justice and enhance public safety, the commission continued to serve as a vital convener of stakeholders across systems, disciplines, and communities of Palm Beach County.

Throughout the year, the CJC brought together law enforcement leaders, judges, prosecutors, defenders, educators, behavioral health professionals, community advocates, and residents to examine complex challenges and develop practical, data-informed solutions. This collaborative approach remains the cornerstone of our work and the key to achieving sustainable outcomes across the criminal justice continuum.

Several accomplishments stand out this year. The CJC Bylaws Committee successfully modernized its bylaws for the first time since 2016, strengthening governance, accountability, and organizational clarity. The CJC Finance and Fundraising Committee worked to implement improved financial processes and enhanced transparency, positioning the CJC for long-term sustainability. The CJC task forces collectively advanced critical initiatives in behavioral health, court efficiency, community engagement, probation oversight, and law enforcement coordination,- each contributing to safer communities and a more effective justice system.

The CJC Community Engagement Task Force continued its focus through the launch of the inaugural CJC Justice Leadership Academy (JLA), marking a milestone in building community capacity and creating pathways for meaningful civic participation. Graduates of the JLA are already contributing their personal experience and JLA-enhanced leadership to CJC task forces, enriching the work and strengthening public trust. Similarly, the CJC Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy (CCJA) continued its long-standing legacy of educating residents about the justice system, fostering understanding, and building bridges between the community and justice partners. This year, the CJC, in partnership with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, was able to hold the 47th, 48th, and 49th sessions of the CCJA.

The CJC also remained committed to using data to drive decision-making. From court process improvements and probation oversight to the work of the System Trends Review for Impartial Data Evaluation (STRIDE) Task Force, the focus on transparency and evidence-based practices helped inform policy recommendations and operational improvements. These efforts reinforce the belief that fairness, efficiency, and public safety are mutually reinforcing goals.

None of this work would be possible without the dedication of our commissioners, committee and task force members, justice partners, community volunteers, and CJC staff. More than 200 individuals generously contributed their time, expertise, and perspective this year. I am deeply grateful for their commitment and for the leadership of our chair, vice-chair, treasurer, the CJC Executive Committee, and the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners, whom we proudly serve in an advisory capacity.

As we look ahead to fiscal year 2026, the CJC remains focused on strengthening partnerships, expanding opportunities for community engagement efforts, advancing behavioral health and diversion strategies, affecting legislative change, and continuing to identify innovative approaches that improve outcomes across the justice system. Together, we will continue to advance justice, enhance safety, and work toward a criminal justice system that is fair, effective, and responsive to the needs of all who call Palm Beach County home.

Respectfully,

Angelique J. Pickett
Executive Director
Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission

2025 CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION ADMINISTRATION

Mission

The CJC was established by county ordinance in 1988 to study all aspects of the criminal justice and crime prevention systems within the federal, state, county, municipal and private agencies within the county. This purpose shall include the study of the health and human services and educational systems, among others, as they pertain to criminal justice or crime prevention.

The 35-member CJC serves as an advisory commission to the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners.

- **18 public sector members** representing local, state, and federal criminal justice and governmental agencies.
- **17 private sector members**, including:
  - **Ten business leaders** nominated by the Economic Council of Palm Beach County and ratified by the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners (including one representative each from CareerSource Palm Beach County and the Health Care District of Palm Beach County).
  - **Two Chamber of Commerce representatives** (one representative each from the Black Chamber of Commerce of Palm Beach County and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Palm Beach County).
  - Five at-large members: nominated by the CJC and ratified by the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners.
    - One clergy member.
    - One returning citizen.
    - One crime survivor.
    - One student (aged 17–22).
    - One at-large community member.

Objectives

The CJC's primary goal is to develop and recommend policies and programs to the Board of County Commissioners that:

- Ensure the coordination of law enforcement and crime prevention efforts in Palm Beach County;
- Ensure an efficient, just, and cost effective, criminal justice system in Palm Beach County; and
- Effect a long-term reduction in crime in Palm Beach County.

2025 CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION ADMINISTRATION

The CJC strives to foster collaboration, innovation, and efficiency across the criminal justice system to enhance public safety and reduce crime on a permanent basis. The CJC operates through a collaborative committee-based process, encouraging participation from professionals, citizens, and stakeholders across various disciplines.

Under the leadership of an executive director, the CJC staff support the commission by facilitating various committees and projects, as well as, drafting meeting minutes, identifying topics and project planning steps, conducting research and data analysis, and behind-the-scenes consensus building. Over 200 volunteers contribute their expertise and time to support the CJC mission. The CJC recognizes and appreciates every one of these individuals for their invaluable insight, thoughts, and talents and wishes to thank them for their time.

Angelique J. Pickett
Executive Director

Damir Kukec
Research & Planning Manager

Katherine Hatos
Criminal Justice Systems Manager

Rosalind Murray
Community Engagement Coordinator

Dawn Caveness-Davenport
Senior Criminal Justice Analyst

Stephanie Moliére
Senior Criminal Justice Analyst

Brad Allen
Criminal Justice Analyst

Christopher Sydell
Criminal Justice Analyst

Margo Smith
Criminal Justice Analyst

Cayla M. Severin
Administrative Assistant III

2025 CJC OFFICERS

Rachel Docekal, MBA, Ed.D. CEO
Hanley Foundation
Chair

For more than two decades, Dr. Docekal has built a career focused on shifting from what is present to what is possible. As CEO of the Hanley Foundation, she oversees board and donor relations while creating strategies to support the organization's lifesaving programs.

Michelle R. Suskauer, Criminal Lawyer
Vice-Chair

Mrs. Suskauer is an attorney and the managing partner of The Suskauer Law Firm P.A., a West Palm Beach law firm focused on criminal defense. She is the past president of The Florida Bar, the third largest unified bar in the country. She served as president of The Florida Bar from 2018-2019. She also served on The Florida Bar Board of Governors from 2010-2017.

2025 CJC OFFICERS

Marcia Andrews,
School Board Member
Treasurer

Mrs. Andrews was elected to serve on the Palm Beach County School Board for District 6 in 2010, and reelected in 2014 and again in 2018. Her focus as a school board member is on student academics and personal achievement. She is a staunch advocate for the children of Palm Beach County.

Maria Antuña
CEO of Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Palm Beach County
Secretary

Ms. Antuña is a 45-year resident of Wellington and a 45-year veteran of banking. She was elected to the Wellington Town Council in 2024. Her vast community involvement includes the Wellington Rotary Club, Leadership Palm Beach County, Urban League of Palm Beach County, and Forum Club of the Palm Beaches.

2025 CJC FULL MEMBERS

Private Sector

ECONOMIC COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Maria Antuña, 2025 CJC Secretary
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Palm Beach County *

Julia Dattolo, CareerSource of Palm Beach County

Darcy Davis, Health Care District of Palm Beach County

Rachel Docekal, MBA, Ed.D, 2025 CJC Chair,
The Hanley Foundation *

Michelle R. Suskauer, 2025 CJC Vice-Chair,
The Suskauer Law Firm, P.A. *

Lauren Whetstone, NextEra Energy *

BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPRESENTATIVE
Leontyne Brown, dba Leontyne Brown

HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPRESENTATIVE
Jorge Garrido, Financial Management Strategies *

LOCAL CLERGY REPRESENTATIVE
Pastor C. Daniel Arbolaez, Passion Church

RETURNING CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVE
Oswald Newbold II, Re-Entry Center of Riviera Beach

CRIME SURVIVOR REPRESENTATIVE
Karen D. Hansen, The Collective Projects *

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
Shania Grant, Florida Atlantic University

AT-LARGE COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE
Vanessa Klein, The Lord's Place *

EX-OFFICIO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER
Mike Burke
Superintendent, Palm Beach County School District

* Denotes member served on CJC Executive Committee for calendar year 2025 during the FY 2025 reporting period.

Public Sector

Joseph Abruzzo
Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller

Marcia Andrews
Palm Beach County School Board, District 6

Chief Antonio Araujo
West Palm Beach Police Department

Sheriff Ric Bradshaw
Palm Beach County Sheriff

Representative Joseph Casello
Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation

State Attorney Alexcia Cox
15th Judicial Circuit

Commissioner Joel G. Flores
Board of County Commissioners, District 3 *

Derek Gibson
Circuit Administrator, Florida Department of Corrections

Vice-Mayor Lawrence Gordon
Town of Haverhill

Chief Judge Glenn Kelley
15th Judicial Circuit

Nellie King
PBC Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

Judge Kathleen Kroll
Administrative Judge, Juvenile Division

Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony Lacosta
U.S. Attorney's Office, West Palm Beach

Chief Dominick Pape
President, Palm Beach County Association of Chiefs of Police *

Gregory Starling
Chief Probation Officer, Circuit 15, Department of Juvenile Justice

Demetrios Thomas
Supervisory Special Agent, Florida Department of Law Enforcement

* Denotes member served on CJC Executive Committee for calendar year 2025 during the FY 2025 reporting period.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
2025 ANNUAL PLANNING MEETINGS

2025 ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING, FEBRUARY 24, 2025

CJC Executive Director Angelique J. Pickett, Chair Dr. Rachel Docekal, Vice-Chair Michelle R. Suskauer

2025 Annual Planning Meeting Group Photo

CJC Board member and State Attorney Alexcia Cox and Cheo Reid, State Attorney's Office

CJC Secretary Maria Antuña, CJC Board members Jorge Garrido and Reverend Kevin Jones

CJC Board members Leontyne Brown, Nellie King, Oswald Newbold, Darcy Davis, and Chief Judge Glenn Kelley

CJC Board members Chief Judge Glenn Kelley and Public Defender Dan Eisinger

Assistant County Administrator Todd Bonlarron with CJC Board Members Chief Judge Glenn Kelley and Vice-Mayor Lawrence Gordon

CJC Board Members Shania Grant, Karen Hansen, and Darcy Davis

CJC member Reverend Kevin Jones, Consultant Chris James, and Rosalind L. Murray, CJC Community Engagement Coordinator

CJC Board members Vice-Mayor Lawrence Gordon and Commissioner Joel G. Flores

CJC Treasurer Marcia Andrews and CJC member Karen Hansen

CJC Board members Commissioner Joel G. Flores and the late Joseph Casello, PBC Legislative Delegate, Florida House of Representatives

CJC Board Members Darcy Davis and Chief Judge Glenn Kelley with PBSO Major Chris Keane presenting

FULL CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION, MAY 27, 2025

CJC Executive Director Angelique J. Pickett and Chair Dr. Rachel Docekal at the May 27, 2025 CJC Full Committee Meeting

Chair Dr. Rachel Docekal and Vice-Chair Michelle R. Suskauer at the May 27, 2025 CJC Full Committee Meeting

CJC Criminal Justice Analysts Margo R. Smith and Christopher Slydell, Senior Criminal Justice Analysts Stephanie Molière and Dawn Caveness-Davenport at the May 27, 2025 CJC Full Committee Meeting

CJC Community Engagement Task Force Co-Chair, Retired Chief Javaro Sims at the May 27, 2025 CJC Full Committee Meeting

Photo credits Jassir Leiva

GRANT APPLICATIONS AND AWARDS

GRANT APPLICATION: Florida Department of Law Enforcement Grant

- **Amount of Award:** $293,033
- **Status of Award:** Pending
- **Timeframe:** Federal fiscal year 2024 (county fiscal year 2025)
- **Purpose:** Countywide Re-Entry Services and Equipment for Law Enforcement
  - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Grant (JAG)
  - Re-Entry Services - $240,228
  - Law Enforcement Equipment - $52,805
- **Intended Impact:** Public Safety

GRANT APPLICATION: Florida Department of Law Enforcement Grant

- **Amount of Award:** $82,114
- **Status of Award:** Pending
- **Timeframe:** Federal fiscal year 2024 (county fiscal year 2023)
- **Purpose:** Countywide Re-Entry Services and Equipment for Law Enforcement
  - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Grant (JAG)
  - Law Enforcement Equipment - $82,114
- **Intended Impact:** Public Safety

Law enforcement equipment, including Stop the Bleed Kits and Breach Kits was distributed by CJC staff in fiscal year 2025 to the Palm Beach Police Department and updated crime scene equipment to the Riviera Beach Police Department. Safety remains a priority in Palm Beach County, and both the Criminal Justice Commission CJC and its Law Enforcement Planning Council identified these resources as essential. This equipment enhances law enforcement efforts. The funding helps ensure that agencies with limited resources can obtain critical tools needed to protect their officers and the community.

Pickup of FDLE-funded law enforcement equipment by the Palm Beach Police Department (September 22, 2025) and the Riviera Beach Police Department (September 24, 2025)

Bylaws Committee

Chair: Michelle R. Suskauer, CJC Vice-Chair

Assigned CJC staff: Angelique J. Pickett, Executive Director, and Stephanie Molière, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst

Purpose: To review, develop, and maintain the governing rules (bylaws) that define how the organization operates. These bylaws outline the organization's structure, procedures, and the rights and responsibilities of its members, officers, and committees.

Objective/Focus Areas:

- **Review and Maintain:** Bylaws: Ensure the organization's bylaws remain accurate, up-to-date, and compliant with current laws, regulations, and organizational needs.
- **Recommend Amendments:** Propose changes or updates to the bylaws when needed, for example, to reflect organizational growth, changes in leadership structure, or new legal requirements.
- **Support Governance:** Help ensure that meetings, elections, and decision-making processes follow the rules established in the bylaws.
- **Educate Members:** Inform members, officers, and committees about the content and importance of the bylaws, so everyone understands how the organization is governed.

Number of Meetings Held: One

Activity, Initiatives, and Outcomes: Completed a comprehensive review and revision of the CJC bylaws. As part of a broader modernization effort, the committee ensured that the bylaws reflect current organizational operations, governance standards, and legal requirements. The bylaws enhance clarity, align with the organization's current operations, and strengthen overall governance.

Accomplishments and/or Impacts: Successfully completed the adoption of the updated bylaws, which had last been revised in 2016. This initiative aimed to modernize the document, ensure compliance with current laws and organizational practices, and improve clarity in governance procedures. The updated bylaws better reflect the organization's current structure and operations, strengthen accountability, and provide a clear framework to guide future decision-making. The committee appreciates the input and collaboration of members throughout the review process and looks forward to maintaining the bylaws as a living document that supports the organization's continued growth and effectiveness.

Anticipated Activity for the Upcoming Fiscal Year: Monitor the implementation of the updated bylaws to ensure they are effectively guiding organizational operations. The committee will review any questions or challenges that arise regarding interpretation and provide clarifications as needed. Additionally, it will continue to identify areas where further revisions may be necessary to address evolving organizational needs, legal requirements, and/or governance best practices. These efforts aim to maintain a clear, consistent, and legally compliant framework that supports the organization's mission and strategic objectives.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
STANDING COMMITTEE

Executive Committee

Chair: Rachel Docekal, CJC Chair

Assigned CJC staff: Angelique J. Pickett, Executive Director

Purpose: To manage the business of and exercise the powers of the CJC. Its smaller membership is intended to allow for a more detailed review of items and to screen issues before recommendations are made to the full CJC.

Objective/Focus Areas:

- **Establish Mission and Goals:** Responsibility of the chair with the ratification by the Executive Committee

Number of Meetings Held: Three

Acknowledgement of Reverend Kevin Jones for his years of dedication and commitment to the CJC by Executive Director Angelique J. Pickett and Chair Dr. Rachel Docekal at the May 12, 2025 CJC Executive Committee Meeting

Finance and Fundraising Committee

Chair: Marcia Andrews, CJC Treasurer

Assigned CJC staff: Angelique J. Pickett, Executive Director, Dawn Caveness-Davenport, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst, and Stephanie Molière, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst

Purpose: To oversee the financial health of the CJC, ensuring fiscal responsibility, and supporting sustainability through effective funding efforts. The committee develops financial policies, reviews budgets, monitors expenditures, and identifies funding opportunities to advance the organizational mission.

Objective/Focus Areas:

- **Transparency and Accountability:** Key focus in all financial operations while developing and recommending sound financial policies and procedures.
- **Develop, Recommend, and Manage:** Budgeting, financial reporting, and long-term financial planning to maintain fiscal responsibility.
- **Identifies and Pursues:** Fundraising opportunities, including sponsorships, donations, and grant or intergovernmental support—to strengthen the organization's financial stability. By diversifying funding sources and promoting effective financial management, the committee supports the organization's sustainability and strategic goals.

Number of Meetings Held: Three

Activity, Initiatives, and Outcomes: Focused on strengthening financial management and increasing funding efficiency. Key activities included reviewing existing financial procedures, developing improved protocols for handling funding requests, and engaging partners to expand sponsorship and donation opportunities.

Accomplishments and/or Impacts: Successfully implemented new processes and procedures for managing funding requests, including sponsorships, donations, and intergovernmental transfers. These improvements streamlined the approval process, increased consistency in funding decisions, and enhanced tracking and reporting of financial contributions. The new system promotes greater accountability and ensures resources are allocated effectively to support the organization's programs and strategic priorities.

Anticipated Activity for the Upcoming Fiscal Year: Continue strengthening financial sustainability and expanding resource development efforts by evaluating and refining the new funding request process, pursuing additional sponsorships and donor opportunities, and exploring intergovernmental and grant funding. Review and update financial policies as needed to ensure compliance, transparency, and alignment with best practices. These efforts will position the organization for long-term fiscal health and mission-driven growth.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
STANDING COMMITTEE

Nominating Committee

Chair: Rachel Docekal, CJC Chair
Assigned CJC staff: Angelique J. Pickett, Executive Director, and Stephanie Molière, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Purpose: To present qualified candidates for CJC membership.

Objective/Focus Areas:

- **Organizational Alignment:** To ensure the organization has effective, diverse, and capable leadership that supports its mission and strategic objectives of the CJC.

Number of Meetings Held: Two

Activity, Initiatives, and Outcomes: The Nominating Committee actively developed a slate of qualified nominees to present to the membership for election, ensuring that all leadership positions were filled with capable and committed individuals. Throughout the process, the committee prioritized fairness and transparency, strictly adhering to the organization's bylaws and established election procedures. As a result, the committee successfully facilitated a smooth, equitable election process that strengthened governance and supported the organization's leadership continuity.

Accomplishments and/or Impacts: The Nominating Committee successfully completed its work for the year by identifying and recommending qualified candidates for the organization's 2025 officers and new clergy member.

Anticipated Activity for the Upcoming Fiscal Year: The Nominating Committee will focus on identifying and recruiting qualified candidates for all the 2025 officer positions by reviewing upcoming leadership vacancies and carefully evaluating potential nominees to ensure they reflect the organization's values, experience, and commitment to service. The committee plans to review and update nomination procedures, strengthen outreach to potential candidates, and encourage those interested in leadership roles. Additionally, it will provide guidance and support to nominees throughout the election process and continue to develop a pipeline of future leaders to meet the organization's long-term strategic goals.

CJC member Jorge Garrido, CJC Secretary Maria Antuña, CJC Staff Dawn Caveness-Davenport, CJC Treasurer and Committee Chair Marcia Andrews, CJC Executive Director Angelique J. Pickett, CJC Staff Stephanie Molière, CJC member Vanessa Klein, and County Attorney Jessica Bober Rosenthal at the September 5, 2025 CJC Finance and Fundraising Committee meeting.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
TASK FORCES, BOARD, AND COUNCIL

Behavioral Health Task Force (BHTF)

Chair: Captain Randy Foley

Co-Chair: Lisa Williams-Taylor

Assigned CJC staff: Dawn Caveness-Davenport, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst

Purpose: To identify and mitigate behavioral health system gaps as they relate to those encountering the criminal justice system within Palm Beach County.

Objective/Focus Areas:

- **Coordination and Partnership:** Review and address Behavioral Health issues across the criminal justice system continuum.

Number of Meetings Held: Four

Activity, Initiatives, and Outcomes: The BHTF is exploring issues of related to juvenile bed capacity for youth involved in domestic-related cases. Several meetings have been held to gather data, develop a suggested/anticipated budget, and identify necessary resources. A subcommittee is being established to work through detailed planning and implementation phases for a proposal to be provided to the CJC for consideration as a recommendation to the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners. To address the second priority of the Annual Planning Meeting, the BHTF is set to gather new and updated resources for Aware and Care 2.0.

Accomplishments and/or Impacts: Improving family engagement was a priority of the Annual Planning Meeting, resulting in participation in the "Get Your Green On" event.

Anticipated Activity for the Upcoming Fiscal Year: Create a program with eight juvenile bed capacity for those youth involved in domestic-related cases and complete Aware and Care 2.0 updates.

Baker Act Panel at the 2025 CJC Annual Planning Meeting with Lisa Williams-Taylor, BHTF Co-Chair and Moderator, Panel Members: PBSO Captain Randy Foley, BHTF Co- Chair, Jill Sorensen, Keith Oswald, and Melissa Arki (February 24, 2025)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

TASK FORCES, BOARD, AND COUNCIL

CJC member Vanessa Klein receiving a proclamation for Palm Beach County Mental Health Provider Appreciation Day May 21, 2025 with CJC staff Dawn Caveness-Davenport

Community Engagement Task Force (CETF)

Chair: Barbara Cheives

Co-Chair: (Retired) Chief Javaro Sims

Assigned CJC staff: Rosalind L. Murray, Community Engagement Coordinator, and Margo R. Smith, Criminal Justice Analyst

Purpose: To provide information, discover how to serve the public better, and to support law enforcement in their pursuit to build a culture of transparency. The goal of the CETF is to build public trust and legitimacy by providing people with background information on issues that matter to public safety and to foster a better understanding of the criminal justice system in Palm Beach County.

Objective/Focus Areas:

- **Information Dissemination:** Provide the public with comprehensive information about the criminal justice system and public safety issues.
- **Public Engagement:** Foster open dialogues to understand community concerns and needs, ensuring the criminal justice system serves the public effectively.
- **Support for Law Enforcement:** Assist law enforcement agencies by educating the public on matters affecting public safety, thereby building trust and legitimacy.

Number of Meetings Held: Four

Activity, Initiatives, and Outcomes:

- Increased engagement with the Hispanic and Haitian community.
- Received updates from Community Partners of South Florida about the Justice Leadership Academy (JLA). This ten-week program promoted civic engagement and education about the criminal justice system and CJC committees.
- Reviewed the annual Community Engagement Plan proposed by co-chair Sims. The goal of this plan is to involve stakeholders within the community in the planning of all events.

Accomplishments and/or Impacts:

- Onboarding of new task force members from the Justice Leadership Academy.
- Identified the following priority areas.
    - Data Transparency and Public Information
    - Community Safety and Prevention
    - Justice System Engagement and Lived Experience Feedback
    - Immigration Education and Community Outreach
    - Youth Engagement and Law Enforcement Relationship-Building

Community Engagement Task Force Continued

Anticipated Activity for the Upcoming Fiscal Year:

- Dashboard development to continue the effort to create public-facing data.
- E-Bike safety education campaign and equipment distribution in conjunction with local law enforcement and bike safety organizations.
- Hold focus groups to survey people with lived criminal justice system to determine how participants feel about their experiences and areas for potential improvements.
- Immigration question and answer sessions with subject matter experts hosted throughout Palm Beach County.
- Why'd You Stop Me? Together Achieving Greatness training series to equip youth, young adults, and the adults who support them to build stronger relationships and foster mutual respect with the youth community, in partnership with local high schools.

Community Engagement Task Force Update at the 2025 CJC Annual Planning Meeting (February 24, 2025)

PBSO Major Chris Keane and (Retired) Chief Javaro Sims representing the Community Engagement Task Force at the 2025 CJC Annual Planning Meeting, (February 24, 2025)

Court System Task Force

Chair: Judge Ashley Zuckerman

Assigned CJC staff: Damir Kukec, Research and Planning Manager, and Christopher Slydell, Criminal Justice Analyst

Purpose: To advise and make policy recommendations concerning case processing in the Palm Beach County courts, either proactively or as directed by the CJC.

Objective/Focus Areas:

- **Advising on Court Policies:** Providing policy recommendations concerning the courts in Palm Beach County proactively or as directed by the CJC.
- **Evaluating Programs**: Researching, monitoring, and evaluating existing and proposed court system programs, processes, orders to promote an efficient and cost-effective court system and criminal justice system overall.
- **Support for Law Enforcement:** Assist law enforcement agencies by educating the public on matters directly affecting public safety, promoting higher trust, transparency, and better community relations.
- **Communicating Findings:** Sharing the Task Force's findings with the CJC and members of the criminal justice system to inform decision-making, policy development, and overall system improvements that promote public safety.

Number of Meetings Held: Seven

Activity, Initiatives, and Outcomes:

- Members provided solutions to jail access, the completion of indigency affidavits, and quicker case processing times by way of electronic documentation in various courtrooms; members have made court processing more timely, more cost-effective, and progressive without compromising public safety.

Accomplishments and/or Impacts:

- Higher levels of communication and cross-agency collaboration between criminal justice system stakeholders.
- Data transparency and sharing between criminal justice system stakeholders for more accurate data outcomes that help to guide recommendations provided to the CJC and the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners.

Anticipated Activity for the Upcoming Fiscal Year: Evaluation of Pre-Trial practices in Palm Beach County, including an analysis of the effectiveness of existing release mechanisms and a comparison of regular and duty judges, is to be prepared by CJC.

Law Enforcement Planning Council

Chair: Chief Michael Coleman, Riviera Beach Police Department

Assigned CJC staff: Dawn Caveness-Davenport, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst

Purpose: To ensure the efficient coordination of law enforcement services through the cooperative participation of all law enforcement agencies of the various towns, villages, cities, and other jurisdictional entities in Palm Beach County.

Objective/Focus Areas:

- **Coordination:** Law enforcement initiatives throughout Palm Beach County.
- **Research and Evaluation:** To determine trends and areas of improvement.

Number of Meetings Held: One

Activity, Initiatives, and Outcomes:

- Planning phase of youth anti-vaping awareness campaign to educate teens and parents that possession of THC is a felony.
- Charging store owners selling THC vapes to youth with a crime.
- Addressing potential enhancements to Domestic Violence (DV) charge penalties.
- Evaluation of juveniles with DV charges receiving a Civil Citation instead of a charge.
- New and changes to language in the Florida open carry legislation.
- Increase teen human trafficking community awareness.
- Focus on identified legislative items, such as law enforcement getting blood samples at the scene of exposure instead of having to get a search warrant.

Accomplishments and/or Impacts:

- CJC distributed equipment for law enforcement through Florida Department of Law Enforcement grant funding.
- Collaborated with criminal justice stakeholders on an anti-vaping youth awareness campaign.

Anticipated Activity for the Upcoming Fiscal Year:

- Partnering with the CJC BHTF for Aware and Care 2.0 and with the CJC Community Engagement Task Force on events and initiatives.
- A press conference announcing a 40% reduction in overdoses in Palm Beach County through a partnership with the CJC, State Attorney's Office, Medical Examiner's Office, and law enforcement.
- Public Service Announcement (PSA) for anti-vaping and a continuation of anti-vaping campaign to address the growing number of youth vaping in Palm Beach County.
- Exploration of diversion program opportunities for youth encountering the criminal justice system within Palm Beach County.

Probation Advisory Board (PAB)

Chair: Judge Ashley Zuckerman

Assigned CJC staff: Damir Kukec, Research and Planning Manager, and Christopher Slydell, Criminal Justice Analyst

Purpose: To oversee the proper implementation and management of misdemeanor probation services in Palm Beach County. The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners contracts with a private vendor, currently Professional Probation Services Inc. (PPS), to provide these services. The Probation Advisory Board (PAB) ensures that the contracted provider adheres to the terms of the contract with Palm Beach County and delivers quality services to misdemeanor offenders and the courts.

Objective/Focus Areas:

- **Contract Monitoring:** Conduct an annual programmatic review of misdemeanor probation operations with a focus on accuracy, timeliness, and level of compliance in services provided.
- **Data Analysis:** Examine the socio-demographic characteristics of misdemeanor probation consumers and perform random case file audits across all service provider offices to ensure standards are met.
- **Reporting:** Present review findings along with any recommendations to the CJC and the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners, facilitating informed decision-making and program improvement.
- **Communicating Findings:** Sharing of findings with the CJC and members of the criminal justice system to inform decision-making, policy development, and overall system improvements to promote public safety.

Number of Meetings Held: Four

Activity, Initiatives, and Outcomes:

- Improving data access, outcomes by way of electronic documentation from probation officers to the court for the closure of cases.
- Collaboration with misdemeanor probation services vendor to provide more details on programmatic needs of probationers (access to food, housing, education, mental, physical, emotional health, substance treatment, and more).
- PPS, will continue to expand their use of technology to capture and report out on data and will improve their overall system for better use starting at the beginning of 2026.

Accomplishments and/or Impacts:

- Higher levels of communication and cross-agency collaboration between criminal justice system stakeholders.
- Members of CJC staff, in conjunction with and approval of the PAB, completed the 2023-2024 Contract Monitoring Audit and provided recommendations to the full CJC to renew the contract option with PPS for an additional year. The full CJC adopted the recommendation provided by PAB.

Anticipated Activity for the Upcoming Fiscal Year:

- Presentation of CY 2023-2024 Contract Monitoring Audit and recommendations from PAB through the CJC to the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners.
- Contract monitoring and evaluation of the misdemeanor probation services contract with Professional PPS for FY 2025 was will be completed and presented to the CJC with findings and recommendations.
- Development of a new Request for Proposal for misdemeanor probation services.

Probation Advisory Board (PAB) Continued

Accomplishments and/or Impacts:

- Higher levels of communication and cross-agency collaboration between criminal justice system stakeholders.
- Members of CJC staff, in conjunction with and approval of the PAB, completed the 2023-2024 Contract Monitoring Audit and provided recommendations to the full CJC to renew the contract option with PPS, for an additional year. The full CJC adopted the recommendation provided by PAB.

Anticipated Activity for the Upcoming Fiscal Year:

- Presentation of CY 2023-2024 Contract Monitoring Audit and recommendations from PAB through the CJC to the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners.
- Contract monitoring and evaluation of the misdemeanor probation services contract with PPS for FY 2025 will be completed and presented to the CJC with findings and recommendations.
- Development of a new Request for Proposal for misdemeanor probation services.

CJC Staff Margo R. Smith and Damir Kukec, PAB Chair Judge Ashley Zuckerman, PPS staff Tom York and Glenny Cueto

CJC Staff Christopher Slydell and Executive Director Angelique J. Pickett

System Trends Review for Impartial Data Evaluation (STRIDE)

Co-Chair: Ontario Johnson

Co-Chair: Jane Tierney

Assigned CJC staff: Rosalind L. Murray, Community Engagement Coordinator

Purpose: To examine trends within operations, policies, and procedures within the Palm Beach County criminal justice system, with particular attention to jail and court processes to support data-informed decision-making.

Objective/Focus Areas:

- **Identification:** Conduct an annual programmatic review of misdemeanor probation operations with a focus on accuracy, timeliness, and level of compliance in services provided.
- **Strategy Development:** Develop practical, data-driven recommendations for CJC partners to consider in their criminal justice system related operations and/or policy review.
- **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Engage criminal justice and community partners to gather input to inform policy decisions.

Number of Meetings Held: Three

Activity, Initiatives, and Outcomes:

- **Data Analysis:** Comprehensive review of criminal justice data to identify trends and operational patterns.
- **Policy Recommendations:** Proposed recommendations intended to support criminal justice system efficiency, consistency, and effectiveness.

Accomplishments and/or Impacts:

- **Educational Initiatives:** Conducted a seminar to inform criminal justice partners about observed data trends and to stress the shared responsibility in improving the criminal justice system.
- **Feedback Mechanisms:** Established channels for community member input on criminal justice policies and practices.

Anticipated Activity for the Upcoming Fiscal Year: Lunch and learn data sessions with criminal justice partners.

STRIDE Task Force Meeting (June 26, 2025)

Chrichet Mixon, State Attorney's Office (June 26, 2025)

Colonel Alfonso Starling, PBSO and Executive Director Angelique J. Pickett (June 26, 2025)

Shantel Drayton, Court Services Manager, PBC Public Safety Department (June 26, 2025)

Colonel Alfonso Starling, PBSO, Executive Director Angelique J. Pickett, and Kenya Madison (June 26, 2025)

Jaime-Lee Bradshaw, Community Partners of South Florida (June 26, 2025)

CJC HIGHLIGHTS, ACTIVITIES, AND INITIATIVES: *CITIZEN'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY (CCJA)*

Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy

The CJC established the Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy (CCJA) in 1998 to educate the people of Palm Beach County about the criminal justice system. Subject matter experts volunteer their time to provide invaluable information on criminal justice at the local, county, and federal levels. A wide-ranging group of criminal justice professionals present information to residents. Sessions are held in partnership with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office during the evening over a period of six to twelve weeks. Participants of the CCJA benefit from tours of the county courthouse, jail, and medical examiner's office. The 47th through 49th sessions of the CCJA were held during this fiscal year; one at the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, one at the West Palm Beach Police Department, and one in Belle Glade. All those aged 14 and older are welcome to apply and it is free for all participants. A certificate of participation is provided at the end of the CCJA.

47th Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy Session

CJC Treasurer Marcia Andrews at CCJA (October 21, 2024)

47th Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy Graduates

47th Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy Graduation hosted by the West Palm Beach Police Department (October 21, 2024)

48th Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy Session

Chief Sarah Mooney and Palm Beach County School Police staff with Rosalind L. Murray, CJC Community Engagement Coordinator (February 5, 2025)

PBSO Captain Emory Payne and Belle Glade Mayor Steve B. Wilson

PBSO Behavior Therapy Dog presentation at CCJA (February 19, 2025)

48th Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy Graduation hosted by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office in Belle Glade (February 19, 2025)

Photo credits Jassir Leiva

49th Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy Session

Sergeant Ariel Munoz, CCJA presentation at the West Palm Beach Police Department (April 9, 2025)

Chief Wes Smith, Lake Clarke Shores PD, Judge Kathleen Kroll, CJC Member and Administrative Juvenile Judge, Chief Michael Coleman, CJC Law Enforcement Planning Council Chair and Riviera Beach PD, Alexcia Cox, CJC Member and State Attorney, Chief Antonio Araujo, CJC Member and West Palm Beach PD, Rosalind Murray, CJC Staff (April 23, 2025)

CCJA Judicial Panel: Judge Daliah H. Weiss, Chief Judge Glenn Kelley, and Judge Bradley Harper (May 7, 2025)

Commissioner Gregg K. Weiss presented at the 49th Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy Graduation Ceremony (May 14, 2025)

Emily Blaylock, Victim Services, presenting on Domestic Violence Resources (May 14, 2025)

49th Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy Graduates (May 14, 2025)

49th Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy Graduate (May 14, 2025)

49th Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy Graduation hosted by the West Palm Beach Police Department (May 14, 2025)

CJC HIGHLIGHTS, ACTIVITIES, AND INITIATIVES:
JUSTICE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (JLA), COURT TEXT REMINDER SYSTEM, PUBLIC DEFENDER PROGRAM

Justice Leadership Academy

The CJC entered into a contract with Community Partners of South Florida in May 2024 to implement a community engagement model project to advance the work of the previous Dialogues to Change project. The model was designed to build community capacity and create sustainable impacts by reengaging Dialogues to Change participants to provide an educational base in civic engagement with the goal of CJC committee or task force membership.

Guiding Committee

The CJC Community Engagement Guiding Committee (Guiding Committee) was established by consultant Jaime-Lee Bradshaw of Community Partners of South Florida to steer the formulation of the JLA and the establishment of participant selection criteria. The committee was comprised of key leaders representing various segments of the community. These members understood how integral it is to the success of a project of this nature to interpret and process information from various perspectives. The Guiding Committee met every two to three weeks over several months. The Guiding Committee members included:

Rev. Kevin Jones, Past CJC Chair

Shania Grant, CJC Member

Shantel Drayton, Court Services Manager, PBC Public Safety, Pre-Trial Services

Ontario Johnson, Community Organizer

Rev. Lydia Maldonado, Community Organizer

The above members, with Ms. Bradshaw's guidance, formulated processes that ensured a successful approach, beginning with a survey of former participants and the collection of feedback for future participation. Additional assistance was provided, as needed, by Gwen Wright, Consultant to the MacArthur Foundation, Angelique J. Pickett, CJC Executive Director, Rosalind L. Murray, CJC Community Engagement Coordinator, and Katherine Hatos, CJC Criminal Justice Systems Manager. The Guiding Committee's role was to support the process leading to the CJC's first-ever Justice Leadership Academy, an educational experience designed to increase participants' understanding of the local criminal justice system and its policies and practices, preparing them to apply for a task force or committee. Onboarding and infusion activities were provided to facilitate relationship-building and strengthen connections between graduates and committee members.

CJC HIGHLIGHTS, ACTIVITIES, AND INITIATIVES:
JUSTICE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (JLA), COURT TEXT REMINDER SYSTEM, PUBLIC DEFENDER PROGRAM

Justice Leadership Academy Graduation

At the culmination of the ten-week program, the CJC hosted a (JLA) graduation on May 15, 2025, at the Community Foundation of the Palm Beach and Martin Counties. Twelve participants successfully graduated, having completed the ten-week leadership academy program. JLA graduates were provided with the opportunity to meet with various CJC task force chairs and members at graduation and to then apply to participate in a CJC task force of their choice. Justice partners in attendance at the JLA graduation included re-entry services, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, the Public Defender, Judges, and other county and community-level providers.

Justice Leadership Academy Graduation (May 15, 2025)

CJC HIGHLIGHTS, ACTIVITIES, AND INITIATIVES:
JUSTICE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (JLA), COURT TEXT REMINDER SYSTEM, PUBLIC DEFENDER PROGRAM

Court Text Reminder System

Since its implementation in November 2018, the Court Text Reminder System has played a significant role in reducing Failures to Appear (FTA) by sending defendants reminders of court dates and mandatory appointments with Pre-Trial Services.

Based on the successes of this program, as evaluated by Florida State University, the Palm Beach County Public Safety Department agreed to adopt this program beginning with FY2026. Management and funding of text reminder services will be conducted by Justice Services.

Public Defender: Pre-Trial Services Placement Program

The Public Defender's Pre-Trial Services Placement Program expanded its social services initiative via a contract through the CJC, focusing on connecting new and existing pre-trial clients to community-based resources. Started in 2017, this program was established to intersect individuals with key components necessary to create and maintain a stable life. Key components include housing, treatment, counseling, and workforce development opportunities. This program identifies clients at intake, with the goal of linking them to services to address immediate needs. This program will be funded through the Palm Beach County Public Safety Department for FY 2026.

CJC HIGHLIGHTS, ACTIVITIES, AND INITIATIVES:
2025 SAFETY AND JUSTICE CHALLENGE ALL SITES CONFERENCE

2025 Safety and Justice Challenge All Sites Conference

In April 2025, Palm Beach County CJC staff and justice partners attended the 2025 Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC) All Sites Conference in Chicago, Illinois. The conference served as a platform to exchange ideas, showcase innovative strategies, and strengthen partnerships across SJC sites nationwide. While in attendance, CJC staff connected with members of other SJC sites and justice partners to learn about successful strategies, share experiences, and discuss future collaborations. The SJC All Sites Conference provided valuable insights and actionable ideas that will inform the continued efforts of the CJC to implement effective justice strategies.

Conference Attendees:

- **Angelique J. Pickett,** Executive Director, Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission
- **Katherine Hatos,** Criminal Justice Systems Manager, Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission
- **Rosalind L. Murray,** Community Engagement Coordinator, Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission
- **Margo R. Smith,** Criminal Justice Analyst/Safety and Justice Challenge Coordinator, Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission
- **Dr. Jennifer Copp,** Professor, Director, Jail Research & Policy Institute, College of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Florida State University
- **Jennifer Loyless,** Project Coordinator, Palm Beach County Public Defender's Office
- **Cheo Reid,** Deputy Executive Director, Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office

Conference Panel Contributions:

Angelique J. Pickett, Rosalind L. Murray, and Margo R. Smith:
"Limiting Probation-Related Jail Use: Insights from Two Counties"

"This session focuses on probation issues that affect jail populations. Participants will hear from probation departments in Brazoria County, TX, and Palm Beach County, FL, on their novel solutions. Palm Beach County developed a mobile probation unit to reduce violations, increase employment, address transportation challenges, and improve officer-client relationships. Brazoria is addressing new offenses in a different way to minimize revocations and warrants. They are partnering with the DA, Sheriff, and judges to hold special dockets to process cases faster and are conducting revocation-only dockets."

CJC HIGHLIGHTS, ACTIVITIES, AND INITIATIVES:
2025 SAFETY AND JUSTICE CHALLENGE ALL SITES CONFERENCE

2025 Safety and Justice Challenge All Sites Conference Community Engagement Showcase

Palm Beach County's community engagement efforts were highlighted at the SJC All Sites Conference. SJC convenors were invited to explore the showcase and gain insight into different types of community engagement and how to sustain efforts through collaborative partnership experiences between system stakeholders, community leadership, and community residents.

PALM BEACH COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL

Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC)

Co-Chair: Nellie King

Assigned CJC staff: Dawn Caveness-Davenport, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst

Applicable Florida Statutes: Fla. Stat. § 951.26 (2025) and Fla. Stat. § 394.656 (2024)

Purpose: To monitor detention facility populations and develop recommendations to prevent overcrowding; evaluate pretrial and probation programs, work release programs, mental health programs, and substance abuse treatment programs; review gain-time and bail bond schedules and inmate confinement status; plan for future correctional needs; promote appropriate alternatives to incarceration where appropriate; and support successful offender reentry. The PSCC is also responsible for making a formal recommendation to the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners regarding how the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program may best be implemented within a community.

Objective/Focus Areas:

- **Recenter the Council:** To perform statutory authorities.
- **Review Legislation:** Develop practical, data-driven recommendations for CJC partners to consider in their criminal justice system related operations and/or policy review.
- **Research and Evaluate:** Determine the viability of creating a Jail Population Management Review Team.

Number of Meetings Held: Seven

Anticipated Activity for the Upcoming Fiscal Year: Grant application for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program. The Florida Department of Children and Families administers the Reinvestment Grant Program, which supports county efforts to enhance public safety, lower criminal justice costs, and expand access to treatment for individuals with mental health, substance use, or co-occurring disorders.

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02/26