



**PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
REENTRY TASK FORCE MEETING**

Palm Beach County Governmental Center
301 N. Olive Avenue, 12th Floor
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Wednesday, July 27, 2016 - 12:00 P.M.

SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

a) Welcome and opening comments

Chair Sylvia Moffett called the meeting to order and extended special welcome to member Kevin Jones representing the City of West Palm Beach, and also to Stephanie Sejnoha, Director of the County's Public Safety Department.

b) Introduction of members and guests

Participants introduced themselves in lieu of a roll call. A total of 47 persons were in attendance.

c) Approval and/or additions to the Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved.

d) Approval and/or corrections to the 4/27/2016 minutes of the Reentry Task Force

The Minutes were unanimously approved.

e) Old Business

a) National Reentry Week

Chair Moffett commented on the recognition of national reentry week and thanked staff for the work they do. Ms. Shahzia noted that for the first time, the Department of Justice declared national reentry week celebrated from April 24 -30, 2016. Palm Beach County and the City of West Palm Beach also declared the week as same. She provided an overview of the various activities including a special event to bring awareness to the community about reentry that resulted in close to 400 individuals pledging their support to second chances

b) Integrated Reentry Employment Strategies Pilot Project (IRES)

Mr. Spatara reported on the Council of State representatives visit from May 23 – 26, 2016, where they met with the Business Development Board, County representatives and other community leaders. Representatives also toured Okeechobee Correctional Institution to look at their reentry efforts and explore ways to reach more residents returning to Palm Beach County (PBC). Reentry staff also participated in an all day training to assist with implementation of the project that is half way complete. In addition, a business engagement event to be hosted by Commissioner Taylor and CareerSource is scheduled to take place in October.

Mr. Spatara announced a training from the National Institute of Corrections as part of the IRES project scheduled to take place in January 10 -12, 2017, and noted that PBC is the first in the country to be provided with this training. He sought assistance in identifying a facility to accommodate 30 people for the training.

c) Request for Applications (RFA)

Mr. Spatara reported that an RFA was advertised on June 30, 2016 with a deadline of July 29th for all reentry services funded by the county. He further noted that a pre-bid meeting was held to answer questions and provide clarification to interested person, and stated that a selection committee meeting on August 4th for adult and juvenile reentry.

d) Ban the Box

Commissioner Moffett commented on the Reentry Employment, Training and Education Subcommittee's effort that she is spear heading to remove the felony check box from employment applications (ban the

box) in Palm Beach County. She reported on her presentation to the City of Mangonia Park who now bans the box and announced scheduled visit to South Bay and Riviera Beach. Commissioner Moffett thanked Craig Spatara, Arlene Griffiths for their support in same.

e) Forklift Training at Sago Palm Reentry Center

Commissioner Moffett thanked Ms. Patricia Williams and Mr. Randy Barbary on the great job they are doing at Sago Palm. Ms. Williams reported that the program now offers CDL and forklift training and are seeing amazing results. She expressed staff and the resident's excitement about the classes and noted the long waiting despite the pre-requisite list to get in. Chair Moffett commented on the Kelly's connection to the Glades and thanked them for their generosity. Ms. Bishop remarked about the residents and staff providing feedback to Kelly.

f) **New Business**

a) Reentry Task Force Bylaws

The bylaws were presented and feedback requested since its one-year establishment. A correction was noted to reflect a bi-annual meeting of the Task Force.

b) Correctional Officer of the Quarter

Officer Maurice Cromer of Sago Palm Reentry Center was recognized for his leadership and support for reentry.

c) PBC Library Partnership

Mr. Adam Davis, Director of PBC Library provided an overview of the programs at the library and spoke about the partnership with the reentry team to donate books and provide other services to Sago Palm Reentry Center.

d) Reentry Anniversary at Public Safety Department

Public Defender Carey Haughwout commented on the reentry's first year under Public Safety Department saying that for some time, the task force has talked about the county assuming some responsibility for reentry services to give permanency and recognition of the importance to public safety. She mentioned the role of the task force and noted the need to review this and all programs for effectiveness and improvement. Director Nicole Bishop spoke about the accomplishments and initiatives, noting that the primary focus for the year was securing funding to ensure continued services and a foundation the Department. She said that while there have been no real changes as far as decision making, it was an extremely positive year and welcomes any examination while looking forward to continued collaboration. Chair Moffett commented on the recent meetings with County Commissioners and Assistant County Administrator, and expressed her concern with not approaching the County for more funding given the Commissioners understanding and support for reentry. Following explanations by Ms. Bishop and Public Safety Director Stephanie Sejnoha, further discussion ensued regarding the relationship with the Criminal Justice Commission, change in relationships, role of the task force, and funding. Concerns were further expressed with housing reentry in the same department as victim services. To this end, Public Defender Haughwout recommended that a subcommittee be established to evaluate the move and present recommendations at the next meeting. Ms. Haughwout agreed to chair the subcommittee and persons interested in participating were asked to contact Mr. Spatara.

e) Prison Fellowship

Mr. Tyrus McLeod advised of an upcoming statewide prison fellowship conference to take place at the Hillsboro Community College in Tampa on September 12, 2016. This is in partnership with the Department of Corrections. Mr. Spatara will distribute further details.

g) **Task Force Initiatives/Updates**

a) Data and Evaluation Subcommittee

Ms. Loyless reported on the continued strengthening of the case management and data tracking system (RENEW). She noted that the LSI-r assessment is now included to relate the services and dosage received by clients. A dash board with provider access for useful reports is also being created,

b) Employment, Training and Education Subcommittee

Ms. Tamika Cooley reported on the IRES workgroup that is looking at differentiated tracks for serving low and high risk clients, and how CareeSource is incorporating same. She introduced a job developer recently hired by CareerSource and commented on their efforts to identify employers to hire two clients and track them for two years. With regards to PREPARE, she mentioned the great partnership with the Sheriff's office and highlighted the cognitive programming introduced that focuses on putting clients on a path to success by providing soft skills pre-release, and placing them in schools and jobs for hard skills. Ms. Starks remarked about the flexible and alternative ways used to provide the clients with the required skills.

c) Housing Subcommittee

Mr. Spatara reported in Chair Daniel Gibson's absence and congratulated Vice Chair Jessica Hidalgo on the birth of her son. He said that the Subcommittee is currently working on a Memorandum of Understanding with the local housing authorities to allow clients who graduate the reentry programs to be named on the lease and allowed access to public housing.

d) Sex Offender Subcommittee

Mr. Spatara advised of the Subcommittee's focus on educating the community and reported on a meeting held with the School Board, State Attorney's office and the Public Defender's office to explore ways in which to start the conversation especially with youth, regarding the downfalls of cell phones and how to prevent same. Dr. Bess added that the meeting was rather productive and noted that the school district will support the efforts of the juvenile population.

Ms. Sejnoha advised of the county's options in place to provide shelter for registered sex offenders in the event of a hurricane.

e) Sustainability Subcommittee

Ms. Starks reported on the ongoing conversation to bring awareness to the community about reentry, and advised of funds in the 2017 budget for public relations and marketing.

f) Youth Reentry Subcommittee

Ms. Jackson commented on the court cost fact sheet for juveniles included in the agenda packet. She advised that the subcommittee is working with the Youth Services Department to recruit mentors for the population that may include county employees. She also noted that Aggression Replacement is now offered to youth on the 12th floor of the County's Jail to address criminal thinking, and mentioned social activities at Goodwill and Choice to Change during the summer. Ms. Jackson also spoke about career day at the Juvenile Detention Center and thanked Ms. Ali from the County's Library for her participation.

Public Defender Haughwout mentioned the new legislation for automatic expunging of juvenile records, and said that her office is researching same.

b) Additional member and guest comments

Public Defender Haughwout advised that the US Supreme Court has found life sentences for juveniles unconstitutional and has applied it retroactively which will see individuals released without any services. She suggested that the Task Force start thinking about services and explore opportunities for funding in this regard.

h) Adjourn

With no further items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned.