



**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, October 28, 2015 - 12:00 P.M.

SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome and opening comments

Chair Sylvia Moffett called the meeting to order and extended welcome to all participants. Special welcome was extended to CJC representative Joseph Ianno, Jr. and Director of Justice Services, Nicole Bishop.

II. Introduction of members and guests

Participants introduced themselves in lieu of a roll call.

III. Approval and/or additions to the Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval and/or corrections to the 07/22/2015 minutes of the Reentry Task Force

The Minutes were unanimously approved.

V. Special Presentation

Chair Moffett and Mr. Spatara thanked former Chair Carey Haughwout for her exceptional services to the Task force and Palm Beach County, and look forward to her continued participation.

VI. Old Business

There were no old business items for discussion.

VII. New Business

a) Membership Structure

Chair Moffett commented on the inadequate seating at the conference table, and the decision for voting members to have priority seating at the table. She requested that that voting members advise Arlene Griffiths of their designee in the event they are unable to attend a meeting.

b) She also announced the addition of Drug Abuse Foundation to the Advisory Membership, and noted that it was consistent with the Bylaws to add members without formal amendment

VIII. Task Force Initiatives/Updates

a) Funding/Grants Update

Mr. Spatara reported the County's unsuccessful bid for three competitive grants, but noted that he was working with Nicole Bishop to identify additional resources for the program.

b) Integrated Reentry and Employment Strategies (IRES) Pilot Project

Ms. Griffiths provided an update on the captioned project, advising that representatives from the Council of State Governments (CSG) will return to Palm Beach County (PBC) to present the findings from their visit as well as analysis of data collected at the November 18, 2015 Employment, Training and Education Subcommittee meeting. She also announced the first IRES Executive Steering committee meeting scheduled for Friday, November 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

IX. Subcommittee Reports

1. Data and Evaluation Subcommittee

Subcommittee Chair, Jennifer Loyless reported that the Subcommittee continues to work with the County's Information Systems Services Department to incorporate the Level of Service Inventory Revised (LSI-r) tracking tool into the RENEW database. Also, she noted that the evaluation conducted by RTI and Urban Institute will be published in April 2016. Individuals requiring data for funding or other purposes were encouraged to seek assistance from the Subcommittee.

2. Employment, Training & Education Subcommittee

Ms. Cooley presented on behalf of Subcommittee Chair Michelle Dryer who was unable to attend. She outlined the priorities established by the Subcommittee for 2016. She also provided update on the PREPARE project that will turn the local jail into a career center, noting that it is still in the start up phase and that they are on target with staff recruitment. She commented on the team's orientation trip to Washington that included a tour of the model site in Montgomery. She said that meetings are scheduled with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) and other agencies to look at logistics and drafting contracts and Memorandum of Understandings. The goal she noted is to serve 150 participants that are within 180 days of release by getting them work ready, and where feasible, obtaining employment before release.

Public Defender Haughwout remarked about the challenge for individuals not knowing when they are within that 180 days of release, and expressed concerns that they could fall through the cracks.

While admitting that it is a challenge due to the maximum number of days allowed in the jails, Ms. Starks stated that the target is feasible and advised that individuals can be served less than 180 days of release as that represents the maximum.

3. Housing Subcommittee

Chairman Daniel Gibson advised that the Subcommittee has not met since the last Task Force because of involvement in the MacArthur Foundation planning, but highlighted housing as one of the strategies been looked at to reduce unnecessary incarceration of low risk individuals in the jails while finding housing options for the high risk been released. He remarked about addressing the disparities of race in the jail and providing other resources for the special population such as sex offenders and people with mental illnesses. He mentioned the LEAD program that has been highly successful in Seattle, as well as the FUSE model. Chair Gibson announced the Pay for Success demonstration grant opportunity that the county will explore, but need to identify local private/public investors who will advance the money and be reimbursed by HUD. The maximum award is \$1.3M reimbursable up to four years, serving a minimum of 100 individuals.

Application deadline is February 12, 2016 and include a requirement to identify a mentor who has run this program successfully before

Ms. Gail Colletta advised of the legislator's ability to provide funds through appropriations that are not necessarily linked to a bill or a piece of legislation that might be an option in this regard. This will be further explored.

4. Youth Reentry Subcommittee

Ms. Shahzia Jackson, CJC staff to the Subcommittee presented on behalf of Chair Judge Kroll. She noted that the Subcommittee is working on a court cost fact sheet, and that The Youth Services Department has provided funding for the program. She highlighted the three work groups under the Subcommittee and outlined the focus and major achievements of each. The PBSO Workgroup created a visitation sheet for youth on the 12th floor that resulted in a 700% increase in visitation. The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Workgroup is in the process of implementing a graduated sanctions model which is an evidenced based tool that looks at the youth's risk of offence and provide options other than violation of probation. The Department of Corrections (DOC) Workgroup is working on a youthful offender pre-release hearing that will serve as a reentry check point for the youth. This will to be spearheaded by Judge Feuer and include Riviera Beach as the community provider, and other agencies.

Ms. Laura Waterman added that the Back To A Future (BTAF) program is currently working with 117 youth in the community, many of which are in school. She mentioned a grant from the City of West Palm Beach to focus on family before the youth is released. She also advised of a participant currently on a scholarship with a sail program that teaches youthful offenders and at-risk youth about sailing and the marine industry.

5. Sex Offender Subcommittee

Mayor Featherman reported on the discussion at the last Subcommittee meeting regarding sex offender under the age of 21 and the need for opportunities for a second chance. He highlighted possible solutions such as the elimination of housing, job and travel restrictions, as well as no life time registration for non violent youth. He stressed the need for the county to assist the youth with the "Romeo and Juliet" type cases. Ms. Colletta suggested that noncontact offenders be included and provided with diversion programs.

It was noted that Miami Dade and Broward Counties are introducing citations instead of probation and inquired if Palm Beach County considered doing same.

A comment was made with regards to having those impacted represented at the table.

6. Sustainability, Marketing and Advocacy Subcommittee

Chair Diana Stanley spoke on the importance of education, advocacy, awareness building, and the need for a marketing plan. She also highlighted the importance for consistent messaging to the community. She said that the Subcommittee is in the process of scheduling tours of Sago Palm for county and other local officials, as well as private donors. She remarked about a one page white paper with the reentry message as a handout, with the ultimate goal of securing further funding. Ms. Stanley advised of a women's forum focusing on reentry that The Lord's Place is hosting, and also announced receipt of funding from PBSO for the second year as partnership on services for individuals released from the county jail.

X. Additional member and guest comments

- a) Concerns expressed with the lack of accomplishments of the subcommittees, with the exception of the Youth Subcommittee.
- b) An inquiry was made regarding the inclusion of sex offenders in the marketing campaign to raise awareness and a recommendation made for each subcommittee to formulate a message for submission to the Sustainability Subcommittee.
- c) The meeting was advised of the resignation of Executive Director Michael Rodriguez, and Assistant County Administrator Vince Bonvento serving as interim.
- d) The announcement of a program sponsored by the Knights Foundation for Community Challenge in various communities across the country including. PBC. The funding opportunity is to look at ideas to make PBC successful using three strategies: attracting and retaining talent in the community, expanding economic opportunities by breaking down barriers to employment, and promoting civic engagement through connection in the community. The initial approach is a 100 words or less description of the proposal due November 27, 2015. Interested participants were asked to speak with Steven Spaulding of the Legal Aid Society. It was suggested that the Employment, Training and Education Subcommittee and the Sustainability Subcommittee could explore this opportunity.

XI. Adjourn

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

PARTICIPANTS:

Sylvia Moffett, League of Cities - Chair
Andrew Melville, Melville Consulting
Becky Walker, Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network

Bernard Featherman, Mayor of Highland Beach/Chairman, Reentry Sex Offender Subcommittee
Candace Radex, CareerSource
Candice Thomas, Department of Corrections
Carey Haughwout, Public Defender's Office
Chad Stoffel, Miracle Village Ministries
Claudia Tuck, Palm Beach County Human and Veteran Services
Clay Walker, Department of Children and Families
Daniel Gibson, The Lord's Place/Chair, Reentry Housing Subcommittee
Danielle Ouellette, South East Behavioral Health Network
Diana G. Ebersold, Drug Abuse Foundation
Diana Stanley, The Lord's Place/Chair – Reentry Sustainability Subcommittee
Elsie Jackson, Department of Juvenile Justice
Eve Lyon, The Lord's Place
Everett McPherson, Department of Corrections
Gail Colletta, Florida Action Committee/Vice Chair, Reentry Sex Offender Subcommittee
Gerald Youmann, Mathew 25 ministries
Greg Starling, Department of Juvenile Justice
Jenise Link, Palm Beach County Justice Services
Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office
Jerry Youmans, Matthew 25 Ministries
Jessica Chiappone, Hope City Center
Jessica Hildalgo, Gulfstream Goodwill Industries
Kathleen Roe, Representative Rader's Office
Kelly Lambert, CARP
Kevin Springs, Spring4Ward, Inc.
Latrona Hayes, Justice Services
Laura Waterman, Gulfstream Goodwill Industries
Maggie Witherow, Mathew 25 Ministries
Marie Ganza, Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network
Marsha Martino, NAMI
Nicole Bishop, PBC Justice Services & Victim Services
Orie Bullard, Justice Service Center
Pattie Aupperlee, First United Methodist Church
Rosalyn Baker, Florida Department of Corrections
Sherri Collins, State Attorney's Office
Sharon L'Herrou, 211
Steven Spaulding, Legal Aid Society
Stewart Sartfield, Court Administration
Tamara Starks, Palm Beach County Sherriff's Office
Tamika Cooley, CareerSource PBC
Ted Rodarm, Matthew 25 Ministries
Teresa Osgood, Hope City Center, Inc.

CJC STAFF PRESENT:

Craig Spatara, Criminal Justice Programs Manager, Public safety
Arlene Griffiths, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst, Public safety
Shahzia Jackson, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst, Public safety
Allison Orr, Administrative Assistant, Criminal Justice Commission