



PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

CORRECTIONS TASK FORCE/ Public Safety Coordinating Council

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

Wednesday, May 6, 2015; 12:00 P.M.

http://www.pbcgov.com/criminaljustice/task_force/corrections/

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Douglas Duncan, Roth and Duncan, P.A.
Rosalyn Baker, Florida Department of Corrections
Ted Booras, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Paulette Burdick, Commissioner, Palm Beach County
Glenny Cueto, Professional Probation Services, Inc.
Brian Fernandes, Office of the State Attorney
John Kastrenakes, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Tommy Richards, Palm Beach County Bail Bond Association
James Smigel, Captain, West Palm Beach Police Department
Louis Tomeo, Director Criminal Court Services, Office of the Clerk and Comptroller
Barbara White, Public Defender's Office

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jeffrey Colbath, Administrative Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Michelle Dyer, Workforce Alliance
Leonard Hanser, Administrative Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Jenise Link, Manager, Palm Beach County Pretrial Services Agency
Brandy Macaluso, Victims Rights Coalition
Joseph Marx, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Caroline Shepherd, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Alfonso Starling, Major, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Alton Taylor, Executive Director, Drug Abuse Foundation

GUESTS PRESENT:

Colleen Farnsworth, DCF Legal
Alan Fuhrman, Captain, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Latronda Hayes, Palm Beach County Pretrial Services Agency
Brenda Oakes, PBC Youth Services Division
Kathy Peck, Board of County Commissioners Office
Stewart Saalfield, Court Administration
Greg Starling, Department of Juvenile Justice
Schnelle Tonge, Public Defender's Office

CJC STAFF PRESENT:

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director
Damir Kukec, Research and Planning Manager
Allison Orr, Administrative Assistant
Craig Spatara, Criminal Justice Programs Manager
Candee Villapando, Criminal Justice Analyst

I. Welcome, Opening Comments by Chairman Douglas Duncan

II. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests

III. Approval and/or Additions to the agenda

The agenda was approved.

IV. Approval and/or Amendments to the March 4, 2015 Minutes of the Corrections Task Force/Public Safety Coordinating Council Meeting

The minutes of the March 4, 2015 meeting were approved.

V. Reports

A. Jail Population Report

No report presented.

B. In House Arrest Report

Captain Alan Fuhrman presented the report on behalf of Total In-House Arrest population as of 5/4/2015 was 264; 145 of which were pretrial (including 10 direct filed juveniles); 108 county sentenced – 10 misdemeanor probation, 1 DJJ.

C. Pretrial Services Report

Latronda Hayes gave the report on behalf of Jenise Link. As of May 4th, there were a total of 973 defendants on SOR; 533 of these individuals were on SOR only, and 440 were on SOR with accompanying money bond. Of the 533 on SOR only, 15 remained in custody; 6 awaiting treatment, and 9 due to other charges or holds.

D. Juvenile Detention Center Report

No report was presented. But a monthly report was included in the packet.

E. Misdemeanor Probation Report

Ms. Glenny Cueto reported that they received 174 new cases for the month of April. Total active cases were 2,132. They closed out 119 cases successfully; and 64 were revoked or terminated in court totaling to 183 terminated cases.

VI. New Business

A. Palm Beach County Juvenile Correction Facility

Mr. Mike Rodriguez mentioned that Mayor Shelley Vana had made a couple of trips to the facility and had concerns about the state of the facility, so she had requested for this issue to be put on today's CTF agenda (see attached Palm Beach Post article dated April 19, 2015). The facility is run by Youth Services International (YSI), under contract with the Department of Juvenile Justice, and as such Mr. Rodriguez was not sure about their ability to help on the issue. The issue had also been brought up in a Criminal Justice Commission meeting. Mr. Rodriguez invited Ms. Brenda Oakes who was on the tour of the facility to elaborate on the issue. Ms. Oakes also introduced Ms. Kathy Peck from Mayor Vana's office who was also on the tour. Ms. Oakes mentioned about four referrals made to the Inspector General on incidents that have occurred in the facility; some founded, some unfounded, with a couple remaining pending. These findings have been shared with the Board of County Commissioners. Around the same time, there was a change in administrator, with Mr. Manny Alvarez coming in. Mr. Alvarez had instituted several changes in the facility, however, some concerns remained regarding the condition of the facility and the youth. The program had indicated willingness to work with the Youth Services Department (YSD) which had offered additional services to the youth. However, majority of the youth in the facility are not from Palm Beach County, therefore this limits the extent to which the YSD can serve these youths. Ms. Oakes said that the only possible tie in they have is that the facility is located in Palm Beach County property wherein the County has an agreement with DJJ, although not the provider, to keep the facility in good working condition, for which Ms. Oakes said they wanted to get direction from the committee. Ms. Peck added that Mayor Vana and Representative Kerner had been in touch with the Secretary of DJJ who will be coming to Palm Beach to address the issue. Chair Duncan recommended extending invitation to the Secretary of DJJ to attend one of the committee meetings. Mr. Brian Fernandes made a motion to invite the Secretary, and the motion passed. Chair Duncan will draft a letter of invitation with the purpose of opening up a dialog in how to resolve the issue, and not to investigate.

B. BCC resolution to support a new initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illness housed in local jails

Mike Rodriguez discussed the "Stepping Up" initiative to reduce the number of mentally ill inmates in jail. He noted that the resolution was passed by the Board of County Commissioners, and that there may be some financial assistance from

the Bureau of Justice Assistance in the future. He remarked that the initiative is with the new Behavioral Health committee, but he wanted to make the committee aware because of some overlap on jail issues. Chair Duncan said he will write a letter to the Behavioral Health committee that Mr. Fernandes be a member representing the Corrections Task Force. Mr. Rodriguez brought up Sunshine Law implications as Mr. Aronberg is co-chair of the committee with Ms. Haughwout, and suggested someone outside of the SAO or PD offices to be member. Chair Duncan asked Ms. Colleen Farnsworth if she would be interested, to which Ms. Farnsworth agreed.

VII. Old Business

A. 12th Floor Jail Population Committee

Chair Schnelle Tonge, Public Defender's Office gave an update on the committee's progress. She recalled the two objectives of the 12th Floor Jail Population Committee which are to determine 1) whether there is an increase in the 12th floor population; and 2) if there is an increase, what are the reasons. She reported that they have been continuing to collect data from the SAO, PD, DJJ, and PBSO. She said that PBSO provided data on monthly population of the youth on the 12th floor from January 2011 to January 2015, which they were able to use to answer question #1. The data showed there was an increase in the 12th floor population. The more difficult task is answering question #2. Ms. Tonge cited five possible reasons for the increase, but remarked that they have not pinpointed the main reason, and that there may still be other factors contributing to the increase. She said the 12th floor committee is willing to continue working on the issue, but would like to ask for direction from the task force how to proceed. After a lengthy discussion, the committee voted and agreed to allow the committee to continue working on answering question #2 and incorporate the action plan Mr. Starling had discussed earlier from collaborating among stakeholders on looking at direct file policies in the county. Chair Duncan thanked the 12th floor committee for continued excellent work.

VIII. Additional member and guest comments

Chair Duncan reported that he got a phone call from Kai Li Fouts on behalf of Palm Beach Criminal Defense Lawyers Association that they have initiated a discussion with the Sheriff regarding the In House Arrest (IHA) program, and the perceived issue that there is a delay in people getting out of IHA. Sergeant Lawrence has apparently spoken with Mr. Berry, president of the association. Mr. Duncan said that they will put the issue on the agenda and invite everyone to speak, and also related to this issue is utilizing other private house arrest companies.

IX. Adjournment

Next Meeting: June 3, 2015; 12:00 P.M.