

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: July 10, 2018      ☐ Consent      ☒ Regular  
                                                 ☐ Ordinance      ☐ Public Hearing

Department: Department of Public Safety  
Submitted By: Department of Public Safety  
Submitted For: Division of Justice Services

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

**Motion and Title:** Staff requests Board discussion and direction: regarding proceeding with implementing a juvenile transitional step-down program in Palm Beach County (County).

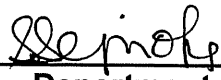
**Summary:** At the May 15, 2018 meeting, the Board of County Commissioners directed staff to formalize conversations with the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) regarding a partnership to create a juvenile transitional step-down facility in Palm Beach County and report back on those conversations. Prior to the Board Directive, as part of the Reentry Task Force (RTF) Strategic Plan, conversations occurred between the Chair of the Juvenile Reentry Task Force (Judge Kathleen Kroll) and the DJJ (Secretary Christina Daly) to determine DJJ's interest. On May 3, 2018 the Juvenile RTF hosted DJJ Secretary Daly and her team along with members of County Administration to discuss County juvenile reentry initiatives. At that meeting, DJJ offered to support a Legislative Budget Request (LBR) to fund programming for a juvenile transitional step-down facility, with the facility and costs for renovation provided by the County. Since the Board's Directive, formalized conversations have resulted in DJJ's request for the County to submit a LBR and for DJJ to conduct a site visit to the County to evaluate potential sites and provide feedback for renovation estimates for a hardened facility.


DJJ advised county staff to submit a proposal for a three-year pilot project. The current proposal includes strengthening existing post-release services for case management, transitional jobs, mentoring, transition planning, family reunification and support services (Year 1); implementation of a transitional step-down facility while continuing to enhance services (Year 2 and 3); and an overall evaluation of the pilot project (Year 3). The pilot project would ultimately create and implement a residential transitional step-down facility that would bring committed juveniles (25 at a time) closer to home and utilize evidence-based practices and services for the last 90-120 days of their detainment. The estimated cost of the programming for the facility, excluding costs for facility renovations (incurred by the County) and care and control of the facility (presumably paid by DJJ) is approximately \$2,007,500 annually. The County will not provide direct services at the facility; rather, Request for Proposals would be distributed to solicit vendors. The County would select and manage the contract of an appropriate entity to deliver program services such as treatment, education, employment, mentoring and transition planning. If the pilot is successful, continuation funding would be sought from a variety of sources including County funding. Countywide. (LDC)

**Background and Policy Issues :** Locally, 67% of youth returning from DJJ facilities are rearrested within one year. In April of 2017, the RTF, through the implementation of its strategic plan, sought to identify strategies to improve outcomes. One strategy included modeling a juvenile transitional step-down facility after the successful Sago Palm Reentry initiative. The program is intended to reduce recidivism among transitioning juveniles as well as reduce future victimization, enhance public safety and improve the quality of life in PBC.

**Attachments:**

- 1) PowerPoint Presentation

Recommended by:  7/2/18  
Department Director      Date

Approved By:  7/5/18  
Assistant County Administrator      Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact

Fiscal Years	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Capital Expenditures					
Operating Costs					
External Revenues					
Program Income (County)					
In-Kind Match (County)					
Net Fiscal Impact	*	*	*	*	*

# ADDITIONAL FTE

POSITIONS (Cumulative) 0 0 0 0 0

Is Item Included In Proposed Budget? Yes No X  
Does this item include the use of federal funds? Yes No  
Budget Account Exp No: Fund Dept. Unit Obj.  
Rev No: Fund Dept. Unit Rev.

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

\*The fiscal impact is indeterminable at this time and requires additional discussions and evaluations to determine the overall fiscal impact to the County.

Departmental Fiscal Review:

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:

Robert Brown 7/3/18  
OFMB 7/3

Ann S. Jambart 7/3/18  
Contract Administration

B. Legal Sufficiency:

Ad Colman 7/5/18  
Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

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Department Director



# Board Discussion and Direction Juvenile Transitional Step-down Conceptual Initiative

Presented by Stephanie Sejnoha, Director Public Safety  
Danielle Ouellette, Reentry Program Coordinator

## Background

- ▶ As part of Reentry Task Force Strategic Plan, conversations occurred between:
  - Chair of the Juvenile Reentry Task Force (Judge Kathleen Kroll) and Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ); (Secretary Christina Daly) to determine DJJ's interest
- ▶ On May 3<sup>rd</sup>:
  - Juvenile Reentry Task Force hosted DJJ Secretary Daly and team along with County Administration team to discuss PBC juvenile reentry initiative
  - DJJ offered to support Legislative Budget Request (LBR) to fund programming for a juvenile transitional step-down facility
  - Facility and costs for renovation to be provided by the County



## Rationale

- ▶ 120 juveniles return to PBC annually from DJJ residential commitment
  - Re-arrest rate of 67% within the first 12 months
- ▶ Of the 67%, 50% of arrests occur within first 90 days of release
- ▶ Current gap exists due to lack of continuum of care and engagement in local resources

## Rationale

- ▶ **Reentry Programs Work-** success of adult reentry program
- ▶ Strong community support
- ▶ Improved public safety outcomes
- ▶ Reduced recidivism rates and future victimization
- ▶ Collaborative partnerships -  
Court/Probation/Community/Task Force

## Board Directive

► May 15<sup>th</sup> BCC meeting staff directed to:

- Formalize conversations with DJJ regarding partnership to create juvenile transitional step-down facility in PBC
- Report back on those conversations

## Results of Formal Communications

- ▶ DJJ requested to work with County on a LBR:
  - DJJ to conduct site visit to evaluate potential sites
  - Provide feedback for renovation estimates for hardened facility

# Legislative Budget Request

- ▶ Three year pilot program
  - ▶ Year 1- Strengthen existing post release services
    - Funding for additional case management
    - Transitional jobs, mentoring, transition planning
    - Family reunification and support services
  - ▶ Year 2- Implementation of transitional step-down facility and continuation of enhanced services
  - ▶ Year 3- Continuation of step-down facility, enhanced services and program evaluation

## Purpose and Method

- ▶ Improve recidivism outcomes for youth returning from DJJ Residential Programming Facilities
- ▶ Create and implement transitional step-down facility to bring committed youth closer to PBC for last 90-120 days of commitment
- ▶ Facility would hold 20-25 youth at a time
- ▶ RFP to solicit vendors; County to manage contract
- ▶ 25 participants x \$220/day= \$2,007,500 (rough estimate based on existing cost DJJ pays for secure detention)

## Program Goals

- ▶ Promote and incorporate recovery principles in service delivery
- ▶ Eliminate-lessen symptoms of criminal behaviors and co-occurring substance use individual may experience
- ▶ Improve socialization & development of natural supports
- ▶ Employment & educational support
- ▶ Family reunification



# Board Discussion and Direction

## To Proceed With:

- ▶ Working with DJJ on a Legislative Budget Request
- ▶ Identifying-evaluating potential sites with estimated costs: renovation, operating, etc.
- ▶ Implementing juvenile transitional step-down program