



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, April 3, 2013; 12:00 P.M.

[HTTP://WWW.PBCGOV.COM/CRIMINALJUSTICE/TASK_FORCE/CORRECTIONS/](http://www.pbcgov.com/criminaljustice/task_force/corrections/)

- SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Douglas Duncan, Roth and Duncan, P.A.
August Bonavita, Administrative Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Roger M. Crane, Police Chief, Palm Beach County Chiefs of Police Association
Brian Feld, Professional Probation Services
Jenise Link, Manager, Palm Beach County Pretrial Services Agency
James Martz, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Tommy Richards, Palm Beach County Bail Bond Association
Caroline Shepherd, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Alton Taylor, Executive Director, Drug Abuse Foundation
Shelley Vana, Commissioner, Palm Beach County
Barbara White, Office of the Public Defender

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rosalyn Baker, Florida Department of Corrections
Bob Bozzone, Executive Director, Comprehensive Alcohol Rehabilitation Program
Rev. Chaney, Clergy Representation
Jeffrey Colbath, Administrative Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Michelle Dryer, Workforce Alliance
Vice-Chairman Chris Kneisley, Major, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Jill Richstone, Office of the State Attorney
Louis Tomeo, Director Criminal Court Services, Office of the Clerk and Comptroller

GUESTS PRESENT:

Paula Carvajal, Court Administration
Emmanuel Fornah, Palm Beach County Pretrial Services Agency
Michael Gauger, Chief Deputy, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Alfonso Starling, Captain, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office

CJC STAFF PRESENT:

Michael Rodriguez, Executive Director
Candee Villapando, Criminal Justice Analyst

I. Welcome, opening comments by Chairman, Douglas Duncan.

II. The agenda was approved.

III. The minutes of the March 6, 2013 meeting were approved.

IV. Reports

A. Jail Population Report

Captain Alfonso Starling reported that today's jail population was 2178, less than the previous month's count. For March, in the last three years, the counts reflected downward trend: 2539 in 2011, 2251 in 2012, and 2248 in 2013. Pay-and-go for March was 385, up from last month at 284.

B. In-House Arrest Report

Captain Starling reported that in house arrest population was 204; 99 pretrial, including 6 direct filed juveniles; 102 county sentenced; 2 probation; 1 DJJ Juvenile; and 0 administrative order.

Mike Rodriguez noted, for informational purposes, he included in the handouts data produced for the CJC Annual Planning meeting including average daily populations, comparison between Palm Beach and comparable counties, as well as projected numbers. He commented historical trend reflects the numbers are going down, despite in-house arrest and pay-and-go slightly up from last month. He encouraged everyone to review the report and share any questions or comments.

Chair Duncan remarked that in the Annual Planning meeting, there was a lot of accolades/kudos to this committee for the work that it has been doing in keeping the jail population down. He congratulated everyone on the committee. At this point, Chair Duncan welcomed Judge August Bonavita and commented on his nice article in the newspaper last Monday.

C. Pretrial Services Report

Jenise Link reported as of yesterday, there were a total of 737 defendants on SOR - up from last month by about 45-50 people, and up from last year by about 60 people; 504 of those individuals were on SOR only, 233 were on SOR with a money bond. Of the 504 on SOR only, 13 remain in custody due to other charges or awaiting treatment. Total SOR population out of custody was 680.

Chair Duncan asked for any suggestions/explanations why the SOR counts are up. Ms. Link offered that might be just the difference of the new bench; i.e., the new judges might be utilizing that type of release more. The number of people coming in have not changed that much.

Chair Duncan also requested an update on the risk assessment instrument. Ms. Link replied that they are at the consideration phase of different risk assessment tools, but they are also looking at the system the Sheriff's Office is evaluating and waiting to see which they are going to go with.

Chair Duncan welcomed Judge James Martz and Judge Caroline Shepherd at this point and thanked them for being here. Chair Duncan noted to the members that the two judges are now at Gun Club and asked them to give a brief background regarding their new duties, to which Judges Martz and Shepherd obliged.

D. Juvenile Detention Center Report

No juvenile detention report. Mr. Rodriguez noted CJC staff learned that Mr. Parkins is no longer with the detention center and that his second in command reportedly has been demoted. As far as he knows, the detention center is now being run jointly by an individual who comes down from Fort Pierce, and by an individual who comes up from either Fort Lauderdale or Miami-Dade. The situation regarding the detention center's staffing situation was discussed further and it was agreed to invite Feirmon Johnson and Judge Kathleen Kroll to shed some light on the matter.

V. Old Business

A. Mental Health Evaluations

Alton Taylor reported that for the month of March they had a total of 13 in-jail cases that they worked with PBSO; seven of them PBSO notified them; six PBSO did not know of – three of the six PBSO did locate the transport order, and one was released, and the other two PBSO did not have information as of yesterday. Part of the reason they were tracking it is to provide data on the number of individuals that PBSO did not know about and this is a result of individuals contacting them about the people in jail who are about to be released into residential treatment.

Mr. Taylor reported improved communications between Diane Ebersol, DAF's case manager for criminal justice services, and PBSO transport personnel. Regarding the timeframe in terms of assessment, generally they were able to get an assessment within one week if PBSO is able to arrange transport; except in cases PBSO did not know about because the transport order was either delayed or not done.

They also looked at the possibility of admitting an individual after assessment if they meet the criteria. They found that this is not doable because they do not have referral information (including medical history, etc.) on the individuals, and

they are not yet processed out of the jail. However, they have some resources available that might allow them to put a part-time assessor in Belle Glade only.

There was further discussion/clarification about the 13 in-jail cases Mr. Taylor reported that they tracked in March; whether or not an assessment can be done in court; who would do and/or fund the assessment. Captain Starling also offered that they will look into the possibility of Armor (PBSO's health service provider) helping out with the assessment.

Chair Duncan thanked Mr. Taylor for the report and requested they continue to monitor the issue. He asked Captain Starling to speak with their in-house health service provider; Captain Starling said he will bring an update at the next meeting.

VI. New Business

A. First Appearances

Barbara White raised the issue about individuals that get booked but do not go directly into first appearance and never get to go to court downtown, and as a result might sit in jail for 30 days unnecessarily without anyone knowing about it. She handed out a copy of an Administrative Order on first appearance that lists the exceptions to individuals in custody that do not go directly to first appearance. She proposed the idea of having anybody booked to go to first appearance to avoid anyone falling through the cracks. Judge Martz expressed his reservation saying that he did not want everyone to go to first appearance without the necessity, but agreed doing something to fix the system. Ms. White suggested forming a subcommittee to look into the issue and noted that she has approached Al Johnson about the idea, but that he wanted to see some numbers first to determine if it will make an impact. Ms. White said the subcommittee will get the numbers on people who get booked and go to court downtown vs. those who get booked and go to first appearance. It was agreed that the subcommittee should include representation from the SAO, PD, Clerk, Court Administration, and PBSO. Chair Duncan asked Ms. White to contact staff to set up and coordinate the meetings. Ms. Link also offered to help flag the cases as they assess every case that goes to a first appearance hearing.

VII. Updates

No updates.

VIII. Additional member and guest comments

No member and guest comments.

IX. Adjournment

Next Meeting: June 5,, 2013; 12:00 P.M.