



PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

CORRECTIONS TASK FORCE/ Public Safety Coordinating Council

Palm Beach County Governmental Center
301 N. Olive Avenue, 10th Floor, Criminal Justice Commission
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Wednesday, January 7, 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
Glenny Cueto, Professional Probation Services, Inc.
John Kastrenakes, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Jenise Link, Manager, Palm Beach County Pretrial Services Agency
Brandy Macaluso, Victims Rights Coalition
Tommy Richards, Palm Beach County Bail Bond Association
Alfonso Starling, Captain, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Alton Taylor, Executive Director, Drug Abuse Foundation
Louis Tomeo, Director Criminal Court Services, Office of the Clerk and Comptroller
Barbara White, Public Defender's Office

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Paulette Burdick, Commissioner, Palm Beach County
Jeffrey Colbath, Administrative Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Michelle Dryer, Workforce Alliance
Brian Fernandes, Office of the State Attorney
Leonard Hanser, Administrative Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Victoria Nemerson, Executive Director, Comprehensive Alcohol Rehabilitation Program
Joseph Marx, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
S. John Pruitt, Chief, Jupiter Inlet Colony Police Department
Caroline Shepherd, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit

GUESTS PRESENT:

Alan Johnson, Office of the State Attorney (for Brian Fernandes)
Colleen Farnsworth, DCF Legal
Michelle Gearty, Intern, Coalition for Independent Living Options, Inc.
Latronda Hayes, Public Safety
Yasmin Rivera, Florida Department of Corrections
Stewart Saalfield, Court Administration

CJC STAFF PRESENT:

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director
Jacquelyn Esposito, Criminal Justice Analyst
Damir Kukec, Research and Planning 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 December 3, 2014 Minutes of the Corrections Task Force/Public Safety Coordinating Council Meeting

The minutes of the December 3, 2014 meeting were approved with amendment. Jenise Link noted that Judge Krista Marx who is no longer a member was listed under absent members; Damir Kukec said the minutes will be amended to reflect that change.

V. Reports

A. Jail Population Report

Captain Alfonso Starling reported that the average jail population as of this morning was 2,125.

B. In House Arrest Report

Total In-House Arrest population was 227: 120 pretrial (including 1 direct filed juvenile); 96 county sentenced – 6 misdemeanor probation, and 5 DJJ. Rosalyn Baker clarified what the probation number refers to; Captain Starling said state probation.

C. Pretrial Services Report

Jenise Link reported that as of Monday, there were a total of 1,001 defendants on SOR; 618 of these individuals were on SOR only, and 383 were on SOR with accompanying money bond. Of the 618 on SOR only, 15 remained in custody awaiting treatment or due to other charges or holds. Of the 383 individuals on SOR with a bond, 77 remained in custody due to holds or bonds. Total SOR population out of custody was 909. Chair Duncan remarked that the numbers

are up. Ms. Link said that compared to last year's around this time, the numbers are up by around 70; it was up in the last three months.

D. Juvenile Detention Center Report

No report was presented.

E. Misdemeanor Probation Report

Ms. Glenny Cueto reported that they received 214 new cases for the month of November. Total active cases were 2,225. They closed out 137 cases successfully; and 47 cases were revoked (1 deceased). Total cases terminated were 185 cases.

VI. New Business

A. Estimating Homeless Population in the Jail

Before giving his presentation, Mr. Kukec encouraged everyone to read the attached report from OPPAGA related to pretrial release programs across the state. Mr. Kukec noted that his report is a subcomponent of a larger jail population study and became a priority to provide information in Judge Caroline Shepherd's homeless court initiative. He presented the results of an analysis estimating the number of homeless people that were admitted into the Palm Beach County jail. Using data from the PBSO's Booking Information Retrieval System (BIRS), the study looked at all individuals who were housed in the jail between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2013 (except criminal registrants and re-commitments), regardless of when they were booked or released. In general, "homeless" was defined as those with a home address indicated by values of "at large", "homeless", or blank. The results showed that during this period, there were a total number of 106,314 unique inmates housed in the jail; about 7.3% of which were designated as homeless. Majority of these numbers were male and white.

Chair Duncan asked Captain Starling how reliable was it to assume blank values as homeless. Capt. Starling commented that blanks do not necessarily mean homeless; usually these are individuals who may not have id on them when booked. He acknowledges that something needs to be put in place to clearly determine whether a person is truly homeless. Mr. Kukec agreed that the validity and reliability of homeless as indicator is questionable; and maybe suggest to PBSO to add a field in their system that asks the individual if they are indeed homeless. Rosalyn Baker asked if there is any indicator whether the individual is a sex offender who maybe just cannot return to old address. Mr. Kukec said he will add it to the analysis. Alan Johnson asked whether the report included the type of offenses, e.g., quality of life vs. serious felony offenses. Mr. Kukec said the study used most serious offense, and noted that offenses are largely quality of life offenses.

Mr. Kukec mentioned that the Department of Human Services does a homeless count every two years. From the last survey, they counted 1,500 homeless individuals (according to HUD's definition), which would be approximately 20%-25% ending up in jail. Alton Taylor asked whether there was sufficient data to correlate homeless individuals and substance abuse. Mr. Kukec said no, but that maybe something that can be calculated.

The study also calculated the average daily population and "bed days" associated with the homeless inmate population for the study period which was 429,833. Multiplying this number to the estimated daily cost of incarceration of \$135 per day per inmate, the total cost of housing this target population between 2009 and 2013 was \$58 million; or an average of \$11 million per year, accounting for roughly 8% of the annual corrections budget. Mr. Johnson asked what proportion of the homeless were blank, which may not necessarily mean homeless. Mr. Kukec said only a couple of thousands, to which Mr. Johnson said it may be statistically insignificant.

Mr. Taylor asked realistically, what would be the possibility of getting a small data collection instrument in place to at least capture those who are really homeless. Mr. Kukec agreed with Mr. Taylor's point, and that maybe a field may be added where the individual is directly asked whether or not they are homeless; or whether they reside in institutions, such as sober houses or shelters. Mr. Kukec asked Mr. Taylor how hard it would be to get a list of institutions such as sober houses. Mr. Taylor said the problem may be that many of the sober houses are unregulated. Colleen Farnsworth offered to give a list of the facilities that they license, although she acknowledged that their list would be small, compared to those in the county that are unregulated.

Ms. Link remarked that the old community courts handled the quality of life offenses, and wondered if the homeless court will address these offenses as well, or just the homeless population. Mike Rodriguez said they have done preliminary study of homeless courts around the country which deal specifically with the homeless population, but also accept certain offenses. These homeless courts operated very similar to the old community courts. Ms. Link commented that this would make sense being that community courts cost less than housing the homeless population in the jail.

B. Cost of Corrections

Mr. Kukec requested permission from the committee for staff to start collecting information relating to operating the county jail, and also other entities that have something to do with corrections, such as DOC, misdemeanor probation, pretrial, etc. Mr. Kukec suggested doing an ongoing survey, offering that the data that will be collected will be stored in a database, and as such will be readily available for use for analyses. Mr. Taylor made the motion accordingly, but Chair Duncan offered to first start looking at the county jail costs, before looking at the state costs. The members agreed, and the motion was carried.

VII. Old Business

No old business.

VIII. Additional member and guest comments

Brandy Macaluso announced that she will be giving a presentation at the West Palm Beach Police Department on January 20th, on forensic interviewing of people with cognitive and communication disabilities. Registration fee is \$10 (for cost of material), and individuals interested may register on their website, cilo.org.

IX. Adjournment

Next Meeting: February 4, 2015; 12:00 P.M.