

Criminal Justice Commission  
Court Systems Task Force

Tuesday, October 8, 2013 – 12:00 Noon  
McEaddy 12<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
301 N. Olive Avenue  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
Draft Minutes

**Members Present:**

Nellie King, Criminal Defense Attorney's Association  
John Rivera, Public Defender's Office  
Louis Tomeo, Clerk & Comptroller  
Deputy Ed Jablonski, PBC Sheriff  
Alan Johnson, State Attorney's Office  
Judge August Bonavita, Judiciary  
Michelle Spangenberg, Court Administration  
Gregory Starling, Department of Juvenile Justice  
Chief Christopher Elg, Tequesta Police Department  
Jenise Link, PBC Justice Services  
Judge John Kastrenakes  
Ade Griffith, ORCC  
Yasmin Rivera, FL DOC

**Staff Present:**

Michael Rodriguez  
Rosalind Murray  
Danielle Kennedy, CJC Intern

**Guests Present:** Mike Edmondson, SAO, Lester Williams, Channel 20, Judge Ted Booras, Christy Altaro, Court Administration, Dorrie Tyng, Public Safety, Major BK Davis – Palm Beach County School District, Youth Court, Richard Markee, Clerk and Comptroller

**Welcome:**

- I. The meeting was opened by Chairperson Nellie King at 12:10 pm.
  
- II. **Roll Call and Guests:**  
Ms. Murray provided a roll call. A quorum was present.
  
- III. **Approval and/or Additions to the Draft Agenda**  
There was a motion made by John Rivera and seconded by Louis Tomeo to approve the agenda as presented.
  
- IV. **Approval Final June 11, 2013 Meeting Minutes**  
There was a motion made by Yasmin Rivera and seconded by John Rivera to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2013 meeting as presented.
  
- V. **Chairman's Comments – None –**
  
- VI. **New Business:**
  - A. Judge Ted Booras provided a complete annual update for Veteran's Court. He provided handouts which touted the history of the Court and its successful statistics. Veteran's Court has been in operation since 2010 and as of September 20, 2013, over 1, 214 cases

have been heard. The Judge discussed that the VA Hospital is an important partner in this process. Veteran's Court will honor the participants and staff at a ceremony on Monday, Nov. 4, 2013.

- B. **Court Appearance for Jury Duty**- Ms. King led the discussion regarding the lack of participation by the public when they receive jury summons. Judge Colbath suggested that something must be done to get the public's attention regarding this matter. There is a cost to mailing out the summons and the costs add up. Arrest and contempt hearings were suggested. The question was proposed to the Clerk's Forum in Broward, and Miami-Dade and it was noted part of the decline could be the part time nature of many residents. A committee was formed by the Chair, (Michelle Spangenberg, Louis Tomeo, Nellie King, Staff) which will meet before the next Court Systems Task Force Meeting. This committee will include some suggestions of action as mentioned by Channel 20 staff.
  
- C. **Court Systems Task Force Elections** – the bylaws state that elections should occur in November. There is no meeting scheduled for November. There was a motion made by Al Johnson, and seconded by John Rivera to postpone elections until the December 2013 meeting.

## VII. Updates and Initiatives

- A. **Adult Drug Court** – Dorrie Tyng commented on the number of participants currently enrolled in the court. There are currently 187 participants.
- B. **Youth Court was reported on by B.K Davies** - He discussed the manpower lost in the program and how a decreased budget has caused some changes such as fewer cases. Now there will be a new system in 2-4 weeks and new staffing allowing the program to grow again.
- C. **Delinquency Drug Court** as reported by Ms. Altaro now has 7 participants. This is very encouraging.
- A. **Member and Guest Comments:** Al Johnson from the State Attorney's Office commented on Youth Court and his concerns. He commented on the number of cases in the docket, and budgetary issues. Mike Rodriguez requested that staff look into this.

B.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm. **The next meeting is Tuesday, February 11, 2014.**