

M I N U T E S

MONDAY, May 10, 2010 – 8:00 a.m.

**PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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

Members Present:

Peter Blanc
Barbara Cheives
Douglas Duncan
George Elmore
Carey Haughwout
Feirmon Johnson
William Kramer
Michael McAuliffe
Gerald Richman

James Barr (ex officio Executive Committee)

Art Johnson (ex officio Executive Committee)

CJC Members Present:

Max Davis

Guests Attending:

Jeannine Damato, Office of Financial Management & Budget
Jim Kelly, School District
Louis Tomeo, Clerk & Comptroller's Office

Staff Present:

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director
Journey Beard, Crime Prevention Project Specialist
Arlene Burton-Griffiths, Administrative Secretary
Wayne English, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst
Shahzia Hashmi, Intern
Damir Kukec, Research & Planning Manager
Jenise Link, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst
Rosalind Murray, Program Development Specialist
Brenda Oakes, Youth Violence Prevention Planning Coordinator
Mike Szakacs, Financial Analyst II
Becky Walker, Criminal Justice Programs Manager

Members Absent:

Ric Bradshaw
Frank Kitzerow
Marti LaTour

- I. Chair Barbara Cheives called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.
- III. Chair Barbara Cheives welcomed members and invited guests to introduce themselves.
- IV. The agenda was unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Douglas Duncan and second by State Attorney Michael McAuliffe.
- V. The minutes of the September 14, 2009 Executive meeting were unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Feirmon Johnson and second by Chief Judge Peter Blanc.
- VI. Under Chairman's Comments, Ms. Cheives reminded everyone to use the microphone when speaking so that everyone can hear you clearly.
- VII. Under Executive Director's Comments, Mr. Rodriguez announced the third Palm Beach County Re-Entry Transition Fair to be held on Friday, May 14, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Old School Square, 51 N. Swinton Avenue, Delray Beach. This special event is hosted by County Commissioner Priscilla A. Taylor and the Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission's Weed and Seed program, and is designed to help those who have been incarcerated re-enter society as productive citizens. Local service providers from throughout the County will be in attendance.

Public Defender Carey Haughwout inquired if the CJC tracks the successes of the re-entry fairs in terms of jobs obtained or services received.

Ms. Rosalind Murray remarked that this will be done as a project during the summer and that a report will be presented by the fall.

Chair Barbara Cheives added that she attended the re-entry fair held at the Salvation Army which was very well attended and people seemed to be making use of the services available. She also asked if the CJC is tracking the services participants received from the service providers.

Ms. Rosalind Murray noted that contact details were gathered at each fair, the participants were surveyed, and that the feedback will be included in the report.

VIII. Business Consent Item

There were no business consent items.

IX. Old Business

Under old business, Mr. William Kramer, Finance Committee Chair, advised that the Committee continues to try to assemble information and put the best efforts into making wise decisions. He reported that a meeting was held the previous week where they labored over issues and tried to understand the factors included in the budget. To this end, staff was asked to return with a layout that is more easily understood in terms of where the funds were committed as well as recommendations for their meeting on May 17, 2010. He said that the efforts will continue to find a path that looks also at the way the money is spent in light of the CJC's mission, from staffing programs to historical methods of allocation.

Mr. Kramer also indicated the need for the CJC to clarify what is meant by not running programs and monitoring versus oversight.

Mr. Rodriguez advised that the report from the CJC's annual planning meeting was

received from Dr. Herbert Marlowe, and further noted that the results from the meeting were very clear as it relates to the CJC's decision for not running programs and to operate in a more advisory manner to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), as well as the need for research, planning and evaluation. He is however still unclear regarding the role of monitoring and oversight of projects. To this end, he sought advice on the level of monitoring and oversight that the CJC staff should be involved, noting that in his mind, proper oversight of programs is now being done for the formula grants which involve quarterly progress and financial reporting, and tracking of reimbursements. He advised that logic models have also been included in this year's contracts and that recipients have been asked to provide performance measures.

Public Defender Carey Haughwout expressed concern with so few programs to receive formula grants for the next fiscal year that will impact the work load for the CJC staff. She noted one of the top issues as the staffing level and remarked that if the CJC were staffed according to that type of work on the programs, this would change staffs responsibilities and ultimately the need for staff which are real challenges for the CJC to address.

State Attorney Michael McAuliffe remarked that the question is whether the matrix and performance measures should be a part of the grantees responsibilities, the deliverables or should it be centralized and done within the CJC administration. His feeling is that where possible, it should be used as a part of the criteria for committing funds, and that the recipients should have the capability and the capacity to deliver as part of the performance.

Mr. Damir Kukec added that the CJC staff were currently doing program monitoring and has provided logic model training to grant recipients to assist with establishing and measuring their intended objectives. He also said that for the first time, funds have been set aside to carry out a very disciplined, methodologically sound evaluation of programs, but noted that in order to do more than accountability and transparency would require a more structured scientifically sound model of evaluations for which no funds have been earmarked.

Mr. Kukec thanked Dr. Johnson for offering his assistance in helping the CJC to look at the Youth Violence Prevention Project by introducing the more rigid model of comparison group at the individual level, and noted that he is working with the Director of Evaluations and Research to implement this model.

Chair Barbara Cheives inquired about the plans for proceeding with programs that have received funding as it relates to coming before the Finance Committee.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that his understanding from the last Finance Committee meeting is that staff would present recommendations in a layered fashion based on the funding available, and that there was no discussion about agencies presenting before the Finance Committee as in previous year.

Mr. Kramer commented that it was a fair recollection of what was discussed at the Finance Committee meeting and that given the amount of funds available, the committee thinks it is their responsibility to understand what the programs are and to make recommendations to the CJC at which time there would be opportunity for public input.

Everyone will be notified of funds available and given the opportunity to submit proposals for funding. Also, Finance Committee meeting dates to discuss allocation of funds will be

announced but agencies will not be allowed to present their programs at the meeting.

Mr. Rodriguez added that there will be a transition period from where the CJC is and where it wants to be, especially as it relates to grants being applied for and grants received last fiscal year which will still be in operation for another year as some were just getting off the ground.

Dr. Johnson commented that “in his world, data drives programs that gets funded” and noted that there has been a national debate lately as to whether one can have too much data and whether some things should be evaluated more on a subjective level. He inquired whether it was the CJC’s plan with less money to eliminate some program or to reduce all programs to varied levels.

Mr. Kramer responded that with a magnitude of \$6M to \$2M, it would not be the intent to fund all programs proportionately to where they were the previous year. He said his personal judgment is that you do better on the process by funding adequately those who can do good work rather than giving just enough to keep doing something.

Chair Barbara Cheives noted that the Finance Committee, in response to Mr. Elmore’s request, will present recommendations based on the funds available as well as recommendations if the funds were increased. She said the CJC will then decide if the BCC will be approached for additional funding.

X. New Business:

A. Mr. Rodriguez presented recommendation by the Law Enforcement Workgroup of the Youth Violence Prevention Project (YVPP) and the Law Enforcement Planning Council for CJC’s approval of the purchase of a Forensic Buddy to aid the Riviera Beach Police Department (RBPD) in the amount of \$3,000.00 from the FDLE YVPP grant funding. This he said would significantly increase the number of guns test fired by RBPD for BrassTrax entry benefiting the attainment of our collective goal to link violent crimes involving firearms. The timeliness of all guns being test fired and entered into BrassTrax is crucial to the overall success and progress of the county’s “firearms protocol” and to the reduction of youth violence.

Public Defender Carey Haughwout asked if the request was for another bullet catcher, noting that the CJC has had bullet catchers on the agenda for the last two years.

Ms. Brenda Oakes informed the meeting that this would be the seventh bullet catcher in the County and noted that they were not all purchased through the YVPP. She said that this portable unit was recommended by the Crime’s Lab because Riviera Beach has increased their capability to process labs. She said this will also help the two Riviera Beach officers who are trained in BrassTrax to do a better job with their ballistics and will prevent them from having to take casings to the Sheriff’s office.

Chief Judge Blanc commented that there is no data to support the need for a bullet catcher and suggested that justification for purchasing the equipment be documented and provided to the full CJC for approval.

Ms. Oakes noted that there has always been a separate budget for law enforcement operations within the YVPP and reminded members that the YVPP

is not just prevention but that it works with the youth empowerment centers, primary prevention, intervention and also includes the law enforcement suppression efforts, reentry and community justice service centers. She said that the YVPP is an entire spectrum of a countywide approach to youth violence and that all the components must be in place for the project to be successful. She further stated that youth violence also include youth over the age of 18.

After further discussion, State Attorney Michael McAuliffe made the motion, second by Mr. Kramer to recommend this to the full commission for a decision, but tied to the request for a more comprehensive view of BrassTrax outlining the program, the initiatives and the outcomes.

- B. Members unanimously approved grant submission to OJJDP for a Youth Gang Prevention and Intervention Program. The grant is for \$325,000.00 and is being targeted to enhance the five (5) Youth Empowerment Centers which are designed to reduce violent crime. Motion for approval was made by Mr. Kramer and seconded by Chief Judge Blanc.

Members inquired about the participation of the five cities in the administration of the grant and whether commitments have been obtained from the cities.

State Attorney Michael McAuliffe thinks that this would be the opportune time to get the cities to commit to the project.

Mr. Rodriguez advised that the CJC is in the process of scheduling meetings with the cities regarding the CJC's future operations.

- C. Chair Barbara Cheives noted that the CJC funding priorities have been covered under the Finance Committee's discussion under old business.

XI. CJC Initiatives / Updates

At the request of Chair Barbara Cheives, Public Defender Carey Haughwout provided the meeting with an update of Secretary Walter McNeil's visit to Palm Beach County.

She reported that the Secretary will be visiting Palm Beach County on Wednesday, May 12, 2010 to meet with the Public Defender, service providers and the Editorial Board to move forward on the plan to designate Sago Palm as a reentry facility within the Department of Corrections (DOC).

State Attorney Michael McAuliffe suggested that a commitment be obtained from the Secretary for going forward given the DOC's budget cuts and whether they are able to provide the services outlined.

Ms. Haughwout thinks they are still dedicated to going forward and noted that they have reallocated resources to do so and are looking at starting during the fall.

XII. There were no member comments

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:05 a.m.