



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, December 4, 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.
Brian Feld, Professional Probation Services
Brian Fernandes, Office of the State Attorney
John Kastrenakes, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Jenise Link, Manager, Palm Beach County Pretrial Services Agency
Brandy Macalusso, Victims Rights Coalition
James Martz, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Tommy Richards, Palm Beach County Bail Bond Association
Louis Tomeo, Director Criminal Court Services, Office of the Clerk and Comptroller
Alton Taylor, Executive Director, Drug Abuse Foundation
Barbara White, Office of the Public Defender

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rosalyn Baker, Florida Department of Corrections
August Bonavita, Administrative Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Bob Bozzone, Executive Director, Comprehensive Alcohol Rehabilitation Program
Rev. Chaney, Clergy Representation
Michelle Dwyer, Workforce Alliance
Vice-Chairman Chris Kneisley, Major, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Caroline Shepherd, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Shelley Vana, Commissioner, Palm Beach County

GUESTS PRESENT:

Colleen Farnsworth, DCF Legal
Douglas Kane, Department of Juvenile Justice
Stewart Saalfield, Court Administration
Sharon Shore, Department of Juvenile Justice
Coalition for Independent Living Options Intern
FAU MSW Intern

CJC STAFF PRESENT:

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director
Shahzia Jackson, Criminal Justice Analyst
Damir Kukec, Research and Planning Manager

- I. Welcome, opening comments by Chairman, Douglas Duncan.
- II. The agenda was approved without any changes.
- III. The minutes of the November 6, 2013 meeting were approved.
- IV. **Chairman's Comments**
- V. **Reports**

- A. **Jail Population Report**

- No report presented.

- B. **In House Arrest Report**

- Shahzia Jackson reported the In House Arrest Population: 77 pretrial; no direct filed juveniles; 99 county sentenced; 6 probation; 5 DJJ; and 1 AO for a total of 187. Book and release was 215. Ms. Jackson added that these numbers will be graphed for the next meeting to show the trends in IHA and Book and Release.

- C. **Pretrial Services Report**

- Jenise Link reported as of December 2 there were a total of 1,034 defendants on SOR; 585 of these individuals were on SOR only, and 449 were on SOR with a money bond. Of the 585 on SOR only, 11 remain in custody awaiting treatment or due to other charges or holds. Total SOR population out of custody was 900. Ms. Link announced that they will begin screening for Drug Court beginning the weekend of December 28 & 29; they will be trained by Drug Court staff.

- D. **Juvenile Detention Center Report**

- Douglas Kane reported that they are currently housing 32 males and 4 females, which had gone down from around 50 the previous month. He also reported that in the last month they had gang-related issues wherein they had to transfer 4 kids temporarily to another facility, but the issue has since subsided.

- E. **Misdemeanor Probation Report**

- Brian Feld reported that for the month of November they received 200 new cases, bringing their total to 2,329 active cases. They closed 196 cases; of which 150 successfully terminated, with 46 revoked or terminated by court.

- VI. **Old Business**

- No old business.

VII. New Business

A. Youth Services International

Michael Rodriguez reported that Commissioner Shelley Vana shared with him a news article on a female juvenile facility in Broward County which has since been closed due to some problems, e.g., physical and sexual abuse, etc. Commissioner Vana became concerned because the same company runs a boys' facility in Palm Beach County. Mr. Rodriguez said he has looked into it and did not find any problems currently; and he has also called in to Father Leo who is at the facility frequently. He said that he will also bring the issue to CJC's attention at the January meeting. Colleen Farnsworth asked what is the age range of the individuals served at the facility, and Mr. Rodriguez said he assumes it is up to 18 years old. Barbara White said it is a level 8 (high-risk) facility. She added that the same company ran Sago Palm but under a different name, and the Pahokee facility that was also ultimately shut down. Chair Duncan asked for highlights and Mr. Rodriguez said he will send him a copy of the article, which was from Huffington Post. He also said that they can continue looking into it and report at the next meeting. At this point Mr. Duncan welcomed Douglas Kane and Sharon Shore from the Department of Juvenile Justice who just joined them meeting.

Chair Duncan reported that they had their ceremony on Monday, and he, Mr. Rodriguez, and Chief Crane were there. He remarked that the Veteran's Court is a huge success and working extremely well. He added that it is a cooperative effort, and that Mr. Aronberg, the State Attorney is also on board. He said that the committee should be proud to be part of this effort. Colleen Farnsworth asked about the current numbers served by the court.

VIII. Updates

A. Victim Case Update

Brandy Macalusso reminded the committee about an incident she brought up about a couple of months ago regarding a victim being stalked by an inmate under the guise of a Power of Attorney that he signed allowing his family to act on his behalf. There had been multiple incidents that the victim is being followed, called, and texted repeatedly. Personal information including name, address, social security number, pictures, and medical records of her and her child were being duplicated and given to the inmate. All the incidents have occurred between 2006 to the present. The inmate is a convicted sex offender so this is a concern. She has a current restraining order in place although no violations have been made or no crime reports have been taken. She has also filed for a motion to modify the order since the original order allowed supervised allowed supervised contact with the child. The motion was filed in April of this year but it has not been signed by the judge until he hears the testimony regarding the termination of parental rights filed by the victim. The compensation for counseling has expired and there are no agencies that would offer her free counseling in Broward County. The most recent incidents were when the inmate's family posted

her and her child's information publicly on Facebook, and an exchange via text messaging. The inmate has since been relocated to Charlotte and placed on solitary confinement when it was discovered he had a phone and evidence was collected showing that he had been texting the victim. The restraining order has also been granted after three previous failed attempts. The hearing for termination of parental rights for the child will be held in February. She and her daughter will again start counseling and she has been in connected with a new case worker, and a BSO detective that is willing to help her build a stalking case. She was also linked with a statewide prosecutor looking into possible extortion charges based on the threats regarding the child. Chair Duncan welcomed Judge Martz at this point.

B. Batterers Intervention Program

Mr. Rodriguez shared the issue brought to the CJC by Barry Krischer, which is two-fold: first, do these BIPs work, and if yes, should we use some money that they have to have an in-custody BIP? The programs are offered by private not-for-profit companies and they have tried to look into these programs about ten years ago, but were unsuccessful in getting cooperation from the companies. Mr. Rodriguez explained that he was bringing the issue to the committee because he wants to get the members' opinion whether to keep the issue with the Corrections Task Force, or let the Court System Task Force handle the in-custody BIP, too.

Chair Duncan commented that the Sheriff's Office has volunteered to get the in-custody BIP up and running; but the concern is that it is a 24-week program and there may not be a population for the length of the course. He said the CJC has referred everything to the Court System Task Force because at the last meeting there were CJC members who indicated that they do not believe that these educational 24-week programs are effective. Judge Kastrenakes remarked that one positive attribute that the in-custody BIP will be available to inmates in Belle Glade. Ms. Farnsworth asked about the length of each session, and Alton Taylor mentioned the concern about affecting the impact of the programs by condensing their length. Ms. Farnsworth asked about any data on recidivism, and Chair Duncan said there are articles that severely question the effectiveness of the program. Mr. Rodriguez chimed that if the programs do not work, what do they do? Mr. Taylor remarked that it is very important to make sure that if it is education type programs that they promulgate different outcomes; i.e., are they using education type or treatment programs, what outcomes they are promising, and how do they measure them? Chair Duncan said that they will look into the issue.

IX. Additional member and guest comments

Mr. Rodriguez referred to The Sentencing Project article attached for informational purposes. Chair Duncan thanked Judge Martz for his participation. Chair Duncan wished everyone a great holiday and announced that the next meeting will be on February 5th 2014 at noon.

X. Adjournment