



**Also sits as the Public Safety Coordinating Council and
Criminal Justice Mental Health and Substance Abuse Planning Council**

**Virtual Meeting (Zoom)
Wednesday, March 3, 2021; 12:00 PM**

- M I N U T E S -

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Douglas Duncan, Chair, Roth and Duncan, P.A.
Alfonso Starling, Vice-Chair, Colonel, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Ted Booras, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Charles Burton, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Sherri Collins, Administrative Judge, County Court, 15th Judicial Circuit
Laura Cusack, Coalition for Independent Living Options
Daniel Eisinger, Public Defender's Office
Latronda Hayes, Court Services
Tommy Richards, Palm Beach County Bail Agent Association
David H. Talley, PBC CareerSource
Alton Taylor, Drug Abuse Foundation
Louis Tomeo, Office of the Clerk and Comptroller
Craig Williams, Office of the State Attorney

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Cheryl Caracuzzo, Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Glenny Cueto, Professional Probation Services, Inc.
Michelle Johns, Florida Department of Corrections
Dave Kerner, Commissioner, Palm Beach County

GUESTS PRESENT:

Jerry Casal, Palm Beach County Bail Agent Association
Michelle Cruz, County Administration
Barbara Dawicke, County Administration
Michael Devoter, Major, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Josh _, South County Bail Bonds
Darlene Morris, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Conrad Saddler, Pretrial Services
John Viola, Palm Beach County Bail Agent Association

CJC STAFF PRESENT:

Regenia Herring, Executive Director
Damir Kukec, Research and Planning Manager
Brad Allen, Criminal Justice Analyst
Jacqueline Jackson, FUSE Program Coordinator FDLE JAG Grant
Rosalind Murray, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Katherine Shover, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Candee Villapando, Criminal Justice Analyst
Bert Winkler, Criminal Justice Programs Manager

I. Welcome and Opening Comments, *Chairman Douglas Duncan*

Welcomed Laura Cusack, Senior Victim Advocate at Coalition for Independent Living Options, Inc. (CILO); and gratitude and appreciation to William Genem, outgoing CILO Crime Victim Practitioner, for his service as committee member for many years.

II. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests

Members and guests signed in the chat box in lieu of roll call and introductions of guests.

III. Approval of Meeting Agenda

The meeting agenda was approved without any changes.

IV. Approval of February 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The meeting February 3, 2021 meeting minutes were approved without amendments.

V. New Business

A. COVID tests at Palm Beach County Jail surge following outbreak; positivity rate still high (Palm Beach Post article) – *Colonel Alfonso Starling, PBSO*

Colonel Starling explained their protocols in quarantining individual inmates who test positive for 14 days, as opposed to testing an entire unit.

B. Effect of judicial system operations disruptions on pick up of defendants from other jurisdiction being held in PB County jail– *Judge Ted Booras, 15th Judicial Circuit*

Since the disruption of normal operations of the judicial system and corrections, counties have slowed or halted their regular pick-up of their defendants being held in PBC on their warrant. In response, the Supreme Court have appointed Judge Booras and Judge Burton as statewide judges to address out of county criminal cases, including violations of probation, when the defendant is in the Palm Beach jail. In addition, Judge Booras remarked that the State Attorney, Public Defender, and the Department of Corrections have done a great job by reaching out to their counterparts, as well as the Clerk's Office in handling the paper work, which tremendously helped alleviate the situation.

C. Defendants listed as “pre-quarantine” – *Judge Ted Booras, 15th Judicial Circuit*

Some of these inmates have a time served plea offer, but cannot be transported downtown. Based on this dilemma, the Chief Judge, in December, created a special docket wherein defendants with a time served offer, who are in pre-quarantine, will have their plea conference heard by one of the Gun Club judges, thus avoiding unnecessary jail stay. Judge Booras believed court administration is maintaining a list of these cases.

D. Operation Green Light – *Louis Tomeo, Director, Criminal Court Services*

Mr. Louis Tomeo gave an update on Operation Green Light, a one-week virtual event currently going March 1-5, wherein collection agency fees are waived for unpaid cases that have been forwarded to collection agencies. They also people have their driver's license reinstated. Mr. Tomeo thanked all the entities involved in the success of this endeavor.

VI. Old Business

A. Update on request to PBSO to prioritize for DOC transport inmates with lesser sanction – *Colonel Alfonso Starling, PBSO*

Colonel Starling reported that right after the last meeting, they took a look into this and initiated sending those with lesser time to DOC. They have been doing this for two weeks.

B. Update on Florida DCF, Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse (CJMHS) Reinvestment Grant Program Application – *Regenia Herring, Executive Director, Criminal Justice Commission*

Ms. Regenia Herring reported that this has gone before the CJC and has been approved.

C. Update on transitioning Safety and Justice Challenge initiatives to Corrections Task Force – *Regenia Herring, Executive Director, Criminal Justice Commission*

Ms. Herring had recommended to the CJC some of the initiatives that will be moved to this committee. There will be a discussion among the chairs of the SJC committees, to which Chair Duncan will be invited to participate.

D. Update on Corrections Task Force Resolution No. CJC-96-1 – *Regenia Herring, Executive Director, Criminal Justice Commission*

Ms. Herring just remarked that no recommendations need to be done for this resolution, but just the signature of the chair once it is done.

VII. Reports

A. Jail Population and In-House Arrest, *Colonel Alfonso Starling, PBSO*

Col. Starling reported their total population as of this morning was 1,905. In-house arrest was 194: 160 adults; 5 juveniles; 34 county sentenced; 0 Probation; 0 DJJ; 0 AO. Pay n Go for February was 133. Individuals awaiting transport to prison is 152. Chair Duncan asked if this number has declined. Col. Starling concurred and said that this number has been down from their usual of about 185 individuals. He also noted that DOC is now accepting 20 individuals per week from PBC, when it used to be every other week.

B. Pretrial Services

Ms. Latronda Hayes reported that as of February 26th, there were a total of 1,130 defendants on SOR; 836 of those individuals were on SOR only, 294 were on SOR with a money bond. Of the 1,130 individuals on SOR, 46 remained in custody; due to 3 awaiting in-patient treatment. Of the 294 individuals on SOR, 62 remained in custody. The total out of custody population was 1,022; of which 7 failed to appear for court (1%) and 21 had new criminal activity (2%). They had a total of 65 technical violations. For population that remained in custody: 55 white, 53 black. For those granted supervised release by race: 667 were white, 463 black. Their numbers were up when compared to this time last month and this time last year. Pretrial is still unable to interview defendants at this time, but Col. Starling remarked that now that private attorneys have been online without complaints, they should expect to be added to the system soon. From the private criminal defense bar, Chair Duncan stated the system is working great.

C. Juvenile Detention Center

No report was presented.

D. Misdemeanor Probation

No report was presented in person, but a handout was included in the meeting packet.

E. Felony Probation

No report was presented.

VIII. Additional Comments

Mr. John Viola briefly shared three bond/bail related documents with the committee which he thought might be useful in future discussions. One was a report from the University of Tampa, which included Palm Beach County; and another report was from the University of Utah which targeted Chicago which pretty much did not have commercial bail. Chair Duncan encouraged everyone to review the documents. Mr. Viola also brought up the issue of the emergency AO lowering the bond from \$3,000 to \$1,000 which is actually resulting to people remaining in jail longer because bondsmen are not inclined to write a \$1,000 bond at 2 am. Mr. Viola suggested raising the bond back up to the original \$3,000 to fill the void. Mr. Eisinger wanted to see actual numbers on this before taking any action, and Chair Duncan recommended putting this on the agenda at the next meeting.

Mr. Alton Taylor announced that the Drug Abuse Foundation has completed its new facility for pregnant and post-partum women and invited everyone to a virtual tour of the new facility as well as the significant renovations of their existing residential units.

IX. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 7, 2021; 12:00 P.M.