

Criminal Justice Commission
Court System Task Force
Minutes

Tuesday, November 10, 2009 – 12:00 Noon
McEaddy 12th Floor Conference Room
301 N. Olive Avenue
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Task Force Members present:

Jack Goldberger, Chairman
Journey Beard, CJC Crime Prevention Specialist
Judge Ted Booras, Gun Club (on behalf of Krista Marx, Administrative Judge)
Judge Sandra Bosso-Pardo, County Criminal Court
Judge Jeff Colbath, Circuit Criminal Court
Lt. Jose Gonzalez, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (on behalf of Capt. Frank De Mario)
Cherry Grant, Public Defender's Office
Feirmon Johnson, Department of Juvenile Justice
Elizabeth Parker, State Attorney's Office
Yasmin Rivera, Florida Department of Corrections
Michelle Spangenberg, Court Administration
Louis Tomeo, Clerk and Comptroller's Office
Chief Clay Walker, Manalapan Police Department

Task Force Members absent:

Gena Rowlands, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Terri Skiles, State Attorney's Office

Others present:

Sara Blumberg, Traffic Court Administrator
Barbara Dawicke, Court Administration
Karen Ehrlich, Public Defender's Office
Shelby King, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Bea Lovelace, Clerk and Comptroller's Office
Tivi Parks, Clerk & Comptroller's Office
Mary Quinlan, Court Administration
John Rivera, Public Defender's Office
Nicole Saunders, Justice Services
Cassandra Stachan, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Dorrie Tyng, Drug Court

Staff present:

Delores Cutlip, Criminal Justice Commission
Amy Kuryla, Criminal Justice Commission
Mike Rodriguez, Criminal Justice Commission
Candee Villapando, Criminal Justice Commission
Becky Walker, Criminal Justice Commission

1. Welcome

Chair Jack Goldberger called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m., and welcomed members and guests.

2. Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Attendees introduced themselves in lieu of roll call.

3. Approval and/or Additions to the Draft Agenda

The draft meeting Agenda was approved without amendments.

4. Approval Draft Minutes

The draft minutes for the May 12th, 2009, were approved.

5. Chairman's Comments

Chair Goldberger welcomed Judge Jeff Colbath, Circuit Criminal Administrative judge, as a new member of the Court Systems Task Force.

There was a discussion about Drug Farm funding being cut, and support for the programs was given.

Joanna Rivera, Public Defender's Office, was recognized for her work on assisting individuals having driving under suspended (DUS) issues, and it was announced the Public Defender's Office had been awarded Byrne Grant funds for a paralegal position to assist with misdemeanor and felony DUS cases.

6. New Business

- a. Neighborhood Accountability Board (NAB) – Mike Rodriguez, CJC, advised Task Force members that the CJC Board has asked the Task Force to review and offer a recommendation on the feasibility of developing a NAB. The program would target first-time non-violent juvenile offenders, and their cases would be heard by neighborhood adults interested in volunteering to facilitate these reviews. Feirmon Johnson, Dept. of Juvenile Justice, offered the DJJ perspective on the NAB concept, and discussed a prior NAB program that was created in Riviera Beach. Members discussed existing juvenile diversionary programs already available through Youth Court, possible types of eligible cases, where juvenile case referrals might originate, and whether a NAB is necessary and fills a void not currently being addressed. Mike was asked to continue gathering information and update the members at the October meeting.
- b. **Videoconferencing Pilot Project** – Judge Jeff Colbath, Circuit Criminal Court, discussed the new videoconferencing pilot program currently examining possible ways to reduce the number of felony inmates needing transportation for hearings from Gun Club to the main Courthouse. They will be seeking to provide opportunities for confidential communicate with their attorney and participate in a hearing. The technology is expected to be installed by the end of October. Judge Colbath will update the members at the October meeting. Barbara Dawicke, Court Administration, mentioned they are working on a new program that would assist private attorneys wanting to conference with their clients. She is working with PBC Facilities to determine courthouse locations, and an update will be provided at the next Task Force meeting.

7. Old Business

8. Updates

- a. **Misdemeanor Violation of Probation (VOP) Hearings** – Judge Sandra Bosso-Pardo, County Criminal Court, reported that Misdemeanor and Failure to Appear VOP cases are now being heard at Gun Club. Since July, there have been 27 cases heard. This program has been implemented to help control transportation costs from the jail to the main courthouse. South County and North County cases are already being heard at Gun Club. It costs an average of \$125 per night to house jail inmates, and an

average of \$88 per bus trip from the jail to the main courthouse. Currently, there are two buses being used to transport inmates to the main courthouse.

- b. **Felony VOP Cases** – Michelle Spangenberg, Court Administration, reported that 221 felony cases have been resolved at Gun Club from March through August, 2009. Prior to the program, defendants were spending an average of 35 days in jail, now the average has decreased to an average of 3 days.
- c. **Rescission of No Contact Orders** – Michelle Spangenberg, Court Administration, reported that that PBSO has been receiving a weekly BANNER report of No Contact Orders issued from circuit and county criminal courts. Elizabeth Parker, State Attorney's Office, has included language on all Nolle Prose and No Files instructing the Clerk's Office to rescind the NCO in these types of cases. The pertinent Administrative Order has been revised to reflect the change. Louis Tomeo, Clerk & Comptroller's Office, reported that the County Criminal division has reviewed several thousand NCO cases, and have closed 385 of them. On the felony level, Tivi Parks reported that over 4,000 NCO cases have been reviewed, and approximately 1,500 cases have been closed.
- d. **Drug Court** – Nicole Saunders, Justice Services, reported on the Channel 20 TV show currently airing. It explains the creation and purpose of Drug Court, and interviews two successful graduates of the program. Adult Drug Court will be receiving a \$200,000 from the Office of Justice Programs for a co-occurring (mental health and substance abuse) track. The Drug Court Advisory Subcommittee will be meeting on September 30th. Drug Court is entering its 10th year of operation.
- e. **BANNER / SHOWCASE** – Louis Tomeo, Clerk & Comptroller's Office, commented on the new case management system called SHOWCASE. Demos of the system are being provided to user groups, and conversion of BANNER to the new system is being tested.
- f. **Juvenile Drug Court**, Dorrie Tyng, Adult Drug Court Coordinator, commented that eight participants are currently in the juvenile program. Two juveniles are in-patient.
- g. **Community Justice Service Center**, Becky Walker, reported the Tamarind CJSC will be receiving Bryne grant funds. A Quantum Foundation grant will assist with the hiring of a job coach and employment development training at the Tamarind site.

9. Member and Guest Comments

Chief Clay Walker, Manalapan Police Department, described his DVD concerning legal system accessibility for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals. The curriculum will be presented to a statewide Task Force for people suffering from hearing loss, and a brief showing will be shown at an upcoming Court System Task Force meeting.

10. Adjournment

Given that there were no other agenda items; the meeting was adjourned at 1:04 p.m. The next meeting will be held on October 13th.