

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Robert Weisman Governmental Center
McEaddy Conference Room - 12th Floor
301 N. Olive Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL**

MINUTES

Monday, February 12, 2024, 8:00 a.m.

Members Present

Carey Haughwout, Public Defender, 15th Judicial Circuit
Glenn Kelley, Chief Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit
Reverend Kevin Jones, Clergy
Lauren Whetstone, FPL Energy Services, Inc., and CJC Vice-Chair
Michael Barnett, County Commissioner
Michelle Suskauer, Dimond Kaplan & Rothstein, P.A.

Members Absent

Dave Aronberg, State Attorney, 15th Judicial Circuit
Earnie Ellison, Managing Partner, Ellison Consulting Group, LLC (**Phone**)
Frank Adderley, Chief of Police, West Palm Beach
Marcia Andrews, Palm Beach County School Board Member
Maria Antuna, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Matt Pawlowski, Next Era Energy, and CJC Treasurer
Mike Burke, School Superintendent (**Ex-officio**)
Randolph K. Johnson, Sr., Communications by Johnson
Kathleen Kroll, Administrative Judge, Juvenile Division
Dr. Rachel Docekal, CEO, Hanley Foundation, and CJC Chair

Guests Attending

Brett Taylor, JD, Director, Policy and Practice, Community Justice TA Team, Center for Justice Innovation (**Zoom**)
Craig Williams, Assistant State Attorney
Alfonso Starling, Captain, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Helene Hvizd, Palm Beach County Attorney
Dr. Jennifer Copp, Assoc. Prof. College of Criminology & Criminal Justice, Florida State University
Laura Hanley, Commissioner Barnett's Office
Todd Bonlarron, PBC Assistant County Administrator (**Zoom**)

CJC Staff Present

Katherine Shover, Criminal Justice Systems Manager
Damir Kukec, Research and Planning Manager
Dawn Caveness-Davenport, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Stephanie Moliere, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Brad Allen, Criminal Justice Analyst
Christopher Slydell, Criminal Justice Analyst
Margo Smith, Criminal Justice Analyst
Rosalind Murray, Community Engagement Coordinator

I. Call to Order – *Rev. Kevin Jones, Past-Chair*

Due to unforeseen events, the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer were not present to conduct the meeting once quorum was present. Per the direction of the County Attorney, Helene Hvizd, the Executive Committee voted unanimously for Past-Chair, Rev. Kevin Jones to conduct the meeting.

II. Roll Call – *Katherine Shover, Criminal Justice Systems Manager*

Katherine established and confirmed that a quorum was present.

III. Approval of Agenda

The past chair, Rev. Jones, entertained a motion to approve the Agenda. Motion was made by Michelle Suskuaer and seconded by Carey Haughwout; the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Approval and/or Corrections of Minutes

The past chair, Rev. Jones, entertained a motion to approve the Agenda. Motion was made by Commissioner, Michael Barnett, and seconded by Carey Haughwout; the motion passed unanimously.

V. Discussion Items/Updates

- Path to College Visit and Presentation to the CJC at the March 25th Meeting: *Todd Bonlarron, PBC Assistant County Administrator*
 - Todd discussed the Path to College initiative, its mission and their upcoming Civics Day, which falls on the same date as the next Full CJC Meeting in March. Todd would like the possibility of having the students present at our next meeting to observe, and allow the winner of the civics exercise (identifying community issues in Palm Beach County and having their presentation judged by fellow peers and parents) to present their findings and solutions to these issues at the tail end of the meeting.
 - The Executive Board agreed with Todd's recommendation and will add this to the upcoming CJC Full Meeting Agenda in March of this year.
- MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge Capstone: *Brett Taylor, JD Director, Policy and Practice, Community Justice TA Team, Center for Justice Innovation*
 - Brett reminded the committee that the foundation has not released the solicitation (most likely will be either late February or March) for the award yet nor set the specific amount they're looking to award eligible sites, like ours; no specifics can be provided at this point regarding how long the grant cycle will be, but there's an expectation for it to be for two (2) years. The amount of the grant will probably be three quarters of the existing grant for the first year and about half of the existing grant for the second year (this is not guaranteed; it's dependent on the strength of the application). Brett also reminded the committee about the purpose of the Capstone award.

- To amplify and ensure that all gains made underneath the previous SJC award is captured/stored and being statically integrated into our local system(s).
- The award is **NOT** for the creation of new strategies, unless it's specific to community engagement or a strategy to address concerns most sites have around racial equity.
- We have been given nine (9) slots for the upcoming all sites meeting in May of this year.

Questions, Answers and Statements:

Earnie Ellison: What is the cost of this program, will there be a shortcoming of funds if the grant isn't awarded to our site (and if so will we need other funds to cover the cost of the program), and what has the money been mostly used for?

Mr. Taylor: The money over the past years has been used for a multitude of strategies (Pretrial Release Program, linkage of incarcerated individuals to community –based programming via the Next Steps Program, Community Engagement, etc.). The awarded grant will cover some of the cost of the programming; we are in the sustainability portion of the grant (ZOOM audio unavailable temporarily).

Earnie Ellison: Stated he understood Brett's explanation and will contact support staff with any additional questions.

Carey Haughwout: Asked if [SJC] is looking for one project for us to submit for again or Multiple ones.

Mr. Taylor: It is up to our site to determine what we would like to place in our Capstone Application and Brett will provide any support needed.

Carey Haughwout: Discussed a disbanded committee [Core Team], its review and submission of the SJC application for award money in the past and a desire to reinstate the Core Team (to discuss the application and how the team would like to structure it).

Past-Chair, Rev. Jones: Stated that, along with staff, we can look at possibly bringing back Some key players to the table for review and submission of the application.

Carey Haughwout: Stated the group of individuals would need to convene quickly to discuss the scope of work they'd like to work towards in enough time prior to the drop of the solicitation to submit an application (unsure if a motion to reinstate the committee [Core Team] is needed or not).

Helene Hvizd: Clarified that the committee [Core Team] is an Ad Hoc Committee, not a Standing one; stating she believed a motion would be in order based on the intent.

Michelle Suskauer: Made a motion to reconvene the Core Team and Carey Haughwout Seconded it; the motion passed unanimously.

- Nomination Committee Update: *Todd Bonlarron, Assistant County Administrator*
 - Stated the nominating committee will meet on February 20, 2024 at 12pm located at the Hanley Center; **933 45th St, West Palm Beach, FL 33407**. The members are:
 - i. Dr. Rachel Docekal
 - ii. Reverend Kevin Jones
 - iii. Commissioner Michael Barnett
 - iv. Carey Haughwout
 - v. Lauren Whetstone

- i. We've received four (4) student and one (1) crime survivor application(s), and are still soliciting for the at large seat. We are also in need of two (2) returning citizens' applications.
 - ii. Nominees for the Hispanic and Black Chamber of Commerce are handled the same as the nominations for the Economic Council (directly submitted to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)). The Hispanic Chamber nominated Jorge Garrido, and the Black Chamber nominated Leontyne Brown; we're waiting on some of their paperwork to move forward to the next agenda. The BOCC is aware of the organizations we've reached out to and can provide more guidance on who to contact as well if they desire [BOCC].
 - iii. CJC Systems Manager, Katherine Shover, stated that CJC Staff, Stephanie Moliere, resent information to local agencies who have yet to respond to her initial nomination request via email and is monitoring any responses. The Candidates' resumes will be sent out prior to the meeting on the 20th of February as well. Katherine also confirmed that the CJC Staff reached out to Reentry to request applications for any returning citizens and have received their recommendations.
- CJC Executive Director Search Update: *Todd Bonlarron, Assistant County Administrator*
 - Todd stated members of the Selection Committee will meet on February 14, 2024 at 1:30pm at the Hanley Center; **933 45th St, West Palm Beach, FL 33407**. An agenda for the meeting will be sent out today, and a total of 44 applicants (ranging in various backgrounds/disciplines) have been received. This is an open public process with hopes to conduct an initial round of interviews via Zoom, pare down the candidates, and conduct in-person interviews from there. The members are:
 - i. Dr. Rachel Docekal
 - ii. Lauren Whetstone
 - iii. Michelle Suskauer
 - iv. Marcia Andrews
 - v. Todd Bonlarron
 - vi. Stephanie Sejnoha
 - CJC Systems Manager, Katherine, stated that a frequency table will be completed prior to the February 14th meeting and requested for members of the Selection Committee to provide any of their top applicants (in no particular order) to Leilani Yan in Human Resources (LYan@pbcgov.org). As requested by Carey Haughwout and approved by Todd Bonlarron, Katherine will share the list of applicants with the full commission and provide the public Zoom link to meeting.
 - County Attorney, Helene, restated the meetings must be public, members must be physically present at the meeting site (applicants can appear remotely) County Attorney Masimba Mutamba will be present at the first meeting to discuss the Sunshine Law, and there is to be no communication between Selection Committee Members unless they are in public.

- Evaluation of the New Bond Schedule, Public Defender Initiative, and the Next Steps Pilot Program: *Dr. Jennifer Copp, Florida State University College of Criminology and Criminal Justice*
 - Dr. Copp’s evaluation focused on the Public Defender’s Pretrial Release Program, its impact on the criminal justice system, and the program outcomes in reducing the jail population while maintaining public safety & court efficiency. She provided an overview of the target population (Public Defender clients who were incarcerated past the 48-hour mark on a monetary bond that was not attainable for them to pay) along with a comparison group with the ultimate goal of decreasing detention lengths for individuals while improving pretrial outcomes (court appearance and rearrests rates). Through research, we can verify a connection between money bail and pretrial detention with higher case outcomes of conviction, more likely to be sentenced to periods of incarceration, and receiving longer lengths of time being incarcerated. Findings also state that pretrial supervision, an alternative to the money bail system, is just as effective while not resulting in the pretrial detention of an individual like the money bail system, yet there are concerns with pretrial supervision. The need to shift from prioritizing pretrial supervision towards a more supportive model, such as the Public Defender’s Program Initiative, is being advocated for by researchers and the like; focusing on pretrial release to support services in the community in lieu of supervision.
 - Information from the Public Defender’s Office and the following key findings were discovered:
 - Participants spent on average ten (10) fewer days in jail during the period preceding the resolution of their case compared to non-participants (not statistically significant based on small sample of individuals in study, but based on program goals, the initiative to reduce lengths in detention was met).
 - Pretrial failure was studied and it was determined that 97% of participants appeared to their scheduled court appearance with 3% failing to show, which was similar to non-participants (no effect of participation was significantly different in achieving this goal).
 - New criminal activity was viewed and determined to be similar to pretrial failure (participating in the program had no major effect on whether an individual would be re-arrested while on pretrial release in comparison to non-participants). *Broader sample sizes show a re-arrest rate of 14-15% while the participants groups were around 38-39%; research into what type of charges were studied.*
 - *Participants Majority Re-arrest: Non-violent crimes and predominately Public Order offenses and Drug Possession crimes (3/5 of all new arrests), participants were less likely to be re-arrested for a violent crime.*
- Dr. Copp also identified program related features to try and identify if they contribute to variability in participant outcomes (some participants have higher outcomes of success than others). There wasn’t enough program specific data from the Public Defender’s Office to truly determine this analysis,

which is a recommendation from the evaluation/study on Pretrial Release. Dr. Copp was able to determine certain factors based on participation length and costs related to linkage to services.

- Participants who spent longer periods of time in the program were at a slightly greater risk of Failure to Appear (FTA), but are typically participants with higher needs of care at a greater risk of appearing in court in general (findings from the initiative successfully contributed to the reduction in detention length without jeopardizing pretrial compliance; there's little evidence that program participation improved a participant's outcome). A recommendation is for the program providers to track, monitor and/or collect more information related to a participant's program involvement, this will support more comprehensive evaluations in the future.

Questions, Answers and Statements:

Past-Chair, Rev. Jones: How many participants were in the program?

Dr. Copp: Roughly 280, with an additional 400 non-participants for the comparison group.

Carey Haughwout: The evaluation was helpful to the Public Defender's Office in Determining what data/information needs to be obtained for future evaluations, Social Workers were primarily concerned with linking individuals to support services, and the follow up to those services wasn't tracked. She mentioned the need for data on the success of the community-based support services, stating Palm Beach County lacks good evaluation of social services available to the community. Carey explained that her office wasn't provided with proper guidance on what data to collect as well. Moving forward, the Public Defender's Office will be able to structure the data collection on the front end of the program, and Dr. Copp offered to assist with identifying what data points need to be collected. Carey also inquired about the evaluation of the Next Steps Program, and Dr. Copp verified that the program will end at the end of this year, and a preliminary report is coming out in the next few weeks.

- Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) Report: *Reverend Kevin Jones, Past Chair*
 - Past-Chair, Rev. Jones, provided a brief overview of the SIM and its purposes (map services in the community, identify intercepts from zero (0) to five (5), and identify/address gaps in services with a written plan of action for guidance).
 - Senior Criminal Analyst, Dawn Davenport, stated the SIM report will be sent to the Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) in March of this year, then to the Behavioral Health Task Force (formerly the School and Safety Initiative) on April 1, 2024.

Questions, Answers and Statements continued:

Carey Haughwout: Provided a brief backstory of the PSCC (was in lieu of the Corrections Task Force, was very useful as a task force that reviewed jail data, crime, and was subsumed by the PSCC) and wanted to confirm that it's still a part of or connected to the CJC. She expressed concern over the disbanding of the Court Systems Task Force, Corrections Task Force and wonders what the CJC is doing, since the Behavioral Health Task Force is separate from the CJC; in her opinion, affecting the participation and

involvement of others. The PSCC has met on an Ad Hoc basis, unlike the Corrections Task Force who met regularly which brought players of the day to day legal system to the table. Ultimately she inquired as to whether the PSCC will go back to meeting regularly or if it's a part of the Corrections Task Force; separatism is undermining.

Dawn Caveness-Davenport: The Corrections Task Force, the PSCC aspect, meets and receives data from the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office, and is moving towards a regular schedule regarding meeting. An expansion was needed in order to apply for the reinvestment grant. She clarified that the Behavioral Task Force is a part of the CJC, and Court Systems Task Force is active although they have yet to meet this year.

Todd Bonlarron: A more comprehensive follow up to Carey's concerns will be discussed at our next CJC Executive meeting and will hopefully provide greater insight on various delineations and how our work interconnects.

VI. Member Comments

- Carey Haughwout reminded the committee of the upcoming Juvenile SIM on March 12-14th, 2024.
- Research and Planning Manager, Damir Kukec, reminded everyone of the location change for the February 26th, 2024 CJC Full Meeting; Hanley Center at **933 45th St, West Palm Beach, FL 33407**. Members may receive a duplicate calendar invite for the meeting as well with the updated location.

VII. Public Comments- NONE

VIII. Adjournment – Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: **Monday, March 11, 2024, 8:00am**
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301 N. Olive Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL 33401