

PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
PROBATION ADVISORY BOARD

Governmental Center, 10th Floor
301 N. Olive Avenue
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

February 17, 2012, 12:00 p.m.

FINAL MINUTES

Members Present

August Bonavita, Chairman	County Criminal Court
Rosalyn Baker	Florida Department of Corrections
Steven Cohen	Private Defense Attorney
Daniel Eisinger	Public Defender's Office
Kay Oglesby	Public Defender's Office
Daliah Weiss	Office of State Attorney

Guests Present

Feirmon Johnson	Department of Juvenile Justice
Wanda Joiner	Pride Integrated Services, Inc.
Geoff Sluggett	Sluggett & Associates
Dennis Yeskey	Office of Inspector General
Alan West	Office of Inspector General

CJC Staff Present

Michael Rodriguez	Executive Director
Damir Kukec	Research & Planning Manager
Candee Villapando	Criminal Justice Analyst

I. Welcome/Opening Comments

Chair Bonavita welcomed and thanked everyone for making the time to attend the regular meeting.

II. Roll Call and/or Introduction of Members & Guests

In lieu of roll call Chair Bonavita asked members and guests to introduce themselves. Chair Bonavita noted that Mr. Louis Tomeo from the Clerk and Comptroller's Office will not be attending today's meeting because they are migrating their criminal court data to the new court information system.

III. Approval and/or Amendments to the Agenda

The agenda was approved without amendments.

IV. Approval and/or Amendments to the November 3, 2011 meeting minutes

The minutes were approved without amendments

V. New Business

Chair Bonavita introduced Ms. Villapando and thanked her and staff for their work in completing the misdemeanor probation review.

A. Presentation of the Monitoring Study of Misdemeanor Probation Services for Palm Beach County, October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2010 (January 2012).

Ms Villapando gave a presentation on the study methodology, scope, and outcomes related to misdemeanor probation. She informed the committee that the study is based on terminated cases of misdemeanor probation and pre-trial services monitored by Pride Integrated Services, Inc. Ms. Villapando noted that the review included an examination of both actual hardcopy files as well as electronic files maintained by Pride – totaling approximately 10,000 files overall. In general, Pride was in compliance with the vast majority of requirements found in the professional services contract and the scope of work. It was also noted that overall, for both fiscal years, approximately 67% of the misdemeanor probation clients successfully terminated their cases as a result of completing all of the terms of their probation sentence. Some members suggested that we compare this result with other jurisdictions in south Florida. Ms. Villapando reported that the review also examined in detail restitution payments – which are must be made to the victim within 14 days of receipt from the probation client. Since the review period covered the timeframe where Pride was found to be in non-compliance with the contract related to restitution payments; this review further illustrated the delay in payments to victims. However, the review also showed that Pride did address this issue and was deemed to be in compliance with the 14 day requirement. Staff noted that Ms. Villapando would complete a review of the journal entries and bank statements to confirm the validity of the electronic restitution payments before presenting the results to the Criminal Justice Commission. Ms. Villapando presented the draft recommendations stemming from the review; which included: the development of a review framework and checklist (which would be defined by the PAB (i.e., verification of employment). Exploring the option of having the review completed by an outside firm and department; for example, Office of Inspector General or Department of Internal Auditor. Further determine the scope of the review by asking whether we are completing a programmatic review and/or simply a compliance audit. Lastly, she recommended that we explore and define if we want to carry out random checks of contract compliance with Pride.

Mr. Eisinger wondered about what would be the positive or negative. Mr. Rodriguez noted that we already examined what it costs us to do this; however, it is more than the \$5,000 that is paid for by Pride. He also noted that while he has not spoken to the Office of Inspector General, he noted that the County's Internal Department would have to have the work approved by his committee and that we are not sure if this would be approved. Then there is

the option of having an “independent” outside firm or university complete this work; and this would be well beyond the \$5,000 that we now receive from Pride. Mr. Rodriguez asked if there were any concerns by PAB that the review is being conducted by Commission staff. Chair Bonavita noted that Pride has always been cooperative with PAB and Staff. It was also noted that we should have some bench marks by examining other counties and jurisdiction.

(The slide presentation is attached to the minutes).

B. Approval and/or Amendments to the January 2012 Monitoring Study

Chair Bonavita noted that since there was no other discussion, that he would ask for a motion on the floor to approve the report and its recommendations as presented today. Mr. Eisinger moved a motion to approve the report and its recommendations and this was seconded by Ms. Daliah Weiss. The motion and second was approved unanimously and no member was opposed.

VI. Update

A. Request for Submittal (RFS) – Misdemeanor Probation Services

Chair Bonavita provided an update on the selection committee and its work. He provided a brief background and that the committee met on January 6th and 20th, 2012. We drafted and submitted a formal recommendation on to the Director of the Purchasing Department and they are now reviewing a couple of protests which will end February 22, 2012. If they determine that the protests are valid, there will be a formal hearing by a Special Master. The current service contract is valid until June 5, 2012.

VII. Member and Guest Comments

MLR presented a certificate of appreciation to Chair Bonavita. Chair Bonavita is honored to work with this committee and Commission staff.

VIII. Next Meeting

Chair Bonavita noted that our next meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2012.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Bonavita following a motion and second.