



PALM BEACH COUNTY'S PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

Palm Beach County Reentry Task Force

Full Reentry Task Force Special Meeting

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

CareerSource PBC

Summary Meeting Minutes

<u>Voting Members & Guests Present:</u> Vice Chair, Greg Starling, Department of Juvenile Justice Alan Johnson, State Attorney's Office Dr. Angela Bess, School District of PBC Anthony Sayer, The Jack Brewer Foundation Atensia Bowen, NAMI PBC Dr. Barbara Gerlock Brandon Lavin, Bridges at West Palm Beach Carey Haughwout, Office of the Public Defender Chenise Bonilla, Integrated Health Care Systems Craig Spatara, GEO Group Cristina Lucier, The Lord's Place Derek Gibson, Florida Department of Corrections Ivan Blanco, The Jack Brewer Foundation Jennifer Loyless, Office of the Public Defender Lakiesha Linen-Neal, Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network Nicole Davis, PBC Office of Equal Business Opportunity Orie Bullard, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach Oswald Newbold, PBC Reentry Alumni Richard Sena, Palm Beach County Attorney's Office Sarita Johnson, LHUM Ministries Tamara Starks, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office (PBSO) Dr. Teresa Johnson, League of Cities – Town of Haverhill Vanessa Klein, The Lord's Place	<u>Voting Members Absent:</u> Nancy McConnell, Rebel Recovery Julia Dattolo, CareerSource PBC <u>PBC Public Safety Department Staff Present:</u> Arlene Griffiths, PBC Public Safety Department Cathy Wolf, PBC Public Safety Department Jessica Hidalgo, PBC Public Safety Department Nicole Bishop, PBC Public Safety Department Randi Taylor, PBC Public Safety Department Ron Dixon, PBC Public Safety Department Shirlon St. Amour, PBC Public Safety Department Stephanie Sejnoha, PBC Public Safety Department Yenefer Cerda, PBC Public Safety Department
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- I. Welcome, Opening Comments, and Introductions, Vice Chair, Gregory Starling, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice**
 - a. Roll call taken and a quorum present.
 - b. In-person attendees introduced themselves while virtual attendees indicated their name and affiliation in the chat.
- II. Approval and/or Additions to the Preliminary Agenda**

Agenda approved with additions of a discussion regarding the survey responses from the previous Task Force meeting. Motion by Dereck Gibson; seconded by Jennifer Loyless.
- III. Purpose of Special Meeting, Jessica Hidalgo, Palm Beach County Public Safety Department**
 - a. Discussion of Survey**

The survey was distributed via email to all voting members and Reentry Task Force guests. In response, we received a total of five replies: three from voting members and two from community members. Jennifer Loyless noted that the purpose of the survey was to gauge the perspectives of both the voting members and the community regarding the Task Force and its work. Chief Starling recommended making phone calls

Please Note: Florida Sunshine Law provides this is a public meeting; all meetings are audio recorded and documents are open to public inspection.

and sending email reminders to ensure that all voting members are held accountable for their responses and attendance. Alan Johnson expressed concerns regarding the Sunshine Law, suggesting that it would be more effective to discuss the survey in person with staff rather than conducting it online.

b. Review of Reentry Task Force Resolution

Jessica Hidalgo explained that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss and vote on the resolution and changes to voting membership. Currently, there are 13 seats, and the proposed resolution is to expand the number of seats to 15, with changes to outline seat categories that represent specialties pertinent to reentry, rather than agency-specific. The proposed resolution outlined that the updated 15 voting seats would be characterized by:

1. Law Enforcement (3 seats)
2. Judicial System (3 seats)
3. Social services (1 seat)
4. Employment & Education (3 seats)
5. Formerly Incarcerated (1 seat)
6. Community Representatives (2 seats)
7. Faith-Based Groups (1 seat)
8. Housing (1 seat)

The group discussed the proposed changes in the resolution, as outlined by Jessica Hidalgo. Alan Johnson motioned to approve the resolution as originally proposed; seconded by Atensia Bowen. Motion went to discussion and debate. The group discussed that the current proposed new categories were too specific and did not offer enough flexibility to ensure community and justice-involved individuals were represented diversely. Vote was made to end debate on the motion to approve the resolution as presented. New motion was made by Jennifer Loyless to amend resolution with the following voting categories:

1. Law Enforcement (3 seats)
2. Judicial (3 seats)
3. Justice-Impacted (3 seats)
4. Community (6 seats)

Discussion and debate began. Alan Johnson suggested an amendment to the motion to change number of seats to 2 justice-impacted seats and 7 community seats. Discussion continued, and Alan Johnson rescinded his proposed amendment to the motion.

At this time, Vice Chair Gregory Starling requested a brief recess and proposed that a temporary chair be appointed from the current voting members, to allow the meeting to continue. Jennifer Loyless motioned to select a temporary chair, and Derek Gibson seconded this motion. Atensia Bowen motioned to appoint Dr. Angela Bess as the temporary Chair of this special meeting until Vice Chair Starling's return; the motion was seconded by Alan Johnson. All voting members in attendance voted to approve motion. After the interim Chair was established, discussion on Jennifer Loyless' motion continued. Discussion centered upon reducing the seats for the Judicial category to allow for additional Community seats, which could expand the capacity for more diverse membership. Jennifer Loyless amended her motion to reflect reduction to the Judicial seats from 3 to 2, and to increase the Community seats from 6 to 7.

1. Law Enforcement (3 Seats)
2. Judicial System (2 Seats)

3. Justice System Involved Seats (3 Seats)
4. Community (7 Seats)

This motion was seconded by Dr. Teresa Johnson. Discussion ended. A vote was called on Jennifer Loyless' amended motion: 6 voting members voted to approve the motion to approve the resolution as amended (Angela Bess, Atensia Bowen, Derek Gibson, Teresa Johnson, Jennifer Loyless, Oswald Newbold); zero voted in opposition, and two members abstained from voting (Alan Johnson, Tamara Starks).

c. Review and Discussion of Membership

Discussion ensued regarding the representation of voting members and how they are involved in the work. Multiple individuals shared that the subcommittees are doing the work, and that the Reentry Task Force is not overseeing or involved in the work of the subcommittees. It was discussed that the bylaws will mandate that voting members need to be involved in at least one of the subcommittees. It was suggested to review the Strategic Plan to better align the goals of subcommittees with the vision and mission of the Reentry Task Force overall.

d. Final Vote

A final vote was made to approve the resolution with the following changes to the voting membership (*see section 3b for additional information*):

1. Law Enforcement (3 Seats)
2. Judicial System (2 Seats)
3. Justice System Involved Seats (3 Seats)
4. Community (7 Seats)

IV. Additional Comments

- Suggestion was made to create a Nomination Committee of voting members and community stakeholders to assist with navigating the changes that will be made to the voting membership. This Committee could offer an objective body to identify, engage, and nominate reentry champions to the impending vacant voting member seats.

V. Next Steps

- a. Recap Action Items:
 - i. Amend Resolution to reflect the changes to the categories of voting member seats that was voted upon (*see section 3d for final vote with most updated verbiage*).
 - ii. Final amended Resolution will be presented to the Full Reentry Task Force for a final approval vote.
 - iii. PBC Public Safety Department will reach out to current voting members to discuss the outstanding survey and their involvement in business moving forward.
 - iv. Present recommendation for creation of a Nomination Committee to the Full Reentry Task Force.

VI. Adjournment