



PALM BEACH COUNTY'S PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

Palm Beach County Reentry Task Force

Full Reentry Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

CareerSource PBC

Summary Meeting Minutes

Voting Members & Guests Present:

Chair, Carey Haughwout, Office of the Public Defender

Vice Chair, Greg Starling, Department of Juvenile Justice

Adam Davis, PBC Library System (Virtual)

Alexcia Cox, State Attorney's Office

Alicia Reno, Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network

Dr. Angela Bess, School District of PBC (Virtual)

Amanda Hall

Arnia Perpignand, Florida Dept. of Corrections

Dr. Barbara Gerlock, C15 Juvenile Justice Advisory Board Chair

Bryan Joffe, The Lord's Place

Carla Randle, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach

Dr. Cassandra Atkin-Plunk, Florida Atlantic University

Conrad Saddler, PBC Public Safety Department, Pre-Trial

Craig Spatara, GEO Group

Cristina Lucier, The Lord's Place

Damir Kukec, Criminal Justice Commission

Darnel Paul, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach

Derek Gibson, Florida Department of Corrections (Virtual)

Diana Stanley, The Lord's Place

Gary Hawkins, The Lord's Place

Gayle Harrell, Another Chance Comm. Dev., Inc.

Helen Eddings, Anchor House

Isis Williams, Florida Dept. of Children & Families

Jason Ross, Sago Palm, Florida Dept. of Corrections

Jennifer Ferriol, City of West Palm Beach

Jennifer Loyless, Office of the Public Defender

Jerome Cox, Sago Palm, Florida Dept. of Corrections (Virtual)

Jessica Younts, Justice Impact Alliance (Virtual)

John Eddings, Anchor House

John Schmidt, Circles of Support

Jonathan Bleiweiss, Florida Justice Center (Virtual)

Joseph Anderson, PBC Planning, Zoning, and Building Dept.

Julia Dattolo, CareerSource of Palm Beach County

Kevin Jones, City of West Palm Beach Police Department

Kiera Hester, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach

Kim Raynor, PBC Supervisor of Elections

Laura Waterman, Gulfstream Goodwill (Virtual)

Lauren Klemowich, PBC Supervisor of Elections

Lynn Trimble, Choice to Change, Inc.

Maggie Witherow, Restoration Destination (Virtual)

Marcia Bahia, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office

Maria Zuniga, PBC Supervisor of Elections

Meredith Powers-Lupo, United States Veterans Affairs

Mevsim Bacaksiz

Miguel Lopez, Jack Brewer Foundation

Dr. Monique Brown-Faust, Integrated Health Care Systems (Virtual)

Natalie Dixon, Florida Dept. of Corrections (Virtual)

Orie Bullard, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach

Oswald Newbold, PBC Reentry Alumni

Pam Weitberg, Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network

Paul Garland, Jack Brewer Foundation

Paul Gonzalez, Jack Brewer Foundation

Richard Sena, PBC County Attorney

Shania Green, Florida Atlantic University

Stephanie Thompson, Drug Abuse Foundation

Tamara Starks, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office (PBSO)

Teleetha Haslem, Sago Palm, Florida Dept. of Corrections

Thomas Edwards, Circles of Support

Vanessa Klein, The Lord's Place

Victoria Amorosa, The Victory Program

William Freeman, People of Purpose

Voting Members Absent:

Alan Johnson, State Attorney's Office

Atensia Bowen, NAMI PBC

Nancy McConnell, Rebel Recovery

Jeffrey Gillen, 15th Judicial Circuit

Dr. Teresa Johnson, League of Cities – Town of Haverhill

PBC Public Safety Department Staff Present:

Arlene Griffiths, PBC Public Safety Dept.

Jessica Hidalgo, PBC Public Safety Dept.

Les'Unique Hessing, PBC Public Safety Dept. (Virtual)

Nicole Bishop, PBC Public Safety Dept.

Randi Taylor, PBC Public Safety Dept.

Ron Dixon, PBC Public Safety Dept.

Shantel Drayton, PBC Public Safety Dept.

Shirlon St. Amour, PBC Public Safety Dept.

Stephanie Sejnoha, PBC Public Safety Dept.

Yener Cerda, PBC Public Safety Dept.

I. Welcome, Opening Comments, and Introductions – Chair, Carey Haughwout, Public Defender, 15th Judicial Circuit

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

- 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 after addition of the Behavioral Health Subcommittee as a new business item. Motion by Julia Dattolo; seconded by Kevin Jones.

III. Approval and/or Corrections to the 10/25/2023 Minutes

Minutes approved without corrections. Motion by Julia Dattolo; seconded by Greg Starling.

IV. Chairman's Comments, Chair, Carey Haughwout

- a. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) addresses inaccurate background check reports and sloppy credit file sharing practices.
- b. Congratulated Oswald Newbold on his selection to participate in JustLeadershipUSA and also for his recent promotion to Reentry Program Coordinator at The Reentry Center.

V. Old Business/Follow-Up Items

a. Reentry Task Force Strategic Planning, Carey Haughwout

i. Subcommittee Goals

1. **Data & Evaluation:** Consolidated. No further updates.
2. **Employment, Training, & Education, Julia Dattolo**
Subcommittee will be prioritizing incorporating employers and educational partners into subcommittee to discuss overcoming barriers to employment and appropriately preparing reentry clients for employment. A survey was distributed for feedback from Subcommittee members to finalize the goals.
3. **Faith, Kevin Jones**
Outreach and recruitment of various faith leaders is the main priority for the year. Building additional faith institutions as partners within the reentry work is essential for supporting adults and youth returning to the community from incarceration. Looking to host a local event at Sago Palm Reentry Center to give back to men at the facility.
4. **Housing, Jennifer Ferriol**
Establish a housing pilot program with the City of West Palm Beach utilizing less restrictive dollars to house individuals in reentry programming. Developing and sharing a comprehensive list of landlords that are open to renting to reentry clients. Discussed the importance of advocacy and visibility when it comes to progress, change, and expansion of reentry supports. Discussed creating and/or sharing a resource list of rental assistance providers with reentry advocates and direct care staff. Discussion surrounding advocacy at the legislative session was had, and how the Task Force can prioritize and present on its priorities to present to the BCC in preparation for annual legislative sessions.
5. **Sexual Offenses, Meredith Powers-Lupo**
Discussed establishing a new advocacy subcommittee/workgroup that has representation from all subcommittees for purposes of awareness,

information-sharing, and advocacy. Discussed creating resource documents that encapsulate lists of resources that are accessible to those on the registry.

6. **Sustainability**, *Jennifer Loyless*

Discussed the prioritization of developing an outreach and marketing toolkit and process that supports publications of data and information, relationships among community agencies and partners, and efforts to interface with the community. Discussed the role of using data to support reentry work, and ensuring that all of the subcommittees have support in creating measurable goals and access to data that helps them drive decisions and progress. Discussed engaging Subcommittee leaders into this subcommittee to ensure streamlined information-sharing and unifying advocacy efforts.

7. **Youth**, *Dr. Barbara Gerlock*

Discussed our refined goals surrounding keeping youth closer to home, bridging the gap between dependency and delinquency for crossover youth, and establishing a well-defined local continuum of care through community collaborations. Discussed capturing measurable aspects of these established goals.

ii. **Amend Reentry Task Force Resolution**

Discussed the addition of the five new voting member slots (reentry alumni, western community leader, business community, healthcare organization, and reentry champion). Recommendation was made to hold a small workgroup to address the changes to the Resolution to better establish well-defined outline of positions.

iii. **Data Request, FY23 Annual Jail Data Summary**

Deferred to next meeting.

VI. **New Business**

a. **The J.C. Flowers Foundation**, *Diana Stanley, CEO, The Lord's Place*

Diana Stanley advised of The Lord's Place new partnership with J.C. Flowers Foundation that are doing Circles of Support in New York. Diana introduced John Schmidt and Thomas Edwards, who discussed that they have intentions to be a reentry organization that gives voices to and empowers individuals returning from incarceration.
circlesofsupport.org

b. **Sunshine Law**, *Richard Sena, Assistant PBC Attorney*

Deferred to next meeting or within the new workgroup that was established to address changes to resolution, membership, and voting requirements.

c. **Behavioral Health Subcommittee**, *Carey Haughwout*

Discussed the creation of new subcommittee and requested volunteers to attend a planning meeting to prepare for 1st subcommittee meeting in April.

VII. Updates

a. Sago Palm Reentry Center

- i. Welcome new Assistant Warden Jerome Cox and Classification Supervisor Teleetha Haslem to Palm Beach County.
- ii. Sago Palm Programming
Ms. Haslem stated they are still adapting to new roles, and there will be a reentry meeting on February 14th to discuss reentry operations at the facility.

b. BJA Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry (CSCR) Grant, Jessica Hidalgo, Manager of Criminal Justice Programs, PBC Public Safety Department Deferred to next meeting.

VIII. Additional Member and Guest Comments

- a. April is Second Chance Month.
- b. 2024 PBC Reentry Summit will take place on October 9th-11th. Request for Proposals now open.
- c. Maggie Witherow, Restoration Destination, reported that new housing landlord has raised rent four times since taking over, and residents will be struggling to pay rent.
- d. Jack Brewer Foundation discussed their role in unifying incarcerated fathers and their children and their efforts in reentry work. They are currently going into Sago Palm and working closely with reentry agencies.

IX. Next Steps

a. Recap Action Items:

- i. Findings from Employment, Education and Training Subcommittee survey to be shared with Task Force.
- ii. Identify Pell Grant Bill, so that PBC contracted lobbyists may advocate for reentry appropriately.
- iii. Subcommittees finalize work plan with their new and refined measurable goals.
- iv. Prioritize deferred topics from this meeting: Quarterly Data Reporting, Sunshine Law information (Richard Sena).
- v. Establish small workgroup to address resolution and voting membership. Incorporate PBC County Attorney Richard Sena to discuss Sunshine Law.
 1. *Volunteers: Carey Haughwout, Meredith Powers-Lupo, John Eddings, Craig Spatara, Jennifer Loyless, Vanessa Klein, Tamara Starks, Diana Stanley)*
- vi. Schedule planning meeting for new Behavioral Health subcommittee with volunteers to begin outreach and goal development.
 1. *Volunteers: Dr. Barbara Gerlock, Ron Dixon, Vanessa Klein, Kiera Hester, Cristina Lucier*

b. 2024 Meeting Dates: March 27, May 22 (Glades), August 28, October 23

X. Adjournment