



PALM BEACH COUNTY'S PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

Palm Beach County Reentry Task Force

Full Reentry Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, March 27, 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)

Alan Johnson, State Attorney's Office

Alia Spencer, Palm Beach State College (Virtual)

Alicia Reno, Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network (Virtual)

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

Arnia Perpignand, Florida Dept. of Corrections (Virtual)

Annie Ifill, Healthier Glades (Virtual)

Bryan Joffe, The Lord's Place

Carla Randle, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach

Dr. Cassandra Atkin-Plunk, Florida Atlantic University

Craig Spataro, GEO Group

Cristina Lucier, The Lord's Place (Virtual)

Darnel Paul, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach

David Winters, Florida Department of Corrections

Gary Hawkins, The Lord's Place (Virtual)

Hydeia Wilson, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach

Jennifer Loyless, Office of the Public Defender

Jerry Leakey, Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County

Jessica Vann, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach

Jessica Younts, Justice Impact Alliance

John Eddings, Anchor House

Judge Jeffrey Gillen, 15th Judicial Circuit (Virtual)

Judge Kathleen Kroll, 15th Judicial Circuit (Virtual)

Julia Dattolo, CareerSource of Palm Beach County

Ken Garner, GEO Group

Kiera Hester, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach

Kim Raynor, PBC Supervisor of Elections

Latroy Monroe, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach

Lauren Klemowich, PBC Supervisor of Elections

Leonard Neal, Glades Area Ministerial Association

Lynn Trimble, Choice to Change, Inc.

Marcia Bahia, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office

Maria Zuniga, PBC Supervisor of Elections

Meredith Powers-Lupo, United States Veterans Affairs

Mevsim Bacaksiz, Drug Abuse Foundation (Virtual)

Michelle Pereira, The Lord's Place

Dr. Monique Brown-Faust, Integrated Health Care Systems

Nancy McConnell, Rebel Recovery Florida

Natalie Dixon-Williams, Florida Dept. of Corrections

Orie Bullard, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach

Oswald Newbold, PBC Reentry Alumni

Richard Sena, PBC County Attorney

Robert Bryne, Florida Department of Corrections, Sago Palm

Shahzia Jackson, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office

Shania Green, Florida Atlantic University

Stanley Hooks, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach

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

Teleetha Haslem, Sago Palm, Florida Department of Corrections

Vanessa Klein, The Lord's Place

Victoria Amorosa, The Victory Program

Willy Lawrence, Federation of Families (Virtual)

Voting Members Absent:

Atensia Bowen, NAMI PBC

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

Derek Gibson, Florida Department of Corrections

Kevin Jones, City of West Palm Beach Police Department

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. (Virtual)

Randi Taylor, PBC Public Safety Dept.

Ron Dixon, PBC Public Safety Dept.

Shirlon St. Amour, PBC Public Safety Dept.

Stephanie Sejnoha, PBC Public Safety Dept. (Virtual)

Yenefer Cerda, PBC Public Safety Dept.

Cathy Wolf, PBC Public Safety Dept.

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

- a. Roll call taken and a quorum present.
- b. In-person attendees introduced themselves and virtual attendees indicated their name and affiliation in the chat.

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

II. Approval and/or Additions to the Preliminary Agenda

Agenda approved without additions. Motion by Julia Dattolo; seconded by Greg Starling.

III. Approval and/or Corrections to the 1/24/2024 Minutes

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

IV. Chairman's Comments, Chair, Carey Haughwout

Chair Carey Haughwout discussed prioritizing the voices of the collective task force, to ensure that all attendees have an opportunity to share feedback, participate in the work within subcommittees, and stay informed on the reentry efforts in PBC. New comment cards have been developed and shared with all attendees to allow all to share feedback and get additional information on addressing the work taking place in subcommittees.

V. Old Business/Follow-Up Items

a. Reentry Task Force Strategic Planning, Carey Haughwout

i. Subcommittee Highlights

1. Employment, Training, & Education, Julia Dattolo

The subcommittee decided to continue the previously identified goals, and continues to refine them to include measurable and attainable objectives to achieve these overarching goals. Group will incorporate a focus on Pell Grant, and financial aid, access for reentering individuals. Next meeting at Covanta.

2. Faith, Dr. Angela Bess

The subcommittee is focusing on building faith partners, developing faith-based presentations to spread awareness, and create outreach opportunities at local facility to engage reentry individuals.

3. Housing, Jessica Younts

The Subcommittee is focusing on developing a new pilot housing project with the City of West Palm Beach. They continue to explore parameters of city funding and details of pilot project.

4. Sexual Offenses, Meredith Powers-Lupo

The subcommittee is prioritizing increasing awareness to barriers for individuals with sexual offenses, creating an advocacy group to highlight efforts and issues, and increase availability and accessibility of resources.

5. Sustainability and Data, Jennifer Loyless

The subcommittee is prioritizing data reporting, which will include managing quarterly reentry data reporting, and marketing and outreach. The group has created a template on how to approach, share information, and update stakeholders in the community. The subcommittee will support the functions of all the subcommittees, along with the Task Force as a whole. Some of the group's tangible tasks will include: pre-task force meeting chair discussion to ensure subcommittees are working in a coordinated effort, refining how subcommittees report out to the broader task force.

6. Youth, Judge Kathleen Kroll

The subcommittee has focused on refining the broad goals, and created measurable objectives as part of the work, prioritizing developing

pathways to education, employment and vocation, along with reforming the system to keep youth closer to home, and creating a process to ensure youth involved in multiple systems are appropriately served.

7. **Behavioral Health, Ron Dixon**

The subcommittee is in infancy, and they are working to outreach to individuals and entities involved in behavioral health work. The first meeting is April 9th, so anyone interested here, can fill out the comment card to attend.

ii. **Task Force vs. Coalition Update**

There has been one special meeting to discuss this issue raised at the last meeting. No progress was made, and conversations will continue on this. Feedback on subcommittee chairs being voting members was presented.

iii. **Amend Reentry Task Force Resolution**

Finalizing list of voting members to be added to the membership to include 5 new seats. Discussed the possibility of adding subcommittee leadership being voting members. County Attorney, Richard Sena, discussed that typically, if there are multiple representatives from community agencies, they would defer to one vote per entity. Need to research the implications of this, including what parameters should be placed on subcommittees to ensure appropriate membership supports a vote in the Task Force.

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

Shared the data template for feedback on data being captured for quarterly reporting purposes. Discussed that this information will be shared regularly for high-level review per each source of referrals, and also for the subcommittees use to drive their work achieving their goals. Additional data points recommended to include are: eligibility as part of the total amount of reentry individuals, behavioral health needs, and recidivism.

VI. **New Business**

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

County Attorney, Richard Sena, shared information on Sunshine Law. He outlined that to meet quorum, only 25% of voting members have to be present. For attendance purposes, voting members must attend meetings in-person, not missing more than half of meetings per calendar year, or missing 3 consecutive meetings. If this occurs, that member shall be removed from their seat.

VII. **Updates**

a. **Sago Palm Reentry Center**

i. **Facility Update**

All of Sago Palm's administration staff is brand new to the facility. The Florida Department of Corrections is committed to having representation at these meetings moving forward. Ms. Haslow reported HVAC training at facility is being provided by an employer that will also hire reentry participants, culinary program continues well, dog training program is flourishing, and 6-month heavy

equipment programming (simulator) is starting soon. Still exploring water treatment programming.

- ii. **RESTORE Programming, Orie Bullard, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach**
The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach has two full-time staff at the facility providing programming: Inside Out Dads, peer mentoring, CDL Simulation, Reentry Prep Class. All classes are available for any individuals returning to PBC (162 out of 380 total individuals at Sago Palm are registered). Outlining classes in semester-style, and will continue engaging new classes over time. Reentry program is working on refining relationship with the Florida Department of Corrections to ensure effective and efficient roles and responsibilities in each expertise. Reentry engagement is critical in ensuring reentry clients have the quality of support that is evidence-based to support successful reentry.

- b. **BJA Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry (CSCR) Grant, Ron Dixon, Reentry Program Coordinator, PBC Public Safety Department**
PBSO has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with PBC to ensure case management staff will be able to access the jails to serve reentry clients, and are continuing to develop partnerships to expand resources for reentry clients in the western community.

VIII. Additional Member and Guest Comments

- a. April is Second Chance Month. Event schedule provided.
- b. 2024 PBC Reentry Summit will take place on October 9th-11th. Request for Proposals window has closed.
- c. 2024 Youth Summit of PBC will take place on April 27th.

IX. Next Steps

- a. Recap Action Items:
 - i. Implement pre-Task Force Subcommittee Chair meetings at least one week prior to Task Force meetings to ensure coordination across subcommittees.
 - ii. Institutionalize process for creating written subcommittee reports for Task Force packet and have subcommittees prioritize any tasks necessary for the agenda, as needed.
 - iii. Will include voting membership attendance chart in meeting packet.
 - iv. Map out a schedule in which quarterly data reports highlighting the different referral sources are shared at meetings (*include number of releases and recidivism measures*).
 - v. Update resolution with subcommittee representation with verbiage addressing any conflicts of interest.
- b. 2024 Meeting Dates: May 22 (Glades), August 28, October 23

X. Adjournment