



PALM BEACH COUNTY'S PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

Palm Beach County Reentry Task Force

Full Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

WPB Police Community Room

600 Banyan Blvd. WPB, FL 33401

Summary Meeting Minutes

Members & Guests Present:

Chair, Carey Haughwout, Office of the Public Defender
Angela Bess, School District of PBC
Alex Lianos, Florida Justice Center
Arlene Houston, Vice President People of Purpose
Arnia Perpignand, Florida Department of Corrections
Brad Locke, Florida Department of Corrections
Brian Heck, Gulfstream Goodwill Industries
Cassandra Atkin-Plunk, Florida Atlantic University
Craig Spatara, GEO Group
Daniel Santiago, The Lord's Place
Dawn Davenport, Criminal Justice Commission
Dhiny Mercedes, CareerSource of Palm Beach County
Elizabeth Buchanan, Florida Department of Corrections
Francine Edwards, State Attorney Office
Jennifer Loyless, Office of the Public Defender
Jerry Pugh, Church of God
Jessica Younts, Justice Impact Alliance
Julia Dattolo, CareerSource of Palm Beach County
Julian Bembry, Salvation Army
Kiera Hester, City of Riviera Beach Reentry Center
Kevin Choi, Harm Reduction Center
Kevin Jones, City of West Palm Beach Police Department
Laura Waterman, Gulfstream Goodwill Industries
Linda Porter, Gulfstream Goodwill Industries
Maggie Witherow, Restoration Destination
Marcia Bahia, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Marsha Martino, National alliance on Mental Illness: PBC Chapter
Meredith Powers-Lupo, Veterans Affair
Mevsim Bacaksiz, Drug Abuse Foundation

Nancy McConnell, Rebel Recovery
Negaysha Walcott, Gulfstream Goodwill Industries
Nichole Landrum, Florida Department of Corrections
Orie Bullard, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach Reentry Center
Pam Berry, Salvation Army
Patrick Mahoney, Florida Department of Corrections
Shazia Jackson, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Serena Marlow, Florida Department of Corrections
Sheila Kurzen, Florida Department of Corrections
Shirlon St. Amour, Department of Juvenile Justice
Tamara Starks, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Theresa Johnson, Town of Haverhill
Timothy Gradsom, Salvation Army
Vanessa Klein, The Lord's Place
Kevin Choi, Harm Reduction Center
William Freeman, People of Purpose
Zubin Kapadia, Florida Justice Center

Public Safety Department Staff Present:

Arlene Griffiths, PBC Public Safety Department
Alexis Davis, PBC Public Safety Department
Jessica Hidalgo, PBC Public Safety Department
Nicole Bishop, PBC Public Safety Department
Randi Taylor, PBC Public Safety Department
Latronda Hayes, PBC Public Safety Department

- I. Welcome and Introductions *Chair Carey Haughwout, Public Defender*
- II. Approval and/or Additions to the Preliminary Agenda - approved
- III. Approval and/or Corrections to the 1/26/2022 Meeting Minutes - approved
- IV. Chairman's Comments, *Carey Haughwout, Public Defender*

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

a) Recommendations from Criminal Justice Commission (CJC), Chair Haughwout

Chair Haughwout provided an overview of the Reentry Task Force (RTF), noting that it was established under the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) and later moved to Public Safety Department. She remarked about the CJC's continued interest in reentry, and how its commitment for on-going support of reentry efforts in Palm Beach County. As part of this initiative, the CJC recently facilitated community dialogues across the County, that resulted in the below recommendations. The intent she noted, is to the regularly update the CJC on reentry. Chairman of the CJC, Rev. Kevin Jones provided further details on the dialogues, and the recommendations made by the residents of West Palm Beach/Riviera Beach, noting their passion in supporting individuals returning from incarceration, and having a safe and productive community.

The recommendations are as follows:

- West Palm Beach/Riviera Beach – Distribute returning citizens resource video
- Northern Palm Beach – Get reentry information to individuals upon intake
- Glades – Seed a reentry program within the Glades community

Members discussed the current reentry resources and ways that existing gaps can be filled. To this end, Chair Haughwout briefed attendees on a pre-meeting held with Florida Department of Corrections aimed at better engagement of individuals returning to PBC.

Mr. William Freeman recommended a descriptive video that details the reentry services and agencies, to be utilized in the jail for informative purposes (visualization). Therefore, when returning citizens are released, they are already aware of the programs. He mentioned that this will help as the mail outs are sometimes trashed resulting in a missed opportunity to connect with reentry services in the community. Some available community resources were highlighted, however, the need for more workforce training during incarceration as well as access to training and career paths upon release, were mentioned as immediate needs.

Mr. Freeman also spoke about his struggle and success in the program. He shared mentioned the resources provided by CareerSource PBC that assisted him with his resume, as well as the opportunities and reentry resources he has been provided since his release to the community. He is now able to pass a level 2 background check and qualify for jobs he never imagined himself doing.

Judge Kathleen Kroll, chair of the Youth Reentry Subcommittee stressed the need to see more programs for the youth, and more specifically, to have a local facility where kids can be closer to home, as the model used for adults housed at Sago Palm Re-Entry Center. Chair Haughwout suggested that the Youth Reentry Subcommittee explore the process for doing so, and make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners with support from the community and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

b) Task Force Membership, Chair Haughwout

Special welcome was extended to new voting members Dr. Teresa Johnson, Council Member, Town of Haverhill representing The League of Cities and Nancy McConnell of Rebel Recovery, representing Substance Use Treatment Community, and to advisory member Allen Boyd of Ernst & Young and also a Palm Tran Board member.

V. Review of Action Items from 1/26/2022 Meeting, Chair Haughwout/Assistant Warden AW Marlow

- a. AW Marlow updated the meeting with regards to Waiver of email cost for incarcerated individuals. The individuals in FDC facilities no longer has the ability to print and return mails such as the proxy form sent from PBC staff as initial outreach in an effort to connect them with a reentry provider. The possibility of utilizing electronic stamps for correspondences, as well as waiving the cost of electronic stamps were discussed.
- b. AW Marlow reported the following number of PBC residents enrolled in educational classes at Sago Palm Reentry Center – 14 participants graduated, 12 were from Palm Beach County (PBC), 15 received their GED, 13 of which were from PBC, 14 received their HVAC, and 9 of them were from PBC. Overall they have a high success rate from Palm Beach County residents. She also noted that Sago Palm Reentry center is still looking for an instructor for heavy equipment in the facility.

Ms. Nichole Landrum remarked about the community model similar to the existing peer to peer program that is being introduced in FDC facilities.

VI. New Business

PBC IRI Final Report, *Dr. Cassandra Atkin-Plunk, Associate Director and Associate Professor, FAU*

Dr. Atkin-Plunk presented the final evaluation report on PBC's Innovations in Reentry Transitional Employment, a three year grant received to implement transitional employment and cognitive behavioral interventions using a randomized controlled trial. She mentioned the impact COVID 19 had on the program, and the innovativeness of the providers in ensuring that individuals continued to receive services. A total of 175 participants were referred, 90 of those were randomized into the treatment group while 85 were randomized into the controlled group. She highlighted a number of findings including that, individuals in the treatment group were more likely increase in cognitive behavior hours resulted in less arrests, they were also more likely to hold a second job, and recidivism rates were higher for individuals in the controlled group.

VII. Old Business/Action Items

Florida Department of Correction's Roadmap to Restoration Event, Chair Haughwout/Patrick Mahoney

Mr. Patrick Mahoney, Director, Office of Programs and Re-Entry provided information on the strategic plan and commended Palm Beach County on the great job they are doing around reentry. He also reassured PBC of FDC's commitment to support and provide assistance in restoring individuals lives. Upon reviewing the Task Force Strategic Plan, he highlighted areas for better engagement at Tallahassee level, more communication pre-release, stream line post-release, among other areas to assist in the reentry efforts. He spoke about the D10 monitors which will allow contact with individuals while incarcerated. He also mentioned a Faith-based opportunity to connect with individuals, where churches and other faith communities are able to share their services with on the resident's tablets. As such, members approved establishing a faith-based/clergy subcommittee to be co-chaired by Rev. Kevin Jones and Dr. Angela Bess. Further details around this initiative to be provided to the Task Force.

VIII. Subcommittee Updates –

Written reports on each subcommittee were included in agenda packet.

IX. Additional Member and Guest Comments

Mr. Alex Lianos of Florida Justice Center announced a Second Chance event scheduled to take place in Riviera Beach.

X. Action Items;

- a) Case managers group - discuss what the participants have access to while incarcerated and after they are released
- b) Better access to the DOC (electronic and personal)
- c) Waiver of email cost for incarcerated individuals and electronic stamps
- d) Needs assessment with community and the DOC
- e) Start a work group for a clergy

XI. Next Meeting Date: July 27, 2022

XII. Adjournment