



PALM BEACH COUNTY'S PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

Palm Beach County Reentry Task Force

Full Reentry Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

CareerSource PBC

Summary Meeting Minutes

Voting Members & Guests Present:

Vice Chair, Greg Starling, Department of Juvenile Justice
Atensia Bowen, NAMI PBC (Virtual)

Dr. Barbara Gerlock, Citizens Advisory Board
Bryce Forrester, Florida Department of Corrections
Carla Randle, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach
Casimir Griglik, Restoration Destination
Charles Duval, CareerSource of Palm Beach County
Craig Spatara, GEO Group
Daniel Eisinger, Office of the Public Defender
Darnel Paul, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach
David Winters, Florida Department of Corrections
Derek Gibson, Florida Department of Corrections (Virtual)
Hy'Deia Wilson, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach
Jennifer Loyless, Office of the Public Defender
Jessica Vann, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach
Jessica Younts, Justice Impact Alliance
Judge Kathleen Kroll, 15th Judicial Circuit
Kevin Jones, City of West Palm Beach Police Department
Kiera Hester, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach
LaAndre Freeman, Foundcare
Latroy Monroe, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach
Bishop Leonard Neal, Glades Area Ministerial Association
Lilia Perez, Foundcare
Linguetta Jolly, Foundcare
Maggie Witherow, Restoration Destination
Michelle Pereira, The Lord's Place
Natalie Dixon-Williams, Florida Department of Corrections
Orie Bullard, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach
Oswald Newbold, PBC Reentry Alumni
Richard Sena, PBC County Attorney
Rosalind Murray, Criminal Justice Commission
Susie Hammond, Federation of Families

Shahzia Jackson, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office

Tamara Starks, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office

Teleetha Haslem, Sago Palm, Florida Dept. of Corrections

Dr. Teresa Johnson, League of Cities – Town of Haverhill (Virtual)

Vanessa Klein, The Lord's Place

Veree Jenkins, Federation of Families

William Freeman, People of Purpose

Reverend Willie Lawrence, Federation of Families

Voting Members Absent:

Chair, Carey Haughwout, Office of the Public Defender

Alan Johnson, State Attorney's Office

Dr. Angela Bess, School District of PBC

Judge Jeffrey Gillen, 15th Judicial Circuit

Julia Dattolo, CareerSource of Palm Beach County

Nancy McConnell, Rebel Recovery

PBC Public Safety Department Staff Present:

Arlene Griffiths, PBC Public Safety Dept.

Bridget Hodge, PBC Public Safety Dept.

Cathy Wolf, PBC Public Safety Dept.

Jessica Hidalgo, PBC Public Safety Dept.

John Port, PBC Public Safety Department

Les'Unique Hessing, PBC Public Safety Dept.

Marianela Diaz, PBC Public Safety Department

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.

Yenefer Cerda, PBC Public Safety Dept.

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 without additions. Motion by Kevin Jones; seconded by Tamara Starks.

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

III. Approval and/or Corrections to the 3/27/2024 Minutes

Minutes approved without corrections. Motion by Tamara Starks; seconded by Kevin Jones.

IV. Chairman's Comments, Chair, Gregory Starling

Reminder to all voting members that there are guidelines for in-person attendance and only in-person attendance applies to meet the requirements for a quorum.

V. Old Business/Follow-Up Items

i. Subcommittee Highlights

1. Employment, Training, & Education, Shirlon St Amour

The Subcommittee is implementing processes to track employment connections for reentry clients, developing success stories, and exploring financial aid processes to increase access to post-secondary options for reentry clients. Last meeting was held at Covanta (Reworld), which included a tour of the facility that seeks to hire individuals with backgrounds.

2. Faith, Kevin Jones

The Subcommittee has established goals focusing on adults and youth. The group is working on developing two workshops for community members by next year, focusing on bringing awareness to reentry for institutions and members comprising the faith community. Dr. Barbara Gerlock suggested that Pathway to Progress, Inc. may be able to assist, as the non-profit aims to provide services and support for youth involved in the juvenile justice system in a variety of ways.

3. Housing, Jessica Younts

The Subcommittee focused on increasing membership and defining goals. The main priorities are to increase access to housing for reentry clients, which is being addressed through a pilot in West Palm Beach that is coming to fruition in the next few weeks. The Pilot Proposal would include graduated housing model with the capacity to house up to 10 reentry clients for up to one year. Clients would need to be arrested in or living in WPB, engaged in PBC Reentry Services, employed, and referred by a PBC Reentry agency. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) posted a request for comments regarding proposed changes to reduce barriers to HUD housing programs for formerly incarcerated and convicted people. Comments are due by June 10th, which would require the Task Force to hold a special meeting to prepare, approve, and submit comments.

4. Sexual Offenses, Arlene Griffiths

The Subcommittee has prioritized the major lack of housing resources for individuals with sexual offenses. Restoration Destination, one of the only campuses providing housing for this population, has a third-party landlord that manages the leases of the housing options. The landlord is also seeking to fill all of the 119 2-bedroom units with all reentry clients. Shared units are about \$800-900 per person. They are working to increase their programming to support individuals and are looking to increase their capacity to apply for additional funding to support their activities in the community. The Subcommittee is finalizing a presentation to the 15th Circuit Judiciary to bring

awareness of the challenges for the population and improving collaboration on best serving this population.

5. **Sustainability and Data, Jennifer Loyless**

The Subcommittee is focusing on shifting its scope to fully support the operations of the Reentry Task Force. The group is developing foundational materials to guide streamlined methods and processes for sharing information and data with the community, assisting with the efforts of other subcommittees to bring awareness to issues, advocate for progress, and other efforts to improve capacity to serving reentry individuals. The Subcommittee has finalized agreement to produce capacity-building workshops for non-profits entities in the community that will be facilitated by Non-Profits First, a leading expert in best practices and management of non-profits. Flyer was distributed to the attendees. Individuals can begin RSVP'ing to the PBC Reentry Office, and a QR code is being developed to offer a quick option to register online.

6. **Youth, Dr. Barbara Gerlock**

The Subcommittee is finalizing making measurable goals for the youth that are focusing on achieving: defining education, employment, and vocational pathways for youth, along with increasing the number of youth incarcerated locally, and refining the process in which systems are collaborating to serve dually-involved youth (child welfare and juvenile justice)

7. **Behavioral Health, Ron Dixon**

The subcommittee is working to outline the existing behavioral health resources in PBC, and preparing to hold community conversations across the County to hear the experiences and barriers that reentry individuals encounter in accessing behavior health resources. The Criminal Justice Commission is also starting a Behavioral Health workgroup that will seek to collaborate on these issues, to which the Subcommittee Chair is also part of.

ii. **Amend Reentry Task Force Resolution**

Vice Chair Starling prompted the Voting Members to vote to approve the changes to the Reentry Task Force Resolution to include additional voting members that would represent each subcommittee. It was determined that the Subcommittees would have to nominate a representative for those slots. Approval by majority of quorum was completed.

1. **Task Force vs. Coalition Update, Jennifer Loyless, Office of the Public Defender**

This item has been addressed and tabled at this time.

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

The Sustainability & Data Subcommittee has not yet met to review the data and outline the best methods in which to present the data effectively and efficiently to support the functions of the Subcommittee and Reentry Task Force. Will defer this to the next meeting.

VI. New Business

a. BJA Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry (CSCR) Grant

i. Grant Presentation, Ron Dixon, Reentry Program Coordinator, PBC Public Safety Department

Ron Dixon outlined the origination of the SCA CSCR Grant funding, and the scope of services this funding will cover for reentry clients in the Western Community. This funding will support building a continuum of behavioral health care and eliminating barriers to accessing these critical services to support individuals with mental health and substance use needs. The Behavioral Health Subcommittee will work to support these efforts as a part of its overall efforts to improve behavioral health resources for formerly incarcerated individuals. Federation of Families volunteered to share their existing resource guide for the Glades to assist with developing tools for sharing information with the community.

ii. Supplemental Change Request, Orie Bullard, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach

Orie Bullard discussed that with the award of the SCA CSCR Grant, the Reentry Task Force requested additional supplemental funding from the Board of County Commissioners to expand services in this regard. As PBC negotiates and finalizes contracts for the Reentry Center of Riviera Beach to carry out the services included in the scope of the grant, Mr. Bullard discussed the challenges, and requested approval to allocate part of the funding towards administrative costs. Members unanimously approved the request.

b. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, FY 2025 Quality Improvement Fund – Transitions in Care for Justice-Involved Populations, Linquetta Jolly and Lilia Perez, FoundCare

Representatives from FoundCare provide an overview of service provided, noting their efforts in applying for funding from Health Resources and Services Administration (HERSA) for primary care resources. As many as 80% of individuals returning from incarceration have chronic illness and/or psychiatric needs, and many are disconnected from quality healthcare and medication management resources. Proposed services in application would cover a variety of needs to support individuals from incarceration, and they are requesting expertise and letters of commitment to commit to partnering in providing referrals and support for this venture in garnering funding.

VII. Updates

a. Sago Palm Reentry Center

i. Facility Update, Mr. Bryce Forrester?, Sago Palm Reentry Center

In his update, Mr. Forrester note that the goal of education at the facility is for individuals to get their high school diploma or equivalent, as well as promoting individuals to engage with post-secondary programming. He noted the partnerships with Palm Beach State College and Polk State College that are providing vocational training and certifications, including OSHA, Entrepreneurship, and Heavy Equipment. Currently there are 77 residents in the GED class, approximately 80% of whom will complete and participate in a joint graduation with Martin Correction Facility on August 9th.

- ii. **RESTORE Programming, Orie Bullard, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach**
Orie Bullard provided an overview the work that their team has been involved in since Feb 2023, noting that there are 151 active clients and 138 inactive. Case managers are providing programming and classes at the facility, and are gearing up for summer session of classes. The facility has set up DTEN monitor to allow for virtual options for classes. Biweekly meetings with Sago and monthly meetings including FDC staff have been good for collaborating and strategic planning. Currently planning for next Reentry Seminar/Job Fair at the facility.

VIII. Additional Member and Guest Comments

- a. 2024 PBC Reentry Summit will take place on October 9th-11th. Four nationally-recognized keynote speakers have been solidified. Please register as soon as possible; there are only 350 registration slots available.

IX. Next Steps

- a. Recap Action Items:
 - i. Non-profit entities in the community interested in attending the capacity building workshops in September should register with Public Safety staff.
 - ii. Move forward with filing the updated Resolution for approval from the Board of County Commissioners.
 - iii. Move forward with finalizing the budget and contracts to support the implementation of the SCA CSCR Grant.
 - iv. Schedule special meeting to review and approve comments for HUD through the Housing Subcommittee.
- b. 2024 Meeting Dates: August 28, October 23

X. Adjournment