



PALM BEACH COUNTY'S PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

Palm Beach County Reentry Task Force

Full Reentry Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, August 28, 2024

CareerSource PBC

Summary Meeting Minutes

Voting Members & Guests Present:

Vice Chair, Greg Starling, Department of Juvenile Justice

Alfonso Starling, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office

Adam Davis, PBC Library

Alicia Reno, Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network

Atensia Bowen, NAMI PBC

Dr. Barbara Gerlock, Past Chair of CAB

Bishop Leonard Neal, Federation of Families

Carla Randle, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach

Dr. Cassandra Atkin-Plunk, Florida Atlantic University

Charmin Anderson, Sago Palm, Florida Dept. of Corrections

Craig Spatara, GEO Group

Cristina Lucier, The Lord's Place

Darnel Paul, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach

Edward Castleton, Jack Brewer Foundation

Ivan Blanco, Jack Brewer Foundation

Jennifer Ferriol, City of West Palm Beach

Jennifer Loyless, Office of the Public Defender

Jerome Cox, Sago Palm, Florida Dept. of Corrections

Jessica Vann, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach

Pastor Linquetta Jolly, Foundcare

Julia Dattolo, CareerSource of Palm Beach County

Kevin Jones, City of West Palm Beach Police Department

Kiera Hester, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach

Lakiesha Linen-Neal, Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network

Latroy Monroe, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach

Laura Waterman, Gulfstream Goodwill Industries (Virtual)

Lauren Klemowich, PBC Supervisor of Elections

Melanie Magill, CareerSource of Palm Beach County

Michelle Pereira, The Lord's Place

Nancy McConnell, Rebel Recovery

Orie Bullard, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach

Oswald Newbold, PBC Reentry Alumni

Paul Delucca

Richard Sena, Palm Beach County Attorney's Office

Richard Sena, PBC County Attorney

Rosalind Murray, PBC Criminal Justice Commission

Sean Jackson, Jack Brewer Foundation (Virtual)

Shania Green, Florida Atlantic University

Shahzia Jackson, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office

Shakia Richards, Sago Palm, Florida Dept. of Corrections

Shania Grant, Florida Atlantic University

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

Teleetha Haslem, Sago Palm, Florida Dept. of Corrections

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

Vanessa Klein, The Lord's Place

William Freeman, People of Purpose

Reverend Willie Lawrence, GAMA

Voting Members Absent:

Chair, Carey Haughwout, Office of the Public Defender

Judge Jeffrey Gillen, 15th Judicial Circuit

Alan Johnson, State Attorney's Office

Dr. Angela Bess, School District of PBC

Derek Gibson, Florida Department of Corrections

PBC Public Safety Department Staff Present:

Arlene Griffiths, PBC Public Safety Department

Bridget Rodriguez, PBC Public Safety Department

Cathy Wolf, PBC Public Safety Department

Jessica Hidalgo, PBC Public Safety Department

Les'Unique Hessing, PBC Public Safety Department (Virtual)

Marvin Blaise, PBC Public Safety Department

Nicole Bishop, PBC Public Safety Department

Randi Taylor, PBC Public Safety Department

Ron Dixon, PBC Public Safety Department

Shantel Drayton, PBC Public Safety Department

Shirlon St. Amour, PBC Public Safety Department

Stephanie Sejnoha, PBC Public Safety Department

Todd Bonlarron, Palm Beach County Administration

Yenefer Cerda, PBC Public Safety Department

- 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 Reentry Summit Report and CareerSource Grant Award Update. Motion by Kevin Jones; seconded by Nancy McConnell.
- III. **Approval and/or Corrections to the 5/22/2024 Meeting Minutes**

Minutes approved without corrections. Motion by Kevin Jones; seconded by Nancy McConnell.
- IV. **Approval and/or Corrections to the 6/6/2024 Special Meeting Minutes**

Minutes approved without corrections. Motion by Kevin Jones; seconded by Nancy McConnell.
- V. **Chairman's Comments, Chair, Gregory Starling**

Reminder to all voting members to utilize their comment cards for general feedback, questions, and any other requests of the Reentry Task Force.
- VI. **Old Business/Follow-Up Items**
 - i. **Subcommittee Highlights**
 1. **Employment, Training, & Education, Julia Dattolo**

Last meeting was held on-site at Covanta to tour and discuss employment opportunities for reentry individuals. A presentation from Palm Beach State College Admissions Office provided information on financial aid assistance and admissions processes relevant to individuals returning from incarceration. Implemented data collection process to assess employment attainment and sustainability with those providing services to reentry clients.
 2. **Faith, Kevin Jones**

Held Father's Day event at Sago Palm in June. Participated in games, spoken word, and discussion with the men at this facility. Group is looking into developing an event to serve incarcerated youth within the local detention or residential facility. Next steps include creating a tangible, one-page outreach document to engage other faiths in the community.
 3. **Housing, Jennifer Ferriol**

Refining the goal of the subcommittee to focus on implementation of a pilot housing proposal through West Palm Beach which allocates about \$100,000 towards housing individuals returning from incarceration in PBC. Working on analyzing new unauthorized sleeping and camping legislation and assessing the impacts on formerly incarcerated individuals in PBC.
 4. **Sexual Offenses, Arlene Griffiths**

Vice Chair Judge Jeffrey Gillen has transferred to juvenile court, and will no longer be involved. Subcommittee is working to prepare a presentation for

the Judiciary on topics related to individuals with sexual offenses. Group is also prioritizing development of documents and methods of bringing awareness to and advocating for important topics to improve outcomes for clients.

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

Subcommittee is working to utilize data to drive the goals of subcommittees and the Reentry Task Force as a whole. Request to the RTF to ensure all subcommittees have representation at this subcommittee, and that they are identifying major issues that the subcommittee can assist in advocating for.

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

The subcommittee continues to work on the Closer to Home Initiative through conversations with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Secretary and taking action steps to memorialize partnership for provision of reentry services for locally incarcerated youth.

7. **Behavioral Health, Ron Dixon**

Subcommittee is mapping all the behavioral health resources in the community. Community conversations are a priority and the first one will occur in the Glades. More information forthcoming.

b. **Reentry Task Force Resolution, Jessica Hidalgo, Manager of Criminal Justice Programs, PBC Public Safety Department**

This Resolution is under review by County Administration at this time, and will not be on the agenda for the Board of County Commissioners at in September. Update to be provided at next meeting.

c. **Non-Profit Capacity Building Workshops**

PBC Public Safety Department is funding workshops that are designed to bring training to non-profit organizations in the community. The goal is to ensure training is accessible to all organizations interested in developing their skills in board governance, fundraising, and program evaluation, ensuring there is equity in accessing this training for all entities, regardless of size, scope, and capacity. Registration to attend is may be accessed on PBC Library's website or email PSD-Reentry@pbc.gov for more information.

VII. New Business

a. **Housing Subcommittee, Florida House Bill 1365, Jennifer Ferriol**

New legislation for unauthorized sleeping and camping went into effect on July 1, 2024 and will impacts unhoused individuals in the community. There is a need to ensure that the RTF is gathering information from all municipalities on how they are responding to the changes and the impact that this legislation will have across the County. West Palm Beach is working on developing documentation that helps share information and bring awareness to these changes, but noted that they will adhere to the law. Subcommittee plans to reach out to the municipalities and county to determine their process for handling this legislation to ensure the avoidance of an incarceration cycle for individuals struggling with homelessness. Members were asked to share ideas/information they think should be included in the communication to municipalities.

Vice Chair Starling commented on the challenges ahead including individuals who will chose not to accept whatever service may become available, but that this forces the

community to implement a plan. He stated that a lot more discussion will take place around this issue and that it will be resource driven, and advised the Subcommittee to move forward with plans as presented. Jennifer Loyless noted that the Public Defender's Office will be happy to help the Subcommittee navigating the legal aspects, but pointed to the upcoming elections saying that a decision in this regard will likely not happen until January 2025. Nancy McConnell advised about Rebel Recovery's program and the challenges as it all comes down to housing. She further highlighted the cost of incarcerating people vs providing assistance with resources needed. Jennifer Ferriol inquired about Community Court for low-level offenses, saying that the City is exploring this avenue.

b. Sustainability & Data Subcommittee Annual Data Presentation

Jennifer Loyless gave a historical background on the Reentry Task Force's strategic planning, requests for data, and prioritization of utilize data to drive reentry goals. Jessica Hidalgo presented on adult reentry data pertaining to jail and prison referrals and enrollments, and Randi Taylor presented on data pertaining to youth reentry clients. Discussed that the RTF would like to see this data as regularly as possible, and possibly include some data on zip codes and behavioral health needs. Jessica also shared information about other outreach ideas that staff are working on. Members provided feedback in terms of the type and frequency of the report they would love to see.

c. CareerSource's Award of Non-Custodial Employment Grant, Melanie Magill, CareerSource PBC

Commented on a Grant for \$434,201 to serve 50 non-custodial parents that supports individuals paying child support, citizens of and prepared to work within the US. Grant will assist with employment assistance, support services, and other guidance through the employment process for this target population. Duration is one year, and funds are through state allocations.

VIII. Updates

a. Sago Palm Reentry Center

i. Facility Update, Jerome Cox, Assistant Warden, Sago Palm Reentry Center

Reported that eight individuals recently graduated college with their Associates Degree in Culinary and Hospitality. The Florida Department of Correction's (FDC) contract with Palm Beach State College is pending, but they are hoping this will be finalize soon. FDC has also partners with Florida International University (FIU) to offer a construction class that will also provide participants with tools that is theirs to keep so they can be used in the jobs they are trained for. Mr. Cox commented on plans for additional contracts for post-secondary and vocational training through PBSC, FIU, and other potential partners. He also discussed exploring software for job placements, incorporating men into programming for parenting support, along with encouraging additional community supports, such as providing clothing for the men as they are released.

ii. Jack Brewer Foundation

Organization is Christian-based that is providing services on financial literacy, basic needs, skill-building, housing assistance and other supports for individuals who are returning to PBC. Participants must engage in the programming, and organization is currently serving 59 PBC adults post-release which include 12 men in housing.

Discussed that they are planning to rollout services to the local jail, and any information on the forecast of the numbers and needs of individuals returning from the jail would be helpful. The program hires formerly incarcerated men who wants to give back.

IX. 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 with over 25 specialized breakout sessions. Over 200 individuals have registered to date. Special thanks was extended to please register as soon as possible on the PBC Reentry Summit website. There are only 350 registration slots available.

X. Next Steps

- a. Recap Action Items:
 - i. CareerSource PBC will provide documentation outlining their new grant award and what the impending referral process will be.
 - ii. Members and attendees will provide any feedback or requests on data, goals, or other topics via their comment cards, or email PSD-Reentry@pbc.gov, and responses will be addressed prior to next meeting.
 - iii. Will need to prepare 2025 meeting schedule for review and approval at the next meeting.
 - iv. Follow up with Jack Brewer to discuss their role in expanding their scope to serve adults at the jail and what the numbers and needs of those individuals may look like.
- b. 2024 Meeting Dates: October 23

XI. Adjournment