

M I N U T E S

MONDAY, May 11, 2009

PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL CALL FULL COMMITTEE MEETING

McEaddy Conference Room
12th Floor, 301 N. Olive Avenue
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Members Present:

James Barr
Barbara Cheives
Max Davis
Mike Driscoll
Douglas Duncan
George Elmore
Rolando Garcia
Carey Haughwout
Matt Immler
Feirmon Johnson
Randolph K. Johnson, Sr.
William Kramer
Kathleen Kroll
Marti LaTour
Wesley Lauer
Michael McAuliffe
Martin Millar
Marianne Rantala
Gerald Richman
Maria Sachs
William Stern
Lee Waring

Art Johnson (ex officio Exec. Committee)

Guests Attending:

Cristy Altaro, Court Administration
Cerina Anderson, Delray Beach Police Department/CCR
Alex Bess, Dominion Ministries
Peter Blanc, Court Administration (Incoming Chief Judge -7/1/09)
Jay Bonner, Circuit 15 Board
Robert Bozzone, CARP
Barbara Dawicke, Court Administration
Anthony Flowers, Department of Juvenile Justice
Chris Harris, Magellan Behavioral Health
Wanda Joiner, Pride Integrated Services
Jim Kelly, PBC School District

Members Absent:

Moses Baker
Rosalyn Baker
Stephen Barborini
Joseph Bernadel
Sharon Bock
Ric Bradshaw
Delsa Bush
Karen Marcus
Luis Perez
Debra Robinson
Carmen Veneziano

Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender Office
Deborah Ndione, Children's Coalition
Karen Perry, N.O.P.E. Task Force
Captain J. Sims, Delray Beach Police Department
Michelle Spangenberg, Court Administration
Craig Spatara, West Palm Beach Weed & Seed
Louis Tomeo, Clerk & Comptroller

Staff Present:

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director
Arlene Burton, Administrative Secretary
Wayne English, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst
Katherine Hatos, Criminal Justice Analyst
Damir Kukec, Research & Planning Manager
Jenise Link, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst
Rosalind Murray, Program Development Specialist
Glenna Nowalk, Clerical Specialist
Brenda Oakes, Youth Violence Prevention Planning Coordinator
Mike Szakacs, Financial Analyst II
Becky Walker, Criminal Justice Programs Manager

- I. Chairman Barr called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m. Welcome was extended to members and guests, and thanked all for attending.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.
- III. Chairman Barr invited guests to introduce themselves.
- IV. The agenda was unanimously approved.
- V. The minutes of the April 27, 2009 full commission meeting were unanimously approved.
- VI. Under Chairman's Comments, Chairman Barr:
 - A. Congratulated Chief Delsa Bush on earning her Doctorate in Global Leadership and Education from Lynn University. Chief Bush was not in attendance at the meeting.
 - B. Congratulated Inda Spencer of Riviera Beach Weed and Seed on the achievement of Jazlyn Lovely (2nd Grader at Washington Elementary) from her Weed and Seed community who was selected as a winner in the 2009 National Poster Contest hosted by the Community Capacity Development Office (CCDO) in the US Attorney's Office. Another winner from South Florida came from Homestead Weed and Seed Community. The winners will receive a \$500.00 gift card and a Certificate of Excellence. They will also be recognized at the CCDO National Conference in Tampa in July 2009, and copies of their poster will be available at the Conference.
- VII. Executive Director's Comments
There were no Executive Director's comments.
- VIII. Business Consent item(s)

There were no business consent items.

IX. Old Business

There were no old business items.

- X. Under New Business, Mr. Michael Rodriguez, Executive Director provided a summary of the Finance Committee's meeting held on Thursday, May 7, 2009. He noted that Mr. Vince Bonvento, Assistant County Administrator was also in attendance at the meeting and he provided an update of the county's budget.

Mr. Rodriguez reported that the County was seeking to make up at least \$60M in their budget from last year, noting however that if the millage rate does not go back to the roll back amount, it could require more than the \$60M. As it relates to the CJC's budget, Mr. Rodriguez said that Administration was made aware of the fact that 10% of the Byrne/JAG grants could be used for administrative costs, which he said Administration intended to use to offset ad valorem cost to the CJC. He reported that at the Finance Committee's meeting, the CJC negotiated with Administration and agreed that if CJC funded the Youth Violence Prevention (YVP) Project in its entirety, Administration would not take the 10% from CJC for administrative costs.

Finance Committee's Chair, Mr. William Kramer outlined the revised grant allocation as recommended by the Finance Committee. He noted that the committee continues to make adjustments as it seeks to identify opportunities for cash and revenues as the budgetary constraints become more real.

Mr. Kramer noted that in prior budgets, the CJC assumed that the county would pick up \$900,000 of the YVP's budget, but that this was no longer a possibility due to the serious financial stress being experienced by the county. The county, he said, sees the Byrne Grant funds as an opportunity and a responsibility for the CJC to use those funds for purposes such as the YVP. As such, the Finance Committee decided to allocate \$1,691,582 to the YVP project, and the remaining amount be distributed among other programs as outlined in the recommendation presented.

Mr. Kramer highlighted the need for the CJC to do more monitoring and research into the effectiveness of the programs funded by the CJC. He also pointed out that the contracts will require the organizations receiving funds, to provide data on an ongoing basis. He further proposed that if the organizations do not cooperate as specified, then CJC staff should cease funding of those projects.

Mr. Waring inquired about the longevity of the programs that are to be funded in the first year with no funding for the following years, noting that the CJC could be assuming additional responsibilities that may not materialize.

Chairman Barr noted that although the programs are new in the CJC's budget, they are not all new programs. He said that some are ongoing programs that have had successes and are able to continue operating.

Mr. Kramer cited the need for organizations to look internally for resources to ensure continuity of their programs. He commented on his attendance at a recent Weed and Seed community meeting where the message was clearly sent regarding the need for internal resources.

Public Defender Carey Haughwout inquired about the details of the recommended programs since she was not familiar with all of them, and questioned the CJC's ability to vote on programs of which they have little or no information on.

Executive Director Mr. Rodriguez noted CJC's dilemma for obtaining approval from the meeting in order to send letters to all the elected officials in order to obtain the 51% required for the CJC to proceed with the recommendation.

Ms. Haughwout further stated her concern with the CJC's use of grant funds to perform other offices' statutory responsibilities. She said this was discussed with Chief Judge Kroll as it relates to Courts, but noted that COMBAT is one such program of concern. She pointed out that re-entry is not part of the Public Defender's duties and as such she is not allowed to provide funding from her budget.

State Attorney Michael McAuliffe responded that the COMBAT positions are historically those that are taken out of the normal intake and assignment process to be more community base prosecution units, and that they integrate more directly with the community including prevention efforts.

Mr. Rodriguez read the summary for each new program and indicated the funds requested as well as information regarding the change in funding allocation for COMBAT. He also indicated from which funds the monies would be taken from.

Mr. McAuliffe suggested that the CJC include in the recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners, that each of the entities to be funded, provide specific objectives so that the CJC is able to measure their performances against those objectives. He further stated that a working group (separate from the Finance Committee) of the CJC should be established to scrutinize the objectives and be responsible for evaluating the achievements accordingly.

Dr. Art Johnson, PBC School Superintendent added that he would like to ensure that all the line items are consistent with the CJC's charter.

Mr. Kramer remarked that the CJC's charter spans the issue of prevention, apprehension and the courts system, which he said were pretty broad concepts. He said the Finance Committee tried to ensure that the recommended programs fall within the scope.

Mr. Randy Johnson inquired about the cities current and or future position with the Weed and Seed program.

Mr. Rodriguez reported that he met with the City of Riviera Beach and Delray Beach, and said that they were non-committal at this point, although in theory, they recognized the need for the cities to assume responsibility at some point.

Mr. Johnson urged the CJC to take a position regarding the funding of Weed and Seed as this discussion has been ongoing for the past year.

Dr. Johnson commented that the PBC School District is fortunate to be one of 10 school districts in the nation to be selected to receive funding over a five year period from the Gates Foundation. He said the funding stipulates that the school district must be self sufficient at the end of the five years as there is no guarantee for further funding. He said that the CJC should be working along that line in ensuring that the organizations have an understanding that they have to figure out a way to be self sufficient after the specified period of time.

Chairman Barr concurred that it is incumbent on the CJC to get the message across to these organizations as there is no certainty regarding additional funds from the CJC for the future year.

Mr. Kramer noted that the organizations were made aware of that fact. He said they recognized the value and the need for the programs and presented strong evidence to be considered for funding.

Ms. Barbara Cheives commented that the BCC informed the CJC three years ago that the YVP program would not be funded beyond three years, but noted that the CJC went back to the BCC with evidence of the value of the program and sought additional funds. She said it is expected that other programs will come back to the CJC in the same manner. She stressed the need for the CJC to work with the cities to get them at a level of independence. With regards to Mr. McAuliffe's suggestion for a CJC committee, Ms. Cheives highlighted the need for such a committee to be made up of constitutional and private sector people, and said that the CJC has to evaluate how these persons are selected.

She remarked that the CJC might have been surprised with the amount of money available to work with, and said that we should be better prepared for the process of how programs are presented to us in the future, how they are evaluated and how the proposed group/committee will work with the Finance Committee in making decisions.

Mr. Rodriguez noted that he previously discussed the establishment of an evaluation sub-committee with the Research and Planning Manager, Damir Kukec, and said he also discussed the possibility of including persons outside of the CJC for the committee. He questioned whether the CJC wanted staff to come prepare the recommendation in this regard for presentation the next CJC meeting.

Chairman Barr advised Mr. Rodriguez to proceed with the recommendation for the next meeting, and Ms. Cheives added that the evaluation has to be on both ends; evaluating the programs that the CJC funded as well as potential programs to be funded.

Ms. Haughwout recognizing the time constraints, pointed out that before the CJC provides funding it must be determined what is to be achieved, so that they can be measured, as well as to be able to measure whether it is appropriate to be funded by the CJC. She also questioned at what point the CJC should draw the line with regards to what the CJC is doing versus what somebody else could do much better in deciding what is best for social services in the community versus issues impacting criminal justice.

Representative Maria Sachs expressed her sentiments regarding the need for an evaluation committee, thinking that one was already in place. She noted that at a certain point if the programs are successful, it is likely that the CJC will not see them for more funding. She further stated that the CJC should not be funding programs with public funds unless a preliminary report on their success or failure is obtained. She said that the proposed group must also be very careful in reviewing the programs, as the county and the state are currently under serious budget pressures.

Mr. Richman commented that while all the programs sound great, he wonders whether they work or are likely to work, and noted that the CJC has a greater responsibility to the community to be able to vote intelligently. He expressed his discomfort in voting at this time.

Dr. Johnson noted that as a point of governance in public policy, he thinks that the CJC should determine what the global charter represents, while the staff provides recommendations and priorities within that global context.

Ms. Marti Latour commented on the obvious need for the CJC to tighten the current process. She recognized the work that the Finance Committee did and suggested that members

consider the recommendations of the Committee.

Mr. Rodriguez reported that all the submissions included at least preliminary outcome measurements to which the Finance Committee was privy. He noted that the CJC has the equivalent of one full time staff that does evaluation and monitoring of programs, and indicated that the number of programs have now doubled, hence his discussion with the Finance Committee for setting aside some funds to assist in this regard.

Chairman Barr said the CJC will move quickly in establishing the committee and will present recommendation to the full commission.

Mr. Rodriguez informed members of the timeline for proceeding.

Mr. Waring thanked the Finance Committee for the work done and moved the motion to accept the recommendation as presented. The motion was second by Mr. McAuliffe.

Mr. Randy Johnson opposed the motion while Ms. Haughwout abstained.

XI. CJC Initiatives/Updates

There were no CJC Initiatives or Updates.

XII. Member Comments

There were no member comments.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 a.m.