

**Public Safety Coordinating Council  
Pinellas County  
February 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

The Pinellas County Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) met at 1:59 PM on this date in the Third Floor Judicial Conference Room at the Pinellas County Justice Center, 14250 49th Street North, Clearwater, Florida.

Present

Dave Eggers, Chair, County Commissioner  
Adrian Arnold, representing Sheriff Bob Gualtieri  
Bruce Bartlett, State Attorney  
Dianne Clarke, Operation PAR, Inc.  
Chris Dudley, Department of Corrections  
Michael Jalazo, Pinellas Ex-Offender Re-Entry Coalition (PERC)  
Jennifer Parker, representing Chief Judge Anthony Rondolino  
Gregory Williams, representing Public Defender Sara Mollo

Not Present

Bob Gualtieri, Pinellas County Sheriff  
Paul Levine, County Judge  
Anthony Rondolino, Chief Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit  
Sara Mollo, Public Defender

Others Present

Gabriela Piloseno, Pinellas County Justice Coordination  
Jackie Civello, Pinellas County Justice Coordination  
Michelle Ardabily, Court Administration  
Karen Bacher, WestCare Florida-Gulfcoast, Inc.  
Denise Bjurholm, National Alliance on Mental Illness Pinellas County, Inc.  
Laurie Elbow, Suncoast Center  
Melissa Fuller, Department of Juvenile Justice  
Julie Jackson, National Alliance on Mental Illness Pinellas County, Inc.  
Frank Kopczynski, Pinellas County Bail Bond Association  
Jo Dee Nicosia, National Alliance on Mental Illness Pinellas County, Inc.  
Justin Shea, National Alliance on Mental Illness Pinellas County, Inc.  
Matthew Tolnay, Pinellas County Attorney's Office  
Ari Weisberg, Public Defender's Office  
Katie Poviones, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk  
Other interested individuals

## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF PSCC MEMBERS**

Commissioner Eggers introduced himself as the Chair of the PSCC for the current year, welcomed those in attendance, and at his request, the members introduced themselves.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 15, 2021**

Ms. Clarke made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 15. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nicosia and carried unanimously.

## **REPORTS**

### Indicators Report

Referring to a document titled *Indicators Report, February 2022*, Ms. Piloseno reviewed jail population figures, relating that there was a 2% increase in the average daily population (ADP) from December 2021; that the ADP reflects the highest amount recorded since February of 2020; that the numbers related to various jail population categories are mostly returning to pre-pandemic levels; and that the average incarceration rate is approximately 2.9 per 1,000 residents, which is lower than in Pasco County but higher than in Hillsborough and Sarasota Counties.

In response to queries by the members, Ms. Piloseno confirmed that the ADP is trending in the direction of returning to pre-pandemic levels; and that prior to the pandemic, the jail was at an overcrowding status; whereupon, Major Arnold indicated that he would confer with administrators at the jail to get information on potential jail overcrowding trends.

### 2019 Criminal Justice Reinvestment Grant – Road to Success Expansion of PD6 Crossover Youth Program

Mr. Weisberg related that the pilot program is halfway through its three-year term; and that it is currently serving 14 youths, has previously served 26 youths, and has screened 44 youths. Thereupon, Mr. Weisberg elaborated on a success story of a young man who was supported by the program.

## **OLD BUSINESS – NONE**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### 2021 Criminal Justice Reinvestment Grant – Complex Case Reintegration Program

Ms. Piloseno explained that the program is focused on helping adults with complex behavioral health needs who are involved in the justice system; that the program will be administered in partnership with PERC and WestCare; and that the three-year award agreement for \$1.2 million is still being finalized with the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

Mr. Jalazo commented that PERC's role in the program will be to work with agencies and providers to assess and identify potential clients; that PERC will consult with WestCare to ensure that those identified fit the model for the program; and that the program will enable PERC to provide 35 participants each year with in-depth case management services and referrals to employment or development programs, where appropriate; whereupon, Ms. Bacher related that WestCare will be responsible for providing in-house mental health therapy to program participants instead of through a referral system.

Responding to queries by the members, Ms. Piloseno noted that the official starting date for the program is pending the completion of the contract with DCF; that initial hiring and planning could begin in March, with an anticipated start of enrollment for participants in May; that the intent of the program is not to divert individuals from other programs that are successful; and that clientele will be drawn from several different intercepts in the justice system, including the courts, the Public Defender's Office, Safe Harbor, and law enforcement entities.

### Juvenile Justice Citizens' Academy

Ms. Piloseno provided information regarding the County's annual Juvenile Justice Citizens' Academy that Pinellas County holds in partnership with the Department of Juvenile Justice, indicating that this year's event will take place over 10 weeks, beginning on April 5th; that the Academy will be held virtually due to the uncertainty of the pandemic; and that in-person tours of the jail and the Pinellas Juvenile Assessment Center may be scheduled as they re-open.

In response to a query by Chair Eggers, Ms. Piloseno remarked that the academy will enroll approximately 35 participants to allow for optimal engagement and the potential for in-person tours.

### Juvenile Sequential Intercept Mapping

Ms. Piloseno related that the Office of Justice Coordination receives free assistance with technical issues in the juvenile justice system from the University of South Florida (USF) through the 2019 Criminal Justice Reinvestment Grant; that USF will assist in convening a sequential intercept mapping workshop during the summer of 2022 in order for stakeholders and individuals with - experience in the juvenile justice system to discuss functioning and non-functioning processes in the system and to identify efficiencies moving forward. She noted that she will reach out to the members to inquire about participating in the workshop and to provide more information as it becomes available.

### **ROUNDTABLE/UPDATES**

Responding to a query by Mr. Shea, Ms. Piloseno indicated that she would confer with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office to obtain additional information regarding residency data in the Indicators Report.

Ms. Bjurholm provided information regarding mental health programs that the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) offers, including the Ending the Silence and Evolve programs; whereupon, Ms. Nicosia provided the members with informational documents relating to NAMI's free programs available to the community.

Mr. Jalazo discussed updates to PERC's re-entry partnerships in the Tampa Bay area and the syringe exchange program as part of a broader harm-reduction model. Ms. Clarke elaborated on pertinent state legislation, including a bill legalizing fentanyl test strips and a juvenile expungement bill that will allow 26,000 youth throughout the state to have their juvenile records expunged, with limitations for violent offenses, and brief discussion ensued.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:28 PM.