

Public Safety Coordinating Council
Pinellas County
February 5, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The Pinellas County Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) met in regular session at 2:00 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
Bruce Bartlett, State Attorney
Deanna Carey, representing Sheriff Bob Gualtieri
Dianne Clarke, Operation PAR, Inc.
Chris Dudley, Department of Corrections
Michael Jalazo, Pinellas Ex-Offender Re-Entry Coalition (PERC)
Keith Meyer, representing Chief Judge Shawn Crane
David Moran, representing Public Defender Sara Mollo
Dorothy Vaccaro, County Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit

Not Present

Shawn Crane, Chief Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit
Bob Gualtieri, Pinellas County Sheriff
Sara Mollo, Public Defender

Others Present

Karen Barfield, Central Florida Behavioral Health Network
Maxine Booker, Personal Enrichment through Mental Health Services
Nick Bridenback, Court Administration
Tim Burns, Pinellas County Human Services
Karin Butterfield, Department of Juvenile Justice
Yashira Gonzalez, Pinellas County Justice Administration
Frank Kopezynski, Pinellas County Bail Bond Association
Melissa Reid, Department of Juvenile Justice
Darryl Smith, Pinellas County Justice Administration
Cody Ward, Pinellas County Attorney's Office
Shirley Westfall, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk
Other interested individuals

All documents provided to the Clerk's Office have been made a part of the record.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF PSCC MEMBERS

Chair Eggers called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM and requested that those in attendance introduce themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Later in the meeting, Mr. Jalazo made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 6 and December 18, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moran and carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Indicators Report

Referring to a document titled *Indicators Report, February, 2024*, Mr. Burns reviewed jail population statistics through December 2023, relating that the average daily population (ADP) has been relatively stable since 2008-2009. In response to a query by Mr. Jalazo, he provided historical information regarding the Justice System Process Study conducted several years ago and indicated that a key initiative of the study was to determine ways to reduce the ADP, noting that its findings are still relied upon today; whereupon, he and Mr. Jalazo provided brief comments regarding the enduring significance of the study.

Mr. Burns indicated that the pre-trial felon population is increasing, which was a previous trend when the ADP was higher; and that the trend could be seen as an indicator of the speed through which pre-trial felon cases are progressing. Thereupon, discussion ensued wherein Mr. Burns indicated that he would distribute a survey to create an inventory of institutional knowledge regarding previously implemented diversion and reentry programs intended to balance the ADP; and that data in future reports would be presented differently to enhance monitoring of pre-trial felon cases alongside ADP.

Department of Juvenile Justice – Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) Data Report

Ms. Butterfield highlighted information shared in previous JDC reports, noting that the report has not been provided to the Council for a few years; and that a report was not prepared for today's meeting, as feedback is needed regarding the kind of information that the members would like to see included in future reports; whereupon, brief discussion ensued wherein the members provided feedback.

Criminal Justice Reinvestment Grants

COMPLEX CASE REINTEGRATION PROJECT

Mr. Jalazo reviewed program statistics, noting that transportation for participants has been a challenge; and that efforts are being made to increase the number of participants, as staffing is no longer an issue; whereupon, in response to a query by Mr. Bridenback, Mr. Jalazo discussed current referral sources for the program.

OLD BUSINESS

Reinvestment Grant Proposal Updates

Mr. Burns provided an update regarding the grant proposal, indicating that the Board of County Commissioners approved the project; and that staff has been working with other stakeholders to complete the grant application, which will be submitted by the end of February.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 PSCC Priorities Discussion

Ms. Gonzalez indicated that while there are two vacancies on the Council, there is no established procedure for filling them; whereupon, she noted that Ms. Clarke's seat will also be vacant soon.

In response to comments and a query by Mr. Burns, Attorney Ward clarified that while the decision for appointments to the Council ultimately lies with the Chair, the bylaws do not address the process leading up to the Chair's decision. Thereupon, discussion ensued regarding the nomination process and potentially reincorporating the attendance of a representative from the National Alliance on Mental Illness at future meetings. Chair Eggers requested that the issue be brought back for discussion at a future meeting.

Following Ms. Clarke's nomination of Jim Miller, Operation PAR, Inc., Chair Eggers related that Mr. Miller's nomination will be recorded and addressed during the discussion which will take place at the next meeting; and that individuals should be made aware that they have been nominated for a vacancy on the Council prior to that discussion; whereupon, Mr. Jalazo suggested that formal nominations be made at the next meeting, which would allow ample time for nominees to be notified.

PSCC Website & Member Packets

Ms. Gonzalez, with input from Mr. Burns, referred to the proposed welcome packet for new Council members and related that it contains the Council's bylaws, history, and mission and vision statements, which will also help inform designees of their eligibility to vote.

Noting that the PSCC does not have a webpage on the Pinellas County website, Ms. Gonzalez referenced a draft of a proposed PSCC webpage. Mr. Burns described the content of the webpage and requested feedback from the members regarding additional information that they would like included on the webpage.

ROUNDTABLE/UPDATES

Mr. Burns indicated that Ms. Gonzalez is the new staff facilitator for PSCC meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 PM.