



## CRIMINAL JUSTICE TEAM MEETING

November 13, 2017

Present:

Lawrence Certain, Christine Wegner, Peria Duncan, Carali McLean, Nathan Crabbe, Miriam Elliott, Sam & Jay Wesley, Shannon Cline, Barbara Glass, Bennett Brummer, Jeff Kilpatrick, Becky Johnson, Robbie Bryant, Jhody Polk

**New Members:** Barbara Glass & Bennett Brummer are with the League of Women Voters & are working on establishing a Community Bail Fund which would be a 3rd party source of money to provide bail for poor people. They plan to seek grant funds to get this started. Sam noted that they would have to be licensed as bail agents to do this & he offered to help with this. Jhody Polk & Robbie Bryant joined Becky Johnson who attended the previous meeting. They are with the National Council for Incarcerated & Formerly Incarcerated Women & Girls. They now have office space at United Church of Gainesville. They support participatory defense in which the loved ones & others in the support system are more actively involved with the accused to provide support during the judicial process, assist the public defender, etc. Jhody, who has served time her self, has attended trainings & the Council hopes to provide trainings locally. The Council is also interested in a bail fund so they & the LWV hope to work together on this.

**Report on Nov 2 Meeting with State Attorney Bill Cervone:** Members of the Bail Reform sub-committee & others met with Cervone. They focused on the need to revise/amend the Bond Schedule Administrative Order. Mr Cervone has concerns about the current schedule & with he & Stacy Scott behind changes we hope to convince the Chief Judge. Bennett noted that the rules of procedure require the least obstacle to release (non-monetary bonds) so more education is also needed.

**Civil Citations:** We revisited this topic, part of our Spring 2017 recommendations, because no bail is needed if people can be issued civil citations instead of criminal charges. Peria reported on action on this issue in the County, she recently gave a presentation to the County Commission. The State Attorney is also working on a Pre-Arrest program so it is hoped all these ideas can coalesce, tailored to our local needs, to come up with a plan the community will support. Peria also shared re 2 grants received--one to help organize data, the other for technical assistance to address Disproportionate Minority Contact. Sam noted that we need to remember the victim & be sure they are considered & protected.

**Central Receiving Facility/Ride Along Mental Health Counselor:** Our discussions to date were reviewed for the new members & the challenge of funding these initiatives. Carali did some research & gave us a handout to aid in our future discussions.

**Diversions Courts:** Currently it is the State Attorney, in consultation with the Victim, who decides which defendants are referred to Diversionary Courts. We discussed wanting to expand this to have more involved in making this decision & not just a single gatekeeper.

**Implicit Bias:** We discussed this briefly but it was pointed out that more training in this area was already a recommendation in the spring.

**Legislation:** Sam noted he is watching developments on an electronic monitoring bill in the FL Legislature.

**GNV4ALL Recommendations:** We will soon need to finalize our recommendations so we need to get focused on those. Christine asked that we revisit, at our next meeting, the Less Lethal Weapon issue since we have recently spent so much time on the bail reform issue. Miriam shared, for the benefit of new members, that our team is charged with making recommendations but not necessarily charged with implementing them. We hope community groups will embrace the ideas & help move them forward, the City & County pays attention & has backed our ideas, and James Lawrence, as GNV4ALL Director, does outreach & keeps the recommendations in the forefront of those in the community who can help make these ideas happen, etc. At the teams request Lawrence will ask James about providing a status report regarding the progress of all the teams' recommendations. Additionally we discussed how to strengthen implementation. The need for progress reports & goals/yardsticks to be identified at each of our Criminal Justice meetings.

Minutes prepared by Miriam Welly Elliott