

INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL MINUTES

October 26, 2006

LOCATION: 140 West Flagler Street, Conference Room 908
Miami, Florida 33130

PANEL MEMBERS PRESENT

Jorge Reynardus, Esq., Chairperson
Julia Dawson, Esq., 1st Vice Chairperson
Moiez Tapia, Ph.D. 2nd Vice Chairperson
Michael Band, Esq.
Arcie Ewell
Glenn Falk, Esq.
Doris Shellow

MEMBERS ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION

Julie C. Ferguson, Esq.
Joseph Lopez, Esq.

MEMBERS ABSENT WITHOUT NOTIFICATION

PANEL STAFF PRESENT

Eduardo I. Diaz, Ph.D., Executive Director
Carol Boersma, Executive Assistant to the Director
Fernando L. Robreño, Conflict Resolution Specialist

COUNTY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES PRESENT: Kenneth Drucker, Esq., Assistant County Attorney; Chief Mary-Ann Puig, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation (MDCR) Professional Compliance; Investigator Vickie Bright, MDCR; Sgt. Jacqueline Howard, MDCR; Sgt. David Courson, MDCR; Sgt. Daniel Torres, MDCR .

AUDIENCE: Don Marsh, City of Miami Civilian Investigative Panel (CIP)

Agenda Item #1) Call to Order. Mr. Reynardus called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM and asked staff to call roll.

Agenda Item #2) Approval and adoption of the minutes. Mr. Band made a motion to adopt the minutes. Seconded by Ms. Shellow, motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3) IRP Complaint A 2003.331 Craig v. Miami-Dade Corrections Department (MDCR). Mr. Robreño presented the complaint to the Panel.

Ms. Dawson made a motion to add a second Recommendation that MDCR install video cameras throughout their facilities to aid in investigations of complaints. Dr. Tapia seconded the motion.

Ms. Dawson expressed concerns that the Correctional officers involved were able to view the witness statements prior to giving their own. Ms. Dawson asked Chief Puig to provide her with the state statute that addresses that concern. Chief Puig stated it is Title X, sections 112.532 and 112.533, also known as the Officer's Bill of Rights.

Dr. Tapia made a motion to adopt the Findings and Recommendations as amended by Ms. Dawson. Ms. Dawson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Diaz informed the Panel that the County Manager has selected the new Chief of MDCR Timothy Ryan, to be approved by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC).

Ms. Dawson made a motion to have the IRP Staff compile the list of Recommendations made to MDCR within the past 1-3 years and meet with the new Director of MDCR to introduce him to the IRP and discuss the Recommendations. Dr. Tapia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #4) IRP Power Point Presentation – DEFERRED.

Agenda Item #5) Oral Report from National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) Conference Participants. Dr. Diaz stated the conference was excellent and the NACOLE website has pod-casts from the different sessions. Dr. Diaz informed the Panel that he was elected to be President-elect of NACOLE.

Ms. Dawson stated the conference was worthwhile and very informative. Ms. Dawson stated the conference showed ways to deal with “service oriented” complaints in ways that would free the Panel to deal with the more serious complaints. Ms. Dawson also informed the Panel how the oversight entity and police in Northern Ireland work together in resolving issues and complaints. Ms. Dawson stated that the NACOLE Board proposed a Code of Ethics that would professionalize the civilian oversight field, parts of which she did not support given insufficient reference to the role of community volunteers as Panel members.

Mr. Band stated how surprised he was in the aggressiveness of the other Panels, such as responding to police shootings. Mr. Band stated the sharing of ideas and information was very beneficial.

Agenda Item #6) Executive Director’s Report. Dr. Diaz informed the panel that there are openings in the Panel and that Ms. Dawson has agreed to be considered for re-nomination by the League of Women Voters. Dr. Diaz stated the Community Relations Board’s nominations went before the BCC but only Commissioner Seijas voted and now must again go before the entire Board. Dr. Diaz also stated that Dr. Tapia’s term is up in November and his vacancy will be filled at the November Panel meeting addressing Panel elections. Dr. Tapia stated he wished to be considered by the Panel.

Dr. Diaz stated that MDPD has acknowledged the Panel’s commendation of Lt. Garry Jeanniton for participating in the entire IRP process. Dr. Diaz also stated that MDPD responded to the recommendation regarding MDPD Legal Bulletin 95-4 “Peddlers and Vendors.” Dr. Diaz informed the Panel that MDPD will continue to enforce the ordinance as before but will work with the County Attorney’s Office to reword the language in the ordinance.

Dr. Diaz stated the Panel’s budget was approved for next year.

Dr. Diaz updated the Panel on the progress of the new international oversight network that is being constructed. Dr. Diaz also informed the Panel that he made a presentation at the CACOLE Conference in Vancouver and it should be available on their website shortly.

Agenda Item #6) Adjourn. Dr. Tapia made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Dawson. Motion passed unanimously.