

Okaloosa County Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC)
Regular Meeting
Thursday November 7, 2024

Present:

Commissioner Paul Mixon
April McDaniel, Major of Corrections
Craig Coffey, Deputy County Administrator – Operations
Larry McFarland, Bridgeway Center, Inc.
Kelly Stone, Bridgeway Center, Inc.
Andrea Oliver
Michele Burns, CareerSource Okaloosa Walton
Kelli Huckabee, Pre-Trial Services
Tricia Fagan, YesCare Okaloosa County
Susan Priddy, Health Services Administrator
Maria Everton, BCC Clerk
Samantha Cutsinger, Legislative Aide

Location:

Okaloosa County Courthouse, Board Chambers, Crestview, Florida

Minutes prepared by Maria Everton

Commissioner Mixon called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

1. Approve Minutes

The August 8, 2024 minutes were approved as presented by the majority.

2. Old Business

None.

3. Jail Population/Statistical Report: Q & A

The Jail Population/Statistical report was provided to the council via email. No questions were asked.

4. Inmate Programs Update (informational only) – ~~Itza Andrade and Mellony Kuester~~ Lt. Andrea Oliver

Lt. Oliver said there are currently ten (10) programs in progress inside the jail with 307 participants and 30 individuals on the waitlist. Programs include:

- Celebrate Recovery

- Sexual Assault
- Yoga
- Live Your Best Life
- Emerald Coast Life Center
- Alcoholics/Narcotics Anonymous
- Anger Management

There are other programs being offered utilizing outside organizations for rehabilitation homes which include:

- Project Hope
- Phoenix House
- Haven House
- Oxford House
- Saving Grace
- Path of Grace
- Humble House
- Teen Challenge

48 individuals have been accepted and 41 are pending.

5. Pre-Trial Information – Kelli Huckabee

Ms. Huckabee said the Pre-Trial Statistics were emailed out prior to the meeting. She then said Pre-Trial is transitioning to a new program – the same program as the Clerk’s Office. They are also working on an interface with the jail.

6. New Business (informational only)

a. POST Jail Visits - Tricia Fagan

Tricia Fagan said a meeting was recently hosted between Bridgeway and Ems to discuss the Post Overdose Support Team (POST). This is a collaborative effort between Bridgeway, Law Enforcement and EMS to follow up with a person 72 hours after an initial response to an overdose. During the meeting, it was discussed how the team could conduct these follow up meetings in the jail for those who become incarcerated during the 72-hour window. There have been 5 POST visits at the jail to date.

b. Public Transportation from the Jail – Major April McDaniel

Major McDaniel said Chief Weeks engaged with Tyone Parker, Transit Director, about the potential of having a public transportation stop located near the jail. Chief Weeks suggested a covered stop at the vacant lot east of the jail parking lot. That suggestion was well received by Mr. Parker. Mr. Parker advised that he was

in the process of revising the north end routes and would coordinate with the jail staff when the routes were determined.

Currently, the facility provides bus tickets upon request to released inmates. The bus tickets may be redeemed for ride to get to south end of the county. The Transit Department collects the tickets and bills the jail for the cost. Year to date, 314 tickets have been redeemed. Individuals seeking to make use of this resource must walk from the jail to Crestview City Hall, crossing the highway, and traversing through neighborhoods and business districts to catch the bus.

Current pick-up times from Crestview City Hall are 6:20 a.m., 9:45 a.m., 10:20 am., 1:35 p.m., and 2:20 p.m. Individuals must be at the pick-up location by 2:20 p.m., otherwise they will have to wait until the following morning.

Mr. McFarland made comments about bus pickup time changes at One Hopeful Place.

c. Current Staffing – Lt. Andrea Oliver

Lt. Oliver said there are currently nine (9) vacancies – one (1) includes a K-9 position. There any individuals going through the application process. She then said she is hopeful the vacancies will be filled soon.

d. Jail Management System (JMS) Update – Major April McDaniel

Major McDaniel said the jail is still on track with the transition. Weekly meetings are conducted with Pro Phoenix. She has regular communication with Florida Department of Law Enforcement about Criminal Justice Data Transparency and the JMS transition endeavor. The timeline for go live is June 2025.

e. New Jail Update – Craig Coffey, Deputy County Administrator

Mr. Coffey said the County has selected a consultant. The first task order has also been signed for data gathering, surveying, etc. The County is still working on the physical site for the new jail. Mr. Coffey will begin working with the jail staff after the holidays.

f. Request from Crestview City Manager (informational only) – Commissioner Paul Mixon

Commissioner Mixon introduced a letter from Tim Bolduc, Crestview City Manager. The letter addresses issues with transportation for released individuals from the County Jail. Commissioner Mixon expressed his concern about putting money into infrastructure for a bus stop east of the jail, as there will be new jail built in the future. He made some suggestions to where a bus stop could be placed. He then said the County is faced with a challenge in regard to homeless

individuals who, for example, get arrested in order to have shelter from the cold. A solution is needed.

Commissioner Mixon presented a calendar for the 2025 PSCC meetings, to include dates, times, and locations. The calendar will be publicly noticed. No objections.

7. Public Comments

Mr. McFarland introduced Kelly Stone, LMHC. She recently started with Bridgeway. Bridgeway was recently awarded a 5-year Federal grant for the treatment for individuals experiencing homelessness. The grant provides outreach therapeutic services where the individuals are located. Bridgeway will have two (2) teams inclusive of a therapist and a case manager for each end of the County.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.