



Okaloosa County Public Safety Coordinating Council

Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting: August 18, 2016 12:00 PM

Courthouse Annex Extension, Fort Walton Beach

Public Safety Coordinating Council Members

Present	Name	Agency
X	Carolyn Ketchel	Board of County Commissioners
X	Stefan W. Vaughn	Chief Corrections Officer
X	Judge Brown	Circuit Judge
X	Judge Grinsted	County Judge
	Jay Jones	Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Designee
X	Bill Bishop	Assistant State Attorney
	Tom Murphy	Assistant Public Defender
		Circuit Administrator, Florida Department of Corrections, Probation and Parole Services
x	Julie Gaither	
	Kelli Huckabee	Pretrial Services
		Judicial Corrections Services, County Probation Provider
	Tina Ferland (Ms. Davis)	

Other Attendees:

Paul Farnsworth, Department of Corrections
Tammy Matthews, Department of Corrections
Susan Priddy, Health Services Administrator, Corizon Health Services
Mary Sollenberger, Clerk of Court Office
Valerie Broxson, Court Administration
Daniel Cobbs, Bridgeway Center, Inc.
J. D. Peacock, Clerk of Court
Steve Harker, Under Sheriff, Okaloosa Sheriff's Office
Laurie Keller-Lithgow, Okaloosa Sheriff's Office
Matthew Harrison, Okaloosa Sheriff's Office

Meeting opened at 12:03 pm.

Welcome:

Minutes

1. a. June minutes were approved as sent.
2. **Old Business**
 - a. Mr. Peacock provided an update on the cashless bond project. He has a meeting scheduled with the vender and the jail within the next two month to finalize the details. The benefits of the program include getting inmates released from

custody quicker, cash will be collected up front to clear collections, a possible reduction in cash bonds collected at the jail which reduces the cash transfer process to the bank, and increased efficiency.

- b. Ms. Gaither will provide information on the VOP process at the next meeting.

3. Jail Population Report

- a. Mr. Farnsworth discussed the statistics. Inmate population is fluctuating between 760 and 810. All types of cases are leading to the increase, to include drug, burglary, battery, theft, etc. The trend historically shows a reduction during the cold months and hope the population drops in the next few months. All parties expressed concern with the population staying higher than the operational or rated capacity and are working to evaluate helping cases flow as efficiently as possible. The contract to have an outside source conduct a study has not been finalized.

4. Pretrial Services Report

- a. No discussion of submitted statistics.

5. New Business

- a. Chief Vaughn reported a continued review of the process and flow of paperwork to keep efficiency at its best. He reported the agency accreditation has been completed for this cycle. Chief Vaughn now looks forward to consider other project and operations for looking at what the previous Criminal Justice Study suggested to determine what continues to be relevant to better flow between arrest to jail to court to prison or probation. He will be meeting with judiciary to discuss if improvements are needed and could be implemented.
- b. Judge Brown noticed in the Pretrial Services report a significant increase and decrease between various months in GPS monitoring. He would like to discuss correlation in that data.
- c. Mr. Bishop stated some changes have occurred in legislature which requires attendance at first appearance so a Judge can determine when a bond is or is not warranted.
- d. Commissioner Ketchel and fellow commissioners are putting together a packet for submission for funding for the grant for the Crisis Stabilization Unit. The county was close to receiving the grant last year and hopes it will be awarded this year.
- e. In response to a question, Ms. Priddy reported the psychiatrist and medical staff can verify medications a person is needing, or has been taking prior to custody almost immediately, if able to verify through a doctor or pharmacy. The person routinely will see Dr. Saffron within two weeks. He is also on-call daily. Corizon recognizes complaints are made about inmates not receiving their medications, but it may be the inmate comes in on drugs or has not been on a certain medication for months. Judges have reported they are not seeing inmates decompensating as often as they were two to three years ago.
- f. Steve Harker was introduced as the new undersheriff. He has taken over from Don Adams. Mr. Harker was formerly with the FBI and hopes to attend future PSCC meetings.
- g. Mr. Peacock reported a decrease in his full time staffing levels. The drop has required increased efficiency as service requirements have not decreased.

Statistics have shown the reduced staffing levels have continued to work hard to keep services up to the levels expected. The reduced staffing levels requires using the best available technology to keep the budget down and service levels up. Legislation is currently considering the option of issuing only a citation for not paying a ticket, but not suspending the person's license for failure to pay. That would significantly reduce funding for the clerk's offices throughout the state. Collections of fines and fees for tickets and citation assists in covering the cost of felony case processing which has a low collections rate (average 9%). Of the fees collected, which totals approximately seventy million dollars, the clerk's office retains an average of four million for operations. The remainder is used to fund other court operations.

- h. Commissioner Ketchel reported the commissioners are considering use of the old hospital for a Crisis Stabilization Unit location. A change in the gas tax may be utilized to assist in the cost.

The next full meeting for the Public Safety Council will be September 22, 2016. Mr. Farnsworth will send an email reminders for upcoming meetings.

Meeting ended at 12:38 pm.



Carolyn Ketchel
County Commissioner
Chairperson Okaloosa County Public Safety Coordinating Council