



Okaloosa County Public Safety Coordinating Council

Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting: December 10, 2015 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	Paul Lawson	Chief Corrections Officer
	Judge Brown	Circuit Judge
x	Judge Grinsted	County Judge
x	Jay Jones	Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Designee
x	Bill Bishop	Assistant State Attorney
	Tom Murphy	Assistant Public Defender
x	Deborah Brown	Circuit Administrator, Florida Department of Corrections, Probation and Parole Services
x	Kelli Huckabee	Pretrial Services
x	Tina Ferland (Ms. Davis)	Judicial Corrections Services, County Probation Provider

Other Attendees:

Stefan Vaughn, Department of Corrections
 Paul Farnsworth, Department of Corrections
 Tammy Matthews, Department of Corrections
 Pat Hanratty, Department of Corrections
 Joseph Foley, Department of Corrections
 Susan Priddy, Corizon Health Services Administrator
 Lisa Brook, Florida Department of Corrections
 Mark Alfieri, Florida Department of Corrections
 Jack Hammontree, Florida Department of Corrections
 Laurie Keller-Lithgow, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office
 Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff
 Janice M. George, Big Bend CBC
 Paul Wallis, Department of Juvenile Justice
 Ariel Veguilla, Department of Juvenile Justice
 J. D. Peacock, Clerk of Court
 Mary Sollenberger, Clerk of Court Office
 Allison Mikel, Court Administration
 Lisa Lydston, Bridgeway Services, Inc.

Meeting opened at 12:00 pm.

Welcome:

Minutes

1. a. Attendees introduced themselves and the agency they represent.
b. October minutes were approved as sent.
2. **Old Business**
None
3. **Jail Population Report**
 - a. Mr. Farnsworth reported a slight decrease in the count of the facility at 691 from 740. Chief Lawson stated any numbers over 650 is high and crowded. The facility currently has 43 capital felonies and 2 juveniles.
4. **Pretrial Services Report**
 - a. Ms. Huckabee reviewed the pretrial statistics.
5. **New Business**
 - a. Mr. Lawson reported that two options were scheduled to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for vote but one was removed. He stated there was concern that the options would be tied together if presented at the same time. The Board approved to allow a study conducted to compare the four options in an effort to determine which is most cost effective. The consideration to purchase the neighboring property was tabled until a later time. New considerations must be made taken into account when considering jail expansion due to the Prison Rape Elimination Act and Americans with Disability Act requirements.
 - b. Sheriff Ashley presented information about the changes in the community that have affected the Sheriff's Office. The population of the county has increased while the budget for the Sheriff's Office has decreased. Violent crime has increased and media coverage has begun to frame the guilt or innocence of criminals. The Sheriff's Office has initiated the use of body cameras on officers which has reduced the amount of complaints the office receives.

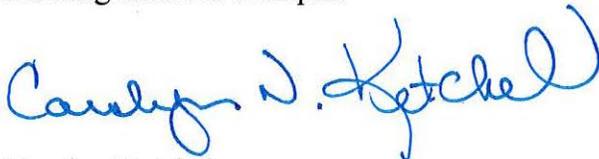
He reported the Sheriff's office has worked to shut down the "pill mills" in the county but the use of heroin has significantly increased as a result. Mental health cases has increased as well with an increase in Baker Acts. He announced the budget for the Sheriff's Office is now back up to what it was in 2007, but the population and calls are higher than in 2007.

He reported he is proud of the school resource officer program and the program recently received both local and national recognition. He is proud to announce the Sheriff's Office is now nationally accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. The Okaloosa Sheriff's Office is also accredited through the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

- c. Ms. Lydston introduced a new program being offered by Bridgeway Center. The program offers case management and mental health first aid training focusing on juveniles, but also available to adults.
- d. Ms. Ketchel announced the board approved hiring a new Public Safety Director. He is well qualified and will be starting after the first of the year as he is relocating from Pennsylvania.
- e. Mr. Peacock stated the clerk's office is considering new options for accepting bonds. Their office is reviewing a program that may allow the use of credit or debit cards for payment of bonds. It may affect the jail population.
- f. Sheriff Ashley stated a bill has been presented that will allow an exemption from public record for military personnel that are arrested. This bill will continue to be monitored as this county has a high population of military personnel.
- g. Ms. Ketchel provided her phone number for members to have access to contact her to discuss issues or to answer questions.

The next full meeting for the Public Safety Council will be February 18, 2016. Mr. Farnsworth will send an email reminders for 2016 meetings. Ms. Ketchel asked all members bring ideas for next year's meetings. The members will also be discussing the purpose of the PSCC meetings and options for appointing back-up attendees for voting purposes.

Meeting ended at 1:02 pm.



Carolyn Ketchel
County Commissioner
Chairperson Okaloosa County Public Safety Coordinating Council