



Okaloosa County Public Safety Coordinating Council

Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting: December 15, 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
	Judge Brown	Circuit Judge
	Judge Grinsted	County Judge
	Jay Jones	Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Designee
	Bill Bishop	Assistant State Attorney
	Tom Murphy	Assistant Public Defender
	Julie Gaither	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:

Paul Farnsworth, Department of Corrections
Tammy Matthews, Department of Corrections
Susan Priddy, Health Services Administrator, Corizon Health Services
Sandra Hoffa, Corizon Health Services
Mary Sollenberger, Clerk of Court Office
Daniel Cobbs, Bridgeway Center, Inc.
Larry McFarland, Bridgeway Center, Inc.
Laurie Keller-Lithgow, Okaloosa Sheriff's Office
Matthew Harrison, Okaloosa Sheriff's Office

Meeting opened at 12:00 pm.

Welcome:

Minutes

1. a. August minutes were approved as sent (no quorum available).
2. **Old Business**
None
3. **New Business**
 - a. Dates have been set for 2017 meetings and submitted to members.

- b. Mr. Cobb presented a mental health overview of services provided by Bridgeway Center. Priority has been given to the uninsured population with a list provided for how the different populations will be handled. Commissioner Ketchel has been working with Ginny Barr from the Mental Health Association and Judge Maney on putting together a bill for consideration of a new Crisis Stabilization Unit. The unit would be available to accept people unable to utilize the FWBMC. The bill failed previously due to a small oversight that has since been rectified. Representative Ponder will be helping push the effort forward.
- c. Commissioner Ketchel announced Graham Fountain will be taking over next year as chair of the PSCC. She will be moving into the chair of the board. Commissioner Ketchel will continue to be an active supporter of the PSCC.
- d. Commissioner Ketchel will be meeting with the four municipalities to encourage support of the proposed half cent sales tax referendum. The referendum requires consideration; so it would be beneficial to have support prior to putting it to a ballot.

4. Jail Report

- a. Chief Vaughn reported the count has decreased in the jail, but not as much as anticipated. The count dropped to around 720 inmates. Many people have worked together to get as many through the court system as possible.
- b. Chief Vaughn is collecting numbers in an effort to conduct the study of what is needed at the facility in respect to facility growth. Collecting the numbers would reduce the cost of the outside study. The numbers collected have shown a trend of growth expecting to reach an average of 1000 inmates within ten years.
- c. Chief Vaughn continues to work with J. D. Peacock on cashless bonds. Some connection issues have prevented the project from being initiated, but they are still planning to move forward.
- d. At the facility supervisor meeting, Chief Vaughn presented over twenty items that had been improved or changed in the past year. Projects are planned for 2017 which include a new jail management system which would share information with the various law enforcement agencies and utilization of an electronic medical record option.
- e. The Command Staff at the jail continue to review available options for alternatives to incarceration. Chief Vaughn has been working with agencies to address VOP arrests and holds more efficiently.
- f. The length of time sentenced inmate would be held in county custody continues to be an issue which may be considered in legislature. The consideration to extend county time from 12 month to 18 or 24 months has been considered previously and may come up again this year.

- g. Chief Vaughn has been in contact with other jail commanders and discovered they are now implementing projects and programs in their facilities that our facility has been doing for close to ten years. Commissioner Ketchel introduced a discussion of having a unit similar to the CSU attached to the jail for transition of mentally ill inmates. The unit staff could work with the courts to address cases where people were arrested as a result of their behavior from the illness. The growth of the jail would require team discussion with long term planning as the current location is closed off with little space for additions. Mr. Cobb stated the number of beds for a unit of this nature would be best if allowed thirty or greater, possibly thirty men and twenty women. The staffing levels would be determined by the design of the unit. Commissioner Ketchel feels strongly the mental health system in Florida is a broken system. She hopes the bill will pass and will open up options for those defendants that commit a crime as a result of mental health decompensation.
- h. The legalization of marijuana has been considered throughout the county. The tax collected from the legalization could offer increased funding for law enforcement and drug treatment.

The next full meeting for the Public Safety Council meeting will be February 16, 2017. Mr. Farnsworth will send an email reminders for upcoming meetings.

Meeting ended at 12:49 pm.



Graham W. Fountain
County Commissioner
Chairperson Okaloosa County Public Safety Coordinating Council