



**Okaloosa County Public Safety Coordinating Council**

**Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting: October 22, 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
x	Judge Brown	Circuit Judge
x	Judge Grinsted	County Judge
	Jay Jones	Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Designee
	Bill Bishop	Assistant State Attorney
	Tom Murphy	Assistant Public Defender
x	Deborah Brown	Circuit Administrator, Florida Department of Corrections, Probation and Parole Services
	Kelli Huckabee	Pretrial Services
x	Tina Ferland	Judicial Corrections Services, County Probation Provider

**Other Attendees:**

- 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
- Sandra Hoffa, Corizon Health Services, Clinical Social Worker
- John Sloan, Florida Department of Corrections
- Jack Hammontree, Florida Department of Corrections
- Laurie Keller-Lithgow, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office
- Todd Watkins, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office
- Janice M. George, Big Bend CBC
- Paul Wallis, Department of Juvenile Justice
- Mary Sollenberger, Clerk of Court
- Allison Mikel, Court Administration
- Lisa Lydston, Bridgeway Services, Inc.
- Ray Sansom, Okaloosa Academy Schools

Meeting opened at 12:01 pm.

**NOTE: THE NEXT MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED TO DECEMBER 10, 2015**

## **Welcome:**

### **Minutes**

1. a. Attendees introduced themselves and the agency they represent.  
b. August minutes were approved as sent.
2. **Old Business**  
None
3. **Jail Population Report**

- a. Mr. Farnsworth reported an increase in arrests for drug charges. He reported all other statistics remain consistent.

### **4. Pretrial Services Report**

- a. Mr. Farnsworth reported no significant change in pretrial statistics.

### **5. New Business**

- a. Mr. Lawson presented four options that could be considered for expansion of the jail. He will be presenting two items to the BOCC on November 3<sup>rd</sup> addressing steps needed to move forward in necessary expansion. He requests the council vote on both options prior to presenting the options to the BOCC. The first motion requested is for purchase of the property next to the jail. The price has been negotiated to a reduced price and would offer options for expansion. The second motion requested is to hire a consultant to review the four options for expansion. Motions did not move forward for either consideration.

The four options for expansion presented were: (1) build on the current site using the plans developed previously, (2) build adjacent after purchasing the property, adding a 32,000 s.f. building, (3) consider purchasing the property across the street but price has not been researched or negotiated, (4) build near the prison (OCI) at the 20 acres and migrate fully to that location over time.

- b. Committee members discussed the various options but did not feel comfortable voting on financial recommendations. Commissioner Ketchel reminded committee members that the jail has significant overcrowding that need to be addressed. She reported the building is old and may not sustain continued repairs.
- c. Mr. Sansom presented a program providing an overview of the Okaloosa Academy Schools. The schools offer education to high risk students that need additional encouragement and oversight to stay out of trouble and in school.

The goal of the school is to provide an education as a gate to better life free from criminal activity. Many of the students in this school do not have stable home environments nor supportive father figures. They are not taught life skills, parenting skills or ethics and values. The school becomes the family structure.

The next full meeting for the Public Safety Council will be December 21, 2015. Mr. Farnsworth will send an email notification of meeting dates for 2016.

Meeting ended at 1:02 pm.

**NOTE: THE NEXT MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED TO DECEMBER 10, 2015**



Carolyn Ketchel

County Commissioner

Chairperson Okaloosa County Public Safety Coordinating Council