

## **Notice of Public Safety Coordinating Council Meeting**

Pursuant to section 286.011, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby provided that the Public Safety Coordinating Council will convene a meeting to be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of August 2023 at 12:00 p.m. at the Courthouse located at 101 East James Lee Boulevard, Crestview, Florida, 32536. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Okaloosa County adheres to the American Disabilities Act and will make reasonable modifications for access to these meetings upon request. Requests may be made to the County Commission office (850-689-5030 or 850-651-7105) and must be made at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting in order to provide the requested service.



**Okaloosa County Public Safety Coordinating Council**

**Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting: May 11th, 2023 12:00 PM**

**Courthouse Annex Extension, Fort Walton Beach**

**Public Safety Coordinating Council Members**

Present	Name	Agency
	Paul Mixon	Board of County Commissioners
X	Nolan Weeks	Chief Corrections Officer
X	April McDaniel	Major of Corrections
	Judge Polson	Circuit Judge
	Judge Mason	County Judge
X	Craig Coffey	Deputy County Administrator
	Michelle Sandler	Assistant State Attorney
	Charles Russell	Assistant Public Defender
X	Robert Kemp	Circuit Administrator, Florida Department of Corrections, Probation and Parole Services
X	Kelli Huckabee	Pretrial Services
	Tina Ferland	Judicial Corrections Services, County Probation Provider

**Other Attendees:**

Judge Ketchel, Circuit Judge  
 J.D. Peacock, Okaloosa Clerk of Court  
 Bonnie Barlow, Bridgeway Center, Inc.  
 Larry McFarland, Bridgeway Center, Inc.  
 Susan Priddy, Director, YesCare, Department of Corrections  
 Tricia Fagan, HSA, YesCare, Department of Corrections  
 Tiffany Metz, Program Coordinator, Department of Corrections  
 Haydon O'Brien, Program Coordinator, Department of Corrections  
 Travis Huisken, Captain, Department of Corrections  
 Chason Meggs, Probation and Parole  
 Matthew Harrison, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office  
 John Anderson, Okaloosa Clerk of Court  
 Brad Embry, Inspector General, Okaloosa Clerk of Court

Meeting opened at 11:58 am.

**Welcome:**

**Minutes/Commissioner Report**

1. a. J.D. Peacock opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

b. The minutes were approved as sent by the majority.

## **2. Old Business**

- a. Chief Nolan Weeks noted that maintenance workers have been on site at the facility almost every day in order to combat the issues brought forth by outdated piping and electrical. Chief Weeks also added that there will be an HVAC team on site as well. Chief Weeks closed his statement with adding that security contracting is underway in order to fix issues regarding security doors and sliders.
- b. Chief Weeks stated that the current capacity of the facility is 699 and is continuing to rise. Major April McDaniel followed this comment by mentioning that the State Attorney's Office is actively expediting the facility's top 20 most costly cases/individuals. Chief Weeks added that the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is becoming more mindful of the overpopulation issue at the facility and have since modified their patrolling in order to mitigate further overpopulation.
- c. J.D. Peacock stated that Commissioner Mixon has discussed a Public Safety Data Exchange in which different agencies across the county are able to connect on a singular board of communication. J. D. Peacock stated that funding for such a data exchange system is currently being discussed.
- d. Larry McFarland commented that Bridgeway Center is currently modifying their business hours in order to accommodate individuals brought in by EMS services. Starting May 15<sup>th</sup> 2023, Bridgeway will be open from 1 pm to 11 pm for EMS drop offs. Mr. McFarland also mentioned that the ultimate objective for Bridgeway is to transform it into a 24/7 facility. Mr. McFarland stated that Bridgeway plans to continue expanding their opening hours in order to reach this goal.

## **3. Jail Report**

- a. The statistics report was presented and attendees had no questions.

## **4. Pretrial Services Report**

- a. Kelli Huckabee provided a report for review on pretrial services statistics. She advised that there have been no major changes and that GPS is still being utilized for 90 individuals.

## **5. New Business**

- a. Haydon O'Brien stated that the newly implemented Celebrate Recovery meetings have maintained consistent attendance and a good retention rate. Ms. O'Brien mentioned that both she and Tiffany Metz utilize Celebrate Recovery meeting as an opportunity to offer individuals with information and resources regarding residential programs. Ms. O'Brien also discussed the World Changer Award given to Mrs. Metz for her involvement in first implementing Celebrate Recovery into the facility. Ms. O'Brien also briefly mentioned that their newly implemented Emerald Coast Life Center (ECLC) class is graduating within the month and that all participants are receiving a reward for completing the course. Ms. O'Brien closed the discussion with mentioning that the FLOW (Florida Licenses on Wheels) bus will be at the facility on May 25<sup>th</sup> to assist incarcerated

- individuals in receiving updated identification.
- b. Chief Weeks stated that the facility is now actively reevaluating the incentive programs that are offered to employees in order to promote retention and maintain competitiveness. Chief Weeks stated that the facility has also actively sought more publicity for the facility by participating in more job fairs with banners, flyers, and other promotional material. Judge Ketchel mentioned that the correctional field is experiencing high amounts of competition across the state.
  - c. Susan Priddy stated that the facility has been utilizing Independent Medical Group Services (IMG) for the past 6 months and that the medical unit of the facility has noticed a drastic change in costliness since its implementation. More specifically, Ms. Priddy mentioned that the cost for HIV-related medication in fiscal year 2022 was upwards of 67,000 dollars and the cost has lowered to 6,700 during fiscal year 2023. Ms. Priddy also handed out flyers pertaining to IMG that reflected the insurance coverage offered.
  - d. Major McDaniel stated that there will now be bond restrictions across the state effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. Major McDaniel stated that the change will include a new and uniform statewide bond schedule. Major McDaniel mentioned that the newly restrictive bond schedule will result in the facility's population increasing drastically. Major McDaniel further explained that, because correctional officers are often more restrictive in granting bonds when compared to court granted bonds, the facility's population will surely grow significantly. Major McDaniel closed the discussion by mentioning that the list of offenses that hinder an individual from being eligible for gain time is increasing as well and will thus result in less people receiving gain time.
  - e. Tricia Fagan discussed the importance of May being mental health awareness month. Ms. Fagan dispersed "positive thinking" flyers that she intends on offering individuals in the facility as well.
  - f. Craig Coffey stated that there is currently 1.5 million dollars in the county budget reserved for a new facility. Mr. Coffey noted that current research shows that the new facility will need to be on a new site. More specifically, the new facility's site should range from 25-50 acres. Mr. Coffey closed his discussion by mentioning that the construction of the new facility will likely be completed in phases for financial efficiency. He mentioned that expectations and requirements for the new facility (i.e. larger mental health and medical units) are currently being discussed. Judge Ketchel commented that a new facility will most likely result in higher retention rates due to feelings of safety.

## **6. Closing Announcements**

- a. Mr. McFarland noted that Bridgeway no longer has a provider that is certified in assisting those with sexual offenses.
- b. J. D. Peacock mentioned that suggestions regarding the efficiency of Clerk of Court were welcome and appreciated.
- c. J. D. Peacock closed the meeting with mentioning that the next meeting will be on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The next meeting will be in Crestview at 12 PM.

Meeting ended at 12:46 pm.