



Okaloosa County Public Safety Coordinating Council

Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting: July 2019 12:00 PM

Courthouse Annex Extension, Fort Walton Beach

Public Safety Coordinating Council Members

Present	Name	Agency
x	Graham Fountain	Board of County Commissioners
	Stefan W. Vaughn	Chief Corrections Officer
x	C. Eric Esmond	
x	Judge Gontarek	Circuit Judge
x	Judge Grinsted	County Judge
x	Jay Jones (Harold Mason)	Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Designee
	Bill Bishop	Assistant State Attorney
x	Charles Russell	Assistant Public Defender
		Circuit Administrator, Florida Department of Corrections, Probation and Parole Services
x	Robert Kemp	
	Kelli Huckabee	Pretrial Services
		Judicial Corrections Services, County Probation Provider
	Tina Ferland	

Other Attendees:

April McDaniel, Captain, Department of Corrections
 Tammy Matthews, Department of Corrections
 Desiree Hartwig, Department of Corrections
 Dennis Knighten, Department of Corrections
 Susan Priddy, Corizon Health Services, Department of Corrections
 Sandra Hoffa, Corizon Health Services, Department of Corrections
 Harold Mason, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office
 Jeremy Miller, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office
 Bonnie Barlow, Bridgeway Center, Inc.
 Larry McFarland Bridgeway Center, Inc.
 John Anderson, Okaloosa Clerk of Court Office

Meeting opened at 12:00 pm.

Welcome:

Commissioner Fountain opened the meeting.

Minutes

1. a. The April minutes were approved as sent.

2. Old Business

- a. Chief Esmond reviewed the statistics from spring break. The process went well routinely have short booking to bond times. The Sheriff continues to feel the spring breakers need to be transported to the jail to experience the full aspect of the experience. The jail added staff to their booking area to assist with efficient processing.
- b. A meeting was held with Judge Liefman from Miami-Dade 11th Circuit to discuss the mental health diversion/re-entry program. A discussion was held about mental health/substance abuse issues in corrections. The program would be established to assist in transitioning to a secure setting, then to outpatient care. They discussed funding options and ways to implement a program.
- c. Chief Esmond explained the driver's license clinic coordinated through Judge Mason. Many major players participated in the clinic to assist with waiving fees when possible, setting up classes as needed, and setting up payment plans. The program was successful in Escambia County which led to our consideration for working on the same program in our county. People in the public were addressed first, then inmates were afforded the opportunity to participate. The program was successful and hopes to be held annually. An after action report will be completed to review what fees were waived, which fees should stand, how many were assisted, and how to move forward from this initial start. Captain Jones stated additional legislature has led to a shift in reasons for suspensions which could have a fiscal impact on court process funds.
- d. The representative was on site during the previous meeting to review how each county is utilizing services, including placement into the Florida State Hospital.

3. Jail Report

- a. Chief Esmond presented the statistics report. The current count is 791 with the average for the previous year at 823.

4. Pretrial Services Report

- a. No information files for Pretrial Services.

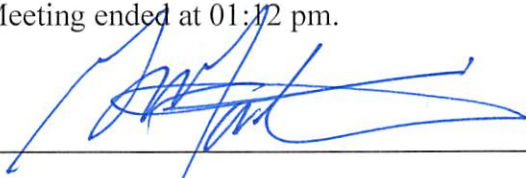
5. New Business

- a. Chief Esmond announced the completion of the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission assessment last week. It went very well and a team will travel to the commission meeting in October to be re-accredited as an Excelsior agency.
- b. He explained how the re-entry coordinators are seeking out programs to offer inmates being released from custody better options for employment. One program is the OSHA 10 program where inmates received safety training for construction jobs.
- c. He reported a continued effort with the Health Department to offer birth control at no cost for the inmate. Medical and security staff are working toward having a shuttle service available to access the services prior to release.
- d. He reviewed the success of the Hepatitis A program. The program has set a high standard for the state due to its success. The service is now being offered

to jail staff due to the amount of cases reported throughout the state and country.

- e. Judge Gonterek reported the judicial is working hard to consider options to keep people out of custody. They had offered early pleas and process paperwork so they are transferred to state custody as efficiently as possible.
- f. Mr. McFarland reported Bridgeway Center is working to meet the needs in the community by offering telepsych services which can reach more people. This type of service is popular in urban areas where transportation is challenging. The program has been funded through Tallahassee and supported by Mel Ponder.
- g. The Securus contract is ending, so once the new contractor is approved, the on-line meetings for the public defender's office can be started.
- h. Ms. Barlow announced the Bridgeway office on Wilson Street in Crestview will be holding an open house July 30th from 11 am – 2 pm.
- i. There are no reported conflicts for upcoming meeting scheduled October 24, 2019.

Meeting ended at 01:12 pm.



Commissioner Graham W. Fountain
Okaloosa County Commissioner
Chairman, Public Safety Coordinating Council