



**Okaloosa County Public Safety Coordinating Council**

**Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting: October 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
x	C. Eric Esmond	Chief Corrections Officer
x	Judge Gontarek	Circuit Judge
x	Judge Grinsted	County Judge
	Jay Jones (Harold Mason)	Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Designee
x	Bill Bishop	Assistant State Attorney
x	Charles Russell	Assistant Public Defender
	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:**

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  
 Kim Gnage, Okaloosa County Corrections Intern  
 Harold Mason, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office  
 Jeremy Miller, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office  
 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/Commissioner Report**

1. a. The April minutes were approved as sent.
- b. Interviews are being conducted for the Public Safety Director.
- c. Judge Grinsted will not be able to attend today and Judge Maney is attending a

meeting in Pensacola.

## **2. Old Business**

- a. Chief Esmond reported the assessment with the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission held in July went very well and the agency received Excelsior status. The assessment team identified significant overcrowding issues with aging facility and minimal staffing, but was able to maintain rules and standards with professionalism. The commission was impressed with re-entry programs and the agency.
- b. A re-entry program being introduced this year is a training for OSHA 10 to assist construction workers to have certification which will help get better jobs.
- c. Ms. Priddy reported the birth control program has been in place for over two months successfully. Female inmates have been receptive to the service and several have received depo injections prior to release.
- d. Ms. Priddy reported over 1500 inmates have received injections for Hepatitis A which was a result of a great partnership with the health Department. The ER has been included in the program and the community working with the department has made a significant impact to improvement.

## **3. Jail Report**

- a. Chief Esmond presented the statistics report. A day has been added to the court schedule to address plea and bond reductions. The judiciary has been a great support in working with helping move inmates through the system and it is appreciated.

## **4. Pretrial Services Report**

- a. Ms. Huckabee reported non-monetary bonds are being reviewed. They are reviewing how bond decisions are made to improve consistency.

## **5. New Business**

- a. The jail diversion program has included several entities, including Pretrial Services, Big Bend, Public Defender's office, State Attorney's office, and others. The program has been modeled after the program in Miami-Dade. Sheriff Ashley request shifting the program to a jail diversion program. It will be a 15 bed facility and expected to be open after the first of the year. The county has met with Big Bend to finalize aspects of the contract to meet state requirements and formalize program details. Facility maintenance is working to get the facility operational. Mr. Bishop reported working with Pretrial to determine acceptance parameters.
- b. The number of inmates in custody has increased the amount of legal visits required. It has helped the process having the attorneys send a list of inmates they are seeing and having them readily available when they are on-site. It has taken 30 minutes off the time south end attorneys need to see clients.
- c. The FLOW bus is on-site at the facility every other months to assist in obtaining identification or a DL license for inmates. They were able to provide 88 people with cards ready for their release which assists them in gaining employment faster. Ms. Huckabee asked about cost of identifications and Mr. Knighten explained the only cost is if the inmates wants their own address listed on it.

- d. The second DL clinic is scheduled for April 3, 2020. The cap will be held at 150 people. The clerk's office is monitoring people to prepare about 20 per week for the program.
- e. Marcy's Law was started through California and has now taken hold nationally. Florida pushed and was approved to add victim rights to their constitution. An example of how the law changed victim rights is now there are allowed to have input at first appearance on bond. Captain McDaniel is reviewing the change to determine our level of responsibility. The clerk's office established redaction as an option upon request of the victim. A victim brochure providing victim rights is presented to them at arrest of the perpetrator. The court approves invoking specific rights. The public defender's office and state attorney's office work together to flag the file and monitor provision of rights. One circuit has added a line in arrest document to ask victim of requesting input on case.
- f. The clerk's office continues to work on going paperless with capability to update first appearance paperwork as it happens. They are working to have public defender and state attorney tied into the system for immediate information.
- g. Commissioner Fountain and Chief Esmond thank everyone attending as having so many partners in the meeting helps address issues and programs to have them move forward for improvement. The Chief looks forward to addressing jail aging issues and moving forward on expansion.
- h. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for January 23<sup>rd</sup>, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, and October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Meeting ended at 12:40 pm.