

Okaloosa County Public Safety Coordinating Council  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday December 5, 2023

Present:

Commissioner Paul Mixon  
Nolan Weeks, Chief Corrections Officer (via phone at 1:19 p.m.)  
April McDaniel, Major of Corrections  
Judge John Jay Gontarek, Circuit Judge  
Craig Coffey, Deputy County Administrator - Operations  
Andrea Oliver, Accreditation Lieutenant, Corrections  
JD Peacock II, Clerk of Court  
Brad Embry, Chief of Staff  
Larry McFarland, Bridgeway Center, Inc.  
Susan Priddy, Health Services Administrator  
Mellony Kuester, Programs and Reentry Coordinator  
Itza Andrade, Programs and Reentry Coordinator  
Heather Paschal, Board Services Agent  
Maria Everton, Clerk to Board of County Commissioners  
Samantha Cutsinger, Legislative Aide

Location:

Okaloosa County Courthouse, Commission Chambers; 101 E. James Lee Blvd, Crestview, Florida

Minutes prepared by Maria Everton

Commissioner Mixon called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

1. Approval Minutes

The August 10, 2023 minutes were approved as presented by the majority.

2. Old Business

a. National Conference on Correctional Healthcare (NCCHC) Program of the Year Award (Baby and Me) - Susan Priddy

At the 2023 NCCHC, the Okaloosa County Department of Corrections was selected as the Program of the Year for its Baby and Me program. The program provides pregnant inmates with resources and services to support a healthy pregnancy.

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- b. Inmate Medical Services - Independent Medical Group (IMG)  
<https://imghealthclinic.com> NCCHC, FMJS - Susan Priddy

Ms. Priddy provided an update on the IMG mobile bus. The IMG mobile bus provides services to inmates to help establish health insurance; HIV, Hep C, and STD testing/treatment. IMG also continues to treat inmates in the community upon release; it covers a large portion of expensive medications.

- c. Mental Health Task Force - ~~Tricia Fagan~~ Susan Priddy

Ms. Priddy provided an overview of the Mental Health Task Force. The Mental Health Re-entry Task force is a new initiative that allows key players from a multi-disciplinary approach to identify gaps for inmates returning to the community.

The goal is to have housing arranged in advance of the inmate's release, particularly those who are returning from Florida State Hospital. The Mental Health Re-entry Task force will meet quarterly.

3. Jail Population/Statistical Report: Q & A

Major McDaniel presented a PowerPoint that included Population Reports, Booking Activities, Misdemeanor/Felony Activity, Release Activity, Pre-trial Services, and Pre-trial Services Mental Health Cases.

4. Inmate Programs Update - Itza Andrade and Mellony Kuester

Ms. Kuester introduced herself and Ms. Andrade. She then provided an update and data on Inmate Programs as follows:

- Programs Outside the Jail
  - Project Hope - 4 pending applications, 12 accepted applications
  - Phoenix House - 18 pending applications, 9 accepted applications
  - Haven House - 7 pending applications, 5 accepted applications
  - Oxford House - 8 pending applications, 1 accepted application
  - Exodus Ministries - 4 pending applications
  - Breaking N Ground Ministries - 3 pending applications
  - Christ Town Ministries - 8 pending applications

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- Programs Withing the Jail
  - Gulf Coast Sexual Assault - 13 participants
  - Emerald Coast Life Center Class - 54 participants (27 male, 27 female) (32 individuals on waitlist)
  - Emerald Coast Life Center Pod - 35 male participants
  - Alcoholic Anonymous - 49 participants (28 male, 21 female)
  - Celebrate Recovery - 49 participants (28 male, 21 female) (19 individuals on waitlist)
  - Shelter House - 8 participants

Classes/Programs in the works include Narcotics Anonymous, Yoga, Art/Painting, Career Source, Embroidery, ServSafe, and Anger Management.

#### 5. Pre-Trial Information - Kelli Huckabee

Ms. Huckabee was not in attendance to provide Pre-Trial information.

#### 6. New Business

##### a. Incarcerated ex-parte orders - Captain Matthew Harrison, OCSO

Item tabled to a future meeting due to Captain Harrison's absence.

##### b. Current staffing and retention update - Lt. Andrea Oliver

Lt. Oliver provided an update on current staffing and retention efforts. The Department of Corrections continues to actively recruit. She expects to fill all open positions by early 2024.

##### c. Homeless clothing and blanket drive - Lt. Andrea Oliver

Lt. Oliver said the drive was a huge success. Oasis, the commissary vendor, donated toothbrushes, toothpaste, socks, hairbrushes, deodorant, soap, etc. Clothing, blankets, and hygiene items were provided by the Okaloosa County Department of Corrections staff. The donated items were distributed to local homeless shelters and homeless individuals on the street in the County.

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d. Jail Management System Update - Major April McDaniel

Major McDaniel provided an update and touched on an on-site product demonstration. Discussion ensued regarding data transparency compliance. Commissioner Mixon asked about a Request for Proposal (RFP) date. Chief Weeks anticipates January 1<sup>st</sup>.

e. 2024 meeting schedule - Commissioner Paul Mixon

Commissioner Mixon inquired as to any opposition to alternating locations for the Public Safety Coordinating Council meetings. Zero opposition noted.

7. Additional Items

a. Transit Changes - Discussion ensued regarding bus stops for individuals leaving and arriving to the jail. It was suggested a letter be written to request the jail be added as a scheduled stop on the County Transit route.

b. Site Selection Committee - Commissioner Mixon said a site selection committee will be formed to work on the new jail location.

c. Jail - Major McDaniel proposed a possible presentation to Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. regarding teaching career skills to incarcerated individuals. Healthcare in jail was also addressed.

d. Okaloosa County Homeless - Chief Weeks discussed homeless individuals panhandling at various intersections within the County.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

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