

Okaloosa County Public Safety Coordinating Council

Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting: April 20, 2017 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	Stefan W. Vaughn	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
		Circuit Administrator, Florida Department of Corrections, Probation and Parole Services
x	Julie Gaither	
x	Kelli Huckabee	Pretrial Services
	Tina Ferland (Ms. Davis)	Judicial Corrections Services, County Probation Provider

Other Attendees:

Paul Farnsworth, Department of Corrections
Tammy Matthews, Department of Corrections
Eric Esmond, Major, Department of Corrections
Joe Foley, Captain, Department of Corrections
Janice George, Big Bend Community Based Care, Inc.
Susan Priddy, Health Services Administrator, Corizon Health Services
Dan Cobb, Bridgeway Center, Inc.
Harold Mason, Okaloosa Sheriff's Office
D. J. Folley, Okaloosa Sheriff's Office
Marty Sollenberger, Clerk of Court
Janice George, Big Bend CBC
Valerie Broxson, Court Administration

Meeting opened at 12:05 pm.

Welcome:

Commissioner Fountain welcomed all attendees.

Minutes

1. a. February minutes were approved as sent.

2. Old Business

- a. Ms. Sollenberger provided an update on cashless bonds. The clerk's office received a copy of the administrative order that is used by Palm Beach County. The administrative order allows Palm Beach County the ability to use credit cards for bonds. The example is being used to establish a way to move forward in our county. The fees incurred must be included in the bond fee which would keep all costs with the bond and not the taxpayer. The bonds would be set up similar to how civil costs are paid. The administrative order would need to be approved by all of the judiciary, but submitted by the Chief Judge. Chief Vaughn is working with Mr. Peacock to consider all aspects of the process. Commissioner Fountain would like to see the process moved forward quicker. Judge Brown and Judge Grinsted would like a copy of the Palm Beach County order sent to them for review. Cash bonds would be the only bonds that could be processed through credit cards.

3. Jail Report

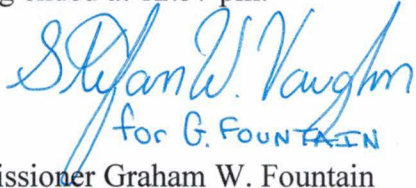
- a. Mr. Farnsworth sent out the statistical report by email. Judge Brown requested clarification on the spike in transfers. The increase was due to ICE arrests and transfers. The increase is occurring nationwide. March had a spike in arrests and court due to Spring Break.
- b. Ms. Huckabee answered a question of a slight increase in Failure to Appear. The increase has no common explanation.
- c. Commissioner Fountain reported on a lawsuit ACLU has intended to initiate due to the national mandate to identify all ICE for deportation. Our county is in compliance with mandate.
- d. Chief Vaughn reported spring break is underway and has resulted, at this time, 385 arrests. There are two weeks remaining in spring break. The turnaround time from being received into custody to being released is 38 minutes. Commissioner Fountain reported the commission has received increased number of calls this year from the family of those taken into custody. Many of the family members complained about the person getting handcuffed and taken to jail. The message has been clear. Most cases have a deferred prosecution outcome. Legislature may address spring break arrests preventing them to getting taken to jail.

4. New Business

- a. Chief Vaughn explained gain time is getting reviewed to determine that all options have been maximized. He recognizes public safety is paramount and balanced while looking to options to keep population down. The gain time policies of other counties are being taken into consideration. Consideration has routinely been given for work gain time, but now other options are being included. Participation in programs, such as GED, are being considered.
- b. Judge Brown raised a question concerning an inmate housed in Walton County who wasn't brought to court as scheduled. He asked if an order for transport is required, but the situation appeared to be an anomaly. Routinely, the person will be on the docket and brought to court wherever he is being housed.
- c. Commissioner Fountain encouraged members to make suggestions for what should be included in future agendas. He hopes to have the cash bond project completed by the next meeting.

The next full meeting for the Public Safety Council will be June 22, 2017.
Mr. Farnsworth will send an email reminders for upcoming meetings.

Meeting ended at 12:57 pm.



Stephen W. Vaughn
for G. FOUNTAIN

Commissioner Graham W. Fountain
Vice-Chair, Okaloosa County Commission
Chair, Public Safety Coordinating Council