

Okaloosa County Public Safety Coordinating Council  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday May 8, 2025

Present:

Brad E. Embry, Clerk of Court  
John Moring, Director of Corrections  
April McDaniel, Major of Corrections  
Craig Coffey, Deputy County Administrator – Operations  
Larry McFarland, Bridgeway Center, Inc.  
Andrea Oliver, Accreditation Lieutenant, Corrections  
Bonnie Barlow, Bridgeway Center, Inc.  
Itza Andrade, Programs and Reentry Coordinator  
Judge William F. Stone, Circuit Judge (via phone)  
Ursula Hall, Court Operations Manager (via phone)  
Kelli Huckabee, Pre-Trial Services  
Tricia Fagan, YesCare Okaloosa County  
Susan Priddy, Health Services Administrator  
Maria Everton, Clerk to Board of County Commissioners  
Samantha Cutsinger, Legislative Aide

Location:

Okaloosa County Courthouse, Board Chambers, Crestview, Florida

Minutes prepared by Maria Everton

Mr. Embry called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes

The February 13, 2025 minutes were approved as presented by the majority.

2. Old Business

None.

3. Jail Population/Statistical Report: Q & A

The Jail Population/Statistical report was provided to the council via email. No questions were asked.

#### 4. Inmate Programs Update

Itza Andrade said there are eleven (11) programs in session with 441 participants and twenty (20) individuals on the waitlist. Programs inside the jail offered include:

- Celebrate Recovery
- Sexual Assault
- Yoga
- Live Your Best Life
- Emerald Coast Life Center
- Emerald Coast Life Center POD
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Narcotics Anonymous
- Fatherhood Initiative
- Anger Management
- Re-Entry (2 briefings)

Ms. Andrade continued by informing the group that a total of forty-seven (47) individuals have been accepted into the rehab program (outside the jail). 121 individuals have pending applications.

#### 5. Pre-Trial Information

Ms. Huckabee said the statistics were previously emailed out. She then said Pre-Trial is moving forward with the new software. It will be going before the Board of County Commissioners for approval on May 20, 2025.

Mr. Embry provided a brief update on the Clerk's Office new software. A go-live timeframe is anticipated for late May 2025/early June 2025, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

#### 6. New Business (informational only)

##### a. Medical Updates

Susan Priddy said for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2025, a total of \$76,552.56 was returned to the County as staffing credits. The total staffing credits for fiscal year 2024-2025 was \$186,011.55.

Ms. Priddy continued by reporting that emergency room visits have decreased by 33% since the last quarter. Offsite outpatient services have decreased by 34% since the last quarter. The provider network has expanded by 40%. All 2024 claims for offsite care have been closed out/paid within five (5) business days of receipt.

b. Misdemeanors Incompetent to Proceed

Tricia Fagan said she received an email from a public defender stating that, “moving forward, inmates who are here on misdemeanors and found incompetent to proceed will no longer be *nolle pros’d* by the State. They will be looking to restore them in the jail. This may result in inmates staying longer in the jail and preventing appropriate level(s) of care. If someone is truly incompetent to proceed due to mental health illness, they likely are not going to be appropriate for restoration of any type until they are stabilized on medications and symptoms are decreased. The issue is that we cannot force medicate so if they are unwilling to take medications, they won’t stabilize. There is much to learn about this new process, but it is worthy to be aware of the change.” This could potentially create some challenges. Ms. Fagan stated she would provide updates when they are available.

Charles Russell from the Public Defender’s Office stated that it is not his office keeping the individuals in jail, but the State, as he understands it, has changed its policy. He continued by stating that the Public Defender’s Office is in a disagreement with the State Attorney’s Office regarding restoring competency for individuals charged with misdemeanors. Discussion ensued regarding competency restoration, competency restoration training, Baker Act and outpatient commitments.

Ms. Fagan said the jail continues to provide juvenile groups. Therapeutic processing groups are held on Tuesdays and recreational groups are held on Thursdays. This provides the juveniles an opportunity to get out of their cells/housing and enter the recreation yard. She noted that these groups may cease as the juvenile population decreases.

c. Immigration Warrant Officer

Maj. McDaniel said Sheriff and County operated jails completed the 8-hour Warrant Service Officer (WSO) training last month. The WSO program allows U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to train, certify, and authorize correctional deputies to serve and execute administrative warrants on aliens in their jails. They will not be tasked to serve warrants on individuals out in the community. The next step is the WSO credentialing process, which differs from the 287g task force model. ICE is allowing their Field Program Managers (FPM) to assist in completing the credentialing packets.

Maj. McDaniel stated that at this time, this will not have an impact on the jail population or the length of time an individual can be held on an immigration warrant.

d. Current Staffing and Retention Update

Lt. Andrea Oliver said there are fourteen (14) vacancies consisting of Officers and Technicians. There are a few in the background screening process awaiting results.

e. Jail Management System (JMS) Update

Maj. April McDaniel said the weekly transition meetings are still being conducted with ProPhoenix. The program is on track to go-live in summer 2025.

ProPhoenix will be able to tie in directly with the Okaloosa County Sheriff Office and share data.

f. Public Transportation Meeting

Chief John Moring said he has been in communication with Tyrone Parker, Transit Director, to discuss options for a bus stop location adjacent to the jail. They agreed to have the stop being conducted at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on operational days. Mr. Parker will communicate with the contracting company about release location and times. The jail will provide vouchers for the service. It is anticipated to begin this service July or August 2025.

g. New Jail Update

Mr. Embry said Jason Autrey is still working on the property location and property allocation for the new jail.

7. Public Comments

Judge Stone – New jail management system communication/data sharing

8. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m.