

Okaloosa County Public Safety Coordinating Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday August 14, 2025

Present:

Craig Coffey, Deputy County Administrator
John Moring, Director of Corrections
April McDaniel, Major of Corrections
Larry McFarland, Bridgeway Center, Inc.
Itza Andrade, Programs and Reentry Coordinator
Mellony Kuester
Heather Minor
Aaron Miller
Tricia Fagan, YesCare Okaloosa County
Travis L. Huisken
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. Coffey called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes

The May 8, 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. Major McDaniel stated that the average daily population for the current period is 747. No questions were asked.

4. Inmate Programs Update

Itza Andrade said there are eleven (11) programs in session with 426 participants and sixty-eight (68) individuals on the waitlist. Programs inside the jail offered include:

- Celebrate Recovery
- Gulf Coast Sexual Assault
- Yoga
- Live Your Best Life
- Emerald Coast Life Center
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Narcotics Anonymous
- Fatherhood Initiative
- Anger Management
- Re-entry

Ms. Andrade continued by informing the group that a total of eight (8) individuals have been accepted into the rehab program (outside the jail). Twenty-two (22) individuals have pending applications.

5. Pre-Trial Information

Mr. McFarland said the pre-trial unit has eleven (11) individuals. The population referrals have been growing. He then said at the physical unit a local unnamed benefactor donated \$50,000.00 for the building of a full kitchen.

6. New Business (informational only)

a. Medical Updates

Ms. Minor said Morse Correctional has paid \$109,458.00 in staffing credits for the fourth quarter. The first quarter staffing credits totaled \$76,552.00. The current quarter is tallying at \$37,739.00. Fiscal year-to-date staffing credits total is \$223,750.79.

b. MAT Update

Ms. Fagan announced the hiring of a Peer Recovery Support Specialist. The role for this position is to offer support to individuals in recovery or interested in recovery. This position is part of the Medication Assisted Treatment expansion under the new medical contract with Morse Correctional.

c. Immigration Warrant Officer

Maj. McDaniel said the department is fully complaint with state immigration enforcement efforts. There are fourteen (14) staff members who are credentialed Designated Immigration Officers through ICE Warrant Service Officer program. Local law enforcement agencies have initiated civil immigration detainments and are executing warrant services. Santa Rosa County is utilizing the approved transportation plan to transfer custody. Detainees are being transported to Walton County for temporary housing.

Maj. McDaniel said there have been six (6) solely civil immigration arrests. The State Attorney's Office has been helpful in expediting the process.

d. Accreditation Assessment

Mr. Huisken reported that the on-site accreditation assessment was conducted July 22-24, 2025. The assessment team reported that the department was in compliance with all applicable standards and they would be recommending the Accreditation Commission award the department their third Excelsior at the October Accreditation Commission meeting.

e. Transit

Chief Moring informed the council that a new transit route that includes the jail is operational. Currently, there is no physical indicator for the stop. Chief Moring said he has inquired with Tyrone Parker, Transit Director, about utilization and for an update on signage and a covered stop.

Chief Moring continued by discussing immigration, staff morale and certain incidents at the jail.

f. New Jail Update

Mr. Coffey said there has been a breakthrough. An agreement on the property has been reached and will be presented to the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners at the next meeting for approval. The location is adjacent to the Sheriff's shooting range and training center in Crestview. The location will be campus style and will include Public Works and Growth Management.

7. Public Comments

Larry McFarland – Fort Walton Beach 2nd Chance Program

8. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.