

Okaloosa County Public Safety Coordinating Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday February 12, 2026

Present:

Commissioner Paul Mixon
John Moring, Director of Corrections
Brad Embry, Clerk of Court
Craig Coffey, Deputy County Administrator
Maria Everton, Clerk to Board of County Commissioners
Larry McFarland
Kelli Huckabee
Bonnie Barlow
Aaron Broxson
Monty Lollie
Itza Andrade
Natasha Alexander
Susan Priddy

Location:

Okaloosa County Courthouse, Board Chambers, Crestview, Florida

Minutes prepared by Maria Everton

Commissioner Mixon called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes

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

2. Old Business

None.

3. Jail Population/Statistical Report: Q & A

Chief Moring presented a PowerPoint for the jail population/statistics for October – December 2025. The document was sent to the group by email prior to the meeting. The jail is currently populated from 730-760 inmates. There were no concerns or questions. He informed the group that the jail has transitioned to the new jail management system with Pro Phoenix. Chief Moring said the jail currently has eleven inmates over the age of 70 and are working through some challenges.

4. Inmate Programs Update

Ms. Andrade presented statistics for current jail programs as follows:

- Celebrate Recovery – 20 females attending, 25 males attending
- Gulf Coast Sexual Assault – 12 females attending
- Yoga Class – 22 females attending
- Live Your Best Life – 17 females attending
- Emerald Coast Life Center – 20 females attending, 25 males attending
- ECLC Pod – 36 individuals attending
- Alcohol Anonymous – 15 females attending, 20 males attending
- Narcotics Anonymous - 15 females attending, 20 males attending
- Re-Entry – 66 individuals attending
- Anger Management – 16 females attending, 20 males attending
- Rehabs/Transitional Housing – 7 females accepted, 41 males accepted, 29 pending applications

5. Pre-Trial Information

Ms. Huckabee said the GPS cases have continued to grow. The department has switched to a new vendor and is cost effective for the County. She stated the transition did not go through the regular bid process.

6. New Business (informational only)

a. Medical Updates

Ms. Priddy reported that in 2025, Morse Correctional Healthcare returned \$187,862.79 in staffing credits to Okaloosa County. This reflects a deliberate and fiscally responsible approach to workforce expansion during the planning and implementation of the Medication Assisted Treatment program. In March 2024, the County issued a request for proposals for a new MAT program, which required the creation of several new and previously nonexistent staffing positions to support clinical, counseling, and programmatic operations. To avoid adding personnel before sustainable funding was secured, a decision was made to defer filing most of these new positions until grant and program funding were confirmed. This ensured that County funds were not expended on staff who would have limited or no assigned duties while the MAT program infrastructure was being developed. As a result, unutilized staffing funds were returned to the County rather than retained, demonstrating prudent stewardship of public resources.

Staffing levels were added to the matrix only when operationally necessary, ensuring alignment with actual service demand. The Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association (FADAA) subsequently approved grant funding for the

Okaloosa County Department of Corrections MAT program. Consistent with the contract structure, 100% of FADAA funds received are forwarded directly to Okaloosa County to offset inmate healthcare costs, rather than being retained by Morse Correctional Healthcare. In 2025, the County received \$17,865.00 in FADAA funds. In 2026, the County received \$14,169.00 to date, further reducing the County's net healthcare expenditures while supporting evidence-based substance use disorder treatment services.

b. MAT Update

Ms. Priddy reported that the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program is new and utilizes medication as a tool for opioid/alcohol dependence. Individuals enrolled in the MAT program must participate in programs such as AA/NA, Celebrate Recovery or ECLC in addition to participation with the Peer Specialist and medication management. Staff continues to work closely with community resources, such as Bridgeway, to connect individuals to services upon release from the jail.

c. FCC Rule changes and inmate communications

Chief Moring reported that the Federal Communications Commission's July 2024 order implementing the Martha Wright Act was pursued to bring down costs and increase consumer protections and disclosures for voice calling and video communications between people who are incarcerated and their loved ones. The new regulations substantially lower per-minute rate caps for audio communication services and establish rate caps for video communication services. These measures apply to communication services for all individuals who are incarcerated, regardless of the length of their incarceration.

After a temporary delay, the rules became effective January 1, 2025. All facilities in the United States must comply with the new rate caps by April 1, 2025. The courts and the FCC have denied requests to delay these rules any further while lawsuits about the rules are considered. It is possible the FCC may take further action in the future.

The new rules cap rates for jails similarly sized to Okaloosa County to \$0.07 per minute for voice calls and \$0.12 per minute for video calls. The rules further prohibit charges for ancillary services and site commissions. The impacts of the prohibition of site commissions will be hard-hitting in the Inmate Welfare Fund. The commission receipts average more than \$46,000.00 per month for voice and video calls with the revenue utilized for programs and resources that benefit the inmate population.

Staff is exploring strategies to increase other allowable revenue streams to offset the loss so these beneficial programs and resources can be maintained.

Indigent inmates are provided an indigent packet monthly consisting of stamped envelopes and writing materials.

d. Immigration update

Chief Moring reported that the 287G Warrant Service Officer Program is continuing with several statewide initiatives. In January 2026, the jail received 52 detainees, 6 of which were cancelled by ICE. 13 inmates were civil immigration arrests only. Staff is gathering and submitting data required to qualify for Federal reimbursement for housing. No reimbursement has been received to date.

e. Added item – Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse (CJMHS) Reinvestment Grant Program Planning Grant

Motion:	To approve adding the CJMHS Reinvestment Grant Program Planning Grant to the agenda for consideration.
Made by:	Larry McFarland
Seconded by:	Chief Moring
Disposition:	Passed unanimously.

Consensus:	To approve to designating Bridgeway Center, Inc. as the not-for-profit community provider entity to apply for the request for applications on behalf of Okaloosa County for the CJMHS Reinvestment Grant Program Planning Grant (DCF RFA 2526 024).
Disposition:	Consensus received.

7. Public Comments

None.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.