

Okaloosa County Public Safety Coordinating Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday May 9, 2024

Present:

Commissioner Paul Mixon
Nolan Weeks, Chief Corrections Officer
April McDaniel, Major of Corrections
Craig Coffey, Deputy County Administrator – Operations
Andrea Oliver, Accreditation Lieutenant, Corrections
Larry McFarland, Bridgeway Center, Inc.
Bonnie Barlow, Bridgeway Center, Inc.
Tricia Fagan, Yescare Okaloosa County
Susan Priddy, Health Services Administrator
Mellony Kuester, Programs and Reentry Coordinator
Itza Andrade, Programs and Reentry Coordinator
Matt Harrison, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office
Maria Everton, Clerk to Board of County Commissioners
Samantha Cutsinger, Legislative Aide
Kelli Huckabee, Pre-Trial Services

Location:

Okaloosa County Courthouse, Board Chambers, Crestview, Florida

Minutes prepared by Maria Everton

Commissioner Mixon called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

1. Approve Minutes

The February 8, 2024 minutes were approved as presented by the majority.

2. Comments

Commissioner Mixon provided a list of individuals required by Florida Statute to attend the Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) meetings. Samantha Cutsinger will be drafting a letter to the PSCC members advising them of their responsibility as provided by statute.

3. Old Business

None.

4. Jail Population/Statistical Report: Q & A

Lieutenant Oliver said that in January 2024, there were approximately 580 bookings and 295 new arrests. There were 305 new arrests in February 2024. The average daily bookings for March 2024 were noted at 21 per day.

Chief Weeks said that the population ranges from 710 to 720. Capacity is set at 594 for the entire jail and does not take into consideration the locking down of whole sections due to the presence of juveniles or dilapidated conditions. He anticipates additional cell closures due to holes in the concrete, which would take about seven (7) days to fully repair. Discussion ensued regarding other locations and capacity.

The Jail Population/Statistical Report was recognized and accepted by the PSCC.

5. Inmate Programs Update – Itza Andrade and Mellony Kuester

Ms. Kuester informed the Council that there is a total of nine (9) internal programs with 351 individuals attending and 73 on the waitlist to attend classes. The jail is working to secure Florida Prison Education System classes, trauma art classes, ServSafe classes, and anger management classes. A G.E.D. program is forthcoming.

12 external programs are in place with 89 individuals accepted and 47 pending review. Some programs include assistance with forms, driver licenses/identification cards, social security cards, birth certificates, etc. *Live Your Best Life*, a self-awareness class, was started last week and is available for females only. 16 individuals signed up. A yoga class will be held for females and 25 individuals are signed up with 15 on the waitlist.

6. Pre-Trial Information – Kelli Huckabee

Ms. Huckabee said the mental health and GPS case numbers are extremely high and expressed her happiness with the data. She then applauded the work of the mental health officers.

7. New Business

a. MAT Program Progress – Tricia Fagan

Ms. Fagan said that the jail is expanding its medication assisted treatment program for substance disorders, specifically opioid use disorders. The jail has been working closely with Bridgeway as part of the jail's initiative to build partnerships. Officers and medical staff have received three (3) hours of opioid use disorder and medication assisted treatment training, which was provided by Florida Alcohol and

Drug Abuse Association. Additional medication training was provided by pharmaceutical companies. Circling back to the anger management classes, Bridgeway is assisting with securing an instructor.

b. Current Staffing and Retention Update – Lieutenant Andrea Oliver

Lieutenant Oliver said there are six (6) openings. Four (4) individuals start on Monday, May 13, 2024 – one (1) correctional officer and three (3) techs.

c. Jail Management System Update – Major McDaniel

Major McDaniel said a jail management system was selected with an implementation date coming soon.

d. New Jail Update – Deputy County Administrator Craig Coffey

Mr. Coffey said there are three (3) different tracks working:

- Finding a site – one (1) of several sites considered was selected.
- Hiring a design firm – a second meeting will be held to finalize the Request for Quote (RFQ).
- Securing funding – approximately \$30M is available for the project; additional monies/funding sources are still needed.

Mr. McFarland asked about a mental health diversion/treatment facility at the new jail. Mr. Coffey said it is possible a three-track system may be considered consisting of dealing with individuals not willing to change, those with mental health/drug addiction and implementing group counseling. Discussion ensued.

8. Board of County Commissioners Letter

Commissioner Mixon suggested that a letter be drafted after each PSCC meeting or quarterly to present to the Board of County Commissioners as an update of the PSCC, specifically the population statistics. After brief discussion, he advised that the letters should be drafted in a way that ensures that no violation of the Sunshine Law occurs.

9. Public Comments

None.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:29 p.m.