**Okaloosa County Public Safety Coordinating Council**

**Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting: February 9th, 2023 12:00 PM**

**Courthouse Annex Extension, Crestview**



**Public Safety Coordinating Council Members**

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| Present | Name | Agency |
| x | Paul Mixon | Board of County Commissioners |
|  | Nolan Weeks | Chief Corrections Officer |
| x | April McDaniel | Major of Corrections |
|  | Judge Polson | Circuit Judge |
|  | Judge Mason | County Judge |
|  | Craig Coffey | Deputy County Administrator |
|  | Michelle Sandler | Assistant State Attorney |
|  | Charles Russell | Assistant Public Defender |
| x | Robert Kemp | Circuit Administrator, Florida Department of Corrections, Probation and Parole Services |
| x | Kelli Huckabee | Pretrial Services |
|  | Tina Ferland | Judicial Corrections Services, County Probation Provider |

**Other Attendees:**

J.D. Peacock, Okaloosa Clerk of Court

Allison Morris, Private Citizen

Bonnie Barlow, Bridgeway Center, Inc.

Randall Overly, BOCC Facility and Parks Maintenance

Susan Priddy, Director, YesCare, Department of Corrections

Trisha Fagan, HSA, YesCare, Department of Corrections

Andrea Oliver, Lieutenant, Department of Corrections

Tiffany Metz, Program Coordinator, Department of Corrections

Haydon O’Brien, Program Coordinator, Department of Corrections

Matthew Harrison, Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office

Chris Wilkinson, Florida Department of Corrections, Probation and Parole Services

Larry McFarland, Bridgeway Center, Inc.

Samantha Cutsinger, BOCC

Brad Embry, Inspector General, Okaloosa Clerk of Court

Meeting opened at 12:07 pm.

**Welcome:**

**Minutes/Commissioner Report**

1. a. Commissioner Mixon opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

b.The minutes were approved as sent by the majority.

1. **Old Business**
2. Commissioner Mixon discussed the drafting of a resolution regarding the construction of a new correctional facility. Major McDaniel noted that the drafted letter included a population statistic that was not reflective of the current capacity. Major McDaniel stated that the inmate population fluctuates consistently.
3. J.D. Peacock mentioned that, from a financial perspective, introducing the notion of a new correctional facility is sagacious.
4. Major McDaniel discussed the new implementation of a non-certified civilian technician position. Major McDaniel stated that the new position is intended to increase engagement amongst individuals who are interested in working in a correctional setting without having close interaction with the inmate population. Major McDaniel went on to explain the job description and mentioned that there are now currently 17 technicians.
5. Bonnie Barlow stated that the Detox Program implemented by Bridgeway Center Inc. has been opened. Bonnie Barlow also mentioned that there will be an open house on February 23rd at 4:30 PM. Bonnie Barlow made a closing remark that the final goal with the Detox Program is to offer 24/7 detox assistance.
6. **Jail Report**
7. The statistics report was presented and attendees had no questions.
8. Major McDaniel mentioned that the inmate population decreased during the beginning of COVID19; however, the decrease was artificial due to cases being expedited and resolved through probation when not necessarily fitting for the case, inmate, or circumstances. Major McDaniel mentioned that this artificial population decrease resulted in longer sentences due to probation violations.
9. **Pretrial Services Report**
10. Kelli Huckabee provided a report for review on pretrial services statistics. She advised that GPS is being utilized for 90 individuals.
11. Kelli Huckabee also advised that the use of GPS at a larger scale offers more cost efficiency, provides more protection for victims, and creates more space in the Okaloosa County Department of Corrections.
12. Kelli Huckabee stated that the daily cost of GPS services is $8.00 a day. Individuals are charged $1.00-$5.00 a day based on their indigent status. Major McDaniel stated that the average daily cost to house an inmate at the Okaloosa County Department of Corrections is $75.00.
13. **New Business**
    1. Tiffany Metz and Haydon O’Brien stated that the newly implemented Celebrate Recovery meetings have had consistent attendance and a good retention rate. Tiffany Metz also mentioned that they are utilizing the Celebrate Recovery meetings to coordinate and offer rehabilitation to inmates after their duration in the facility. More specifically, 3 women were recently accepted into rehabilitative centers and there are currently 19 active acceptance letters.
    2. Tiffany Metz mentioned that AA attendance has decreased since the introduction of Celebrate Recovery.
    3. Major McDaniel stated that 2 noncertified civilian technicians have been recently hired and that 3 interviews have been conducted for custodial staff. Major McDaniel also mentioned that there has been a recent loss of two correctional officers; however, two other officers were recently promoted from within the facility.
    4. Major McDaniel stated that the facility also recently lost the commissary coordinator. Major McDaniel mentioned that there are plans to modify the commissary coordinator position into a noncertified civilian technician position.
    5. Major McDaniel stated that, in total, there are currently 17 vacancies within the facility. She also mentioned that the facility’s budget has been utilized to compensate for overtime. Commissioner Mixon commented that low employment retention is not specific to Okaloosa County Department of Corrections.
    6. Randall Overly stated that new backups are required for the correctional facility’s chiller and boiler; however, availability and access to necessary equipment and parts is limited.
    7. Randall Overly stated that the current correctional facility’s infrastructure is not functioning properly and that attempting to repair all of the failing components of the facility is impractical.
    8. Major McDaniel commented that expediting sentenced misdemeanor inmates through the court process can lower inmate population; however, could be counterproductive as most of the facility’s work population is sentenced misdemeanor inmates. Major McDaniel stated that, in order to truly reduce inmate population, the longer term non-sentenced inmates must be considered first.
    9. Major McDaniel stated that the facility’s infrastructure is only intended to house inmates for less than one year; however, the average length of stay is two years or less.
14. **Closing Announcements**
15. J.D. Peacock stated that the paperwork process is not efficient and that there are plans to create more collaboration and communication across departments. J.D. Peacock also mentioned that the Clerk of Court also intends to incorporate Odyssey software. This software is cloud-based case management software.
16. Robert Kemp stated that probation releases at the state level are stable and consistent.
17. Commissioner Mixon closed the meeting with mentioning that the next meeting will be on May 11th 2023. The next meeting will be in Fort Walton Beach at 12 PM.

Meeting ended at 1:07 pm.