

PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023



PSCC



MEETING CHAIR:

Honorable Judge Tara P. Paluck

FACILITATOR:

Ashlee Whitewood

NOTETAKER:

Iris McDonald

MEMBERS:

Chairperson & Chief County Judge:	Honorable Tara P. Paluck
Administrative Circuit Judge:	Honorable Robert Branning
Chief Correctional Officer:	Chief Eric Smith
Chief Fort Myers Police Department:	Chief Jason Fields
Clerk of Court:	Kevin Karnes
County Commissioner Chair:	Ray Sandelli
County Manager:	Dave Harner
Court Administator:	Scott Wilsker
Department of Children and Families Representative:	Nekesha Nash
Director of a Community Mental Health Agency:	Stacey Cook Hawk
Director of County Probation and Pretrial Program:	Amy Kinsey
Director of Department of Juvenile Justice Facility:	Director Bill Naylor
Department of Juvenile Justice Chief Probation Officer:	Margaret LaMarca
Director of a Local Substance Abuse Treatment Program:	Tanya Slater
Lee County Sheriff:	Sheriff Carmine Marceno
Police Chief Cape Coral:	Anthony Sizemore
Community Based Treatment Family Member:	Al Kinkle
Primary Consumer of Mental Health Services:	Dana Foglesong
Primary Consumer of Substance Abuse Services:	Kari Anne Spiller
Public Defender:	Kathy Smith
Representatives from County and State Jobs Programs and Other Community Groups:	Kate Geist & Roger Mercado
Representative from Lee County Homeless Coalition	Michael Overway
State Attorney:	Amira Fox
State Probation Circuit Administrator (DOC):	Brad Rouskey

ATTENDEES

Administrative Office of the Courts	Jennifer Alvarez; Liza King; Amy Kinsey; Iris McDonald; Bridget Washburn; Ashlee Whitewood; Scott Wilsker
Centerstone	Charlene Gardner
Children’s Advocacy Center	John Wheeler
Florida Department of Corrections	Brad Rouskey; Michelle King
Fort Myers Police Department	Officer Kenneth McCoy; Lesa Hodgkins
Kimmie’s Recovery Zone	Caleb Akers; Al Kinkle; Heidi Webb
Lee County Human and Veteran Services	Tara Martinson
Lee County Sheriff’s Office:	Lt. LaDonna Brady; Jeanette Defaira; Lt. Jeremy Hardin; Sgt. Rudy Lepe; William Naylor; Sgt. Andreas Reisinger
Lee County Court	Honorable Judge Josephine Gagliardi; Honorable Judge Tara Paluck;
Operation PAR	Ashley Alexander; Maryann Hack
Public Defender	Kathleen Fitzgeorge
Salus Care	Windy Gavin; Jessica Plazewski
TLS	Tanya Slater

Lee County Public Safety Coordinating Council Meeting
Lee County Administrative Office Building
1st Floor Conference Room

DISCUSSION

Open & Approval of Previous Minutes

Honorable Tara P. Paluck

- Honorable Tara P. Paluck called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.
- All attendees introduced themselves and the agencies they represent.
- Meeting Minutes from September 5, 2023 deemed approved as proposed with the administrative changes on the member list.

Item 1) Human and Veteran Services Opioid Abatement programs

Tara Martinson, Grants Analyst-Behavioral Health

CJMHSA

- A planning grant through DCF from 9/1/23 to 8/31/24 – HVS, FGCU and CPE
- Develop a strategic plan for BJEC - SUD services into their service model
- Incorporating aspects from the Opioid Abatement Strategy and SIM
 - Formal Partnerships: Kimmie’s Recovery Zone and Drug-Free SWFL
- Data-Sharing Agreement: HVS and FGCU - Completed
- Met with USF – Helping with Strategic Plan
- PSCC Subcommittee Workgroup: Sent around sign-in sheet for those that want to join subcommittee.
- CJMHSA Reinvestment Grant - Will be applying for the Reinvestment Grant – Due Feb 26th

Opioid Abatement

- **Kimmie’s Recovery Zone**
 - ❖ Caleb Akers – Director of Operations and Program Development
 - ❖ Homeless Outreach – HOT and HVS – Link to Treatment Options
 - ❖ Bi-weekly Food Distribution, WRAP Trainings, Narcan Distribution
 - ❖ Narcan Training for Lee County School Nurses and Principles, Public Defenders Office, FGCU Students
 - ❖ Handout: 2nd Quarter Data
- Al Kinkle-
 - ❖ A lot of changes and forward thinking with strategic plan.
 - ❖ Narcan changing death rate but not overdoses.
- **Centerstone**
 - ❖ Has had a later start
 - ❖ Referrals can be submitted to the WISH Supervisor/Program Manager – Gregory Novak Greg.Novak@centerstone.org or by calling 239-208-6390
 - ❖ Client Update
 - ✓ 5 Served
 - ✓ MAT and Supportive Services
 - ❖ New Hires
 - ✓ Centerstone – 1 Peer Specialist
 - ✓ Lee Health – 2 Navigators
 - ❖ Marketing campaign

Item 2) LCSO Jail Population Trends/Update

Lt. Jeremy Hardin, LCSO

Sgt. Andreas Reisinger, LCSO

- Overall trend is increasing on the average daily population. The daily inmate population at the beginning of the year was as at an average of approximately 1400; the average daily population as of November is 1600, which is a significant increase from last year.
- Due to a current sanitation project at the jail, many inmates were relocated from the jail to the CORE facility. The CPU compound has since re-opened and is being utilized to house some of those inmates.
- There are three positive COVID-19 cases at this time.
- Still following the 10-day quarantine and CDC guidelines.

Item 3) LCSO Jail Inmate Program Updates and Statistics

(Life Skills, RSAT, Re-entry, Peer Mentor Program, Work Release)

Lt. LaDonna Brady, Corrections Services

- RSAT program- In 2022 there were 34 inmate completions for males and 16 completions for females. Of those 34 males, 17 were court ordered with an early release upon successful completion of the RSAT Program. This saved 1,160 days of incarceration and \$164,024.00 of incarcerated cost. For the females there were 16 completions, of those seven were court ordered with early release upon successful completion resulting in a savings of 306 days incarceration and \$43,268.40 of incarcerated cost. For those that graduated the RSAT program and were not re-arrested, the recidivism rate resulted in a successful completion rate for the males of 70.59% and a 100% completion rate for the females. Currently there are 35 males and 11 females enrolled in the program.
- Life skills program- There are 49 males and 1 female currently enrolled. In 2022, there were 10 male and 23 female completions.
- Veteran's program- Out of 51 veterans in custody there are 12 active veterans that are participating in the program, attending their weekly MRT Class and meditation classes.
- Work release program- There are three inmates in this program whom are working full time with a partner employer receiving weekly paychecks. In 2022, there were 14 participants, with two removals. Out of the 12 that completed two were re-arrested; one for a violation of probation and another for a new law violation. This resulted in a successful completion rate of 83.3%.
- Sheriff Carmine Corrections Clean-up Crew- Since the start on June 7, 2023 there has been 1999 bags of trash picked up and 52 full dump trucks collected. For 22 days, we have collaborated with DOT cleaning storm drains. Many of the truckloads come from cleaning up the deserted homeless camps with DOT.

Item 4) LCSO Corrections Day Work Program Updates and Statistics

Jeannette Defaira, Corrections Day Work Program Coordinator

- We have 39 active individuals currently in the program. Would like to see higher numbers. Numbers at one time were at 100, they have been trending downwards.
- County dollars saved to date this year \$368,163.00.
- Savings in non-incarceration costs is \$601,713.32.
- Currently 84% completion rate with 9% still enrolled in the program.
- Judges can court order attendance for once a week.

Item 5) AOC Treatment Court Programs End of Year Information Updates

Bridget Washburn, AOC Treatment Courts Manager

- November is National Veterans and Military Families Month, so VTC had a Veterans Day Celebration on 11/7/23 that went really well. Thank you to everyone that was able to attend or send representatives

from their agencies. December is National Impaired Driving Prevention month; we do not have any events planned, but please keep that in mind throughout the month.

- Our Fiscal Year ended on 9/30/23. For Drug Court, the overall success rate was 62%, for Mental Health Court the overall success rate was 67%, and for Veterans Treatment Court the overall success rate was 93%.
- Judge Hayes will be retiring on December 31, 2023, with her last Drug Court docket on December 18, 2023. Effective, January 1, 2024. A retirement celebration is scheduled for December 8, 2023 in Courtroom 1A at 2PM for Judge Hayes.
- Judge Mirra will be taking over that half of the Drug Court docket. Judge Gagliardi will be keeping the other half of the Drug Court docket, while also keeping Mental Health Court and Veterans Treatment Court.

Item 6) SalusCare

Jessica Plazewski, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

- Crisis Stabilization Unit- After being closed for nine months due to hurricane damage, the adult and children's units are up and running. We are open and accepting individuals who are placed under a baker act.
- If anyone would like a tour of the facility to see what changes have been made, can contact me to schedule a tour.
- Cape Coral location is still closed, awaiting repairs. Clients either have to be seen by telehealth or at other locations.
- Ortiz location is also closed with the exception of the building that The Center for Progress and Excellence is using in the back of the facility. We are currently determining what is going to be done with that location regarding building and service lines there. Regardless of locations, all services are up and operational.
- We are currently working with LCSO and Amour regarding the language in the Florida mental health act that allows individuals who are charged with a felony who are unsafe to be treated at our facility be treated where they are being housed. We are also working with a team to work on a process to avoid bringing those individuals over to the crisis unit and treating them at the jail.

Item 7) Level UP! Dads

JJ Wheeler, Director of Prevention Services (Child Advocacy Center)

- Level UP! Dads-Is a mentorship program designed to help men in crisis whom want to be involved in their children's lives but do not know how.
- Fathers are paired up with mentors called dadvocates. The best way to describe dadvocates is a big brother big sister program for dads.
- The program is a volunteer program and not a court ordered one, however referrals are accepted.
- We host educational events and social events for the dads, children, dadvocates and staff.
- The goal is to create a community of educated, empowered and confident fathers that are more involved in their children's lives.
- The program is fully funded and launched. Currently looking for dads and dadvocates, as well as community partners that would like to help with education and/or social events.

Item 8) Open Discussion

Brad Rouskey Circuit Administrator for Circuit 20 FDC:

- In 2019, discussion started on the possibility of incorporating a First Step program in Circuit 20. First step is a program that offenders whom are court ordered to state probation are required to pay \$1.00 per

month as a special condition of probation to a non-profit organization. The monies accumulated are then used to meet the needs of some offenders who are recently released from incarceration.

- A Board of Directors has been created. Ms. Tanya Slater is the president of First Step Corporation. There are also some individuals from private sectors such as a Chief Financial Officer/CPA, whom is now the treasurer. A rough draft of the articles of incorporation and bylaws have been formulated and we are close to incorporating.
- There are currently 10 First Step Programs in Florida, we would be the 11th and there are nine still behind us. The goal is to have every circuit get one.

Our next PSCC scheduled meeting is Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

Thank you to everyone that attended today.