

# **PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL**

**MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025**



**PSCC**



# **MEETING CHAIR:**

Honorable Judge Josephine Gagliardi for  
Honorable Tara P. Paluck

# **FACILITATOR:**

Ashlee Whitewood

# **NOTETAKER:**

Yazmin Rivera

# **MEMBERS:**

Chairperson & Chief County Judge:	Honorable Josephine 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
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, Iris McDonald, Yazmin Rivera, Bridget Washburn, Ashlee Whitewood
Board of County Commissioners	Cecil Pendergrass
Centerstone	Erica Barker, Greg Novak, Joseph Rea
CPE	Heather Cross
Department of Juvenile Justice	Lt. Clarcq, Ron Rockefeller
Florida Department of Corrections	Brad Rouskey
Fort Myers Police Department	Officer McCoy
Lee County EMS	Jim Augustine, Colin Johnson
Lee County Human and Veteran Services	Sheena Journey, Tara Martinson
Lee County Sheriff's Office:	Lt. LaDonna Brady, Lt. Jeremy Hardin, Sgt. Andreas Reisinger, Jeanette Defaira, Lt. Candy Chapman, Sgt. Rudy Lepe
Lee County Court	Honorable Judge Josephine Gagliardi
Operation PAR	Amanda Benlien, Ashley Alexander
Public Defender's Office	Nicole Calderone
Salus Care	Vanessa Abound, Michelle Morin
State Attorney's Office	Paul Poland
TLS	Tanya Slater
Valerie's House	Lauren Ewinger

**Lee County Public Safety Coordinating Council Meeting  
Lee County Administrative Office Building  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room**

**DISCUSSION**

**Open & Approval of Previous Minutes**  
**Honorable Judge Josephine Gagliardi**

- Honorable Judge Josephine Gagliardi for Honorable Tara P. Paluck called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.
- Attendee and agency introductions.
- Meeting Minutes from December 10, 2024 deemed approved as proposed with no changes.

**Item 1) LCSO Jail Population Trends/Update**

**Lt. Jeremy Hardin & Sgt. Andreas Reisinger, Corrections Services**

- The LCSO Jail Population Report was provided to all council members in attendance.
- From December 2024 through current date count numbers continue to increase.
- The increase could be from ICE, detainers and more county & state sentence.
- We are at record numbers, however still holding steady.

**Item 2) LCSO Jail Inmate Program Updates and Statistics**

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

**Lt. LaDonna Brady, Corrections Services**

- RSAT Program - Currently have 42 males enrolled, 26 of those were court ordered. Currently have 15 females, 9 of those were court ordered.
- Life Skills Program – There are 20 males and 3 females and none are court ordered.
- CBT- 1 male enrolled.
- For the year of 2024 there were 117 completions, 14 of those were court ordered to be released early upon completion of the program saving the county \$159,073.20 in average cost per day.
- Re-entry Program – Conducted 1,108 in-person interviews and coordinated 547 phone interviews. Submitted 1,293 program applications with 481 acceptances. Provided 200 inmates leaving custody with emergency hygiene kits. Provided 165 inmates with replacement ID's. Ordered and received 54 birth certificates for inmates. Ordered and received 321 social security cards. Provided 6 homeless individuals with bicycles.
- Ministry – 2,564 religion specific canonical books, 15,266 general library books, 10,684 religious library books, 18,330 general accessories such as book marks, address books, date books, daily breads and etc. 1,088 pairs of reading glasses and 465 in-person visits.
- Carmines Corrections Cleanup Crew – 201 dump trailers of trash, 3,791 bags of trash, 301 days assisting DOT cleaning storm drains of debris, 21 days working on interstate exits, 114 requests from citizens for specific are cleanup completed and 152 VIP requests.
- GED – 122 inmates were enrolled in the program and 7 inmates received their GED.

**Item 3) LCSO Corrections Day Work Program Updates and Statistics**

**Jeannette Defaira, Corrections Day Work Program Coordinator**

- As of March 3, 2025 there are currently 63 day worker enrolled in the program, savings to the county of \$111,969.00 from the 8,613 hours worked by the day workers and \$155,090.00 for non-incarceration costs, totaling \$267,059.00 . The grand total of savings to the county from the start of the program is

approximately 19.4 million dollars. The current completion rate is at 98%, with 17% still enrolled in the program.

- This quarter there have been 6 Community Service participants sign up with 4 completing and 2 still enrolled.

#### **Item 4) AOC Treatment Court Programs End of Year Information Updates**

##### **Bridget Washburn, AOC Treatment Courts Manager**

- Currently there are 101 participants in Drug Court with a fiscal year success rate of 52%, 29 participants in Mental Health Court with a fiscal year success rate of 67%, and 24 participants in Veterans Treatment Court with a fiscal year success rate of 100%. There are 2 Veterans Treatment Court graduations this afternoon.
- A Mental Health Court team from Missouri traveled here on a grant to observe our Mental Health Court for a learning opportunity. The visitors included a Judge, 2 Department of Corrections Probation Officers, a Peer Support Specialist, a Treatment Provider, and their Coordinator. While here, they also observed Veterans Treatment Court and Judge Mirra conducting Drug Court.
- Kimmie's Recovery Zone has begun sending peers to court each time there is a docket. The participant's appear to be enjoying this and they have been a wonderful addition to the team.
- The Health and Wellness Coalition section of The Collaboratory is working on a program for mentorship of Veterans in the community. During the two meetings so far, it was determined that since Veterans Treatment Court has a mentor component as part of the program, it will be used as the "target" population, along with the jail for mentees. There is a group of community stakeholders, all Veterans, and Ms. Bridget Washburn will work on this project, which has a goal of recruiting and training appropriate mentors of all ages for the Veterans involved in the Justice System and Veterans Treatment Court.
- The Drug Court team is continuing to work with the Public Defender Team and Assistant State Attorney Team on a secondary track within Drug Court that would allow moderate risk/high need offenders into the program, and would include Misdemeanor and Traffic cases. Currently allowed are HR/HN felony cases into the program. The tracks will have to be separate for treatment, dockets, etc.
- In 2024, the Drug Court Team submitted an application to the national organization for problem-solving court programs, All Rise, to be a national mentor program. Hundreds of programs submitted applications, Lee County made it into the final twelve. Ultimately, Broward County was chosen as one of the ten mentor programs for the 2025-2027 period and Lee County was not selected. Collier County, that previously been a mentor court for two sessions, or four years, also reapplied, but was also not selected. Extremely proud of our team for making it into the top twelve in the nation and making that far is solely due to the hard work of our Judges and treatment provider, TLS Consulting, and the buy-in and unwavering support from our Public Defender Team and Assistant State Attorney Team. Without those essential pieces, we would not be as successful as we are!
- May is Problem-Solving Court Month (looking for guest speakers) keep an eye out for potential event flyers!

#### **Item 5) Opioid Abatement programs update**

##### **Tara Martinson, Grants Analyst-Behavioral Health**

##### **Kimmie's Recovery Zone - Handout: October 2024 - December 2024**

- Kimmie's did a lot of outreach after the hurricane from the barrier islands, supplied water & cleaning supplies.
- In December the Annual Toy Drive – 226 people in attendance.
- Total served by month (quarterly statistics):
  - October 464

- November 637
- December 1,052

#### **Centerstone - Handout: October 2024 - December 2024**

- As of February 24, 2025 – 51 enrolled in the Wish Program.
- In October they launched a new youth social media credential campaign that was Halloween themed and ran through November 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- In November they started seeking a safety group for their clients.
- In December they added a new billboard as a marketing campaign located in North Fort Myers on Bayshore between Washington and Shirley.
- Opiate Abatement Plan was last written in 2022 which is the guidance of the programs that the county will fund with opiate abatement money:
  - We will have to start the process to update the guide and since the Opiate Task Force is the PSCC there will be a sign up sheet passed around. Anyone that is involved in opiate treatment, substance abuse that impacts the system and if you would like to be a part of this please sign up.
  - We will need to have small work groups outside the PSCC meeting.
  - The first meeting we will go over the Opiate Abatement Plan to review what was written and what has changed, to review if we have made progress or where we haven't, review legal documents and then to have breakout sessions.
  - The second meeting will be an overview of all of Florida's counties to see what they have spent money on outside of what we are doing.
  - The last meeting will be a voting session and a summary of all the information that was gathered and what we want to do moving forward.
  - And lastly after review an RFA will come out.
- Total served by month (quarterly statistics):
  - October 57
  - November 71
  - December 84

#### **Item 6) SalusCare**

##### **Vanessa Abound, Recovery Support Navigation Manager**

- Recovery Residence within SalusCare on the TLC Campus has a total of 64 beds and currently 20 are available.
- \$154.00 a week, \$22.00 a day not understanding why this program is not being utilized more in this community.
- There is a screening process, they have recovery coaches, curfews, random screenings, groups and work with probation officers and treatment providers.
- They do not have to be part of SalusCare to be part of the campus.
- Zero tolerance policy.
- Success stories through Drug Court Program.
- Male and Female openings.
- Approximately 2 hour process.
- Admission Fee \$154.00 plus first week of \$154.00.
- Under-utilized program.
- Ask that they have a job or we can assist them get a job or have someone that can financially assist them.
- They have access to therapy if they relapse so they can get back on track.
- Assist with housing costs.

- January statistics on TLC Campus – received 28 referrals from the PD’s Office and out of those 13 met the criteria and only 3 were admitted all others declined.
- We are state funded and we want the referrals to keep coming.

**Item 7) Lee County**

**Deputy Chief Colin Johnson, Community Health Program**

- New Community Health Program started in August with a team of paramedics, nurses, EMT, and social workers overseen by medical director.
- We brand ourselves as a gap in the community.
- We started off with core funding based off of substance abuse disorders.
- We interface with a lot of clients and patients within the community.
- Our team is 7 days a week 12 hours a day and they go out in the field and start to do assessments with individuals they interface with.
- Our program is meant to help fill gaps within the community and get them connected with all the resources that are available.
- We can do welfare checks, connect to telehealth services and mental health services.
- January statistics:
  - Interfaced with 120 behavioral health clients
  - 51 chronic disease management clients
  - 31 high volume nebulizers
  - 16 persons experiencing with homelessness
  - 27 social service clients
- On line referral system and the team tries to make contact within 24 hours.
- Take people that are non-insured, insured, any age and we do not bill.
- Service Lee County boundaries.
- Maggie the support dog helps with anxiety behaviors and helps draw your attention away.

**Item 8) Citizens Police Academy**

**Officer Kenneth McCoy, Fort Myers Police Department**

- This is our third session and the Citizens Police Academy started in 2017.
- Anyone within the city limits that qualifies is allowed to participate in the program and anyone outside of city limits, however do give preference to those within the city limits.
- 10 week program that is free where participants can get up close and personal with the police department and behind the scenes experience.
- Participants will get to talk to homicide detectives, community engaged personnel and the chief.
- Participants will gain a better understanding about law enforcement and get a hands on interactive training.
- Meetings are on Tuesdays from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and every other Saturday.
- Participants will receive Taser training, view live cam video and get to go on a police call through virtual reality.
- Overall the participants will learn how the police officers work within the community.

**Our next PSCC scheduled meeting is Tuesday, June 10, 2025.  
Thank you to everyone that attended today.**