

PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 12, 2024



PSCC



MEETING CHAIR:

Ashlee Whitewood for the Honorable Judge Tara P. Paluck

FACILITATOR:

Ashlee Whitewood

NOTETAKER:

Liliana Garcia

MEMBERS:

Chairperson & Chief County Judge:	Honorable Judge Tara P. Paluck
Administrative Circuit Judge:	Honorable Judge 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:	Julie Boudreaux & 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; Liliana Garcia; Liza King; Amy Kinsey; Bridget Washburn; Ashlee Whitewood
Acadia Healthcare	Lance Franklin
Board of County Commissioners	Cecil Pendergrass
Centerstone	Greg Novak
Center For Progress and Excellence, INC.	Heather Cross
Florida Department of Corrections	Brad Rouskey
Fort Myers Police Department	Officer Kenneth McCoy
Florida Treatment For Change & Surrender House	Kari Anne Spiller; Eileen Kapperman
Kimmie's Recovery Zone	Al Kinkle; Heidi Webb
Lee County Human and Veteran Services	Jami Browder; Annette Gies; Angela Kermeur; Tara Martinson; Dawn Raymond
Lee County Sheriff's Office:	Lt. LaDonna Brady; Jeanette Defaira; Lt. Jeremy Hardin; Sgt. Rudy Lepe; William Naylor; Sgt. Andreas Reisinger; Chris Seluk
Lee County Court	Honorable Judge Josephine Gagliardi
Operation PAR	Ashley Alexander; Amanda Benlien
Salus Care	Eddis Jamieson
State Attorney's Office	Tyler Lovejoy, Paul Poland.
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

Deputy Director Ashlee Whitewood, Lee County Probation

- Ashlee Whitewood called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.
- All attendees introduced themselves and the agencies they represent.
- Meeting Minutes from November 28, 2023 deemed approved as proposed with no changes.

Item 1) 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 1600. Since February the population has increased, there has been a larger trend of more people coming in as to people going out.
- Additionally, discussions centered on the efforts aimed at removing the quarantine process as CDC guidelines evolve, aligning facility protocols accordingly.
- Furthermore, the impact of the Bond Schedule on inmate bonding rates was analyzed. It was noted that despite offering lower bonds, there has not been a significant change in the rate of inmates bonding out. The absence of a discernible upward or downward trend in bonding rates was observed.

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- In 2023 we reviewed the outcomes of the program, noting that out of the 32 males who completed the program, 3 individuals reoffended. This resulted in a recidivism rate of 9.37%, indicating a relatively low rate of reoffending among program participants. Furthermore, the success rate of the program was highlighted, with 98.4% of participants considered successful based on their completion without reoffending. After reviewing the performance of female participants in the program, noting that out of the 15 females who completed it, one individual reoffended. This resulted in a success rate of 93.34% among female participants. In addition, the overall recidivism rate for all participants who completed the program was calculated at 8.51%, showing a decrease of 2.39% compared to the rate in 2022. This improvement resulted in a 91.49% recidivism rate overall. Currently our numbers for enrollment are 46 males and 36 females.
- Life Skills Program- Five males have completed the program with one reoffending resulting in an 80% success rate. Four females have completed the program with zero reoffending resulting in a 100% success rate. Overall, the recidivism rate for the Life Skills Program is 90%. Currently there are 46 males enrolled within the program.
- Veteran's Program- After reviewing the progress of the Veterans Program since its inception approximately 18 months ago. It was noted that two inmates have successfully graduated from the program during this period, and neither of them have returned to custody, resulting in a notable 100% success rate in terms of recidivism among program graduates. On top of that, the current enrollment status of the program was discussed, with nine inmates currently participating. The group acknowledged the importance of continuing to support and expand the program to effectively address the unique needs of incarcerated veterans.

- Work Release Program- Attendees discussed the outcomes of the Work Release Program, noting that out of the 21 inmates who participated, 18 successfully completed the program, resulting in a commendable success rate of 90.48%. However, it was reported that two individuals were rearrested after program completion. In addition, it was highlighted that three inmates were removed from the program for various reasons. Two of them were removed due to misconduct, while one was removed because they were not satisfied with the type of work offered through the program.
- Re-entry Programs- The attendees reviewed the comprehensive support services provided to inmates in 2023. Noteworthy achievements included conducting over a thousand interviews to assess inmate needs, processing a substantial number of program applications, and facilitating the issuance of essential documents such as driver's licenses, birth certificates, and social security cards to aid in the reintegration process. On top of that, the challenges encountered in securing transportation resources, particularly in acquiring donated bikes, were discussed. Efforts to overcome these challenges and improve transportation support for inmates were explored.

The meeting provided an overview of the inmate support services activities in 2023, highlighting the following key statistics:

- Inmate Interviews:
 - In-Custody: 1,055 interviews
 - Phone Interviews: 343 interviews
- Program Applications:
 - Submitted: 1,470 applications
 - Acceptances: 554 inmates
- Issued Items:
 - Clothing: 518 inmates
 - Hygiene Kits: 214 inmates
 - Driver's Licenses/IDs: 120 inmates
 - Birth Certificates: 63 inmates
 - Social Security Cards: 338 inmates
- Transportation Assistance:
 - Provided seven bikes to inmates as a startup transportation initiative due to difficulties in sourcing donated bikes.

**Item 3) LCSO Corrections Day Work Program Updates and Statistics
Jeannette Defaira, Corrections Day Work Program Coordinator**

- Attendees discussed the status of the LCSO Corrections Day Work Program, noting the significant enrollment of 50 inmates and the financial savings generated for the county, both at the beginning of the year and through non-incarceration alternatives. The completion rate of 53% was acknowledged, with 46 inmates still actively participating in the program. Furthermore, discussions centered on the importance of ongoing recruitment efforts to maximize program utilization and engagement. The collaboration with non-profit organizations within the county were highlighted as a mutually beneficial opportunity, emphasizing the potential for additional support and resources to enhance program effectiveness.

The meeting provided an update on the LCSO Corrections Day Work Program, highlighting the following key points:

- County Dollars Saved:
 - Beginning of the Year: \$68,698
 - Non-incarceration Savings: \$100,444.92
- Judges can court order attendance for once a week.

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

Bridget Washburn, AOC Treatment Courts Manager

- The recent addition of Honorable Judge Nicole Mirra to the team was discussed, highlighting her positive contributions thus far under the mentorship of Honorable Judge Josephine Gagliardi. The current participant numbers in each problem-solving court were reviewed, highlighting the ongoing demand for these specialized programs.
- Moreover, discussions centered on the recent approval of certification standards for problem-solving courts by the Supreme Court of Florida, along with the proposal to participate in the Pilot Project for implementing these standards. The development of a secondary track within Drug Court to accommodate moderate-risk/high-need offenders was also explored as a means to expand program eligibility.
- Among other things, the team's involvement in community events such as the NAMI Walk and Veteran Expo was highlighted, along with plans to participate in various awareness months in May, emphasizing the importance of volunteer and speaker engagement.

The meeting provided an update on various initiatives related to problem-solving courts and collaborative efforts, including the following key points:

- Current Participant Numbers:
 - Drug Court: 99 participants
 - Mental Health Court: 32 participants
 - Veterans Treatment Court: 21 participants
- Approval of Certification Standards for Problem Solving Courts by the Supreme Court of Florida.
- Development of Secondary Track within Drug Court for Moderate Risk/High Need Offenders.
- Recognition of Various Awareness Months in May; National Treatment Courts Month, Florida Problem Solving Courts Month, National Mental Health Awareness Month, National Military Appreciation Month and Florida Courts Opioids and Stimulants use awareness Month.

Item 5) Statewide Bond Schedule Update

Amy Kinsey, Criminal Division Director of County Probation and Pretrial Services

- Attendees discussed the transition to the Statewide Bond Schedule following its adoption by Chief Judge Porter, with additional considerations outlined in Administrative Order 3.9 specific to Lee County. Notable changes were highlighted, including automatic holds for individuals with prior failure to appear instances and a reevaluation of bond eligibility for certain offenses such as, 1st Degree Felonies or being arrested 3 times or more within 6 months.
- Amongst other things, discussions centered on the impact of these changes on pre-first appearance release rates, noting a marginal increase from 80% to 81% based on January statistics. It was acknowledged that the continued monitoring and evaluation was needed to assess the long-term effects of the new bond schedule on the judicial process and public safety.

The meeting provided an update on the implementation of the Statewide Bond Schedule and Administrative Order 3.9, highlighting the following key points:

- Adoption of Statewide bond schedule by Chief Judge Porter, effective January 1, 2024.
- Additional factors considered under Administrative Order 3.9 in Lee County.
- Impact of the new bond schedule on pre-first appearance release and bond conditions.
- Observations from January statistics indicating a minimal change in release rates.

Item 6) 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 March 25th

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/I-Thrive Trainings, Narcan Distribution
 - Narcan Training for Lee County School Nurses and Principals, Public Defenders Office, FGCU Students.
- Al Kinkle-
 - A lot of changes and forward thinking with strategic plan.
- **Centerstone**
 - Have administered 114 doses of Narcan.
 - Referrals can be submitted to the WISH Supervisor/Program Manager – Gregory Novak Greg.Novak@centerstone.org or by calling 239-208-6390
 - Marketing Campaign; Bus Wraps, Vending Machines and Billboards.
 - Client Update
 - 19 Served (numbers will significantly increase by next PSCC meeting.)

Item 7) The Empowerment Center / Triage Facility Update

Heather Cross, Chief Executive Officer

- The empowerment centers last day of operation in that building will be March 31, 2024. Stopped taking intakes since February due to the unsafe conditions of the building.
- Collaborating with Catholic Charities and Salvation Army to transition the homeless that were in the shelter out to other areas of the community.
- 17 people are in the Rapid Rehousing Program and Salvation Army opened up some offices, which allowed 24 people to go over there.
- Trying to keep as much programming through the Salvation Army as possible.
- There is no long-term plan as to reopening the Empowerment Center. They are looking at areas around North Fort Myers.

Item 8) Open Discussion

- No discussion

**Our next PSCC scheduled meeting is Tuesday, June 11, 2024.
Thank you to everyone that attended today.**

