

# **PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL**

**MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026**



**PSCC**



**MEETING CHAIR:**

Honorable Tara P. Paluck

**FACILITATOR:**

Ashlee Whitewood

**NOTETAKER:**

Yazmin Rivera

**MEMBERS:**

Chairperson & Chief County Judge	Honorable Tara 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	Cecil Pendergrass
County Manager	Dave Harner
Court Administator	Scott Wilsker
Department of Children and Families Representative	Aaron Stitt
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, Amy Kinsey, Yazmin Rivera, Bridget Washburn, Ashlee Whitewood
BOCC	Cecil Pendergrass
Clerk of Court	Kevin Karnes
CPE	Heater Cross
Department of Juvenile Justice	William Naylor, Ron Rockafellow, Emily Ryding
Florida Department of Corrections	Brad Rouskey
Lee County Human and Veteran Services	Tara Martinson, Caitlyn Roberts
Lee County Sheriff's Office	Lt. LaDonna Brady, Lt. Candy Chapman, Sgt. Brad Crews, Jeanette Defaira, Sgt. Kristen Ratay, Lt. Andrea Reisinger
Lee County Court	Honorable Judge Tara P. Paluck
NAMI	Regina Britton
Public Defender's Office	Nicole Calderone
SalusCare	Vanessa Aboud
State Attorney's Office	Robert Rodriguez
TLS	Tanner Rainwater, Tanya Slater

**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 Tara Paluck**

- Honorable Judge Tara Paluck called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.
- Attendee and agency introductions.
- Meeting Minutes from December 2, 2025, deemed approved as proposed with one name correction.

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

**Lieutenant Reisinger, LCSO & Sergeant Ratay, LCSO**

- There has not been a huge shift in numbers, it has remained steady over the last 3 months, first quarter of 2026.
- January and February the population numbers at the jail shift slightly and the Core numbers slightly increased due to a maintenance project.
- The total jail population is approximately 1,600 or slightly under.
- A big change was in our inmate population with information holds.
- Immigration detainees during 2025 were a total of 1,263 and so far in the first quarter of 2026 there are approximately 600.
- 213 inmates with active SUV and are actively picked up by immigration within 48 hours once they have completed their local or state charges.

**Item 2) LCSO Jail Inmate Program Updates and Statistics (Life Skills, RSAT, Re-entry, Peer Mentor Program, Work Release)**

**Lieutenant LaDonna Brady, Corrections Jail Inmate Programs**

- Veterans:
  - 49 In custody (47 males & 2 females)
- Re-entry:
  - 285 Inmate in person interviews
  - 91 Inmate phone interviews
  - 172 Residential Program Applications
  - 70 Residential Program Acceptances
  - 46 Id's and 4 DL's
  - 90 Social Security Cards
  - 12 Birth Certificates
  - 191 Inmates issued clothing
  - 49 Emergency kits
- RSAT Program:
  - Currently have 39 males enrolled, with 21 of those being court ordered.
  - Currently have 14 females, with 6 of those being court ordered.
  - We had a total of 11 RSAT completions with 10 being released upon completion. This resulted in 853 days non incarceration of those inmates saving the county \$150,128.00 (based on cost per day of \$176.00).
- Life Skills Program:
  - Currently have 20 males with 0 being court ordered.
  - Currently have 1 female with 0 being court ordered.

- RSAT & Life Skills Recidivism 2025:
  - RSAT:
    - 47 males completed - 5 reoffended for a 10.64% recidivism rate
    - 13 females completed - non reoffended for a 0% recidivism rate
    - Overall recidivism rate for RSAT of 8.33% and 50% decrease from 2024
  - Life Skills:
    - 42 males completed - 3 reoffended for a 7.14% recidivism rate
    - 5 females completed – 1 reoffended for a 20% recidivism rate
    - Overall recidivism rate for Life Skills of 8.51% and 44.3% decrease from 2024
- Carmines Corrections Cleanup Crew (C4) – 2,279 bags of garbage, 142 full dump trailer truckloads, 72 citizen’s arrest (emailed or called in), 163 VIP/Priority requests, 39 days assisting DOT cleaning storm drains for the upcoming season and 18 days of cleaning exits (Project Interstate). With 2 inmate workers working 5 days a week for 52 weeks at the Florida minimum wage rate of \$14.00 per hour. This program has saved Lee County \$58,240.00.
- Ministry:
  - 155 volunteers conducted approximately 65 classes/groups
  - 987 canonical books – bibles, Quran, catholic, Spanish, torah, Jehovah
  - 3,843 accessories given out (daily bread, address books, magazines, bookmarks)
  - 3,766 library books issued
  - 2,796 chaplain’s libraries issued
  - 273 pairs of glasses were issued
  - 44 death notices or grief visits
- 2 males participating in CBT.

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

- As of March 31, 2026, there are currently 40 day workers enrolled in the program, with savings to the county of \$71,568.00 from the 5,112 hours worked by the day workers and \$126,544.00 for non-incarceration costs, totaling \$198,112.00 The grand total of savings to the county from the start of the program is approximately 20.4 million dollars. The current completion rate is at 51%, with 41% still enrolled in the program.
- The Day Work Program participant numbers are in the low 30’s. We ask the judges, state attorney’s office, and public defender’s office to keep us in mind during plea agreements and sentencing.
- For Community Service we had 3 enrolled at the end of November from December through March there were 23 participants that signed up with 19 completing, leaving 7 enrolled.

**Item 4) AOC Treatment Court Programs Update**  
**Bridget Washburn, AOC Treatment Courts Manager**

- We currently have 75 participants enrolled in Drug Court with a capacity of 200, 29 participants enrolled in Mental Health Court with a capacity of 75, and 12 participants enrolled in Veterans Treatment Courts with a capacity of 50. The numbers continue to be low.
- Drug Court Track II currently has 4 participants, 3 felony and 1 misdemeanor.
- May is Problem Solving Courts month, Mental Health Awareness month, Military Appreciation month, National Prevention week, Armed Forces Day, and Memorial Day. May is very busy and we are currently looking for a speaker.

## **Item 5) Opioid Abatement Programs Update and CJMHSA Reinvestment Grant Program**

### **Tara Martinson, Human and Veteran Service Grants Analyst-Behavioral Health**

- **Kimmie's Recovery Zone** - Handout: Quarterly Report October 2025 – December 2025
  - In October Kimmie's Recovery Zone collaborated with the McGregor Clinic at the Latino AIDS Awareness Event hosted by Sunshine Health of Fort Myers.
  - Completed a Narcan training like the Salvation Army.
  - In December a community holiday party was held and approximately 400 individuals attended where Narcan was handed out and a visit from Santa where toys were handed out.
- **Centerstone** - Handout: Quarterly Report October 2025 – December 2025
  - The biggest update was in December where finally 24-hour vending machines were installed at the Deer Run location at SalusCare.
- Abatement Plan was approved by the USCC February 17, 2026.
- Release RFA, as of March 2, 2026, 22 pre-applications from 14 organizations, 15 applications from 13 organizations moved forward to the application stage. They are viewed between May 11, 2026 – June 5, 2026, then an internal review from HDS and then a rendering from the committee. The conditional selection will be on June 5, 2026, and final on June 10, 2026.
- Since the program started one year ago there have been 206 referrals, 104 individuals admitted, 18 discharged and currently 86 are active.
- Ms. Kate Roberts is the new Program Manager at Commander Veterans Services, taking over the diversion program for adults and youth.

## **Item 6) NAMI/CIT Update**

### **Gina Britton, Program Director**

- We do a lot of other things besides CIT, we do support groups for peers led by NAMI trained facilitators, we do peer groups led by people in recovery and we do a family support group led by family members who have a loved one with mental illness.
- We have a new program called NAMI Smarts for Advocacy.
- We have education courses that last for 8 weeks teaching how the brain works, what mental illness is, how to stay on top of their physical health, how medication is important and different sorts of relaxation techniques.
- We cover Mental Health in the Workplace, Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) Program, Officer Wellness, Veterans Wellness, how to de-escalate skills, homelessness, and offer tours.
- A couple of years ago CIT International adopted a nationalized curriculum called Crisis Response Intervention Training (CRIT), which is a very comprehensive training.

## **Item 7) Lee County Clerk of Court Operation Green Light**

### **Kevin Karnes, Lee County Clerk of Courts**

- Operation Green Light is an annual program and it's a statutory driven program designed to help people get on the road without a suspended license.
- This is something that all the 67 clerk's offices around the state try to do at the same time April 14<sup>th</sup> – April 17<sup>th</sup> during normal business hours and on Friday open until 6:00 p.m.
- 25% collection fee waived.
- Primary drivers of suspension (last 7 years) approximately 15,000 are driving around with suspended driver's licenses due to failure to pay fines and 3,888 failed to appear.
- Failed to Pay Fines approximately 44,027 and Failed to Appear approximately 10,671.
- The people that elect traffic school in order not to get the points on their license and don't submit the certificate is about 11% of the citations. 21,000 total for the last 7 years.

- With 21,000 suspensions and 90,000 criminal cases is exactly what Operation Green Light is designed to do to help make people compliant with their obligations.
- Operation Green Light is a successful program that has a huge net benefit and is relatively low-cost event. The county judiciary is a strong partner in this program.
- Payment plans are accepted and no amount is too big; the goal is to get their license valid.
- Other Initiatives:
  - Homeless & Veteran’s Outreach Event in collaboration with Judge Gagliardi.
  - Re-Entry Task Force - We have partnered with the Re-Entry Task force on making sure that releasing inmates have their total due.
  - Florida Statues allow the Clerk to negotiate/settle past due amounts.

**Item 8) Veteran’s Treatment Court Success Story**

**Tanner Rainwater, Peer Support Specialist at TLS, Veteran Advisory Board with BOCC**

- After honorable service I moved to Lee County in 2021, ready to keep serving as a deputy for the LCSO. One night everything changed as I stepped up to protect my family and the public from a dangerous situation involving an individual who posed a threat. So, what began as a defense ended in my arrest. I completed 11 months of probation and emerged stronger on the other side. I stand before you as living proof that treatment courts work. I now work for TLS Consulting that provides critical case management and clinical services. Recently I was elected to the Lee County Veterans Advisory Committee where I will help shape better resources. TLS handles daily coordination, making sure participants stay on track with drug testing and court requirements. They deliver individualized mental health and substance abuse treatment and help address service-related trauma. They provide consistent support and guidance needed to rebuild lives. TLS is the steady hand that helps turn compliance into real transformation. They walk alongside veterans on hard days, celebrate the good days and make sure no one falls through the cracks.

**Update) Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass**

- Asking not to use the facility of New Life Dream Center until further notice.

**Our next PSCC scheduled meeting is Tuesday, June 9, 2026.  
Thank you for your attendance.**