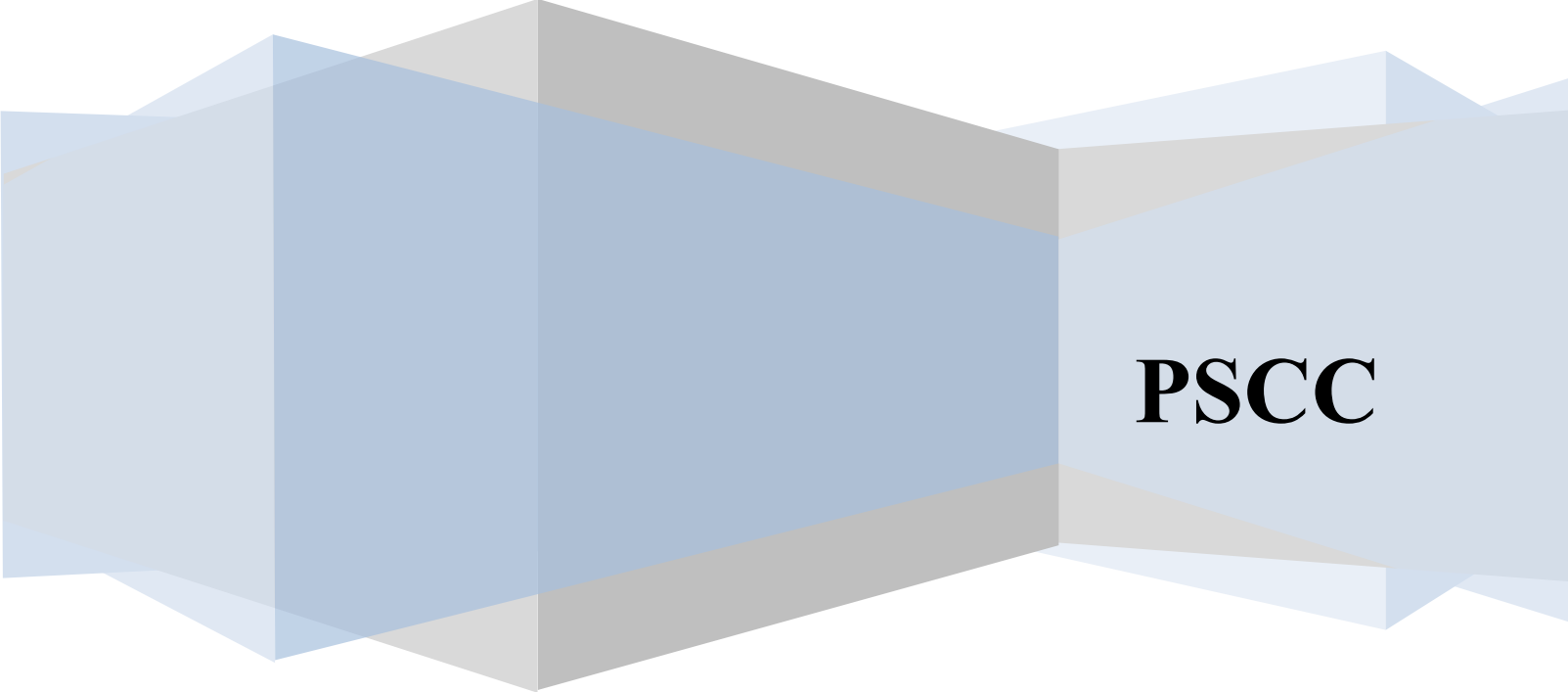


PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL

**MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2026**



PSCC


MEETING CHAIR:
FACILITATOR:
NOTETAKER:

Honorale Tara P. Paluck

Ashlee Whitewood

Yazmin Rivera

MEMBERS:

Chairperson & Chief County Judge

Administrative Circuit Judge

Chief Correctional Officer

Chief Fort Myers Police Department

Clerk of Court

County Commissioner Chair

County Manager

Court Administator

Department of Children and Families Representative

Director of a Community Mental Health Agency

Director of County Probation and Pretrial Program

Director of Department of Juvenile Justice Facility

Department of Juvenile Justice Chief Probation Officer

Director of a Local Substance Abuse Treatment Program

Lee County Sheriff

Police Chief Cape Coral

Community Based Treatment Family Member

Primary Consumer of Mental Health Services

Primary Consumer of Substance Abuse Services

Public Defender

Representatives from County and State Jobs Programs and

Other Community Groups

Representative from Lee County Homeless Coalition

State Attorney

State Probation Circuit Administrator (DOC)

Honorale Tara Paluck

Honorale Robert Branning

Chief Eric Smith

Chief Jason Fields

Kevin Karnes

Cecil Pendergrass

Dave Harner

Scott Wilsker

Aaron Stitt

Stacey Cook Hawk

Amy Kinsey

Director Bill Naylor

Margaret LaMarca

Tanya Slater

Sheriff Carmine Marceno

Anthony Sizemore

Al Kinkle

Dana Foglesong

Kari Anne Spiller

Kathy Smith

Kate Geist

Michael Overway

Amira Fox

Brad Rouskey

ATTENDEES

Administrative Office of the Courts

BOCC

CPE

Department of Juvenile Justice

Drug Free Lee (Thrive Lee)

Florida National Counterdrug Program

Fort Myers Police Department

Lee County Human and Veteran Services

Lee County Sheriff's Office

Lee County Court

NAMI

SalusCare

State Attorney's Office

TLS

Members of the public

Jennifer Alvarez, Liza King, Amy Kinsey, Yazmin Rivera, Bridget Washburn, Ashlee Whitewood, Scott Wilsker

Cecil Pendergrass

Heather Cross

Ron Rockafellow

Deborah Comella

Latoya Samuels

Officer McCoy

Tara Martinson

Lt. LaDonna Brady, Lt. Candy Chapman,

Sgt. Brad Crews, Jeanette Defaira, Lt. Andreas Reisinger

Honorale Judge Tara P. Paluck

Regina Britton

Windy Stafford Smith

Rich Montecalvo, Paul Poland

Tanya Slater

Kathryn Pogin

**Lee County Public Safety Coordinating Council Meeting
Lee County Administrative Office Building
1st 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 April 7, 2026, correction on Item 6) NAMI/CIT Update:
 - A couple of years ago CIT International adopted a nationalized curriculum called Crisis Residential Treatment Program (CRTP), which is a very comprehensive training.
 - CORRECTION - Should have read:
 - A couple of years ago CIT International adopted a nationalized curriculum called Crisis Response Intervention Training (CRIT), which is a very comprehensive training.
- Minutes are approved with correction.

Item 1) LCSO Jail Population Trends/Updates

Lieutenant Reisinger, LCSO & Sergeant Ratay, LCSO

- No big changes to report. Average Daily Population has remained steady with no huge spikes or dips to report.
- State sentenced inmates have remained steady.
- Increase in population with Immigration Holds (dramatically from last year) with an average of 213 in April. Currently, as of today there are 201.

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

- GED:
 - 24 enrolled
 - 4 completed -received GED
- Veterans:
 - 52 In custody (50 males & 2 females) – working on getting mediation back for the Veterans
- Re-entry:
 - 266 Inmate in person interviews
 - 128 Phone program interviews
 - 259 Residential Program Applications
 - 87 Residential Program Acceptances
 - 80 Id's
 - 83 Birth Certificates
 - 13 Social Security Cards
 - 181 Inmates issued clothing
 - 27 Emergency hygiene kits
- RSAT Program:
 - Currently have 44 males enrolled, with 25 of those being court ordered.
 - Currently have 13 females, with 6 of those being court ordered.

- We had a total of 15 RSAT completions (12 males and 3 females) with 10 being released upon completion. This resulted in 838 days non incarceration of those inmates saving the county \$142,460.00 (based on cost per day of \$176.00).
- Life Skills Program:
 - Currently have 17 males, with 10 completions.
 - Currently have 2 females, with 0 completions.
- 4 males participating in CBT.

Item 3) LCSO Corrections Day Work Program Updates and Statistics

Jeannette Defaira, Corrections Day Work Program Coordinator

- As of May 31, 2026, there are currently 26-day workers enrolled in the program, with savings to the county of \$118,440.00 from the 8,460 hours worked by the day workers and \$207,504.00 for non-incarceration costs, totaling \$305,944.00 The grand total of savings to the county from the start of the program is approximately 20.6 million dollars. The current completion rate is at 68%, with 20% still enrolled in the program.
- The Day Work Program participant numbers are very low in the low 20'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 7 enrolled at the end of March, in April and May, we had 11 participants that signed up with 16 completing, leaving 2 enrolled in the program.

Item 4) AOC Treatment Court Programs Update

Bridget Washburn, AOC Treatment Courts Manager

- We currently have 79 participants enrolled in Drug Court (capacity of 200) with a Fiscal Year success rate of 80%, 33 participants enrolled in Mental Health Court (capacity of 75) with a Fiscal Year success rate of 93%, and 13 participants enrolled in Veterans Treatment Courts (capacity of 50) with a Fiscal Year success rate of 82%.
- Drug Court Track II, for moderate risk/high need offenders, currently have a total of 7 participants:
 - 4 felonies
 - 1 misdemeanor
 - 2 criminal traffic
- There was an overdose fatality in Drug Court, he was residing in Hillsborough County after successfully completing a residential program (program in Hillsborough County and being supervised there). He had been doing well, had stable housing, stable work and was scheduled to graduate on June 1, 2026, he overdosed on May 31, 2026, one day prior to his graduation.
- Drug Court Track II started November 1, 2025.
- Drug Court Track II is a specialized, lower-capacity track designed specifically for moderate-risk, high-need offenders facing felony or criminal traffic charges related to substance abuse.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The following criteria are intended to be a guide for those considering making a referral to drug court. If there are any criteria that a participant might not meet, they are still encouraged to speak to their attorney about making a referral. Each case will be considered on an individual basis. The eligibility criteria are as follows:

- 18 years of age or older
- Resident of Lee County, or willing to reside in Lee County for the duration of the drug court program (minimum of 9 months)
 - Transfers to or from another Florida county may be possible and are determined on a case-by-case basis

- Legally appropriate as determined by the State Attorney
 - Charged with one or more felony charges of the 2nd or 3rd degree, one or more misdemeanor charges of the 1st degree, or one or more criminal traffic charge of an undefined nature
 - Charge(s) must not be a second-degree felony violation under F.S. Chapter 810 or a forcible felony as defined in F.S. 776.08
 - Charge(s) must not be a sexual or sexually motivated offense
 - Barring legal prohibitions, potential participants charged with sale of controlled substance are not automatically excluded if there is credible evidence that the defendant was selling to support an addiction
 - For felony offenders, must score 60 points or fewer on criminal score sheet
- Clinically appropriate as determined by the treatment provider
 - Must undergo clinical screening and assessment to verify the existence of a moderate to severe substance use disorder (as well as any other co-occurring disorders) along with the need for substance use treatment and the capability to complete program.
 - Any co-occurring mental disorder(s) must be sufficiently stabilized so that participant can manage all program requirements set forth in their Drug Court handbook
 - Must undergo a risk/needs assessment to confirm the applicant is at a moderate risk to fail in a less-intensive treatment program, and has a high criminogenic need for treatment of a substance use disorder (and any co-occurring disorder)
 - Participant must be willing to comply with all rules and requirements set forth in the Drug Court handbook, and with all treatment recommendations
- Regarding any medical conditions, a participant must be willing to consent to sign all necessary medical releases to allow team members to coordinate care with prescribing physician(s) for physical health, mental health, and substance use disorder needs
 - FDA-approved medications to assist with treatment for substance use disorder are permitted, so long as participant complies with all rules to obtain and use same lawfully and safely
- A participant must be able to comply with all rules set forth in the Drug Court-Track Two handbook, including attendance at all treatment sessions and self-help meetings, frequent drug testing, payment of restitution to any victims, and maintenance of minimum employment or schooling requirements for each phase

ADDITIONAL EXCLUSIONARY CRITERIA

- Immigration hold
- Hold or detainer for any other jurisdiction
 - Candidate is encouraged to speak with their attorney to see if this can be addressed to return them to eligibility
- Registered sex offender or sexual predator
- Consideration of the victim's exclusion recommendation
- Charge(s) carries a statutory minimum mandatory prison sentence

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

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

- **Kimie's Recovery Zone** - Quarterly Report January 2026 – March 2026
 - Kimie's Recovery Zone focused a lot of efforts on Peers getting certified with 28 being certified this quarter.
 - Total Served by Month:
 - January – 2,495
 - February – 2,635
 - March – 2,515
 - Referrals for Supportive Services:

- January – 31
 - February – 28
 - March – 36
- Referrals for MAT/SUD/MH
 - January – 9
 - February – 21
 - March – 37
- Narcan Distributed
 - January – 1,295
 - February – 2,554
 - March – 1,269
- **Centerstone** - Quarterly Report January 2026 – March 2026 Total Served by Month:
 - Centerstone has a total of 4 vending machines with the 4th one being at AIM Target.
 - Total Served by Month:
 - January – 71
 - February – 90
 - March - 79
 - Hospital Encounters:
 - January – 294
 - February – 160
 - March – 205
 - Adults Served in MAT:
 - January – 24
 - February – 58
 - March – 12
 - Referrals for Supportive Services:
 - January – 16
 - February – 10
 - March – 6
- For the RFA that recently came out conditional selection notices were sent June 5, 2026, the agencies that were conditionally selected for funding are SalusCare intensive outpatient program, Veteran recovery support program, St. Matthew’s House and Justin’s Place expansion.
- Empower Lee:
 - 229 Referrals
 - 112 Accepted since program started
 - 50 Declined
 - 62 Total currently active

Item 6) Drug Free Lee (Thrive Lee)
Deborah Comella, Executive Director

- Rebranded – All About Wellness
- Thrive Lee is a community organization dedicated to helping young people grow strong, make smart choices, and build healthy futures.
- 32nd year for Drug House Odyssey in Lee County with its message to make good decisions about drinking and driving. The program has developed a video specifically for the classroom with discussion points.
- July 25, 2026, Regional Youth Summit in North Port, participating in interactive prevention and intervention planning.

Item 7) National Guard Counterdrug (Night Vision Prevention Program)

Sgt. Samuels

- The Florida National Guard Program is a statewide multifaceted program with 6 functional areas. They can include refusal skills, dealing with peer pressure, positive ways to cope with stress, mental illness, trauma and depression.
- The program is completely free, works closely with schools and community events.
- Provides substance abuse information and educates about the dangers of drug usage.
- The goal is to educate because with knowledge healthier decisions can be made.

Item 8) Open Discussion

- N/A

**Our next PSCC scheduled meeting is Tuesday, September 15, 2026.
Thank you for your attendance.**