

PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL

**MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025**



PSCC



MEETING CHAIR:

Honorable Judge Josephine Gagliardi for

FACILITATOR:

Honorable Tara P. Paluck

NOTETAKER:

Ashlee Whitewood

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, Yazmin Rivera, Bridget Washburn,
Ashlee Whitewood

Centerstone

Erica Barker

Clerk of Court

Kevin Karnes

CPE

Heather Cross

Department of Juvenile Justice

Ron Rockefeller

Florida Department of Corrections

Brad Rouskey

Lee County Human and Veteran Services

Tara Martinson

Lee County Sheriff's Office:

LaDonna Brady, Candy Chapman, Jeanette Defaira, Sgt.
Rudy Lepe, William Naylor, Andrea Reisinger Chris
Seluk,

Lee County Court

Honorable Judge Josephine Gagliardi

NAMI

Regina Britton

Operation PAR

Ashley Alexander, Amanda Benlien, Jessica Salvato

Salus Care

Windy Safford Smith

State Attorney's Office

Paul Poland

St. Matthew's House

Rachel McKinnon

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 Judge Josephine Gagliardi

- Honorable Judge Josephine Gagliardi called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.
- Attendee and agency introductions.
- Meeting Minutes from June 10, 2025, deemed approved as proposed with no changes.

Item 1) LCSO Jail Population Trends/Updates
Lieutenant Reisinger, LCSO

- The year started with an average daily jail population of 1,616 inmates and currently 1,650 inmates as of the end of last month. Not much of a change in trends, just a small spike during the months of March, April and May.
- On the comparison, the State Sentenced inmates have been decreasing.
- The County Sentenced population is slightly increasing.
- The Misdemeanor Awaiting Trial population is slightly increasing.
- The Felony VOP population has slightly decreased.
- At the beginning of the year there was an increase with all the new implementations of Ice Holds. There were almost 200 inmates in custody with active Ice Holds. Currently there are 132 inmates in custody with Ice Holds and over the last few months we have had an average on 135 inmates with active Ice Holds.
- There now are transportation divisions in each section, Florida has a total of 19 zones where some of the department's transport for other agencies.
- Once the inmate completes the sentence Ice is notified and within 48 hours they are picked up.

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

- Next Re-entry Task Force meeting is Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. The meetings are bi-monthly and have been really good meetings succeeding in the community.
- Re-entry:
 - 267 Inmate in person interviews
 - 119 Inmate phone interviews
 - 210 applications submitted to local programs
 - 38 Id's and DL's
 - 78 Social Security Cards
 - 7 Birth Certificates
 - 209 Inmates issued clothing
 - 61 Emergency kits
- RSAT Program:
 - Currently have 43 males enrolled, with 27 of those being court ordered.
 - Currently have 18 females, with 16 of those being court ordered.
 - A total of 28 RSAT completions with 5 being released upon completion resulting in 530 days non incarceration saving the county \$97,000.40 (based on inmate cost per day of \$141.40).

- Life Skills Program – Currently have 19 males with none being court ordered. Currently have 4 females with 0 being court ordered.
- Veterans Program – 34 males in-custody, 1 female in-custody with a total of 35 (low numbers).
- Ministry Program:
 - 115 volunteers conducted approximately 65 classes/groups every week.
 - 1,099 canonical books – bibles, Quran, catholic, Spanish, torah, Jehovah.
 - 3,253 accessories given out (daily bread, address books, magazines, bookmarks).
 - 2,710 library books issued.
 - 2,619 chaplain's libraries issued.
 - 297 pairs of glasses were issued.
- Carmines Corrections Cleanup Crew (C4) – 1,679 bags of trash, 100 full dump trailer truckloads, 55 citizen's arrest, 106 VIP requests, 27 days assisting DOT cleaning storm drains for the upcoming season and 12 days of cleaning exits (Project Interstate).

Item 3) LCSO Corrections Day Work Program Updates and Statistics

Jeannette Defaira, Corrections Day Work Program Coordinator

- As of August 31, 2025, there are currently 35-day workers enrolled in the program, with savings to the county of \$332,904.00 from the 25,608 hours worked by the day workers and \$459,030.00 for non-incarceration costs, totaling \$791,934.00. The grand total of savings to the county from the start of the program is approximately 19.9 million dollars. The current completion rate is at 79%, with 11% still enrolled in the program.
- During June, July and August we had 9 Community Service participants sign up with 6 completing and currently 3 have enrolled.
- The participant numbers have been low. We are asking that the Judges, State Attorney's Office, and the Public Defender's Office keep us in mind during Plea Agreements and Sentencing.

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

Bridget Washburn, AOC Treatment Courts Manager

- We currently have 86 participants in Drug Court, 25 participants in Mental Health Court and 17 participants in Veterans Treatment Courts.
- The Chief Judge, along with the Public Defender and the State Attorney have approved a secondary track within Drug Court that will allow moderate risk/high need offenders into the program and will include misdemeanor and traffic cases.
- Currently we only allow HR/HN felony cases into the program. The tracks will be separated for treatment, dockets, etc.
- We are looking at an October 1, 2025, implementation date with Judge Gagliardi as the presiding Judge.
- September is National Self Care, National Recovery and National Suicide Prevention Month.
- We will be doing Jeopardy or fun games with the participants throughout the month to test their knowledge of the program handbooks for them to win prizes.
- Also, Veterans Day is coming up in November, if anyone has ideas for speakers, we are open to suggestions. It is the 10th year anniversary of Veterans Court, so we are hoping to make it a big celebration.

Item 5) Opioid Abatement Programs Update and CJMHSA Reinvestment Grant Program
Tara Martinson, Human and Veteran Manager, Lee County Human and Veterans Services

- **Kimmie's Recovery Zone - Handout: Quarterly Report April 2025 – June 2025**
 - In April a National Fentanyl Awareness Day was held at Kimmie's Recovery Zone and 24 members of the community were in attendance. There was presentation on the dangers of Fentanyl, Narcan distribution and training on how to safely administer Narcan to the person experiencing an overdose.
 - In May hosted the 2nd Annual Golf and Gala Fundraiser, held at the club in Gateway. The fundraiser raised critical funding to sustain and expand KRZ's programs and also served as the platform to educate the public about harm reduction strategies, reduce stigma surrounding mental health and substance abuse disorders.
 - In June the training facilitated 10 Certified Recovery Peer Specialists.
- **Centerstone - Handout: Quarterly Report April 2025 – June 2025**
 - In April launched a Prom and Graduation substance use prevention message for youth on social media in collaboration with Drug Free Lee.
 - In May, WISH launched a direct mail campaign that went out to zip codes identified as higher risk for drug overdose. From those direct mailers, 12 QR codes were scanned and 2 completed online submission forms. This campaign had better outcomes compared to similar mailer campaigns executed by other programs.
 - In June, third consecutive month running WISH Spotify Ads, with a total of 154,982 impressions and 363 clicks. Over the 3-month period, the ads had a click-through rate (CTR) of 0.23%. Spotify's CTR benchmark is 0.08%. The listening completion rate was 90.56%. The industry average completion rate falls between 85.75% and 89.34%.
- Update on the Opioid Abatement planning meeting held on April 16th, 2025, was the first community meeting with 37 people in attendance (providers, law enforcement, EMS, fire and medical). Reviewed funded programs, looked at the continuum, discussed strengths and weaknesses.
- Second community meeting was held on July 11th, 2025, 32 individuals attended. Two exercises were completed on Personas and Journey Maps.
- The next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the Collaboratory to go over the final strategies in the updated Abatement plan.
- The third community meeting was scheduled for August 25th, 2025, and moved to October 17th, 2025. Reviewed the Strategies for the Opioid Abatement Plan.
- The Empower Lee Program is a program for individuals who could potentially be justice involved and have a mental health or substance abuse diagnosis. It's basically a case management program and since it started in May the totals have been 78 referrals as of September 3rd, 2025, admitted 38 and 10 pending intake, 3 ineligible, 16 unable to contact, 8 withdrew by client, 3 new referrals not assigned yet. The top referring agency is Salus Care, with 44 referrals, CPE 11, HVS 12, Community Health 6, Public Defender 3 and Other 3.

Item 6) St. Matthew's House

Rachel McKinnon, Director of Fort Myers Shelter

- We have a new shelter that recently opened in the Fort Myers area. St. Matthew's House has three shelters with the largest being in Naples where there are 150 residents, men, women and families.
- There is also a shelter in Immokalee with a capacity of 42 residents serving men, women and families.
- In December the Fort Myers Shelter opened and it's a little bit unique as it only serves women and women and children. The capacity for 28 single females and 11 family units. Each family unit can

house a mom and however many children she may have. There are approximately 20 to 30 children on site.

- St. Matthew's House motto we want to see every resident to go from crisis to contributor. In order to do we there has to be some accountability and guidelines.
- Intake process:
 - Do not do coordinated entries.
 - Every resident is drug screened at intake process.
 - If you want to get a resident in contact St. Matthew's House directly through email, website or phone.
 - Applicate does an intake screening with the intake department, background check and ask simple questions to see if they qualify.
 - Disqualifiers:
 - We do not take any residents who are on any narcotic medications and that includes medical marijuana.
 - Sex offenders.
 - Violent offenses.
 - Residents must be able to take care of themselves.
 - Single residents can usually get in within 24 to 48 hours and currently there are 40 families on the waiting list.
 - There is an emergency stay option so if someone is experiencing a new crisis and they need somewhere to stay right away they can stay from 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. and a cot is set up for them in the family room. They can shower and have breakfast. A background screen is conducted first and a two-day max stay.
- Case Management Process:
 - Each resident is paired with a case manager to oversee the process.
 - First step is to identify the reasons for homelessness and what got them to that point, what are the barriers and what we can do to help.
 - Refer to different resources based on case by case.
 - Case managers meet with the resident weekly.
 - Each resident is handed a handbook upon entry into the shelter.
 - Each resident is breathalyzed at 8:00 p.m. every night and must pass as the shelter is drug and alcohol free.
 - Random drug screens are conducted and if positive they are taken over to Salus Care until they are detoxed. Their bed is held until they come back.
 - All residents are required to be in house by 10:00 p.m. exceptions are made for the residents that work 2nd or 3rd shifts.
 - Residents are required to be off property between 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. This is for them to be more productive during the day, and a sheet is given to them for things to do during those hours.
 - Program fees after the first two weeks are \$7.00 a day in conjunction with the case manager to help them start building budgets.
 - 3 meetings a week are required based on each resident's needs.
- St. Matthew's House is a 90-day program with some exceptions of 30-day extensions.
- No day care is provided.

Item 7) Open Discussion

- Question: Are civil Baker Acts on the scope of the Public Safety Coordinating Council?

**Our next PSCC scheduled meeting is Tuesday, December 2, 2025.
Thank you for your attendance.**