

PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL

**MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025**



PSCC



MEETING CHAIR:

FACILITATOR:

NOTETAKER:

Honorable Tara P. Paluck

Ashlee Whitewood

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 Administrator:

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

Centerstone

Jesse Cronel, Greg Novak

Florida Department of Corrections

Nicole Luckey, Brad Rouskey

FMPD - Fort Myers Police Department

Officer Kenneth McCoy, Officer William Beaton

JFCS - Jewish Family & Children's Services

Allen Carsten, Myra Fiory, David Malia, Melvin Smith

Lee County Human and Veteran Services

Tara Martinson

Lee County Sheriff's Office

Lt. LaDonna Brady, Lt. Candy Chapman, Sgt. Crews, Jeanette Defaira, Sgt. Kristen Ratay

Lee County Court

Honorable Judge Tara P. Paluck

Public Defender's Office

Nicole Calderone

State Attorney's Office

Paul Poland

St. Vincent De Paul CARES

Rae Marshall, Beryl Rayford, Christie Walthall

**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 Paluck

- Honorable Judge Tara Paluck called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.
- Attendee and agency introductions.
- Meeting Minutes from September 9, 2025, deemed approved as proposed with no changes.

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

- At the beginning of the year the numbers have increased, however they have begun coming down throughout the year. As the holidays approach they will increase as unfortunately there's more domestic happening in the county (a trend that has not stopped) and after the holidays the numbers will go back down.
- Third quarter average daily population has increased to 37 people daily and its continued the upward trend.
- Lt. Reisinger and other staff members attended training in South Carolina and are now certified Ice Agents and will be able to serve warrants within our agency. Prior to the training there was just one deputy for the entire agency and now there will be 3 within the unit and an additional 4 on staff making a total of 7 Ice Agents that are working in correlation with Lee County,
- Unfortunately, they are having some sort of groupings/stings that they are bringing people in as simple teens only. They have established a policy that keeps the civil detainees away from the criminals with immigration rules and they are in and out within 48 hours.

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, December 10, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the Core facility.
- Veterans:
 - 44 In custody (42 males & 2 females) 12 – 16 of them are attending weekly meetings with Human and Veteran Services for MRT
- Re-entry (3rd Quarter):
 - 298 Inmate in person interviews
 - 91 Inmate phone interviews
 - 168 Residential Program Applications
 - 85 Residential Program Acceptances
 - 36 Id's and DL's
 - 90 Social Security Cards
 - 16 Birth Certificates
 - 202 Inmates issued clothing
 - 44 Emergency kits
- Ministry:
 - 300 Inmates were provided by the ministry
 - 11 Inmates lost family members

- 150 Volunteers working in the facility to assist the Chaplin staff of 4
- 155 volunteers conducted approximately 65 classes/groups
- 741 canonical books – bibles, Quran, catholic, Spanish, torah, Jehovah.
- 3,669 accessories given out (daily bread, address books, magazines, bookmarks).
- 4,210 library books issued.
- 2,692 chaplain’s libraries issued.
- 343 pairs of glasses were issued.
- RSAT Program:
 - Currently have 45 males enrolled, with 32 of those being court ordered.
 - Currently have 19 females, with 13 of those being court ordered.
 - A total of 22 RSAT completions with 8 being released upon completion resulting in 402 days non-incarceration saving the county \$56,842.80 (based on inmate cost per day of \$141.40).
- Life Skills Program – Currently have 17 males with 3 being court ordered. Currently have 1 female with 0 being court ordered.
- Carmines Corrections Cleanup Crew (C4) – 2,124 bags of trash, 129 full dump trailer truckloads, 68 citizen’s arrest, 150 VIP/Priority requests, 36 days assisting DOT cleaning storm drains for the upcoming season and 17 days of cleaning exits (Project Interstate).
- 2 males participating in CBT.

Item 3) LCSO Corrections Day Work Program Updates and Statistics

Jeannette Defaira, Corrections Day Work Program Coordinator

- As of November 30, 2025, there are currently 43 day workers enrolled in the program, with savings to the county of \$434,658.00 from the 33,033 hours worked by the day workers and \$592,930.00 for non-incarceration costs, totaling \$1,027,588.00. The grand total of savings to the county from the start of the program is approximately 20.1 million dollars. The current completion rate is at 80%, with 11% still enrolled in the program.
- During September – December there was 10 Community Service participants sign up with 10 completing and there still are 3 enrolled.
- The participants’ numbers have been low, getting into the 30’s. We ask that judges, state attorney’s office and the public defender’s office to keep us in mind during plea agreements and sentencing.

Item 4) AOC Treatment Court Programs Update

Bridget Washburn, AOC Treatment Courts Manager

- We currently have 83 participants in Drug Court (200 capacity), 24 participants in Mental Health Court (75 capacity) and 15 participants in Veterans Treatment Courts (50 capacity). The numbers are low.
- Drug Court Track II, which was created for the moderate risk high need offenders, is now up and running. There are currently 2 participants, one is a felony and the other is criminal traffic.

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 July 2025 – September June 2025
 - Expanded food pantry (Grace Church) also hosts kitchens serving hot meals and providing recovery services.
 - In August we partnered with Florida Department of Health to host national Fentanyl Convention Awareness Day and a HIV Fair.
 - In September partnered with Beacon of Hope with the Lee County Sheriff’s Office at Edison Mall to do a Narcan training and provide education about their services in the community.

- September the annual Party In The Park and Senator Rouson was the keynote speaker.
- **Centerstone** - Handout: Quarterly Report July 2025 – September 2025
 - In July Centerstone partner with McGregor Clinic Global Unit (go around the community and do global testing and provide educational services).
 - In September a new adolescent group started to help the kids with social and drug resilience skills.
 - They have secured a fourth vending machine for CSU and will be outside open access for anyone to use.
- The Opioid Abatement Plan was a lot of hard work.

Item 6) St. Vincent De Paul CARES

Christie Walthall, Chief Operating Officer

- We help with housing for veterans that may have substance abuse.
- We are a housing first model.
- Currently we have found housing for 2.
- We do have a grant for the veterans we just need a referral and once received we then complete an intake screen. We can get them in a hotel within 24 hours after receiving the referral and start housing within the first 60 days.
- We have 5 case managers, a whole housing team, a healthcare navigator that can help with applying for benefits and a employment specialist.
- We have a lot of different community partners and property management that partner with us.
- We have approximately 125 households we are dealing with.
- Case managers can deal with people that have minimum crimes or as far as someone who's be incarcerated for 45 years. These people may not have the skills to survive in today's society so as a case manager we present ourselves as transparent trying to determine their goals.
- Tomorrow we are celebrating 2 veterans that have been housed successfully. The celebration will be at the Collaboratory (2031 Jackson Street, Fort Myers) between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Item 7) JFCS (Jewish Family & Children's Service)

Myra Fiory, OMAP Program Manager

- We offer case management and financial and employment assistance to low-income veterans and their families who are homeless or who are about to become homeless.
- We work with Veterans as long as they do not have an honorable discharge.
- We have a VA grant (Supportive Services for Veterans) that allows us to assist veterans who are homeless or potentially homeless prevention.
- We do everything we can to help veterans, we treat them with dignity and respect. The program is a hand up not a handout.
- We have another program called Child Subsidy, which is a 2-year program for selected veterans.
- Every 90 days there is a recertification process.
- In the last fiscal year, we have had 5 veterans go from homelessness to home ownership.
- JFCS covers 6 counties Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, DeSoto, Lee and Collier.
- (941) 366-2224 ext. 630
- veterans@jfcs-cares.org

Item 8) Open Discussion

- No other discussions.

**Our next PSCC scheduled meeting is Tuesday, April 7, 2026.
Thank you for your attendance.**