

PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL

**MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2020**



PSCC



MEETING CHAIR:

Honorable Judge Tara P. Paluck

FACILITATOR:

Doug Jaye

NOTETAKER:

Anne Donohue

MEMBERS:

Chairperson & Chief County Judge:

Honorable Tara P. Paluck

Chief Circuit Judge:

Honorable Frank Porter

Chief Correctional Officer:

Colonel Thomas W. Ellegood, Colonel Scott Hall

Clerk of Court:

Linda Doggett

County Commissioner Chair:

Cecil Pendergrass

County Manager:

Roger Desjarlais

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 or 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:

David Newlan

Community Based Treatment Family Member:

Daleen O'Dell

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 &

Roger Mercado

Representative from Lee County Homeless Coalition

Janet Bartos

State Attorney:

Amira Fox

State Probation Circuit Administrator (DOC):

Brad Rouskey

ATTENDEES via Suntel Conference Call:

Administrative Office of the Courts

Stephen Childs; Liza Flecha; Doug Jaye; Amy Kinsey;

Joseph Rea; Scott Wilsker

Clerk of Court

Kevin Karnes

County Commissioner

Christine Deramo; Cecil Pendergrass

Department of Corrections

Brad Rouskey

Department of Juvenile Justice Facility:

Director William Naylor

Human and Veteran Services

Deanna Gilkerson

Judiciary:

Honorable Josephine Gagliardi; Honorable Tara

Paluck; Honorable H. Andrew Swett

Lee County Port Authority:

Craig Giovannelli

Lee County Sheriff's Office:

Colonel Tom Eberhardt

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

Daleen O'Dell

Public Defender's Office

Kathleen Fitzgeorge; Kathy Smith

SalusCare

Jessica Plazewski

State Attorney's Office

Tyler Lovejoy; Paul Poland

**Lee County Public Safety Coordinating Council Meeting
via Suntel Conference Call**

DISCUSSION

Open & Approval of Previous Minutes

Honorable Judge Tara Paluck

- The meeting was called to order was at 12:00 p.m. by the Honorable Judge Tara Paluck.
 - Meeting Minutes from March 3, 2020 stand approved as outlined with no changes.
 - Judge Paluck thanks everyone so much for all efforts and hard work and could not be prouder of these efforts being made to protect us and the community. A heartfelt thanks to Chief Judge McHugh for all his commendable work through this unforeseen pandemic.
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Item 1) Jail Population Update

Internal Changes Due to Pandemic

Col. Tom Eberhardt, LCSO

- Thank you to everyone. We are doing well. April and May we had between 1500 – 1600 inmates in the jail. Currently we are at 1221. Steps taken to minimize risk included suspending non-essential personnel, attorneys using remote technology, non-violent charge offenders issued a NTA, collaborating with courts releasing inmates with less than 60 days left on their sentence, considerations for elderly inmates and quarantining everyone that comes into the jail for 14 days. The booking process was initially moved from the jail to the Core and has since moved back to the jail.
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Item 2) AOC Treatment Court Updates

Problem Solving Courts Planning

Joseph Rea, Treatment Court Manager

- The last 3 months have been challenging and we could not have done it without the collaborate efforts of all partnering agencies. Last court session was March 12th. Our concerns were with continuing to drug test and AIM Target responded quickly to keep doing so without risk to the public or employees. Virtual case management and therapy kept us going. April 28th we started utilizing the ZOOM platform for participants, staffings on May 11th and court hearings on May 18th. Polycom was utilized for in-custody participants. Both Judge Swett and Gagliardi use Friday afternoon to address their in-custody participants.
 - All treatment courts, Drug Court, Mental Health Court and Veterans Court have seen outstanding honesty and compliance with participants. Success rate for Drug Court is at 61%, Mental Health Court at 83% and Veterans Court is at 100%.
 - 1st Step of Sarasota will no longer be providing outreach for MHC, pending new proposal on next provider (3 year contract). For those interested the next meeting to discuss with Central Behavioral is June 22nd at 1:00 p.m. This meeting will be via conference call 1-877-273-4202 using conference code #8302170.
 - Our Treatment Court Clinician has been approved for title change to Treatment Court Evaluator.
 - I am thrilled to announce our centralized online referral process to be used for any of the specialty treatment courts. These referrals come directly to the Treatment Court Team to minimize days of entry. This goes into effect July 1st.
 - All Treatment Court Officers as well as myself were able to attend the NADCP virtual conference to assist us in meeting and exceeding best practices.
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**Item 3) AOC Pretrial Services/County Probation
Internal Changes Due to Pandemic and Court Events
Doug Jaye, Deputy Criminal Division Director**

- The Criminal Division has done a fantastic job during this pandemic. In March officers were allowed to work from home. Meetings and orientations have been conducted by phone with the same level of service as previously done.
 - Our success rate is at 66% for both departments.
 - We have been assisting (Probation and Pretrial officers) security at both entrances of the Justice Center so the court is notified right away if a defendant comes into the building that does not meet safety and health guidelines. This is done by notifying via email the appropriate parties and following up with each case to ensure a new court date has been issued.
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**Item 4) Agency Representative Updates and Operation During Pandemic:
What Went Well? Areas Identified for Needed Improvements?**

Kevin Karnes, Clerk of Courts

- Our goal continues to be keeping cases moving through the system and keeping the public and employee's safe.
- Civil cases are being conducted on the second floor while criminal cases remain on the first floor due to social distancing.
- We have seen a tremendous increase in activity in June.
- One of the things we are working on is getting email addresses for getting documents out with results. Thanks to Judge Paluck the process has become more refined.
- Remote hearings are a challenge and we are utilizing the website to aid the public with dates and times.
- Effective yesterday 67 employees were put back on the payroll. We are confident employees will be acclimated to new procedures quickly.

Paul Poland/Tyler Lovejoy, State Attorney's Office

- Things are going well. Amira Fox quickly made the transition to remote duties.
- June 1st we started bringing more employees into the office and by July 6th everyone should be back.
- We have been working closely with the Public Defender's Office as well as Regional Counsel every week, which has been extremely helpful. Hats off to Court Administration and IT Department.

Kathy Smith/Kathleen Fitzgeorge, Public Defender's Office

- The last three months have been challenging but positive. We were successful with getting staff off site.
- The relationship between our office and the LCSO has never been better. We have been very successful in getting people out of custody when possible. Remote visitation has been very effective. The LCSO has been very responsive.
- We have strengthened our relationship with other criminal justice partners. Weekly meeting with stakeholders have been very productive.
- Our performance is at the top of the circuit. Thank you to everyone.

Brad Rouskey, Florida Department of Corrections

- We have a 4 phase approach as we deal with the pandemic.
 - Phase 1 – Telephone personal reporting, suspend drug and DNA testing, and alter work schedules with judgement on field work.
 - Phase 2 – Continue as above, bringing in Community Control defendants to report once a week, during the week.
 - Phase 3 – Community Control, sex offender cases and drug cases to report into the office. Resume drug testing via swabbing, searches for warrantors.
 - Phase 4 – Effective July 1st defendants reporting to office and field contacts using social distancing and PPE, which will be used for unforeseeable future. Reporting will go back to normal by appointment only utilizing our conference rooms as overflow from lobby.
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Item 5) Open Forum

- Judge Paluck – Thank you for joining us today. I am proud to announce Judge Gagliardi was awarded Jurist of the Year Award through the Lee County Association for Women’s Lawyers.
- Judge Gagliardi – Thank you to Judge Paluck for all the work you have done during the pandemic.
- Joe Rea – Quick thanks to everyone, especially to my Treatment Court Officers, Judges and all Partners. Thank you all for your collaboration.
- The next PSCC Meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2020.
- Meeting adjourned