

PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 13, 2022



PSCC



MEETING CHAIR:

Honorable Judge Tara P. Paluck

FACILITATOR:

Ashlee Whitewood

NOTETAKER:

Iris McDonald

MEMBERS:

Chairperson & Chief County Judge:

Honorable Tara P. Paluck

Chief Circuit Judge:

Honorable Frank Porter

Chief Correctional Officer:

Chief Eric Smith

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

Administrative Office of the Courts

Jennifer Alvarez; Anne Donohue; Amy Kinsey; Bridget Washburn; Ashlee Whitewood; Scott Wilsker

AIM/Target

Sharon Mazzitelli; Mary Ellen Saba

Consumer of Mental Health Services:

Dana Foglesong

County Administration

CFO/Assistant County Manager Peter Winton;

Assistant County Manager Marc Mora

Department of Corrections Circuit Administrator

Michelle King; Brian Krzmarzick; Administrator Brad Rouskey

Department of Juvenile Justice Facility

Director William Naylor

Florida Treatment for Change

Eileen Kapperman; Kari Anne Spiller

Fort Myers Police Department

Jason Fields

Judiciary:

The Honorable Tara P. Paluck

Lee County Human and Veteran Services

Roger Mercado

Lee County Sheriff's Office:

Lt. Candy Chapman; Jeanette Defaira; Lt. Jeremy Hardin;

Sgt. Rudy Lepe; Sgt. Andreas Reisinger

Steven Hill

SalusCare

Tyler Lovejoy

State Attorney's Office

Tanya Slater

TLS Consulting

J. N.

Guest Speaker (Surrender House)

Lee County Public Safety Coordinating Council Meeting
Lee County Administrative Office Building
1st Floor Conference Room

DISCUSSION

Open & Approval of Previous Minutes

The Honorable Judge Tara Paluck

- The Honorable Judge Paluck called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.
- All attendees introduced themselves and the agencies they represent.
- Meeting Minutes from June 14, 2022 deemed approved as proposed with no changes.

Item 1) LCSO Jail Population Trends/Update

COVID-19 Protocols and Quarantine

Lt. Jeremy Hardin, LCSO

Sgt. Andreas Reisinger, LCSO

- No significant change in COVID-19 protocol. Practicing a 7-day straight quarantine period for any new inmates coming into the facility.
- During the last quarter there was a significant number of COVID positive and COVID symptomatic, however those numbers have trickled off a bit. As of today, there is one COVID positive case and one COVID symptomatic case.
- There has been a slight uptick in population. There was a decrease in the state sentenced population, thanks to DOC accepting more than the usual inmates; thus allowing more inmates to be transferred to facilities.

Item 2) LCSO Jail Inmate Program Updates and Statistics

(Life Skills, RSAT, Re-entry, Peer Mentor Program)

Lt. Candy Chapman, Corrections Services

- RSAT/Life Skills-Between June and August there were 7 completions, 3 females and 2 males for RSAT and 2 males for Life skills.
- New participants 11 males for RSAT and 1 male for Life skills. 2 female for life skills and 10 females for RSAT. With an average of 30 males and 20 females in RSAT. 2 males life skills and 2 female's life skills and 14 females in the CBT program.
- Now that jail is changing COVID protocols and courts are opening, we are hoping that the numbers will start to increase. A good target number would be 60 participants total encompassing all programs.
- Currently working on taking back in volunteers for RSAT.
- Judge Paluck and ASA Lovejoy will have conversations with their teams in regards to the program numbers.

Item 3) LCSO Corrections Day Work Program Updates and Statistics

Jeanette Defaira

- We have 44 active individuals currently in the program. Last month there was a drop of 27 participants in the program.
- Goal is to have at least 80-100 participants.
- We have saved \$256,000.00 in county dollars.

- We have also saved a total of \$440,000.00 in non-incarceration costs.
- Current success rate is 75%.
- I want to thank state probation for allowing us to come to a monthly meeting and speaking in regards to utilizing the DWP a little bit more as an alternative sanction.
- Discussed the differences between Day work program and community service work. Described what type of work is available to offer those with limited abilities.
- Our target goal of participants is between 100-120, and eventually higher.

Item 4) Florida Department of Corrections First Step Program

Bradley Rouskey, Circuit Administrator

- The first step program exist in 10 of the 20 Judicial Circuits.
- Offenders whom are placed on probation or community under the supervision of the department of corrections would have to pay \$1 per month towards the first step program, as a special condition of supervision.
- The monies that are paid into the program would accumulate and be managed by a non-profit organization.
- The Purpose of program is to collect monies to assist offenders with needs such as emergency housing, prescriptions, assistance with tools for work, bus passes, etc.
- One of challenges that we previously faced was finding someone to write the articles of incorporation, fortunately central office legal team took on that responsibility and has drafted a copy.
- The current challenge we face is finding an accounting firm or law firm that can manage the books and serve as a treasure for the organization.
- A plea was made today for assistance with the obtaining an accounting firm.

Item 5) AOC Treatment Court Programs Opioid Awareness Event, Veterans Treatment Court Event, and Peer Mentors Program for Veterans

(Mental Health Court, Veterans Treatment Court and Drug Court) Updates and Statistics

Bridget Washburn, AOC Treatment Courts Manager

- Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Carlos G. Muñiz proclaimed September as Opioid & Stimulants Awareness Month in Florida. In recognition of that, the 20th Judicial Circuit AOC hosted a training event last week at the Collaboratory with technical assistance from the Opioid Response Network. We had an addiction specialist from Meridian Behavioral Healthcare in Alachua County speak on a multitude of topics in regards to Opioid Use Disorder and Stimulant Use Disorder, including: stigma, engagement and retention in the recovery process, and the importance of collaboration among community stakeholders. We also had a representative from the Lee County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Unit speak on current local trends. Finally, we had two Drug Court graduates speak on their addiction and recovery journeys. It was a very informative session and we had a great turnout, with treatment court team members from all five counties in the circuit in attendance. We will also be going in front of the Board of County Commissioners next week to have a ceremonial resolution announced proclaiming September as Opioid & Stimulants Awareness Month in Lee County.
- September is also National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, so all Mental Health Court and Veterans Treatment Court participants and team members will be wearing purple and teal today, the colors associated with suicide prevention, for group photos. Further, the Treatment Courts team and participants have formed a team for the NAMI Walk, which will be held on 10/1/22.
- September is also National Recovery Month. The Coalition for a Drug Free SWFL provided silicone bracelets with a message of #refuse for all Treatment Court participants and team members. Also, the team wore purple, the color associated with recovery, for group photos throughout the month.

- In October, we will be working with Lt Brady on bringing Veterans Treatment Court graduates or participants that are doing well into the jail to speak to Veterans that are currently in custody. We are scheduled to do this for the first time on 10/21/22 with a session in the morning and again in the afternoon. If it goes well, we will continue to do this with the VTC and hope to expand into the Mental Health Court and Drug Court participants doing the same thing as well.
- In November, we will be holding a Veterans Day event for our Veterans Treatment Court on 11/8/22 in the courtroom and we will be walking in the Cape Coral Veterans Day Parade on 11/11/2022.
- Our Veterans Treatment Court program is working on building our team of mentors for our participants. One of the more unique aspects of this program is that each participant should be paired up with a pro-social mentor. This person becomes their “battle buddy” while they work through the program. The mentor does not need to have any experience with the criminal justice system, they just need to be a Veteran, be available, and be willing to listen. I have brought flyers for anyone that may be interested or anyone that is willing to post the flyer in their lobby/office.

Item 6) NAMI CIT Training and Initiatives

NAMI Program Director, Gina Britton

- Not present

Item 7) Surrender House Strategic Plans and Initiatives

Kari-Anne Spiller, Surrender House Program Director

- Surrender house is not a halfway house; it is a certified sober living facility.
- We are a partner agency with United Way, which allows for funding to provide every person that comes into the sober living pre-substance abuse treatment facility.
- Recently we had an open door policy in which all-special treatment courts and treatment facilities where invited to come look at the program.
- We recently had some special events in which Sheriff Carmine and the Mayor came in support of the awareness for substance abuse.
- Surrender house provides structure and discipline, which allows individuals to have long-term recovery.
- Recovery is a community effort!
- Entry cost is \$175.00 a week, which is \$25.00 a day for a roof over your head and a solid a solid program. There is also an admin fee of \$175.00. That fee is bases on the phone interview. If an individual has the willingness but not the monies, we can work with the individual based on their willingness. If someone has the monies but does not have the willingness, we will not accept them.

Success story: Addict and Alcoholic representing Surrender House

- **J. N.** – My sobriety date was March 26, 2021. I have had many years in recovery prior to coming to Surrender House. I got sober through Felony Drug court and graduated the program in 2009 through Judge Hayes Monday Court. I stayed sober for years before having a horrendous relapse. A year and a half ago I had enough and was going to go back to my old address of 2501 Ortiz Ave. I knew I really wanted to go home; home is my church and cocaine anonymous. I entered a 28-day program and after the program, I went into Surrender House. There I followed all the rules, got a sponsor and a home group. I do meetings every day. This is the first time in 20 years I have had to live in a place like this. Surrender house is a 12 step designed sober living facility with many rules. That means I have to get a sponsor, a home group, aa/ca/na or church group, 90 meetings in 90 days, and do service work, which I do every day all day. I now am the manager for 3 properties for the men, facilitate house meetings and provide transportation. I do not ever want to leave this environment nor will I ever leave this

environment of recovery. Through what Kari-Anne and Eileen have helped me, I can pass that on to someone else and help them. Thank you!

Item 8) Open Discussion

- Roger C. Mercado, Director of Lee County Human and Veteran Services to provide update on Opioid Abatement
 - Thanks to the partnership of SalusCare, Lee Health, Kimmie's Recovery Zone, Park Royal, Coalition for Drug Free Southwest Florida, Ryan Leaf is coming to Lee County to speak about his journey to recovery.
 - In result to the opioid settlement, over the next 18 years, there will be about \$25,000,000.00 coming to Lee County.
 - Notice of funding availability will be posted on our website this afternoon for our partner agencies to apply. It can be a new program or expansion of an existing program. Each application must be a minimum of \$500,000.00 that is over the course of a 5-year period.
 - We talked about using this group as our local task force. Based on the applications that come in, we will ask some of those that are part of this council to be part of the review committee. As members of the coordinating council to also review applications and make recommendations that can then be brought forward to the Board of County Commissioners.
 - There will be certain bonus points if you are bringing in something new or have the ability of going mobile.
 - We will do a couple of different virtual meetings if anyone has questions about the application, or need help navigating the process. We will post a copy of the summary on our website.
- Our next PSCC scheduled meeting is Tuesday, December 6, 2022.
- Thank you to everyone that attended today.