

# **PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL**

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, June 14, 2022**



**PSCC**



**MEETING CHAIR:**

Honorable Judge Tara P. Paluck

**FACILITATOR:**

Jennifer Alvarez

**NOTETAKER:**

Anne Donohue

**MEMBERS:**

Chairperson & Chief County Judge:

Honorable Tara P. Paluck

Chief Circuit Judge:

Honorable Frank Porter

Chief Correctional Officer:

Chief Eric Smith

Clerk of Court:

Kevin Karnes

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; Liza King; Iris McDonald; Bridget Washburn; Ashlee Whitewood; Scott Wilsker

AIM/Target

Sharon Mazzitelli; Mary Ellen Saba

Department of Corrections Circuit Administrator

Michelle King; Administrator Brad Rouskey

Department of Juvenile Justice Facility

Director William Naylor

Florida Treatment for Change

Eileen Kapperman; Kari Anne Spiller

Judiciary:

The Honorable Josephine Gagliardi; The Honorable Tara P. Paluck

Lee County Human and Veteran Services

Roger Mercado

Lee County Sheriff's Office:

Lt. LaDonna Brady; Lt. Candy Chapman; Jeanette Defaira; Lt. Jeremy Hardin; Sgt. Rudy Lepe; Sgt.

Andreas Reisinger

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)

Regina Britton; Daleen O'Dell

State Attorney's Office

Paul Poland

TLS Consulting

Ann Rittle; Tanya Slater

Guest Speakers (Specialty Court)

Amy; Hillary; Jarrell; Jonathan; Robert

**Lee County Public Safety Coordinating Council Meeting**  
**Lee County Administrative Office Building**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room**

**DISCUSSION**

**Open & Approval of Previous Minutes**

**The Honorable Judge Tara Paluck**

- The meeting was called to order at 12:00 P.M. by The Honorable Judge Paluck.
- Meeting Minutes from March 8, 2022 deemed approved as proposed with no changes.
- It is great to see everyone. Thank you for your ability to adapt and still deliver justice to all.
- All attendees introduced themselves and the agencies they represent.

**Item 1) LCSO Jail Population Trends/Update**

**COVID-19 Protocols and Quarantine**

**Lt. Jeremy Hardin, LCSO**

**Sgt. Andreas Reisinger, LCSO**

- The inmate population, as of today, is 1,316.
- There has been a steady decrease in total population since our last meeting.
- COVID-19 Protocols – Period of quarantine has been reduced from 14 to 10 days to 7 days . There as been a small spike from 120 at last report to 388 under quarantine currently. This includes, to date, 9 COVID positive and 4 systematic defendants.
- We are transporting defendants to Court while in quarantine; however they are being transported with other defendants in quarantine, not as a mixed group (quarantine vs. not in quarantine).

**Item 2) LCSO Jail Inmate Programs (Life Skills, RSAT, Re-entry)**

**Updates and Statistics**

**Lt. LaDonna Brady, LCSO Jail Inmate Programs**

- All classes are open and our volunteers are back.
- Human and Veteran Services are back with full services including Pet and Music Therapy.
- RSAT currently has 27 participating males and 18 females.
- FLOW (Florida License On Wheels) will be back July 18 and staying 1 night reaching out to the community to assist with IDs free of charge. The Tax Collector will be on site as well assisting with the process of getting driver's licenses. This is similar to the "Greenlight Project" hosted by the Clerk's Office. The LCSO will be distributing a lot of literature announcing this event to reach out to our homeless citizens.

**Item 3) LCSO Corrections Day Work Program Updates and Statistics**

**Lt. Candy Chapman**

- We have 54 active individuals currently in the program.
- We have saved \$157,000.00 in county dollars.
- We have also saved a total of \$268,000.00 in non-incarceration costs.
- Currently 68% success rate.

- We have several companies asking for our help. Reminding the Courts, State Attorney's Office and Public Defenders we need help in recruiting this program with referrals. There are several different ways for defendants to participate in this program. There is NO inside work, like office duties. It is all outside work. We make every attempt to match offenders with duties for their success in the program. Since it is all outside work we cannot accommodate offenders with wheelchairs or walkers.
- It was requested by several of the attendees inviting Lt. Chapman to come to their agencies to train staff about this program.

#### **Item 4) Opioid Abatement Summary**

**Roger C. Mercado, Director of Lee County**

**Human and Veteran Services**

- Where we are today: In order to receive funding for the Opioid Allocation a Task Force was required and has been established. Lee County has designated the Public Safety Coordinating Council as the local task force to address the opioid epidemic. This task force, along with all representatives will make recommendations and assessments, including agency initiatives to go forward with a plan as a community and show how we build our success.
- Our upcoming event on August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> in the Collabertory Building for Mapping is designed to focus on feedback from the community on addressing behavioral health needs in Lee County. **Follow up information received June 27, 2022:** The event will be held 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please R.S.V.P. to Susan Sarazen at [ssarazen@leegov.com](mailto:ssarazen@leegov.com) or (239) 533-7982 regarding your attendance.
- Funds for Lee County (along with other counties) will be allotted in the amount of \$25,000,000.00. The first drop will be approximately \$1.2 million by the end of the calendar year, if not sooner.
- It was suggested in this meeting there is a need for a doctor for medically assisted treatment, possibly mobile.
- Please review literature and reach out to me.

#### **Item 5) AOC Treatment Courts (Mental Health Court, Veterans Court and Drug Court) Updates and Statistics**

**Bridget Washburn, AOC Treatment Courts Manager**

- My name is Bridget Washburn. I am the new Treatment Courts Manager with the AOC under the Criminal Division. My team consists of one Probation Officer, one Pretrial Officer and myself. We have one vacancy for a part time clinical evaluator to assist with screening our in-custody referrals. Our team oversees the Lee County Drug Court Program, Mental Health Court Program and Veterans Treatment Court Program.
- The month of May was Mental Health Awareness Month as well as National Drug Court Month.
- For Mental Health Awareness Month, we recognized our treatment team that works tirelessly with our participants and had some fun wearing green for the day (color associated with Mental Health Awareness).
- For National Drug Court Month, our Drug Court Judges, The Honorable Josephine Gagliardi and The Honorable Leigh Hayes, held a celebration with a wonderful turnout to support the program. Our fantastic guest speakers included Lee County Commissioner for District 4, Brian Hamman; a State

Representative; Representatives from LCSO; Chief Deputy Court Administrator, Liza King; Chief Assistant State Attorney Rich Montecalvo and Chief Assistant Public Defender Kathleen Fitzgeorge. We also had participants share their stories. It was a very moving and impactful day.

- In the coming months we will be organizing an Opioid and Stimulants Awareness event in September and a Veterans Day event in November. Information will be coming.
- Our Drug Court program currently has 96 participants. Overall length of stay is currently 609 days or approximately 20 months. Our overall success rate since the program started in 2001 is 56%.
- Our Mental Health Court Program, which is presided over by The Honorable Josephine Gagliardi, currently has 49 participants enrolled in the program. Overall length of stay is currently 318 days or approximately 11 months. Our overall success rate since the program started in 2002 is 71%.
- Our Veterans Treatment Court Program, which is presided over by The Honorable Josephine Gagliardi, currently has 22 participants enrolled in the program. Overall length of stay is currently 492 days or approximately 16 months. Our overall success rate since the program started in 2015 is 78%.
- Numbers show the programs are working and enhance public safety.
- We now have the opportunity to hear from a few participants that are currently in the programs.

#### **Item 6) Treatment Courts Participant Testimonies**

- A.S. – entered the program on 6/18/21 and is in Phase 4 with Judge Gagliardi: I would not be here if it wasn't for Drug Court. It is the best thing that ever happened to me and has been a blessing I have started to respect and trust the community.
- R.B. – entered the program on 11/1/21 and is in Phase 3 with Judge Hayes: This has been a really good program. Everyone seems to really care. They work with everyone even when you mess up instead of giving up on you.
- J.P. – entered the program on 10/14/21 and is in Phase 3 with Judge Gagliardi: After getting DUI and then VOP, I was able to get into Drug Court. I am grateful to this program for providing me with the resources. I have started my own business and I am paying off my court fees.
- J.J. – entered the program on 9/23/21 and is in Phase 3 with Judge Gagliardi: This program gave me stability and strength to get my life together. I got custody of my kids and I never thought that would happen. I have learned to think ahead of time for accountability. I have started my own business, got married and I am going to college. I didn't care about anything. I am learning to live in society without going back to bad habits. I applaud everyone involved with this program. They helped save my life and relationship with my family.
- H.P. – entered the program on 10/19/21 and is a veteran of the United States Air Force: I saw and experienced a lot of stuff you can't forget. I never realized I had a problem. I was given the opportunity to work this program. It is not easy but thanks to Judge Gagliardi, my family and friends I am getting my life back.

#### **Item 7) Open Discussion**

- Thank you to our inspirational and brave speakers who shared their experiences with us. We are very proud of you in your decision to change your lives.
- Thank you to everyone that attended today.
- Our next PSCC scheduled meeting is Tuesday, September 13, 2022. If all continues to go well, we will meet in this very room for the next scheduled meeting.