



FY 2014-2015

**TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
LEE COUNTY CRIMINAL DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT**



1700 MONROE STREET
FORT MYERS, FL 33901

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Criminal Division Director's Message



Liza Maldonado
Criminal Division Director

On behalf of the dedicated team of Pretrial Services and County Probation professionals, it is my honor and distinct privilege to present to you the 2014-2015 annual report. I welcome you to review a summarized compilation of data measurements and work performance outcomes collected throughout the fiscal year. This report also includes operational accomplishments and special recognitions as well as a look at caseload/personnel ratios.

There were important advancements during this year that were realized in process improvements, the utilization of technology and overall professional development. We continue on our journey of instituting evidence based practices throughout the division. There has been significant progress made and we look forward to the opportunities that are ahead.

I am especially proud of the highly professional staff of the Criminal Division. The talent and teamwork that has been demonstrated is remarkable and a true testament of their commitment to the highest quality of services to the courts and citizens of Lee County.

The Criminal Division emphasizes on being a learning organization. We continue to focus on staff development, cross training efforts and serving on both internal and external workgroups and committees. We value our partnerships and understand that they are essential in order to best serve the community. Staff members continue to do a remarkable job with outreach to both criminal justice partners and the community.

I would like to especially thank Ms. Kinsey, Mr. Jaye, Ms. Rivera and all of the team members that contributed to this report and more importantly to our overall success. I would also like to thank our Trial Court Administrator, Mr. Wilsker and the judiciary for the continued guidance, leadership and support. We look forward to another successful and productive year.

Liza K. Maldonado



Doug Jaye
Deputy Criminal Division Director
County Probation

*"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success." Henry Ford*

DIVISION OVERVIEW AND ORGANIZATION

The Administrative Office of the Courts Lee County Criminal Division includes the Pretrial Services and County Probation Departments. Both departments have unique objectives but work together collaboratively under the direction of the Criminal Division Director and Trial Court Administrator.

The Lee County Criminal Division provides case management support to the thirteen judges in the criminal division in Lee County. The Pretrial Services department is comprised of the Intake and Investigation Unit, the Case Supervision Unit and the Case Management Unit. The County Probation department is comprised of teams designated by specialty caseloads.

LEE COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER COMPLEX

The Criminal Division is located on the third floor of the Lee County Justice Center at 1700 Monroe Street in Fort Myers, Florida. The Justice Center's third floor was renovated in 2010 to accommodate the Criminal Division. The Intake and Investigation Unit is stationed inside of the Lee County Jail facility within the booking area.

As of July, 2014, the population in Lee County was estimated at 679, 513 according to the United States Census Bureau.

*For more information on court programs within the
20th Judicial Circuit, please visit our website at:
www.ca.cjis20.org*



PRETRIAL SERVICES

MISSION

The mission of the Lee County Pretrial Services Department is to provide comprehensive case management services to the courts, from case inception through case closure, via professional staff committed to the highest standards of excellence.

VISION

To be a leader within the court system by developing an empowered workforce that embodies integrity, excellence, and accountability, delivering the highest quality of services.

COUNTY PROBATION

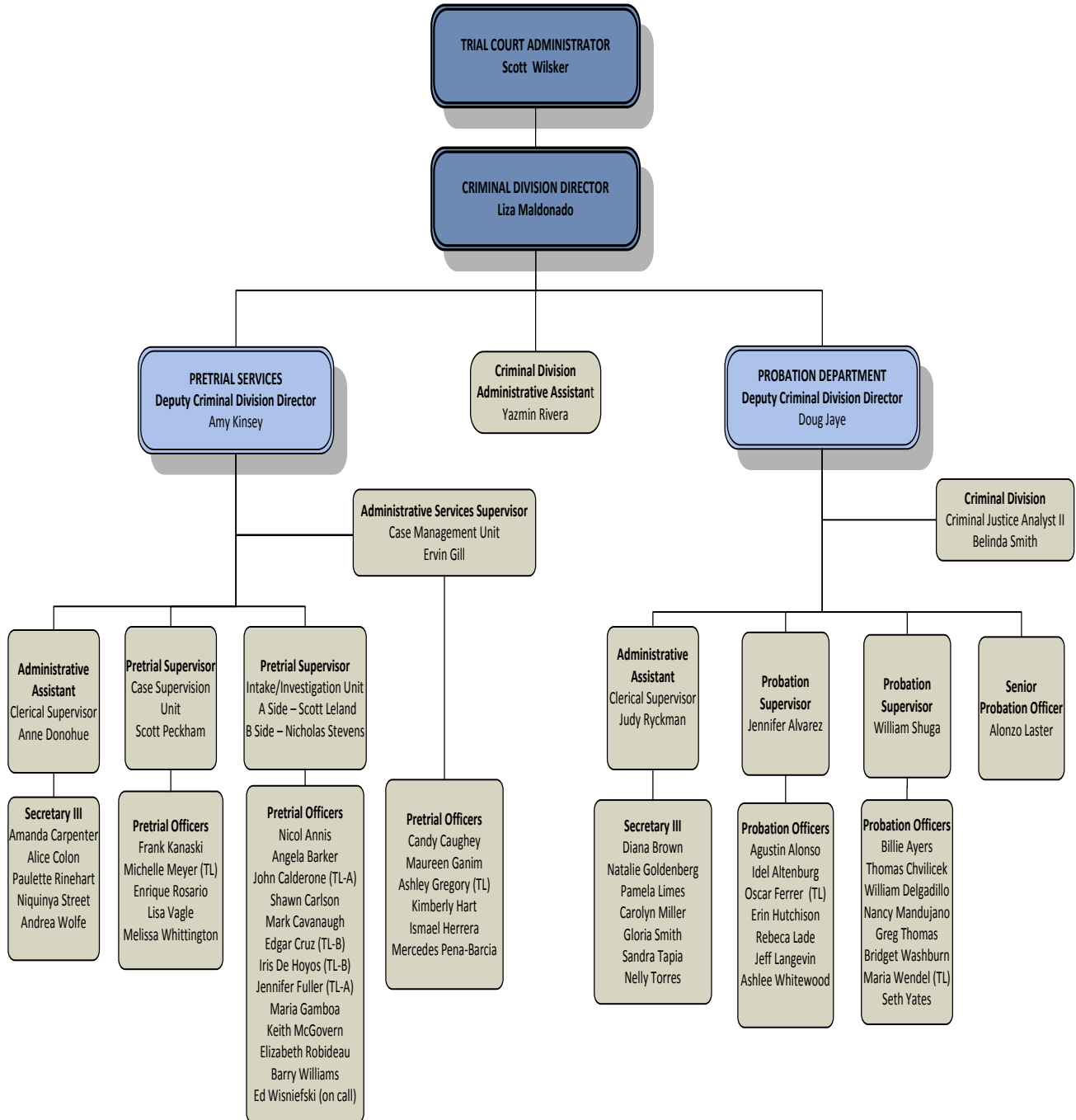
MISSION

The Lee County Probation Department is committed to promoting public safety by enforcing court orders, supervising probationers, and motivating positive behavioral change.

VISION

The Lee County Probation Department will strive to be a leader by enhancing working relationships with our Criminal Justice partners; utilizing evidence based practices and advancements in technology to proactively supervise, educate, and redirect probationers to reduce recidivism.

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
LEE COUNTY CRIMINAL DIVISION
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**



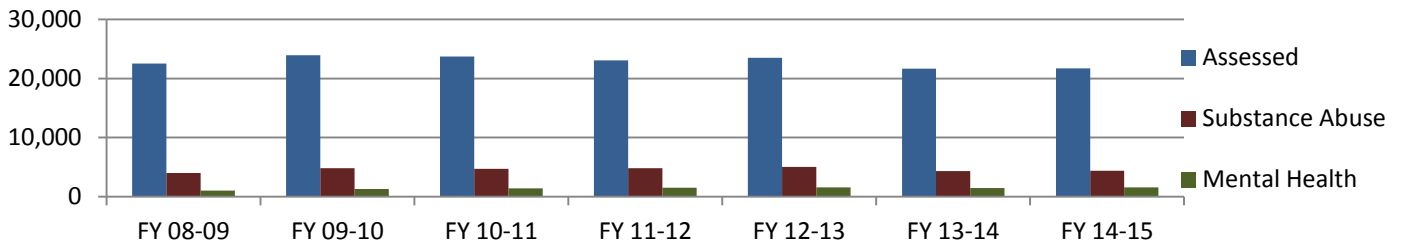
INVESTIGATION MISSION CRITICAL DATA

The Intake and Investigation Unit conducts investigations twenty-four hours a day/seven days a week for all defendants booked into the Lee County Jail on criminal charges. Demographic information is verified while need and risk is assessed. Pretrial officers utilize national, state and local systems to determine high risk under the Anti-Murder, Jessica Lunsford and Andrew Widman Acts, as well as pending case information, supervision status and prior court appearance. Notifications are made to the Department of Children and Families, to victims involved in domestic violence and to probation on new law violations. Indigence is determined for appointment of counsel.



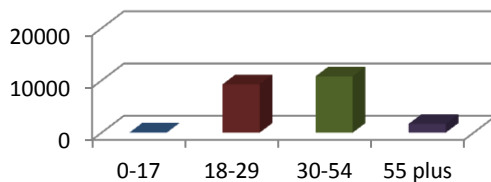
Pictured from top left- Mr. Scott Leland, Mr. Mark Cavanaugh, Ms. Elizabeth Robideau, Mr. John Calderone, Ms. Maria Gamboa, Ms. Nicol Annis and Ms. Jennifer Fuller

Universal screening- The Intake & Investigation Unit investigated 21,733 defendants booked during Fiscal Year 2014-2015 according to the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS). There were 4,369 defendants identified with substance abuse needs and 1,580 with mental health needs. Similar annual trends are illustrated below.

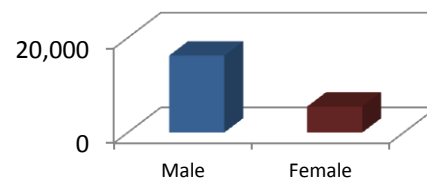


Demographics- According to the Criminal Justice Information System, of the 21,733 defendants assessed this fiscal year, the following charts depict age, gender, ethnicity and employment.

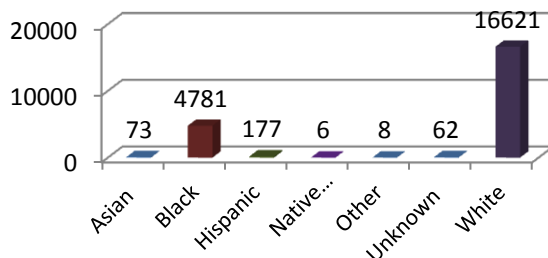
AGE



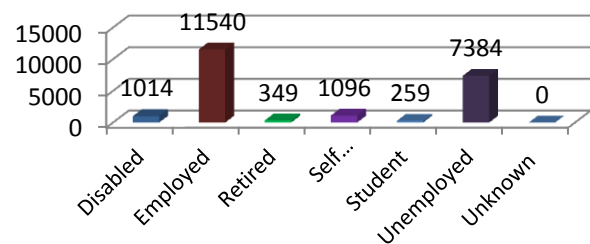
GENDER



ETHNICITY



EMPLOYMENT



Validated Risk Instrument

Pretrial officers complete a Risk Instrument on defendants assessed and eligible for release, excluding cases with pre-set bonds or capital felonies. The risk instrument is used to objectively assess the potential for failing to appear or re-arrest during the pretrial period. These evidence based risk instruments are an effective tool, but the final risk includes both mitigating and aggravating factors.

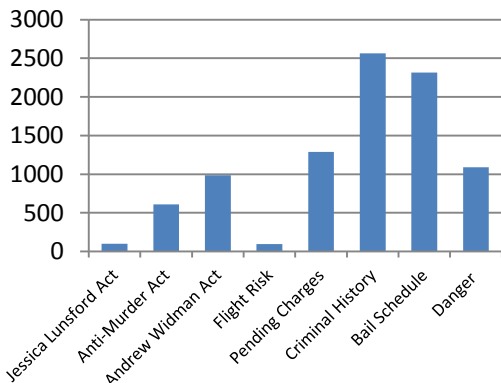
The risk instrument was implemented in 2011 after the Pretrial Justice Institute analyzed critical data determined by criminal justice partners and stakeholders. The tool is illustrated below and to the right, with 0 to 15 points as low risk, 16 to 25 as medium and 25 plus as high risk.



Pictured from left- Mr. Barry Williams, Mr. Keith McGovern, Ms. Iris De Hoyos, Mr. Nicholas Stevens, Ms. Angela Barker, Mr. Edgar Cruz and Mr. Shawn Carlson

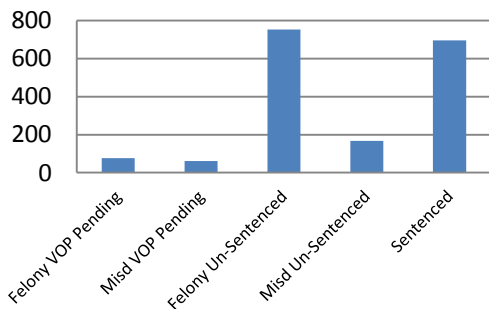
Certificate of Compliance (COC)-

Pretrial officers ensured 7,149 defendants were held for First Appearance that posed a potential flight risk or danger to the community so that the judge could make more informed release decisions. The below chart reflects the breakdown of reasons for COC holds.



Jail Population

The average jail population breakdown, according to the Lee County Sheriff’s Office Classification Unit, is illustrated in the chart below for the fiscal year.

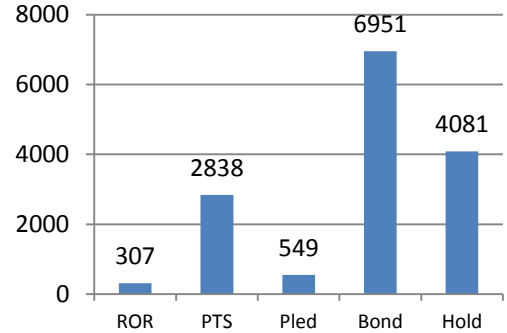


DATA ELEMENTS	POINTS
Current Offense	
Misdemeanor (including CT, MO, CO)	3
Felony	1
Most serious offense is PROPERTY	1
Most serious offense is NOT DRUGS	3
Four (4) or more Charges	3
Criminal History	
Three (3) or more PRIOR FTA’s	4
Prior VIOLENT Felony Conviction	3
Prior Felony Conviction	1
On PROBATION/PAROLE at time of arrest	3
PENDING CASE at time of arrest	3
One (1) to Ten (10) prior Misdemeanor Convictions	1
Eleven (11) or More prior Misdemeanor Convictions	3
Social Embeddedness	
Homeless/At CURRENT residence less than Six (6) Months	3
Time in CIRCUIT less than Five (5) Years	3
Demographics	
Thirty (30) Years of Age OR Younger	4
Unemployed LESS than Six (6) Months	3
Unemployed Six (6) Months or more	4

FIRST APPEARANCE & JAIL MANAGEMENT

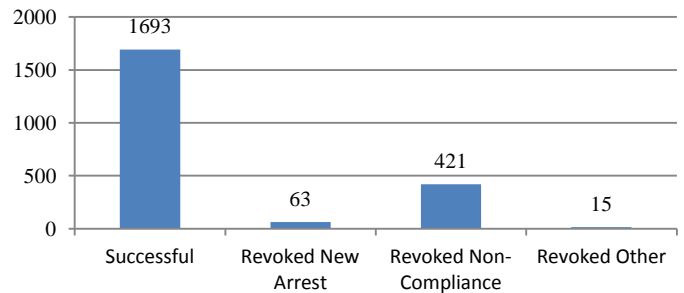
Pretrial officers provide critical information to the judiciary at First Appearance hearings. Defendant backgrounds, criminal history and risk are provided along with supervision options for release. The First Appearance judges reviewed 14,726 defendants with 5,510 bonding prior to First Appearance via the monetary bail schedule during the fiscal year. First Appearances resulted in 307 releases on recognizance, 2,838 placed on pretrial supervision, 549 pleas, 6,951 ordered bond and 4,081 held without bond, illustrated by the chart to the right. There were 1,034 affidavits facilitated under the Widman Act.

Pretrial officers also facilitated resolution of 162 cases on the Jail Management where non-sentenced incarcerated defendants were reviewed for consideration of a plea or release prior to arraignment.



MISDEMEANOR DIVERSION OUTCOME MEASURES

Pretrial officers supervise defendants who entered the diversion program, and oversee the conditions set forth in the Deferred Prosecution Agreement. The ninety day program is intended to redirect criminal justice resources to more serious crimes and those that warrant prosecution while providing a meaningful response to particular conduct. The majority of defendants are diverted prior to arraignment, thereby alleviating the need to be heard on a court docket. Pretrial officers ensure eligibility, review agreements explaining and ensuring all required conditions are met, and report compliance to the State Attorney's Office. Standard conditions include refraining from new law violations, completing educational courses, reporting to an assigned officer and notifying of demographic changes, as well as paying costs of prosecution and supervision, and restitution where applicable. Outcomes are illustrated to the right.



MISSION CRITICAL DATA

Caseloads – There was 1987 defendants that entered misdemeanor diversion with an average monthly caseload of 200 defendants per officer.

Success rate- There was an average of 73% of defendants who entered misdemeanor diversion and (1) were not revoked for technical violations of the conditions in their agreement, (2) complied with all specific conditions, and (3) were not charged with a new offense during the diversion period.

Safety rate- There was an average of 94% of defendants not charged with a new offense during the diversion period.

Technical Non-Compliance rate- There was an average of 24% of supervised defendants revoked due to technical violations only.

Supervision fees & Restitution collected- There was a total of \$174,314 in the cost of supervision collected for the fiscal year and \$58,380 in restitution collected payable to victims.

Community services completed- 12,406 hours of community service were completed in the community.

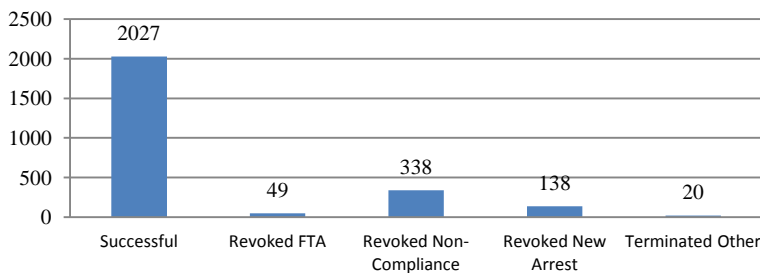
PRETRIAL SUPERVISION OUTCOME MEASURES

Pretrial officers supervise defendants ordered on pretrial supervision, determining reporting plans based on risk and need and enforcing court orders while reporting non-compliance swiftly to the court. Standard conditions include following a reporting schedule in person and via telephone, remaining at liberty without violating any laws, notifying the assigned officer of any demographic changes, answering all inquiries, completing substance abuse or mental health evaluations, drug testing and any other special conditions as ordered.

MISSION CRITICAL DATA

Caseloads- There was 2,678 defendants placed on pretrial supervision during the fiscal year with an average monthly caseload of 150 defendants per officer. Approximately 30% included a simultaneous bond and approximately 1% included electronic monitoring. 72% were determined indigent. At the end of the fiscal year, the active case breakdown included 65% as low risk defendants, 15% as medium risk and 1 % as high risk, with 19% not originally assessed by risk level.

Success rate- There was an average of 79% of defendants on pretrial supervision who (1) were not revoked for technical violations of the conditions of their release, (2) appeared for all scheduled court appearances, and (3) were not charged with a new offense during pretrial supervision.



Safety rate- There was an average of 94% of supervised defendants not charged with a new offense during the pretrial stage.

Technical Non-Compliance rate- There was an average of 10% of defendants revoked due to technical violations.

Court appearance rate- There was an average of 97% of supervised defendants who made all scheduled court appearances. The total average court appearances were three per defendant.

Pictured from left: Mr. Scott Peckham, Ms. Michelle Meyer, Ms. Melissa Whittington, Mr. Enrique Rosario and Mr. Frank Kanaski

Electronic monitoring- Cases with electronic monitoring and alcohol monitoring are monitored at a higher risk level with closer supervision. The Intake and Investigation Unit ensures installation prior to release from custody after all court ordered conditions have been reviewed. The Case Supervision Unit reviews in depth and enforces conditions and reports non-compliance immediately to the court.

Electronic monitoring may include house arrest, exclusion zones, alcohol monitoring and drug screens. Electronic monitoring must be worn 24 hours a day until completion of the case or when otherwise ordered by the court. Defendants must pay all associated costs directly to the vendor. Intentional altering, tampering or damaging of equipment in an attempt to defeat the intended use, or removal, constitutes a violation. There was an average of 42 cases per month with electronic monitoring during the fiscal year.



COUNTY PROBATION OUTCOME MEASURES

The Lee County Probation Department provides misdemeanor probation services for all of the criminal courts of Lee County. Probation officers supervise probationers sentenced on a first or second degree misdemeanor. The department supervised 5,806 probationers the fiscal year. Officers enforce the probation order conditions, which may include but is not limited to completion of community service, completion of education or treatment, random drug/alcohol screenings and, the Lee County Day and Weekend work programs. The department also facilitates the payment of restitution, fines, court costs and probation supervision fees.



Pictured from left- Ms. Idel Altenburg, Ms. Jennifer Alvarez, Ms. Ashlee Whitewood, Mr. Jeffrey Langevin, Mr. Agustin Alonso, Ms. Rebecca Lade and Ms. Erin Hutchinson

Intensive Supervision Probation is a specialized caseload responsible for supervising probationers with extensive histories involving drugs or alcohol; special needs; those deemed by the judiciary as needing an extra level of supervision based on the facts of the case or those with prior violations of probation. Officers have continual contact with the probationer and the treatment provider to ensure compliance with all court ordered sanctions.

Domestic Violence is a specialized caseload comprised of probationers who have been convicted for Battery or a Violation of Injunction. Often, probationers with domestic violence charges are ordered to complete a Batterer's Intervention or Anger Management Program. Other special conditions may include random drug screens or substance abuse treatment. Officers have close contact with the probationer, treatment provider and often the victim to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions.

The Spanish Speaking Unit supervises a specialized caseload comprised of probationers that speak Spanish as their first language and do not speak English or have a limited English vocabulary. Officers assigned to this unit speak Spanish and provide all duties and responsibilities as mandated by the department and the judiciary.

The Lee County Probation Department's primary goal is to enforce the conditions of probation and to motivate positive behavioral change with the probationer. The department utilizes evidence based practices and advancements in technology to proactively supervise, educate, and redirect probationers to reduce recidivism. Motivational Interviewing has been implemented and has provided the tools for the department to handle resistance and change the responsibility for behavioral change to the probationer. Primary functions include:

- ❖ Delivering fair, consistent and positive guidance to probationers.
- ❖ Referring probationers to local treatment providers who provide education, counseling and awareness, and provide probationers the tools needed to become citizens who contribute to their community.
- ❖ Delivering information and formulating recommendations to both county and circuit judges for violations of probation.
- ❖ Motivating probationers by providing them the tools for success.
- ❖ Continually modifying our methods to meet the needs of the probationers.
- ❖ Making a positive contribution to the community.



Pictured from left- Mr. William Delgadillo, Mr. Alonso Laster and Mr. Oscar Ferrer

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEWS

Reviews are utilized as a measure to ensure compliance within sixty days of sentencing and throughout the probation period. Officers motivate, set priorities and goals for the probationer to achieve success.

SHERIFF’S DAY WORK PROGRAM

The Lee County Sheriff’s Day Work Program is a sentencing alternative as a special condition of probation available to the judiciary. The Day Work Program is ordered as a condition of probation and is strictly enforced by the department. This program allows the probationer to perform various labor activities for the benefit of the community. The program is in lieu of incarceration and saves the tax payer money.



Pictured from left- Ms. Maria Wendel, Mr. Greg Thomas, Mr. William Shuga, Mr. Billie Ayers, Mr. Seth Yates, Ms. Bridget Washburn, Mr. Thomas Chvilicek and Ms. Nancy Mandujano

FIELD WORK

The department conducts field work as needed to aid in the supervision of probationers and to ensure compliance with court-ordered conditions. The department works closely with local law enforcement on those deemed high risk or where there is cause for concern of safety.

COURT PRESENTATION

Court Presenters recommend sanctions to any one of the thirteen Circuit/County judges on behalf of the probation department. Probation officers attending court ensure accuracy of allegations against the probationer and provide a complete status update on the case and a fair and just recommendation. This aids the courts in efficiently managing court event dockets and facilitating resolution. Although most cases presented are violations of probation, the presenters also attend other probation-related hearings such as Modifications of Probation and early termination hearings.

PROBATION MISSION CRITICAL DATA

The following statistical information provides a snapshot of performance outcomes during the fiscal year.

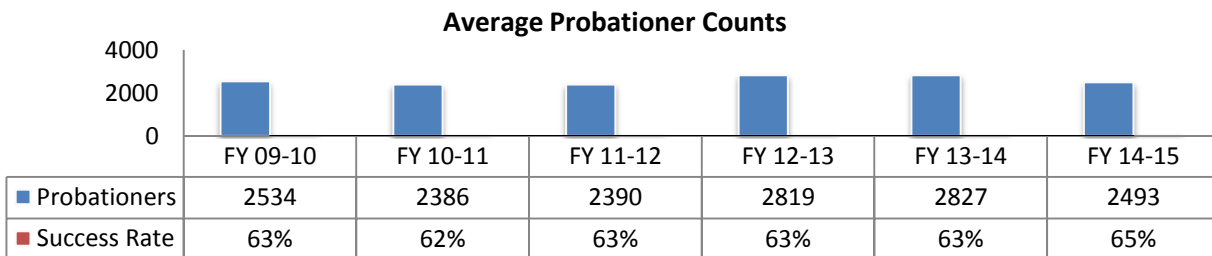
Caseloads - There was 5,806 defendants ordered on county probation during the fiscal year with an average monthly caseload of 230 probationers per officer.

Success rate- There was an average of 65% of defendants placed on county probation who were (1) not revoked for technical violations (2) not charged with a new offense during supervision and (3) have complied with all specific conditions.

Supervision fees & Restitution collected- There was a total of \$1,286,248 in the cost of supervision collected for the fiscal year and \$58, 529 in restitution collected payable to victims.

Community Services completed- A total of 52,488 hours of community service were completed in the community.

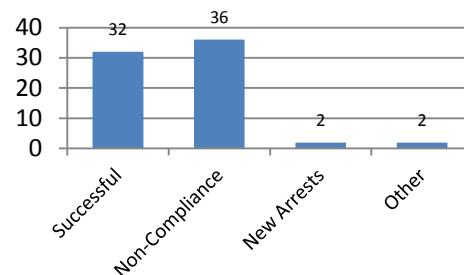
Fines and Court Costs- A total of \$676,665 was collected from probationers through the Clerk of Court.



THE FELONY DRUG COURT PROGRAM OUTCOME MEASURES

The Lee County Felony Drug Court Program is designed to divert cases from the traditional court system while helping participants recover from drug and alcohol addiction, stay in recovery and become productive members of society. The designated pretrial officer serves as the main point of contact, facilitates early screening and monitors defendants' progress so non-compliance can be addressed swiftly by the court.

The program is presided over by the Honorable Leigh Hayes and the Honorable Josephine Gagliardi. The drug court team includes the pretrial officer, coordinators and counsel from the offices of the State Attorney and the Public Defender, the Department of Corrections' probation officers, and clinicians from SalusCare. The team meets regularly for staffing to discuss current and potential participants.



The program has continued to meet the 10 Key Components of Drug Courts adopted by the US Department of Justice. These include:

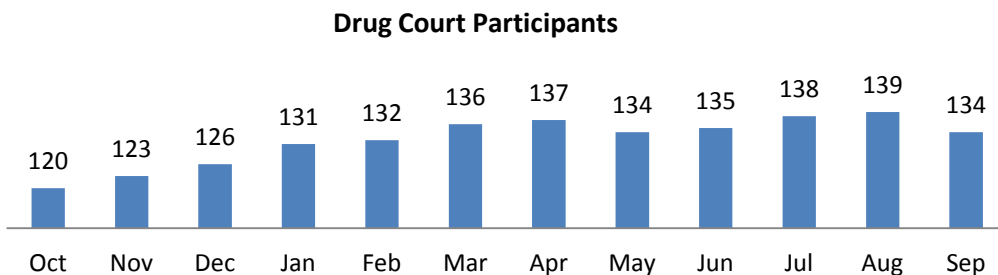
- ❖ Integrating alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing.
- ❖ Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.
- ❖ Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the program.
- ❖ Drug courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.
- ❖ Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.
- ❖ A coordinated strategy governs drug court responses to participants' compliance.
- ❖ Ongoing judicial interaction with each drug court participant is essential.
- ❖ Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of programs goals and gauge program effectiveness.
- ❖ Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective drug court planning, implementation, and operations.
- ❖ Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances drug court program effectiveness.

MISSION CRITICAL DATA

Graduation Rate- The graduation rate was 44%. New offenses accounted for 3% of unsuccessful terminations.

Active Participants- The average number of participants in the program each month was 132 during the fiscal year. The program has continued to expand throughout the fiscal year as demonstrated in the chart below.

Average Length of Stay- The average length of stay was approximately 20.5 months, showing that participants, on average, stay in the program close to the intended time period.

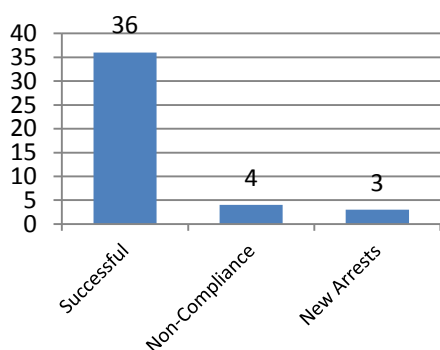


THE MENTAL HEALTH COURT PROGRAM OUTCOME MEASURES

The Mental Health Court program is a voluntary alternative to the traditional court system for those formally diagnosed with a serious and persistent mental illness. Criminal history and the current offense must meet the requirements of the State Attorney's Office, which is the deciding factor for participation in this program. Defendants and mental health professionals develop an intervention plan based on the defendant's individual needs. Successful completion of the intervention plan while under the supervision of probation results in successful termination or continuation on regular county probation supervision. Successful completion of the intervention plan while under diversion results in the charges being nolle prossed by the State Attorney's Office.

The program is presided over by the Honorable Andrew Swett. The mental health court team includes the county probation officer, counsel from the offices of the State Attorney and Public Defender, the Department of Corrections' probation officer, diversion coordinators from Saluscare and outreach specialists and a program coordinator from Coastal Behavioral Healthcare. The probation officer assigned serves as the main point of contact and provides program oversight to ensure the services and team member responsibilities are achieved. This includes maintaining documentation, database and report maintenance and establishing collaborative relationships with community service providers. The probation officer attends staffing and court weekly and tracks outcomes and monitors progress.

MISSION CRITICAL DATA

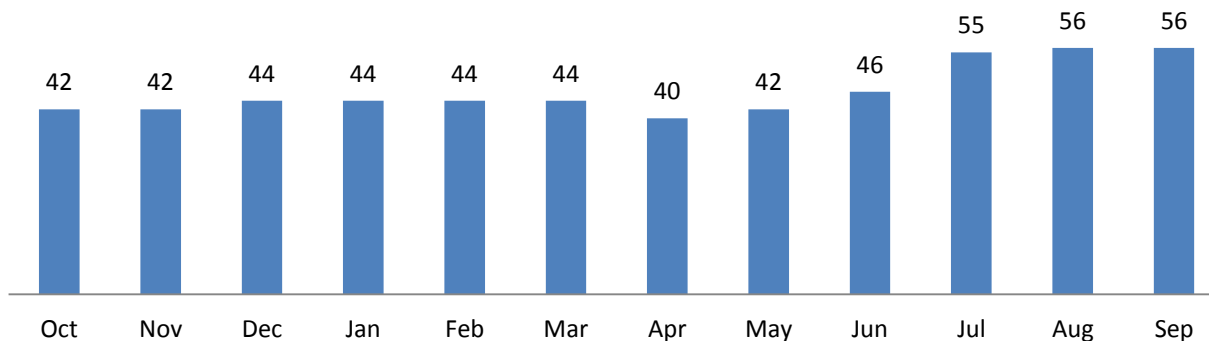


Graduation Rate- The graduation or success rate was 84%, graduating 36 participants during the fiscal year.

Active Participants- The number of participants in the program was 56 at the end of the fiscal year. Half of the participants have entered a diversionary program while the other half of the participants are on either county or state probation. There was a 34% increase of participants throughout the fiscal year as outlined in the chart below.

Average Length of Stay- The average length of stay was approximately 9 months, showing that participants, on average, stay in the program close to the intended time period.

Mental Health Court Participants



THE VETERANS TRACK

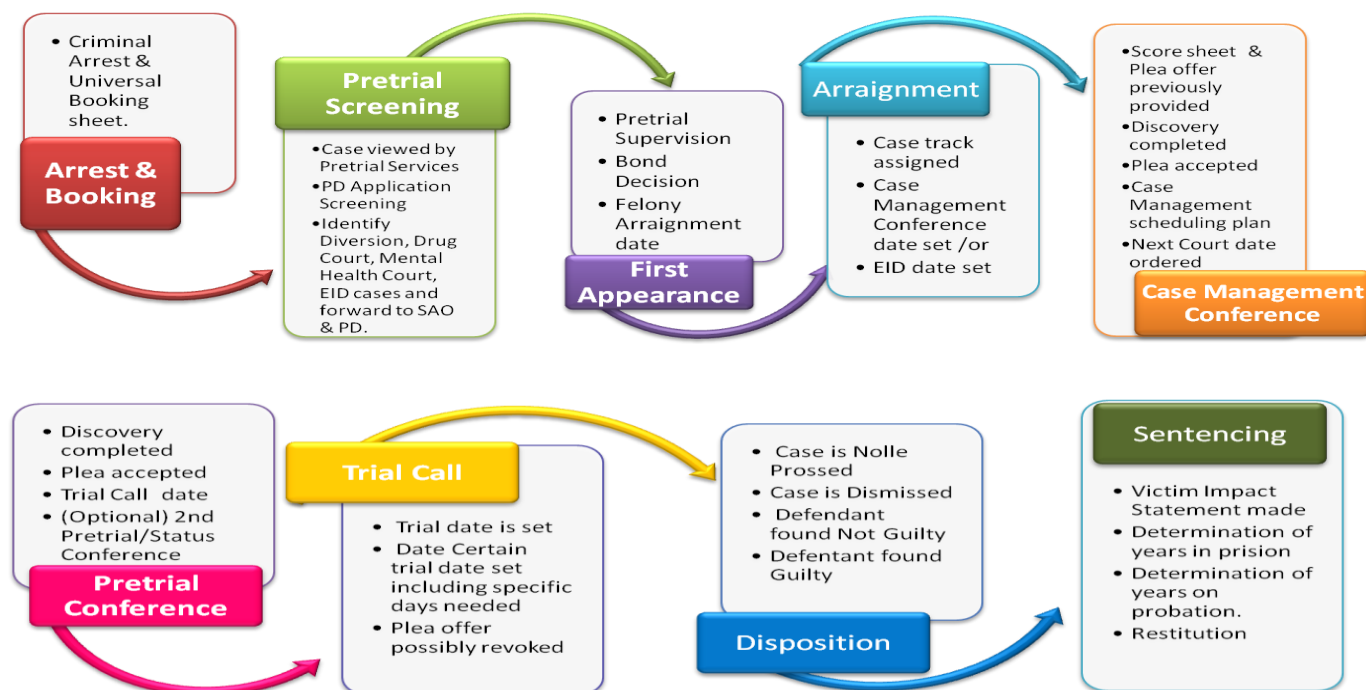
The Lee County Mental Health Court team was granted the opportunity to begin a pilot project for a Veterans Track in May of 2015. The mission of the Lee County Veterans Track is to promote public safety while supporting eligible veterans and their families through a coordinated effort among veterans' services, community services and the court to leave no veteran behind. The program seeks to address mental health and/or substance abuse issues of the veteran to ensure an opportunity for treatment.



The Veterans Track links veterans with the programs, benefits and services they have earned. The Veterans Health Administration's Veterans Justice Outreach specialist is present during court and able to immediately access vital treatment records, make treatment appointments and communicate this information readily to the court. Outreach assists veterans with additional local and state resources, while volunteer mentors provide morale and motivational support. The Triage Center's VA Homeless Coordinator attends court and provides services to assist with VASH Vouchers and housing support paid for by the Veterans Administration. The county has provided a Veterans Services Officer through Lee County Human Services to assist with VA claims, disability applications and appeals if claims have been denied. The VA has provided a trained paid peer specialist that has developed a 26 week curriculum for a specific peer support group. Ten participants have thus far entered with currently four veteran peer mentors who volunteer their time and help with navigating the VA healthcare system.

TRIAL COURT PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

The Case Management Unit provides direct support to the five Circuit judges presiding over felony cases. Cases are managed according to nature and complexity to facilitate early disposition of appropriate cases and allow for individual judge management on more complex cases. Case managers utilize calendar management practices and monitor case processing time goals, document case notes with detailed case events and progress for the judiciary, conduct trial coordination, facilitate case closure on inactive cases, generate performance measures reports and evaluate processes to reduce potential delays. Below is an illustration of the felony case process.



COURT PERFORMANCE OUTCOME MEASURES

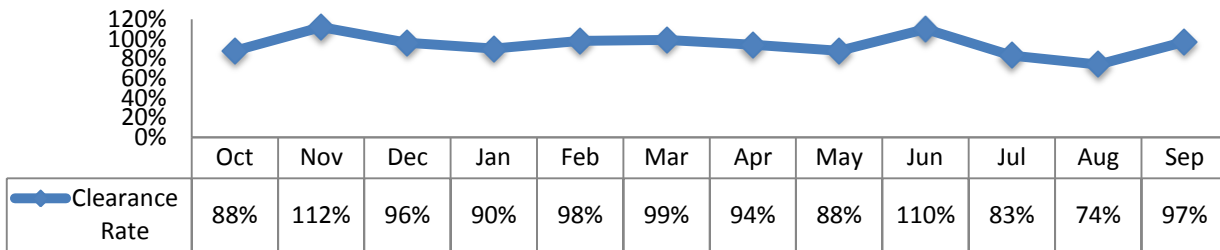
Time to Disposition - Time to disposition measures the percentage of cases disposed or otherwise resolved within established timeframes and assesses the length of time it takes a court to process cases. In the 20th Judicial Circuit, time goals are established under Administrative Order 3.5. The goal is to resolve 80% of expedited cases within 180 days from the arrest date, standard cases within 240 days and complex cases within 360 days. Lee County met 91% of expedited cases, 94% of standard cases and 95% of complex cases for time goals.



Pictured from left: Ms. Maureen Ganim, Mr. Ervin Gill, Ms. Ashley Gregory, Ms. Kimberly Hart, Mr. Ismael Herrera, Ms. Mercedes Pena-Barcia and Ms. Candy Caughey

Case Clearance – Clearance rates are the number of outgoing cases as a percentage of the number of incoming cases. A total of 5,815 cases were opened and 5,418 cases closed, resulting in a 94% clearance rate. Monthly trends are illustrated below.

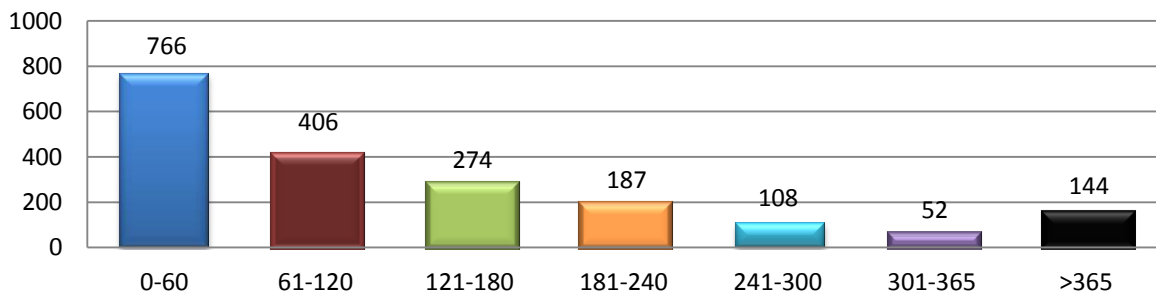
Felony Case Processing Clearance Rates



Trial date certainty - The number of times cases disposed by trial are scheduled for trial. The ability of courts to hold trials when scheduled to be heard is closely associated with timely disposition. Trial date certainty was 51% for the fiscal year.

Age of active pending caseload - The age of active cases pending before the court, measured as the number of days from filing until the time of measurement, allows the court to focus on what is required to ensure cases are brought to completion within reasonable timeframes. The chart depicts the end of fiscal year caseload.

Age Pending



DIVISION SUPPORT, UNIFICATION AND INITIATIVES

The criminal division supports a unified customer service initiative. Support is provided to management and staff and a high level of customer service to defendants and criminal justice partners. Clerical support assists with screening for indigency, preparing documents, compiling reports, entering court outcomes into case management databases, processing reassignments, and maintaining department supplies, storage and disaster recovery documents. The division administrative assistant provides direct support to the criminal division director and deputy criminal division directors and serves as the division Terminal Agency Coordinator.

Pictured to the right, Ms. Yazmin Rivera



Clerical support is crucial in day-to-day operations. Division support processed 2,867 screenings for appointment of the Public Defender at the front counter, Felony, Misdemeanor and DV arraignments and at the Core facility. 11,895 persons were assisted at the pretrial front counter alone. 10,780 calls for Pretrial Services and 21,645 calls for probation were processed, while the Call Center script managed more than 15,823 calls for Pretrial Services and 20,764 calls for Probation.

Pictured from left- Ms. Anne Donohue, Ms. Paulette Rinehart, Ms. Andrea Wolfe, Ms. Niquinya Street, Ms. Amanda Carpenter and Ms. Alice Colon-Torres

TRAINING

The division continued to foster employee growth with various opportunities. A grant through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration provided training on Motivational Interviewing, aligning with evidence based practice with effective tools to handle resistance at differing readiness levels. Mr. Nicholas Stevens, Mr. Scott Peckham, Ms. Michelle Meyer, Mr. Enrique Rosario, Mr. Frank Kanaski, Mr. Mark Cavanaugh, Ms. Elizabeth Robideau, Ms. Melissa Whittington and Ms. Amy Kinsey attained the MI certification after demonstrating proficiency in all levels.



The division hosted an operational tune-up for drug courts circuit-wide through the National Drug Court Institute. The training focused on practical application and best evidence based practices. The plenaries included science based literature and research on program entries, phases, incentives and sanctions, and confidentiality, ethical and legal issues. Ms. Belinda Smith was also able to attend the National Drug Court and Veterans Conference.

Ms. Jennifer Fuller and Ms. Michelle Meyer obtained the Pretrial Services Professional Certifications through the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies, which involved qualifying in experience and education and passing an examination on general legal and court issues and practices in the pretrial area. Mr. Edgar Cruz, Mr. Enrique Rosario, Ms. Maria Gamboa and Ms. Erin Hutchinson completed Crisis Intervention Training through the National Alliance for Mental Illness to gain a thorough understanding of interacting with those mentally ill. Mr. Scott Leland attained the Supervisory Management certification from the Florida Center for Public Management and attended Orientation for New Pretrial Executives offered through the National Institute of Corrections. Ms. Michelle Meyer also facilitated various on-site training opportunities for the division from local providers and law enforcement.



Pictured from left- Ms. Judy Ryckman, Ms. Carolyn Miller, Ms. Gloria Smith, Ms. Diana Brown, Ms. Sandra Tapia, Ms. Nelly Torres, Ms. Pamela Limes and Ms. Natalie Goldenberg

TECHNICAL ENHANCEMENTS

The division committees enhanced the pretrial and probation website pages to make more user-friendly to the general public, counsel and defendants. Contact methods and information, documents and frequently asked questions were added, along with relevant links and resources. Department logos were also created. Committees included Ms. Paulette Rinehart, Mr. Keith McGovern and Ms. Maureen Ganim for Pretrial Services and Ms. Jennifer Alvarez, Ms. Maria Wendel, Ms. Nancy Mandujano, Ms. Ashlee Whitewood, Ms. Bridget Washburn and Mr. Tom Chvilicek for Probation.

The division began efforts to a paperless transition with reduction in storage costs intended and ease of locating information. The division scans documents for supervision and diversion into the CJIS and Odyssey case management systems, has transitioned to electronic performance evaluations and is currently testing electronic payroll submission. The division also started E Filing documents to the Clerk of Court.

COLLABORATION AND OUTREACH

The division supported the National Bring your Kids to Work Day providing students an overview of the criminal justice system. Students observed First Appearance and learned what happens after an arrest. Court Security demonstrated the screening process and provided a tour of the control room. Lee County Sheriff's Office Deputies answered questions about the trial process, jury selection and responsibilities in the courtroom.

Mr. Enrique Rosario and Mr. Greg Thomas assisted the Honorable Leigh Hayes and Ms. Candy Caughey assisted the Honorable Bruce Kyle in conducting mock trials for middle school students. This also provided an opportunity for students to learn about the criminal justice process.

Pictured- Ms. Liza Maldonado with students on Bring your Kids to Work Day

The division supported the National Pretrial and Probation Week in July with a celebration and recognition of staff for their daily contributions to defendants, the general public and the community. A division-wide picnic was also coordinated for staff to network during non-working hours.



The division continued to support statewide initiatives representing the Association of Pretrial Professionals of Florida and Florida Association of Community Corrections. Ms. Liza Maldonado served as a FCAC Commissioner, Ms. Amy Kinsey as the Communications Director and Mr. Scott Peckham as the Southwest Regional Director for the APPF.

Ms. Iris De Hoyos, Ms. Nancy Mandujano and Ms. Amy Kinsey represented the court at the Justice Studies and Internship Fair at Florida Gulf Coast University, along with Criminal Justice partners, and offers internship opportunities across the division. Ms. Belinda Smith and Mr. Ismael Herrera attended and facilitated various specialty court meetings. Mr. Ervin Gill, Mr. Doug Jaye and Ms. Amy Kinsey coordinated the Public Safety Coordinating Council, Felony Case Management Advisory Committee and DCM Sub-Committee meetings and participated in the Criminal Systems Information, Odyssey Business Group and CJIS business meetings.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Lee County Probation Department requested technical assistance from the US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, to assess the needs of their department related to implementation of evidence-based practices, including the use of a risk assessment tool to prioritize case management activities. Analysts completed an assessment of the current state and made recommendations for protocols resulting in the highest quality of case management services in the most efficient manner, assessed probation caseloads for optimal ratios to effectively supervise and manage cases, assessed reporting procedures and made recommendations on how to incorporate evidence based practices and developed a Validated Risk Assessment tool.

ACCREDITATION

On June 23rd, 2015, the Lee County Pretrial Services Department was awarded its second re-accreditation by the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission. The department received its initial accreditation in 2009 and is re-evaluated every three years. Accreditation covers six sections: Personnel Practices, Organization and Management, General Principles Governing the Pretrial Process, First Appearance, Release Conditions and Electronic Monitoring. Assessors evaluate the agency against standards developed by the commission, the Association of Pretrial Professionals of Florida and the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies. These standards emphasize evidence based practices in line with the America Bar Association principles. Accreditation allows for independent verification of business practices; promotes organizational and individual self-assessment, resulting in accountability; increases integrity of the criminal justice process and the agency's role and increased judicial confidence in use of program services; enhances morale by increasing confidence in the effectiveness and efficiency of one's own agency and emphasizes on professionalism, excellence and competence of staff and ensures policies and procedures are consistent with best practices. Ms. Maldonado and Ms. Kinsey contributed significantly to the statewide Accreditation Re-write for pretrial standards and the creation of new probation standards. Additionally, Ms. Amy Kinsey and Ms. Candy Caughey served as assessors for the Commission.



IN REMEMBRANCE

Ms. Christine Thompson lost her courageous fight against cancer in November of 2014. Ms. Thompson was not only a colleague, but a dear friend to many. Ms. Thompson began with AOC as a DV case manager, worked with division R with our felony case management team and most recently with Charlotte County Probation. Ms. Thompson is remembered for her contributions, commitment and genuine, charming spirit.

Pictured Ms. Christine Thompson



RETIREMENTS

The division celebrated two retirements. Mr. Rene Baas was recognized for his dedicated service to both the Pretrial Services and County Probation departments over a span of 24 years, and Mr. Ed Bruns for 29 years to County Probation. Mr. Baas and Mr. Bruns contributed significantly to the success of the division.

STAFFING AND PROMOTIONS

The division focused efforts on optimal caseload ratios and the best allocation of resources across the division. Ms. Lisa Vagle was temporarily reassigned to assist county probation for approximately nine months when probation counts remained above the optimal caseload ratio and the diversion caseloads decreased. Due to the caseload ratios, and the need since inception of 24/7 operations at the Intake and Investigation Unit, a position was ultimately reclassified from supervision to intake. This allowed for the unit to become adequately staffed with increased stability in schedules.

The division reallocated funding and created additional structure with the creation of probation team leads and two probation officer positions. Mr. Jeffrey Nichols was selected as the Criminal Division Director in Collier County, and shortly thereafter Mr. Doug Jaye was selected to serve as the new deputy criminal division director for probation. Ms. Jennifer Alvarez was promoted to probation supervisor, Ms. Anne Donohue to clerical supervisor, and Mr. Oscar Ferrer and Ms. Maria Wendel to team leads.

The division welcomed new hires Mr. Jeffrey Langevin, Ms. Erin Hutchinson, Mr. Billie Ayers, Mr. Seth Yates, Mr. William Delgadillo and Ms. Rebecca Lade as probation officers, Ms. Amanda Carpenter as a pretrial secretary and Ms. Nicol Annis as a pretrial officer in the Intake and Investigation Unit.