



**Fiscal Year  
2016-2017**

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



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### PAGE

Criminal Division Director's Message	3
Division Overview	4
Division Support	5
Organization	6
Intake & Investigation	7-8
Pretrial Supervision	9
Misdemeanor Diversion	10
Felony Case Management	11
Drug Court	12
Mental Health Court	13
Veterans Court	14
County Probation	15-16
Division Initiatives	17-18

For more information on court programs within the 20th Judicial Circuit, please visit our website at: [www.ca.cjis20.org](http://www.ca.cjis20.org)



## TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS



*Message from the Criminal Division Director:*



Welcome to the Lee County Criminal Division's annual report. The Criminal Division is located on the third floor of the Lee County Justice Center at 1700 Monroe Street in Fort Myers, Florida. As of July 2016, the population in Lee County was estimated at 722, 336 according to the United States Census Bureau.

On behalf of the dedicated team of professionals of the Lee County Criminal Division teams, it is my honor and distinct privilege to share with you the continued accomplishments that occurred during fiscal year 2016-2017. Overall, this year has represented a year of growth, development and success.

There were important initiatives that were implemented in order to improve processes, further the utilization of technology and ensure overall program effectiveness. We continue to utilize and expand on the use of evidence based practices throughout the division. This year, we successfully implemented Differentiated Case Supervision practices as well as furthered our Motivational Interviewing methods.

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

The Criminal Division emphasizes on being a learning organization. We are committed to staff development, cross training 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. This report will illustrate that we hold ourselves to the highest of expectations.

I would like to especially thank all of the staff for their hard work and passion in serving the court and citizens of Lee County. 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. Flecha*

*"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit"*  
*Durant*

## DIVISION OVERVIEW & ORGANIZATION

The Administrative Office of the Courts provides administrative and operational support to the Circuit and County Courts. The Lee County Criminal Division, including the Pretrial Services and Probation Departments, provide case management support to the thirteen judges in the criminal division. Both departments have unique objectives but work collaboratively to achieve common goals.

*Pictured- Amy Kinsey, Deputy Criminal Division Director, Pretrial Services*

The Lee County Pretrial Services Department was established in 1988. It is comprised of thirty-five employees and an on-call employee encompassing Intake and Investigation, Case Supervision and Case Management. The mission 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. The vision is 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.



Key goals include:

- ❖ Enhancing screening processes to determine risk while simultaneously identifying veterans and those with mental health and substance abuse needs.
- ❖ Ensuring comprehensive case management services are provided through jail management efforts, identifying case delays and enhancing early resolution and best practices in specialty courts.
- ❖ Incorporating evidenced based practices to increase overall supervision and diversion success rates.
- ❖ Enhancing overall customer service, employee and judicial satisfaction.
- ❖ Increasing technological and reporting capabilities.

*Pictured- Doug Jaye, Deputy Criminal Division Director, County Probation*



The Probation Department was established in the early 1980's. It is comprised of twenty-nine employees, encompassing Supervision, Mental Health and Veterans Court. The mission is to promote public safety by enforcing court orders, supervising probationers and motivating positive behavioral change. The vision is to be a leader by enhancing working relationships with our criminal justice partners and utilizing evidence based practices and advancements in technology to proactively supervise, educate and redirect probationers to reduce recidivism. Key goals include:

- ❖ Ensuring comprehensive case management services are provided and establishing an optimal caseload ratio to effectively supervise and manage cases.
- ❖ Utilizing technology resources in the most effective manner.
- ❖ Enhancing standard operating procedures and continuity of business operation plans and enhancing quality assurance.
- ❖ Enhancing overall training and strategic cross training across the division.
- ❖ Enhancing overall customer service, employee and judicial satisfaction.
- ❖ Increasing technological and reporting capabilities.



### ACCREDITATION

The division was accredited by the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017. This was Pretrial Services' third re-accreditation and probation's initial and of the first probation agencies to become accredited in the state. The commission began accrediting pretrial agencies in 2008 with the goal of increasing judicial confidence through providing standardized, accurate information for release and detention decisions. Since, pretrial standards have been enhanced and probation standards added. Accreditation covers Personnel Practices, Organization and Management, General Safety, Communication and Conduct, Reporting, Investigations, First Appearance and Jail Management, Release and Supervision and Probation Monitoring.



## DIVISION SUPPORT

The clerical teams are vital to division operations. Clerical support assisted with screening persons for indigency, preparation of case files, setting appointment dates, compiling reports, tracking warranted files, preparing affidavits and warrants, notices to appear and various court orders, researching warrants and high risk status, processing reassignments, entering court outcomes, maintaining department supplies and managing storage and disaster recovery documents.

The division administrative assistant provides direct support to the criminal division director and serves as the division's Terminal Agency Coordinator and liaison to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

*Pictured above- Yazmin Rivera*



*Pictured from the left- Pamela Limes, Judy Ryckman, Diana Brown, Sandra Tapia, Nelly Torres & Jennifer Hole; not pictured- Gloria Smith*

Support tracked 254 releases on recognizance while sending court date reminders verifying 100% court appearance. Clerical support also received restitution payments and processed certified mail to victims.

Division support assisted over 20,000 persons at the front counter and processed nearly 40,000 calls via the Call Center. Deferred Prosecution Agreements, Modification Orders, Warrants and Notices to Appear were prepared.



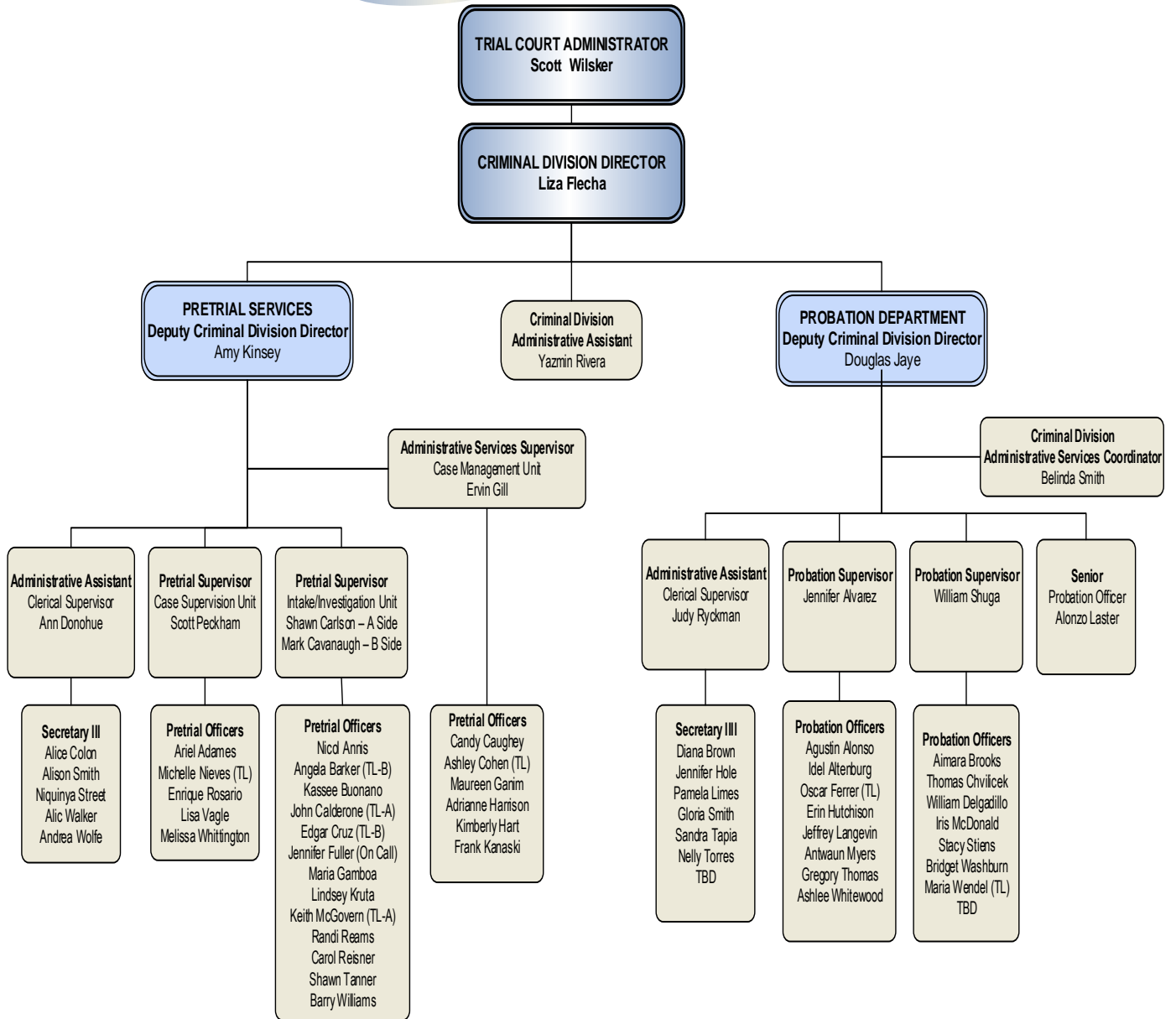
*Pictured from the left, Alice Colon, Alison Smith, Niquinya Street, Ann Donohue, Alic Walker and Andrea Wolfe*

**W**hy we do what we do—Division staff were asked why they chose this career, what they look forward to each day and what the most rewarding aspect of their career is. Responses are illustrated below.

giving to others inspired to do what others wont  
 interacting with others positive moments  
 saving lives making a difference it's a calling  
 helping people HIGH LEVEL OF PROFESSIONALISM  
 relationship building motivating positive change  
 being a part of something bigger than ourselves learning new things  
 helping others promote justice

The organizational chart illustrated below was effective on September 30, 2017.

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



## INTAKE AND INVESTIGATION

### Universal screening-

The Intake and Investigation Unit conducts interviews and 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.

*Pictured from the left- Carol Reisner, Angela Barker & Lindsey Kruta*

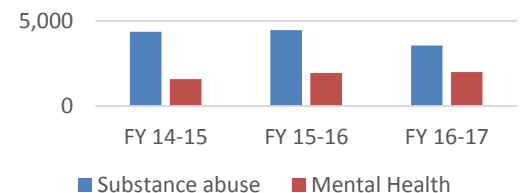


*From the left- Barry Williams, Jennifer Fuller, Kasee Buonano & Mark Cavanaugh, not pictured- Edgar Cruz*

According to the Integrated Justice Information System, there were 21,865 investigations conducted during fiscal year 2016-2017. A total of 3,557 defendants were identified with substance abuse needs and 1,995 with mental health needs, illustrated below over the last three fiscal years.

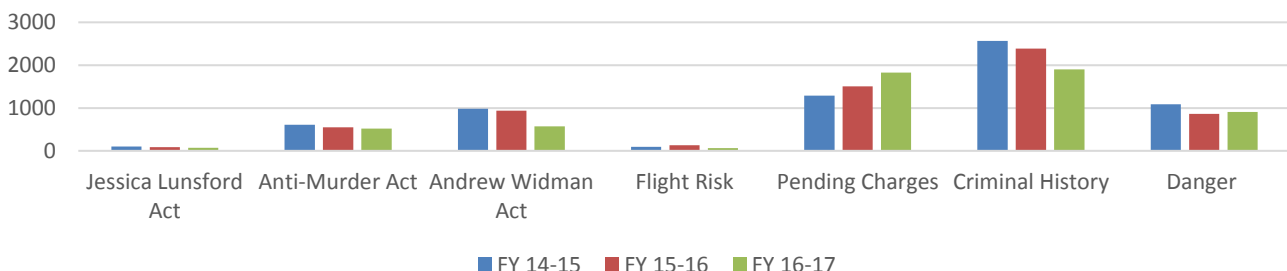
Pretrial officers complete a Risk Instrument on all defendants assessed and eligible for release, excluding cases with pre-set bonds or capital felonies. The Risk Instrument is used to objectively assess the potential for failing to appear or for re-arrest during the pretrial period. Evidence based risk 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.

Notifications are made to the Department of Children and Families, to victims involved in domestic violence and to probation on new law violations. Officers additionally determine indigence for appointment of counsel and appointed 11,251 defendants for the Public Defender services. Veterans are identified and those appropriate are linked to services. There were 794 veterans identified at intake.



### Certificate of Compliance (COC)-

Pretrial officers proceeded with a critical element of maintaining public safety holding 5,876 defendants for First Appearance that posed a potential flight risk or danger to the community so the judge could make more informed release decisions, with 3,204 of those held via the monetary bail schedule. The chart illustrated below reflects the breakdown of reasons for holds outside of the bond schedule for the last three years.

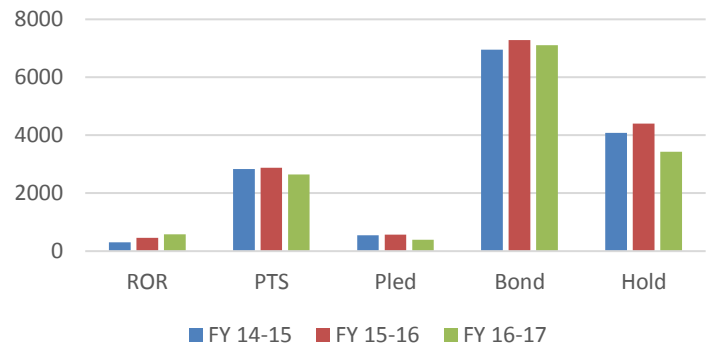


*Pictured from front/left – Maria Gamboa, Randi Reams Back- Shawn Carlson, Shawn Tanner, Nicol Annis, Keith McGovern & John Calderone*

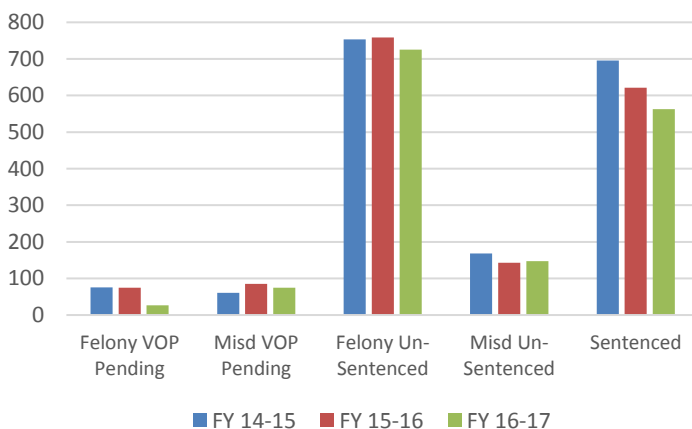


First Appearance- Pretrial officers provide critical information to the judiciary at First Appearance hearings. Defendant backgrounds, criminal history and risk are provided along with supervision options for release. The First Appearance judges presided over 14,114 defendants with 5,080 bonding prior to First Appearance via the monetary bail schedule during the fiscal year. First Appearances resulted in 578 releases on recognizance, 2,645 releases on pretrial supervision with 390 pleas, 7,109 ordered bond and 3,431 held without bond, as illustrated below.

There were 1,399 defendants identified and scheduled for Early Resolution Court out of First Appearance thereby increasing earlier resolution of appropriate cases. There were 1,123 Writman Warrants facilitated.



Triage Expansion- The Bob Janes Triage Center is a community asset shifting defendants away from the criminal justice system and allowing opportunities to provide services to those homeless with high needs. Effective July 1, 2017, the center began to allow through an expansion grant the ability for the court to refer those at First Appearance with no residence stability to be released on pretrial supervision to the Center to receive services. These defendants would likely otherwise remain in custody due to homelessness and lack of monetary resources, but now are linked to temporary and long-term housing, education, transportation, prescription needs and have addressed substance abuse and mental health needs. There have been 39 defendants approved for the Triage Center since inception.



Jail Management- Pretrial officers facilitated resolution of 202 cases on the Jail Management where non-sentenced incarcerated defendants were reviewed for consideration of a plea or release prior to arraignment.

#### Jail Population

The average jail population was 1, 537 defendants, with a breakdown illustrated from the last three years, according to the Lee County Sheriff's Office Classification Unit. The LCSO reported 24,010 bookings during the fiscal year.



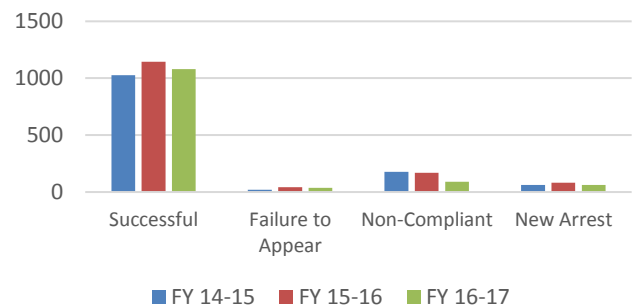
## PRETRIAL SUPERVISION OUTCOME MEASURES

Pretrial officers supervise defendants ordered on pretrial supervision, determining reporting plans based on risk and need and enforcing court orders while reporting non-compliance to the court. Standard conditions include following a reporting schedule in person and by 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 a total of 2,850 defendants placed on pretrial supervision with an average monthly caseload of 180 defendants per officer. The optimal caseload ratio is 150:1. The average length of supervision was 50 days with a total of 117, 620 days on supervision of all defendants. Approximately 668 defendants, or 23%, included a simultaneous bond and approximately 371 defendants, or 13%, included electronic monitoring. There were 1,262 defendants on supervision that were determined indigent. At the end of the fiscal year, the active case breakdown included 71.34% low risk defendants, 13.12% medium risk and less than 1 % high risk, with 15% not originally assessed by risk level.

**Success rate-** There was an average of 85% 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. Outcomes over the last three years are illustrated to the right.



**Safety rate-** There was an average of 95% of supervised defendants not charged with a new offense during the pretrial stage.

**Technical Non-Compliance rate-** There was an average of 92% of defendants not revoked due to technical violations.

**Court appearance rate-** There was an average of 97% of supervised defendants who made all scheduled court appearances. Officers monitored 6,955 court appearances.

### Drug Screening-

Drug screening, when court ordered, is conducted a minimum of twice per month unless otherwise specified. Pretrial officers monitored 2,409 drug screens during the fiscal year.

### Electronic Monitoring-

Cases with electronic monitoring are monitored at a higher risk level with closer supervision. There was an average of 102 defendants with electronic monitoring each month. The Intake and Investigation Unit ensures installation prior to release from custody after all court ordered conditions had been reviewed. Once released, defendants are monitored by a third party monitoring center where immediate alerts are made on any violations. Electronic monitoring may include house arrest, exclusion zones and alcohol monitoring. Electronic monitoring must be worn 24 hours a day until case disposition or when otherwise ordered by the court. Defendants must pay all associated costs directly to the vendor.



*Ariel Adames, Austin Carrol (intern),  
Michelle Nieves and Enrique Rosario, Not pictured- Lisa Vagle*

Pretrial officers supervise defendants who enter 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.

*Pictured from the left: Scott Peckham, Melissa Whittington,*

Pretrial officers ensure eligibility and review agreements explaining all required conditions are met. Officers meet with defendants via administrative reviews to verify compliance and report such 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 over the last three years are illustrated below.

### MISSION CRITICAL DATA

Caseloads – There were 1,689 defendants that entered misdemeanor diversion with an average monthly caseload of 165 defendants per officer. The optimal caseload ratio is 200 :1.

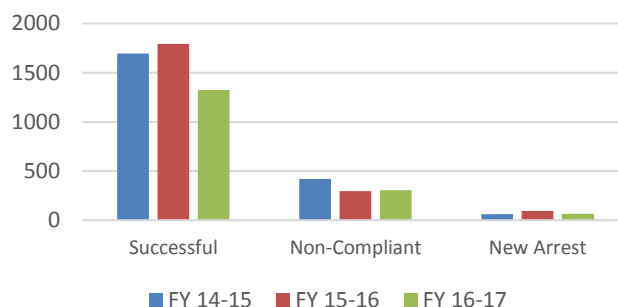
Success rate- There was an average of 77% of defendants who entered misdemeanor diversion and (1) were not revoked for technical violations of the conditions in their agreement, (2) complied with all specific conditions, and (3) were not charged with a new offense during the diversion period.

Safety rate- There was an average of 96% of defendants not charged with a new offense during the diversion period.

Technical Non-Compliance rate- There was an average of 81% of supervised defendants not revoked due to technical violations only.

Supervision fees & Restitution collected- There was a total of \$142,769 in the cost of supervision collected for the fiscal year and \$15,049 in restitution collected payable to victims.

Community services completed- There was 9,870 hours of community service completed in the community.



## FELONY CASE MANAGEMENT

The Case Management Unit provides direct support to the five Circuit judges presiding over felony cases and two County Judges presiding over Drug Court. 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.

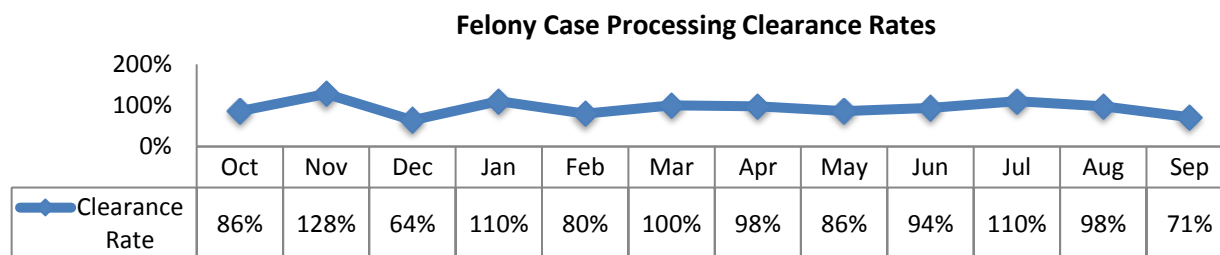


*Pictured from left- Adrienne Harrison, Maureen Ganim, Frank Kanaski, Ervin Gill, Kimberly Hart, Ashley Cohen and Candy Caughey*

## COURT PERFORMANCE OUTCOME MEASURES

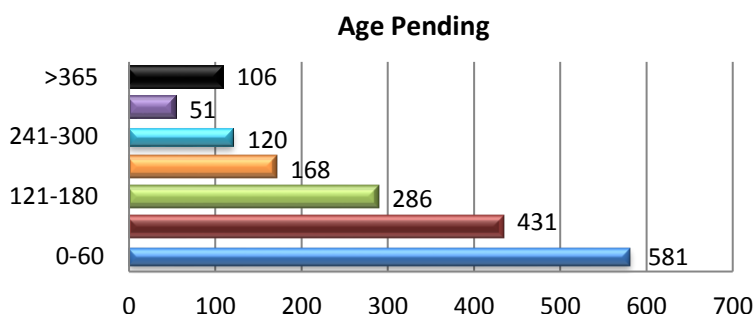
**Time to Disposition** - Time to disposition measures the percentage of cases disposed or otherwise resolved within established time frames and assesses the length of time it takes a court to process cases. In the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, time goals are established under Administrative Order 3.5. The goal is to resolve 90% of expedited cases within 180 days from the arrest date, standard cases within 240 days and complex cases within 360 days. Lee County met 90% of expedited cases, 94% of standard cases and 93% of complex cases for time goals. Early Resolution Court pled or disposed of 1,694 cases.

**Case Clearance** – Clearance rates are the number of outgoing cases as a percentage of the number of incoming cases. A total of 5,876 cases were opened and 5,478 closed, resulting in a 93% clearance rate. Monthly trends are illustrated below.



**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 49%.

**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 time frames. The chart depicts the end of fiscal year caseload at 1,743 cases.



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 objectives of the program are to teach substance abusers how to get off drugs and alcohol and how to get into and stay in recovery, stop substance abusers from committing new crimes and going to jail, reduce illegal drug use and improve the community functioning of participants in the areas of employment, education, training and housing.



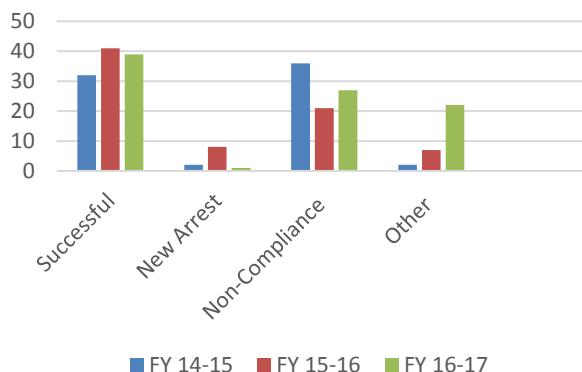
The designated pretrial officer serves as the main point of contact, facilitates early screening and monitors defendants' progress so non-compliance can be addressed swiftly by the court.

The program is presided over by the Honorable Andrew Swett on Monday dockets and the Honorable Josephine Gagliardi on Thursday dockets. 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 at staffing to discuss participants.

There have been 86 entries into the program during this fiscal year and 158 active in the program at the end of the fiscal year.

### MISSION CRITICAL DATA

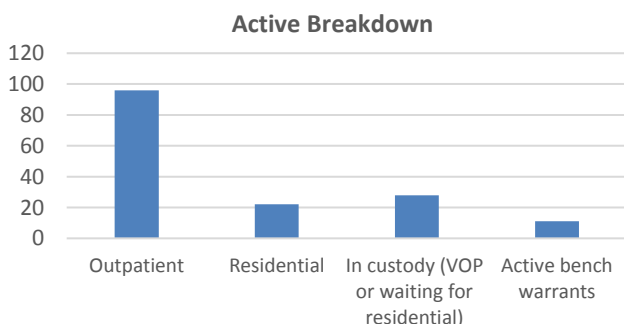
Graduation Rate- There was a total of 40 graduates from the program this fiscal year, with a graduation rate of 46%. New offenses accounted for only one of the unsuccessful terminations. Outcomes are illustrated over the last 3 years to the right.



Active Participants- The average number of participants in the program each month was 166.

Average Length of Stay- The average length of stay was approximately 577 days, or 19 months, for all outcomes that termed during this fiscal year. This demonstrates that participants, on average, stay in the program close to the intended time period.

Breakdown- The program breakdown at the end of the fiscal year included a total of 157 defendants with 22 participants at a residential treatment facility, 96 receiving outpatient services, 28 in custody either on a violation of probation or awaiting residential bed space and 11 with active bench warrants.



Jail Residential Treatment- While in custody, many defendants attend the Lee County Sheriff's Office Residential Substance Abuse Treatment and Life Skills Programs. These programs require completion of substance abuse treatment but also various requirements in family skills, personal health and social skills.



Mental Health Court is a voluntary alternative to the traditional court system for those formally diagnosed with a serious and persistent mental illness. The objectives of the program are to increase effective cooperation between the criminal justice system and mental health treatment in the community, assist select defendants struggling with a mental illness who have committed a crime and improve well-being and quality of life, increase efficiency in case processing, improve access to public mental health treatment and services, reduce chance of recidivism through education and improve public safety for the community at large.



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 team includes the administrative services coordinator from County Probation, 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.

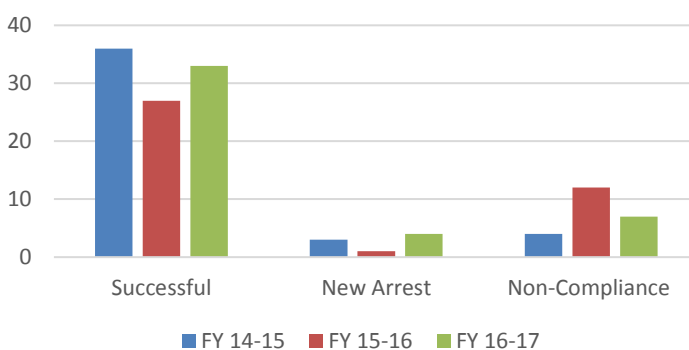
The administrative services coordinator serves as the main point of contact and provides program oversight to ensure the services and team member responsibilities are achieved. This includes maintaining documentation, database and report maintenance and establishing collaborative relationships with community service providers. The administrative services coordinator attends staffing and court weekly and monitors court outcomes and progress.

### MISSION CRITICAL DATA

Graduation Rate- The overall graduation or success rate was 72%, graduating 27 participants during the fiscal year. Outcomes are illustrated over the last 3 years to the right.

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.

Active Participants- The number of participants in the program was 52 at the end of the fiscal year. Half of the participants entered a diversionary program while the other half were placed on either county or state probation or community control. The program has operated at or above its capacity of 50 participants throughout the majority of the year.



Veterans Court is designed to divert cases from the traditional court system for those veterans diagnosed with a serious mental health and/or substance abuse issue. The mission is to promote public safety while supporting eligible veterans and their families through a coordinated effort among veteran's services, community services and the court and to leave no veteran behind.



The Court links veterans with the programs, benefits and services they have earned. The program is presided over by the Honorable Andrew Swett. The Veterans Court team includes the administrative services coordinator from County Probation, counsel from the offices of the State Attorney and Public Defender, the Department of Corrections' probation officer, outreach specialists and a program coordinator from Coastal Behavioral Healthcare.

The administrative services coordinator 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 administrative services coordinator attends staffing and court weekly and monitors court outcomes and progress.

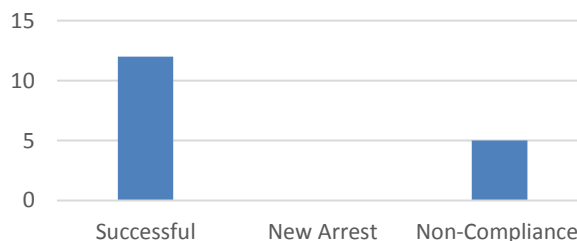
The Veterans Health Administration's veteran's justice outreach specialist is present during court and able to immediately access vital treatment records and communicate this information readily to the court. Outreach assists veterans with additional local and state resources, while volunteer mentors provide morale and motivational support. The 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.

A representative from the Vet Center in Fort Myers participates in the court sessions, explaining the service provided to our veterans that are not included at the VA health care clinic in Cape Coral. The VA has provided a trained peer specialist employee that has developed and facilitates two classes with a 26 week curriculum for veteran peer support groups. All participants attend one of the peer groups held at the Veterans Administration Outpatient Health Care Clinic in Cape Coral directly after the court session. The Goodwill Job Links Mobile Unit also provides various services outside of the courthouse for veterans as well as Mental Health Court and County Probation.

Graduation Rate- The overall graduation or success rate was 75%, graduating 2 participants during this fiscal year.

Active Participants- The number of participants in the program was 29 at the end of the fiscal year. The program is building steadily to its capacity of 50 participants.

Average Length of Stay- The average length of stay was approximately 1 year, showing that participants, on average, stay in the program close to the intended time period.



## COUNTY PROBATION OUTCOME MEASURES

The 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.

*Pictured from the left- Erin Hutchinson, Greg Thomas, Agustin Alonso, Antwaun Myers, Jeffrey Langevin, Ashlee Whitewood, Oscar Ferrer, Idel Altenburg and Jennifer Alvarez*



Probation officers supervise defendants ordered on probation supervision, determining reporting plans based on the probationers risk level and enforce court ordered conditions. Conditions include but are not limited to completion of education or treatment, random drug/alcohol screenings, completion of community service and service at the Lee County Day and Weekend Work Programs. The department also enforces the payment of restitution, fines, court costs and probation supervision fees. The department's Spanish speaking officers supervise a caseload that includes probationers that speak Spanish as their first language and do not speak English or have a limited English vocabulary. Probation Officers manage all the duties and responsibilities as mandated by the court and the judiciary.

The department utilizes evidence based practices and advancements in technology to proactively supervise and motivate probationers to positive changes and 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 probationers. Skill building worksheets are being utilized to address the specific needs of the probationers.

Primary functions include:

- ❖ Delivering fair, consistent and positive guidance to probationers.
- ❖ Providing probationers with local resources including treatment providers who provide education, counseling and awareness and tools needed to become citizens who contribute to the community.
- ❖ Delivering information and formulating recommendations to the judiciary 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.

### MANDATORY APPOINTMENTS

Mandatory appointments are utilized throughout the probation period to ensure compliance with court ordered sanctions. Officers motivate, set priorities and goals for probationers to achieve success. Officers incorporate motivational interviewing techniques and skill building to encourage 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 probationers to perform various labor activities for the benefit of the community. The program is in lieu of incarceration and saves taxpayers money.

## 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. Cases presented are violations of probation, and other probation-related hearings such as modifications of probation and early termination hearings.



*Pictured from left, Aimara Brooks, Iris McDonald, Cynthia Kane, Bridget Washburn, William Delgadillo, William Shuga, Thomas Chvilcek, Maria Wendel & Stacy Stiens*

## **PROBATION MISSION CRITICAL DATA**

*Pictured- Alonzo Laster  
Not pictured- Belinda Smith*

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

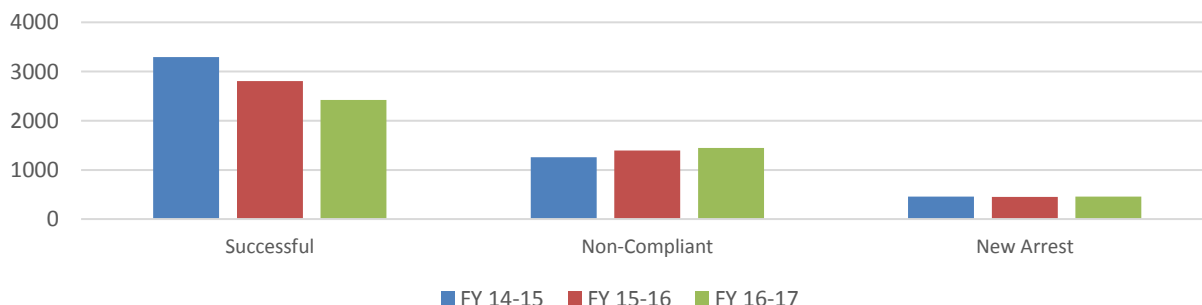
Caseloads - There were 5,156 defendants ordered on county probation during the fiscal year with an average monthly caseload of 144 probationers per officer.

Success rate- There was an average of 56% 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 \$1,052,629 in the cost of supervision collected for the fiscal year and \$40,450 in restitution collected payable to victims.

Community Services completed- A total of 33,506 hours of community service was completed in the community.

Fines and Court Costs- A total of \$2,343,464 was collected from probationers through the Clerk of Court.





### NATIONAL BRING YOUR KIDS TO WORK DAY

The division continued to support National Bring your Kids to Work Day providing students an overview of the criminal justice system. Students had the opportunity to observe First Appearance and Drug Court, and Court Security's screening process along with a tour of the control room. Demonstrations were also provided by Digital Court Reporting and the Lee County Sheriff's Office at the Department of Juvenile Justice.

*Pictured to the right- students with the Lee County Sheriff's Office*



### COMMUNITY & STATEWIDE INITIATIVES

The division continued to support statewide initiatives representing the Association of Pretrial Professionals of Florida and Florida Association of Community Corrections. Ms. Liza Flecha served as a FCAC Commissioner, Ms. Amy Kinsey as an APPF Senior Board Member and assessor for the FCAC, Ms. Candy Caughey as an assessor, and Mr. Scott Peckham as the Southwest Regional Director and Mr. Shawn Carlson as the Communications Director of the APPF.

The division continued to facilitate the Public Safety Coordinating Council, under the direction of the Honorable Tara Paluck. The purpose of the PSCC is to assess the population status of county detention facilities and to formulate recommendations to ensure that the capacities are not exceeded. Recommendations and discussions have included Specialty Court and work release programs, initiatives to reduce overcrowding such as Jail Management and Early Resolution Court, identification of gaps of services within the county and bridging the gap between law enforcement and the community.

### TRAINING

The division continued to support ongoing training for staff. Mr. Shawn Carlson, Mr. John Calderone, Ms. Nicol Annis, Ms. Maria Gamboa and Mr. Mark Cavanaugh obtained their 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. Ms. Randi Reams renewed her certification. Mr. Enrique Rosario was the first officer to obtain the Pretrial Diversion Professional Certification, demonstrating understanding of historical and legal underpinnings of pretrial diversion, national standards, current and best practices in pretrial diversion.

There were various opportunities provided, often at little or no cost. Mr. Scott Peckham attended Orientation for Pretrial Executives, sponsored by the National Institute of Corrections, which focused on enhancing the effectiveness in maintaining and capitalizing existing services. Ms. Nicol Annis and Ms. Lindsey Kruta completed Crisis Intervention Training through the National Alliance for Mental Illness to gain a thorough understanding of mental illness. Ms. Belinda Smith attended the National Association for Drug Court Professionals annual conference. Training was also provided at the Florida Association of Community Corrections conference, at the Florida Department of Corrections on Interstate Compact; as well as local seminars, publications and online webinars. The Carey Group also provided training to probation officers on Evidence Based Practices.

## ENHANCEMENTS

The division continued to work toward a paperless environment. The Pretrial Services Department fully transitioned to E Filing all documents. The department implemented the use of digital signature pads at the Intake and Investigation Unit, Core facility and front counter customer service areas. This reduces the need to print documents and therefore reduces costs of paper and toner usage and increases efficiency in filing.

The Pretrial Services Department implemented new Intake and diversion modules to enhance statistical reporting capabilities. The Incompetent to proceed module was also developed to better track cases involving competency.

The Probation Department implemented a new Differentiated Case Supervision Plan in December 2016 and also implemented a risk instrument that classifies probationers based on their risk to reoffend. The risk instrument determines the appropriate level of supervision. The Supervision Plan focuses on utilizing evidence based practices to proactively supervise, coach, educate, and redirect probationers to facilitate change and reduce recidivism. The department also received technical assistance from the Carey Group to assist with the implementation of evidence based practices utilizing the Carey Groups Intervention Skill Building Tools to best address the individual needs of probationers.

*Pictured from left- Judy Ryckman, Caroline Miller and Paulette Rinehart*

## PROMOTIONS, NEW HIRES & RETIREMENTS

The division welcomed Mr. Ariel Adames and Ms. Adrienne Harrison as pretrial officers, Ms. Alic Walker and Ms. Alison Smith as pretrial secretaries, Ms. Aimara Brooks and Ms. Iris McDonald as probation officers, and Ms. Jennifer Hole as a probation secretary. The division welcomed back Ms. Jennifer Fuller to serve as an on-call officer for the Intake and Investigation Unit and welcomed Mr. Austin Carroll to serve as an intern from the Florida Gulf Coast University.



The division also congratulated Ms. Judy Ryckman, Ms. Caroline Miller and Ms. Paulette Rinehart as they ventured off to enjoy retirement.

## NATIONAL PRETRIAL & PROBATION WEEK

The division recognized pretrial and probation professionals during National Pretrial and Probation Week in July with a celebration for their daily contributions to defendants, the general public and the community. The Lee County Board of County Commissioners signed into resolution a proclamation recognizing Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week, during the week of July 16-22, and the work these professionals do day-to-day.

*Pictured from left/front- Ervin Gill, Alonso Laster, Jennifer Alvarez, Scott Peckham, Yazmin Rivera, Amy Kinsey, Liza Flecha, Doug Jaye, Mark Cavanaugh, William Shuga, Judy Ryckman, Stacey Steins and Gregory Thomas. From left/back- Commissioners Frank Mann, John Manning, Brian Hamman and Larry Kiker*

