



**Fiscal Year  
2018- 2019**

## LEE COUNTY CRIMINAL DIVISION



1700 MONROE STREET  
FORT MYERS, FL 33901  
[WWW.CA.CJIS20.ORG](http://WWW.CA.CJIS20.ORG)



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

Dear Trial Court Administrator Mr. Scott Wilsker &  
Chief Deputy Court Administrator Ms. Liza Flecha,

On behalf of the dedicated professionals of the Lee County Criminal Division, it is my privilege to present our 2018-2019 year in review. This report demonstrates our steady progress with associated performance and operational accomplishments.

We place emphasis on vital initiatives to improve and streamline processes and enhance technological capabilities while ensuring overall effectiveness and providing exceptional service to the courts and citizens of Lee County. We continue to maintain full compliance with the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission standards for accreditation.



The Criminal Division supports the court by providing comprehensive case management services. We promote justice being delivered effectively, fairly and efficiently. We work to improve understanding of the judicial process and our role within the criminal justice system by maintaining a professional, knowledgeable workforce. We continue to progress using evidence based practices, to include utilizing a Validated Risk Instrument with universal screening, applying Differentiated Case Supervision and Case Management concepts and employing Skill Building and Motivational Interviewing techniques. We further meet the Ten Key Components for the Drug Court Program and continue to further our efforts to advance best practices across treatment courts.

We remain committed to employee development and advocate involvement in workgroups and committees to foster collaboration. We value our partnerships and understand that they are essential in order to accomplish common goals. We recognize and thank staff for their unwavering commitment to providing the highest quality services to best serve the courts and the community. We also appreciate your leadership and guidance as well as the support from the Judiciary. We look forward to another successful and productive year.

Sincerely

*Amy Kinsey*

Criminal Division Director

*"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself". Henry Ford*

## **DIVISION OVERVIEW & ORGANIZATION**



*Jennifer Alvarez,  
Deputy Criminal Division Director,  
Pretrial Services*



*Doug Jaye, Deputy Criminal  
Division Director, Probation*



*Stacy Stiens,  
Treatment Courts Manager*



*Shawn Carlson,  
Division Systems Analyst*



*Yazmin Rivera, Division  
Administrative Assistant*

The Administrative Office of the Courts provides administrative and operational support to the Circuit and County Courts. The Lee County Criminal Division, which includes Pretrial Services, Probation and Treatment Courts, provides case management support to the thirteen judges in the criminal division. Each has unique objectives but work collaboratively to achieve common goals.

The Lee County Pretrial Services Department was established in 1988. It is comprised of 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. The deputy director oversees day-to-day operations for the department.

The Lee County Probation Department was established in 1975. 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. The deputy director oversees day-to-day operations for the department.

Treatment Courts include the Felony Drug Court Program, Mental Health Court and Veterans Court. Treatment courts are court supervised, comprehensive treatment programs for individuals involved in the criminal justice system. Treatment courts are designed to divert cases from the traditional court system while helping participants live a life of recovery and be productive members of the community. Treatment courts include therapeutic jurisprudence principles and adhere to key components adopted by the Florida Supreme Court. The treatment courts manager provides management over the treatment courts operations and oversight of contract deliverables.

The division systems analyst supports the Criminal Division in order to attain the highest quality of daily work processes. The analyst provides management with objective analysis that integrates the technical, operational, programmatic, policy and business aspects of the division in order to enhance reporting capabilities and overall operations. The analyst also serves as the division accreditation manager.

The division administrative assistant provides direct support to the criminal division director and is responsible for coordinating administrative functions and customer relations for the division. The administrative assistant also serves as the clerical supervisor and oversees all of clerical support for the division. Further, the administrative assistant serves as the FCIC Agency Coordinator (FAC) and liaison to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, ensuring CJIS compliance and providing oversight to correspondence audits and in-person site visits.



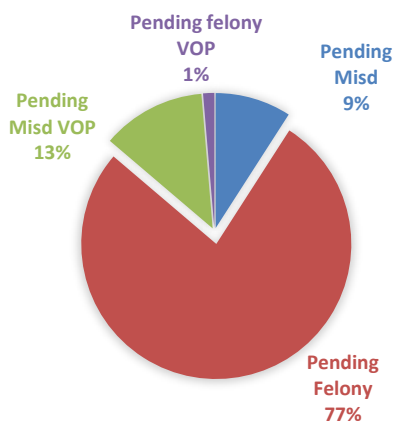
### Universal screening-

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 is assessed. Pretrial officers research national, state and local systems. According to the Integrated Justice Information System, there were 18,462 investigations conducted during fiscal year 2018-2019. A total of 3,350 defendants were identified with substance abuse needs and 1,987 with mental health needs.



*Pictured from the left, Pretrial Officers Mirna Corredor (Team Lead), Alisa Davison, Shawn Tanner, Melissa Whittington (Intake Supervisor, A side) and Courtney Graham. Not pictured- John Calderone (Team Lead) and Trecia McKellar-Dixon*

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 and 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.



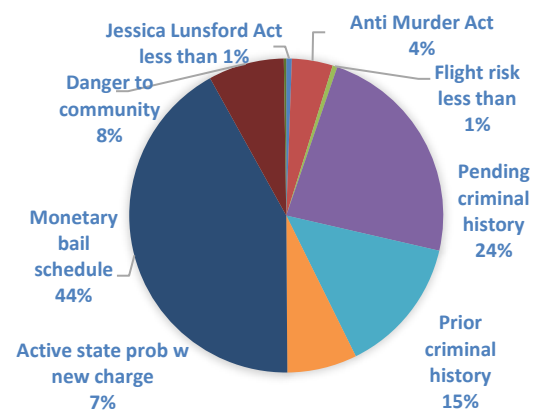
Pretrial officers notify the Department of Children and Families when a child or vulnerable adult has been abused, abandoned or neglected. Officers also contact victims involved in domestic violence to alert the court of pertinent reported information. Probation officers, both county and state, are notified by our Intake Unit of new law violations resulting in 1,576 Widman Warrants being facilitated. Defendants are also screened for determination of indigence for appointment of counsel. There were 10,545 defendants appointed for the Public Defender services at Intake. There were 723 veterans identified and those appropriate were linked to services.

### Population

The population in Lee County, Florida, according to the US Census Bureau as of July 2018, was 754,610.

The average jail population was 1,743 defendants, with a breakdown illustrated above, according to the Lee County Sheriff's Office Classification Unit.

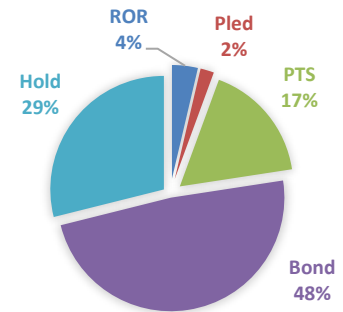
Certificate of Compliance (COC) - Pretrial officers proceeded with a critical element of maintaining public safety. Officers, authorized through Administrative Order 3.23, complete a Certificate of Compliance to ensure defendants identified as high risk see a First Appearance judge under qualifying factors, in lieu of release via the monetary bail schedule. Officers held 5,883 defendants for First Appearance that posed a potential flight risk or danger to the community, allowing the judiciary to make more informed release decisions, with 3,061 of those held pursuant the monetary bail schedule. The chart illustrated to the right reflects the risk factors for those unable to post bond prior to a First Appearance hearing.



## 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. Flight risk and danger to the community are considered in the release decision.

According to the Integrated Case Information System, the judiciary presided over 14,255 defendants at First Appearance hearings during this fiscal year, with 5,706 bonding prior to First Appearance via the bail schedule. First Appearance hearings resulted in 518 releases on recognizance, 2,398 releases on pretrial supervision, 272 pleas, 6,849 ordered bond and 4,081 held without bond, illustrated to the right.



There were 1,303 defendants identified and scheduled for Early Resolution Court out of First Appearance thereby increasing earlier resolution of appropriate cases.

Triage-The Bob Janes Triage Center is a community asset designed to shift defendants away from the criminal justice system and allows opportunities to provide services to those homeless with high needs. The center began working with the courts to allow through an expansion grant the ability to refer at First Appearance those with no residence stability to be released on pretrial supervision and be transported to the Triage 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 30 defendants approved this fiscal year with a 13% success rate.



Jail Management- Research demonstrates that keeping low risk defendants incarcerated, purely due to a lack of financial means, can have both short and long term harmful effects on both defendants and society. Defendants whom can be managed safely in the community, therefore, would avoid increased social and economic costs to support families, as well as reduce jail costs. Officers identify those unable to post a bond, whose circumstances have changed and may be considered for release, or where a plea might be an appropriate recommendation. Pretrial officers facilitated resolution of 151 cases, and 1 release, on the Jail Management Docket where non-sentenced incarcerated defendants were reviewed for consideration of a plea or release prior to arraignment.

*Pictured above, On-Call Officer Carol Reisner*

### First Appearance Identification-

There were 1,564 defendants identified for the Mental Health Court Program and 2,129 for the Drug Court Program, with focused efforts of identifying at the earliest stage possible for appropriate treatment court options.

*Pictured from left, Pretrial Officers Kassee Buonano, Lindsey Kruta (Team Lead), Jessica Ross, Edgar Cruz (Team Lead), Angela Barker, Keith McGovern (Intake Supervisor, B side) and Maria Gamboa. Not pictured, on call Officer Jennifer Fuller*



## PRETRIAL SUPERVISION OUTCOME MEASURES

Pretrial officers supervise defendants ordered on pretrial supervision, determine reporting plans based on risk and need and enforce court orders, 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 and completing education, substance abuse or mental health evaluations, drug testing and any other special conditions as ordered. Officers utilize motivational interviewing techniques to engage defendants and help them successfully move towards positive change with confidence. Motivational interviewing is an effective tool for officers to handle resistance and changes the responsibility of behavior change to the defendant. Officers provide voluntary resources within the community to aid in various needs, such as financial assistance, housing, and employment.

Cases with electronic monitoring are monitored at a higher risk level with closer supervision. Electronic monitoring may include house arrest, exclusion zones and alcohol monitoring. Electronic monitoring must be worn 24 hours a day until completion of the case or when otherwise ordered by the court. There was an average of 204 defendants on supervision with electronic monitoring. Installation takes place prior to release from custody after all court ordered conditions have been reviewed. Once released, defendants are monitored by a third party monitoring center where immediate alerts are made to law enforcement on violations. A circuit-wide committee was developed this fiscal year to adopt a thorough, consistent vetting process for circuit-wide vendor approval.

### MISSION CRITICAL DATA

Caseloads- According to the Information Justice Information System, there were a total of 3,007 defendants placed on pretrial supervision with an average monthly caseload of 213 defendants per officer, not accounting for case management assistance. The optimal caseload ratio is 175:1. An average of 46% of releases included a simultaneous bond and an average of 19% included electronic monitoring. The average length of supervision was 51 days. There were 759 defendants placed on supervision that were determined indigent.

Risk- There were 70% of defendants on supervision identified as low risk, 23% as medium risk and less than 1% high risk, and the remaining with no risk assessment.

Success rate- There were 78% of defendants on pretrial supervision who were successfully terminated, defined as not revoked for technical violations, appearing for all scheduled court appearances, and not charged with a new offense while on pretrial supervision.

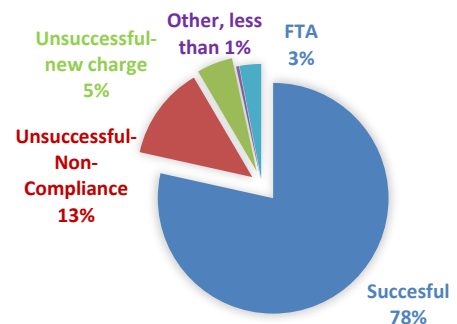
Success by Risk Level- There were 75.49% of defendants successful identified as low risk, 13.55% as medium, .22% as high and 11% with no risk indicated.

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

Technical Non-Compliance rate- There were 13% of defendants not revoked due to technical violations.

Court appearance rate- There were 97% of supervised defendants who made all scheduled court appearances. Officers monitored court appearances during this fiscal year.

Drug Screening- Drug screening, when court ordered, is conducted a minimum of twice per month unless otherwise specified by the court. Pretrial officers monitored 2,917 drug screens during the fiscal year.



## MISDEMEANOR DIVERSION OUTCOME MEASURES

Pretrial officers supervise defendants who enter the diversion program and oversee the conditions outlined in the Deferred Prosecution Agreement. The ninety day program is intended to redirect criminal justice resources to more serious crimes 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 and review agreements explaining all required conditions. Officer meet with defendants, verify compliance and report such to the State Attorney's Office.

Standard conditions include reporting to an assigned officer, refraining from new law violations, completing educational courses and community service hours. Defendants must also pay costs of prosecution and supervision, as well as restitution where applicable. Outcomes are illustrated below.

*Pictured from the left, Pretrial Officers Enrique Rosario, Amanda Marinell, Jeffrey Langevin, Guadalupe Ramirez and Case Supervision Supervisor Scott Peckham*



### MISSION CRITICAL DATA

Caseloads – There were 1,453 defendants that entered misdemeanor diversion with an average monthly caseload of 168 defendants per officer. The optimal caseload ratio is 200:1.

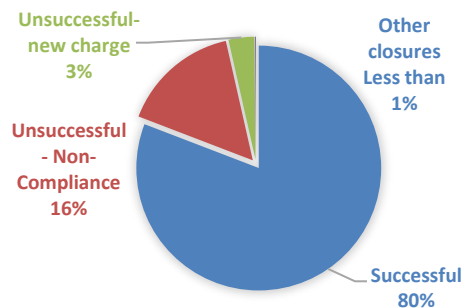
Success rate- There were 80% of defendants who entered misdemeanor diversion and (1) were not revoked for technical violations of the conditions in their agreement, (2) complied with all specific conditions, and (3) were not charged with a new offense during the diversion period.

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

Technical Non-Compliance rate- There were 16% of supervised defendants not revoked due to technical violations only.

Supervision fees & Restitution collected- There was a total of \$230,155 in the cost of supervision and \$17,284 in restitution collected and payable to victims, for the fiscal year.

Community services completed- There were 9,983 hours of community service completed in the community.





## FELONY CASE MANAGEMENT

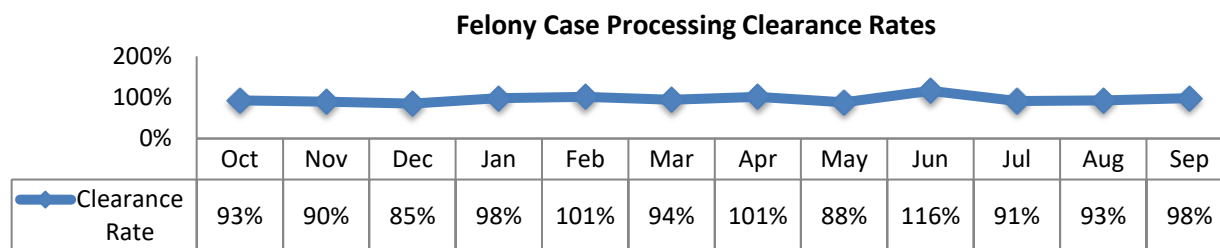
The Case Management Unit provides direct support to the five Circuit judges presiding over felony cases as well as senior judges assisting the criminal division and presiding over Early Resolution Court. Cases are managed according to their nature and complexity. Case managers facilitate early disposition 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 the left- Case Managers Destini Turner, Ashley Cohen (Administrative Services Supervisor), Kimali Ryan, Frank Kanaski, Alison Smith and Candy Caughey (Team Lead)*

## COURT PERFORMANCE OUTCOME MEASURES

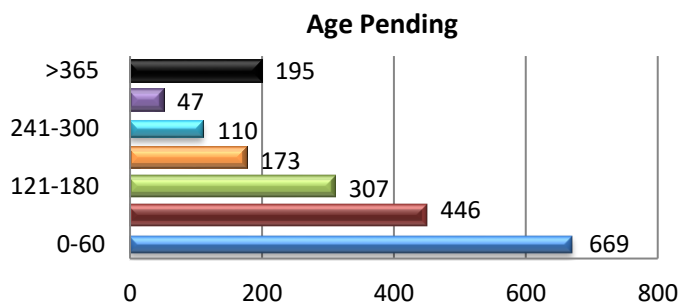
**Time to Disposition** - Time to disposition measures the percentage of cases disposed or otherwise resolved within established time frames and assesses the length of time it takes a court to process cases. In the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, time goals are established under Administrative Order 3.25. 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. According to the Lee Clerk of Court's Odyssey System, Lee County met 78% of expedited cases, 96% of standard cases and 83% of complex cases for time goals. Early Resolution Court pled or disposed of 1,093 cases.



**Case Clearance** – Clearance rates are the number of outgoing cases as a percentage of the number of incoming cases. A total of 6,128 cases were opened and 5,850 were closed, resulting in a 96% clearance rate.

**Trial date certainty** - The number of times cases disposed by trial are scheduled for trial is demonstrated as the ability of courts to hold trials when scheduled. This is closely associated with timely disposition. Trial date certainty was 51% for this 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 time frames. The chart to the right breaks down the end of fiscal year cases by age of case with 1947 cases. There were 62 cases pending competency.



The County Probation Department provides misdemeanor probation services for all of the criminal courts of Lee County. Probation officers supervise probationers, enforcing all court ordered conditions. Probation conditions include but are not limited to completion of education or treatment, random drug and alcohol screening, completion of community service and service at the Lee County Day Work Programs. Officers enforce vehicle immobilization requirements as required by statute and offer alternative options for those under financial hardship. Officers also enforce the payment of restitution, fines, court costs and probation supervision fees.



*Pictured from the left- Probation Officers Antwaun Myers, Ashlee Whitewood (Supervisor), Barry Williams, Idel Altenburg, Oscar Ferrer, Tiffany Green, Agustin Alonso, Karina Vergara and Gregory Thomas (Team Lead)*

Probation officers utilize a risk instrument to identify risk to re-offend and apply the most appropriate supervision level. The Supervision Plan focuses on utilizing evidence based practices to proactively supervise, coach, educate, and redirect probationers toward positive behavioral change and reduce recidivism. Officers utilize motivational interviewing techniques, which include expressing empathy and understanding from a probationer's perspective, developing discrepancy to help probationers appreciate the value of change through exploration of how they want to live their lives, rolling with resistance by accepting reluctance to change as natural and supporting self-efficacy by embracing autonomy and helping them move toward change successfully and with confidence. Cognitive behavioral skill building worksheets are applied to address the specific criminogenic needs of probationers.



*Pictured from the left- Probation Officers Thomas Chvilicek, Bridget Washburn, Nathan Blanco, Iris McDonald, Maria Wendel (Team Lead) and Probation Supervisor Ervin Gill*

Officers maintain contact in person, by phone, mail and email throughout the probation period to ensure compliance and progress toward court ordered conditions. Officers motivate, set priorities and goals, and refer probationers to outside resources to help achieve success. Officers must continually modify methods to meet the needs of the probationer and provide positive guidance.

### SHERIFF'S DAY WORK PROGRAM

The Lee County Sheriff's Day Work Program is a sentencing alternative available to the judiciary. The Program is ordered as a condition of probation, allowing probationers to perform various labor activities for the benefit of the community in lieu of incarceration. The probationers perform manual labor at non-profit county, city and government organizations/agencies for no wage. The minimum number of days required to participate is two days per week. This allows probationers to repay their debt to society by working in Lee County, thereby saving the taxpayer money. The program serves as an extremely useful jail management tool. There were 555 probationers that entered the Day Work Program, with an 87% success rate. According to the Lee County Sheriff's Office, this calculates cost savings of \$626,751.32.

## COURT PRESENTATION

Court presenters research cases scheduled on VOP dockets in order to recommend sanctions to any one of the thirteen Circuit/County judges on behalf of the probation department. Court presenters ensure accuracy of allegations against the probationer and provide a complete status update on the case with a recommendation to the court. Court presenters aid the courts in efficiently managing court event dockets and facilitating resolution. Hearings include new violations or other probation-related hearings such as modifications of probation and early termination hearings.

The senior officer and team leads are designated as primary court presenters, as well as are responsible for conducting probation instructions. All officers prepare their cases in advance, provide the necessary information to relay to the court and are called to court to testify as needed.



*Pictured Senior Officer Alonso Laster*

## SPANISH SPEAKING TEAM

Designated probation officers are assigned cases in which probationers speak primarily, or only, the Spanish language. These officers also conduct separate orientations in the Spanish language to aid in full understanding of all probation conditions.

## **PROBATION MISSION CRITICAL DATA**

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

Caseloads – According to the Lee Clerk of Court's Odyssey System, there were 4,834 defendants ordered on county probation during the fiscal year with an average monthly caseload of 159 probationers per officer.

Success rate- There were 61% 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.

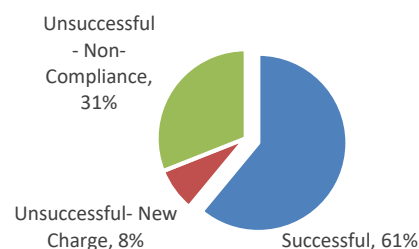
Success by risk level- There were 69% of defendants successful identified as low risk, 57% identified as medium risk and 34% identified as high risk.

Supervision fees & Restitution collected- There was a total of \$1,026,053 in the cost of supervision collected for the fiscal year and \$76,176 in restitution collected payable to victims.

Community Services completed- A total of 17,433 hours of community service were completed in the community, totaling \$174,330 at \$10 per hour.

Fines and Court Costs- A total of \$2,359,695 was collected from probationers through the Clerk of Court.

Recidivism Rate- Recidivism is defined by new arrests after termination for a specified timeframe. The recidivism for all terminations in 2017 was 33%.



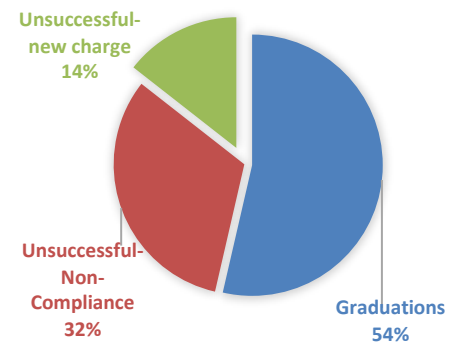
The Lee County Felony Drug Court Program is designed to divert cases from the traditional court system while helping participants recover from drug and alcohol addiction, stay in recovery and become productive members of society. The objectives of the program are to treat individuals with substance use disorders, teach them how to abstain from drug and alcohol usage, how to stay in recovery, stop from committing new crimes and going to jail and improve the community functioning of participants in the areas of employment, education, training and housing.



The Treatment Courts Manager and Treatment Courts Officers serve as points of contact, facilitating early screening and monitoring defendants' progress so non-compliance can be addressed swiftly by the court. Defendants must meet legal and clinical eligibility requirements for participation in this program. The program is presided over by the Honorable H. Andrew Swett on Monday dockets and the Honorable Josephine Gagliardi on Thursday dockets. The drug court team includes the designated treatment courts officer, counsel and liaisons from the offices of the State Attorney and the Public Defender, the Department of Corrections' probation officers and treatment clinicians. The team meets regularly at staffing to discuss participants' progress. TLS Consulting was awarded the renewal contract to provide clinical assessment and treatment services to Drug Court participants. Drug Court participants continue to undergo drug testing at AIM Target Programs, Inc., with the use of Thermo Fisher Scientific lab analyzer equipment. This has brought tremendous fidelity and accuracy to the program. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) now has oversight of contractual agreements with service providers, previously held by County Administration.

Initiatives- During this fiscal year, several Drug Court team members attended the National Drug Court Conference, sponsored by the NADCP, in National Harbor, MD, as well as the Florida Behavioral Health training conference. Circuit-wide PSC judges meetings and Circuit-wide PSC staff meetings were instituted. As part of the FL Courts Opioid Awareness Initiative, the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit partnered with FGCU to host an Opioid Awareness event, wherein 75 stakeholders and judges were trained on the neuroscience of addiction.

There have been 64 entries into the program during this fiscal year and 102 active in the program at the end of the fiscal year.



### MISSION CRITICAL DATA

Graduation Rate- According to the Integrated Justice Information System, there were 52 graduates from the program this fiscal year, with a graduation rate of 54%. New offenses accounted for fourteen of the unsuccessful terminations. The program targets high risk for recidivism and high need for services individuals. The overall average success rate since program inception (2001) is 55%. The national average for Drug Court success rate is 58%.

Active Participants- The average number of participants in the program on average each month was 113.

Average Length of Stay- The overall average length of stay was approximately 597 days or 19.6 months. This demonstrates that participants, on average, stay in the program close to the intended time period.

Breakdown at end of FY 18/19- The Drug Court program breakdown at the end of the fiscal year included a total of 102 defendants with 34 participants at a residential treatment facility, 49 receiving outpatient services, 7 in custody on a violation of probation and 12 with active bench warrants.



Mental Health Court is a voluntary alternative to the traditional court system for those formally diagnosed with a severe 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 mental illness and who have violated the law improve well-being and quality of life, increase efficiency in case processing, improve access to public mental health treatment and services, reduce the chance of recidivism through education and improve public safety for the community at large.



Defendants must meet legal and clinical eligibility requirements for participation in this program. Defendants and mental health professionals develop a court supervision plan based upon the defendant's individual needs. Successful completion of the court supervision plan can result in No Information being filed, charges being nolle prossed or the VOP being dismissed.

The program is presided over by the Honorable H. Andrew Swett. The team includes the Treatment Courts Manager, designated treatment courts officer, counsel and liaisons from the offices of the State Attorney and Public Defender, the Department of Corrections' probation officer, outreach specialists/case managers, and a program coordinator from Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, as well as case managers from Saluscare and the Florida Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) team.

The Treatment Courts Manager 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. Court officers attend staffing and court weekly and monitor court outcomes and progress.

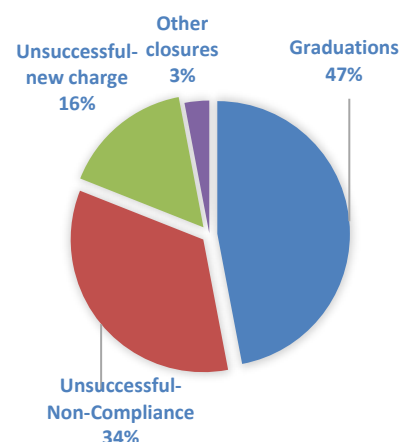
Initiatives- During this fiscal year, the State Trial Court Budget Commission (TCBC) awarded funding to the Lee County Mental Health Court to address a need and gap in services. Funds were awarded to hire a part-time clinician to assess, diagnose and complete level of care recommendations on individuals in custody at the Lee County Jail and suspected of being in need of these specialized services. The TCBC also continued funding for drug testing participants in the program.

### MISSION CRITICAL DATA

Graduation Rate- According to the Integrated Justice Information System, the graduation or program success rate for current fiscal year is 47%, with 15 participants graduating during the fiscal year. Five participants were terminated from the program due to new law violations during the fiscal year. The overall average success rate since program inception (2002) is 71%.

Average Length of Stay- The average length of stay was approximately 9.7 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 42 at the end of the fiscal year, with 30 being new program entries during this fiscal year.



Veterans Court is designed to divert cases from the traditional court system for those veterans diagnosed with severe mental health and/or substance use disorders. 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 H. Andrew Swett. The Veterans Court team includes the Treatment Courts Manager, designated treatment courts officer, counsel and liaisons from the offices of the State Attorney and Public Defender, the Department of Corrections' probation officer, outreach specialists/case managers, and a program coordinator from Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, as well as a Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator (VJO) from the VA.



The Treatment Courts Manager 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. Court officers attend staffing and court weekly and monitor court outcomes and progress.

The VJO is present during court, and with the assistance from the VA, is able to immediately access vital treatment records and communicate this information readily to the court. Outreach specialists assist 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 services provided to our veterans that are not included at the local VA Healthcare Clinic. 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 Healthcare Clinic in Cape Coral directly after court sessions. The Goodwill Job Links Mobile Unit also provides various services outside of the courthouse for veterans as well as Mental Health Court participants and probationers.

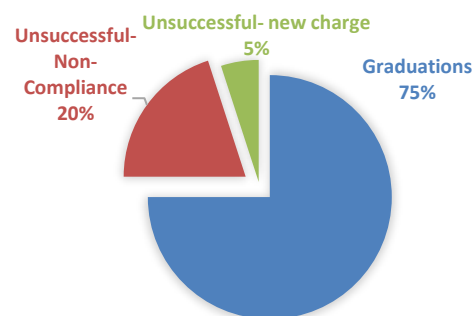
Initiatives- Recent legislative changes went into effect that will allow more veterans to participate in this programming, as veterans and US Department of Defense contractors, will now be eligible regardless of discharge status.

### MISSION CRITICAL DATA

Graduation Rate- According to the Integrated Justice Information System, the graduation or program success rate for the current fiscal year is 75%, with 15 participants graduating during the fiscal year. One participant was terminated from the program due to new law violations during the fiscal year. The overall average success rate since program inception (2015) is 74%.

Average Length of Stay- The average length of stay was 16.9 months.

Active Participants- The number of participants in the program was 15 at the end of the fiscal year, serving an average of 17 veterans each month.



## DIVISION SUPPORT

The clerical team is vital to division operations and became unified in November, 2018 in order to provide the most effective and efficient customer service. Clerical support assisted with screening over 2,910 persons for indigence. Clerical support prepared case files, signed up defendants for instructions and orientations, prepared diversion agreements and orders of modification, scheduled appointments, compiled reports, tracked warranted files, prepared and notarized affidavits, notices to appear, warrants and various court orders. They researched warrants, high risk status, background checks, processed reassignments, entered court outcomes, maintained department supplies, assisted with community service contracts and managed storage and disaster recovery documents.



*Pictured from front- Secretaries Selena Allen-Martin, Administrative Assistants Ann Donohue, Yazmin Rivera and Alice Colon, Secretaries Nancy Rivera, Andrea Wolfe, Pamela Limes, Nelly Torres, Konni Fonderoli, Paula Rudy, Regina DeFrank, Miriam Rose, Erica Sabo, and Norma Sotomayor*

Support assisted over 27,457 persons in person and 50,082 calls via the Call Center. Support tracked 69 releases on recognizance, while sending court date reminders, verifying 89% court appearance. Clerical support received restitution payments and processed certified mail to victims.

## ACCREDITATION

The division is accredited by the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission. Accreditation has long been recognized as a means of maintaining the highest standards of professionalism. Accreditation is the certification by an independent reviewing authority that the agency has met specific requirements and prescribed standards.



The FCAC began accrediting pretrial agencies in 2008 and was seen as a means to increase judicial confidence in the use of pretrial release programs by providing standardized, accurate information for release and detention decisions. The Pretrial Department received initial accreditation in 2009 and achieved re-accreditation every three years. Probation standards were added in 2016, and in 2017, Lee County Probation became one of the first probation departments in the state to receive accreditation. 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.

## COMMUNITY & STATEWIDE INITIATIVES

The division continued to support local, state and national initiatives, with representatives serving on the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission, the Association of Pretrial Professionals of Florida, the Florida Association of Community Corrections, the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies Communications Committee and the Southwest Florida Certified Public Manager Alumni Chapter and State Board. Staff also participated in workgroups with Triage, the Florida Assertive Community Treatment team, Lee County Acute Care Behavioral Health Community Planning and Re-Entry.

The division facilitated the Public Safety Coordinating Council quarterly, 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 Treatment Court and Work Release Programs, initiatives to reduce overcrowding, focus on identification of gaps of services within the county and how to better address the mentally ill within the community.



## TRAINING

Tremendous training opportunities were offered throughout the year, including attendance at the National Association of Pretrial Services Conference, the Association of Probation and Parole Association Conference, and the National Institute of Corrections' Orientation for Probation Executives. Crisis Intervention Training was offered through the National Alliance for Mental Illness. Training was provided through the Florida Association of Community Corrections and Association for Pretrial Professionals along with local seminars and webinars. The Carey Group returned for advanced skill building and training on evidence based practices. The Certified Public Manager Program was also offered through Florida State University.



*Pictured, Gloria Smith*

## RETIREMENTS

The division recognized the dedicated service of Ms. Gloria Smith, who retired from the Administrative Office of the Courts with 12 years of service.

## TECHNICAL ENHANCEMENTS

The division built upon paperless options and enhancement of modules within the Integrated Justice Information System. Treatment Court teams fully transitioned to using the statewide Drug Court Case Management System (DCCM). The Probation Department transitioned to additional E Filing options.

## NATIONAL BRING YOUR KIDS TO WORK DAY



The division celebrated National Bring your Kids to Work Day, providing students an overview of the criminal justice system. Students had the opportunity to see detention hearings and take part in a mock trial with the Honorable Robert Branning, providing them with a first-hand look at how a case is heard in front of a jury.

Students had the opportunity to observe Court Security, and then the Juvenile Assessment Center, which included a demonstration by the Jail's CERT team. Students attended First Appearance with the Honorable Tara Paluck. The Lee County Sheriff's Office school resource deputies discussed important topics such as bullying, weapons and drugs. The day ended with students recapping what was learned and were presented certificates of attendance.

## NATIONAL PRETRIAL & PROBATION WEEK

The division recognized pretrial and probation professionals during National Pretrial, Probation & Parole Week with a celebration for their daily contributions to defendants, the general public and the community. Staff received criminal division tumblers, breakfast and a dessert social, and a ballpark luncheon was presented by the clerical team. The Lee County Board of County Commissioners signed into resolution a proclamation recognizing Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week, during the week of July 21-27, and the work these professionals do day-to-day. The BOCC encouraged all citizens to honor these professionals and recognize their achievements.

