

Fiscal Year 2019- 2020

LEE COUNTY CRIMINAL DIVISION



LEE COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER COMPLEX
Main Street Entrance

1700 MONROE STREET
FORT MYERS, FL 33901
WWW.CA.CJIS20.ORG



TABLE OF CONTENTS

DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE	3
<hr/>	
DIVISION OVERVIEW & ORGANIZATION.....	4
INTAKE & INVESTIGATION.....	5
FIRST APPEARANCE.....	6
PRETRIAL SUPERVISION.....	7
MISDEMEANOR DIVERSION.....	8
FELONY CASE MANAGEMENT.....	9
COUNTY PROBATION.....	10-11
DRUG COURT.....	12
MENTAL HEALTH COURT.....	13
VETERANS COURT.....	14
DIVISION SUPPORT & INITIATIVES.....	15-17
THANK YOU MESSAGE TO STAFF.....	18

For more information on court programs within the 20th Judicial Circuit, visit our website at:
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 distinct pleasure to present our 2019-2020 year in review. This report illustrates our steady progress in meeting operational objectives. While this year has caused us all to face unprecedented obstacles, I am deeply proud of how division employees remained committed to accomplishing goals and overcoming challenges. Pretrial, probation and treatment court teams all proved adaptable during the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to ensure the most efficient and effective services were provided to the court and to the citizens of Lee County.



The Criminal Division supports the court by providing comprehensive case management services starting with intake and investigation, supervision and case management, to supporting treatment court programs. We embrace evidence based practices by utilizing a Validated Risk Instrument with universal screening, applying Differentiated Case Supervision and Case Management concepts and employing Skill Building and Motivational Interviewing techniques where possible. We have seen tremendous growth in Treatment Courts this past year with strong advocacy on meeting best practices and planning for accreditation. Due to re-allocation of funding via Central Behavioral Healthcare, Mental Health Court Program participants began to receive treatment, in addition to case management and outreach services. The program also received funding for a part-time licensed clinical evaluator in order to assess incarcerated individuals for the program clinically at the earliest stage possible.

As a result of the pandemic and limitations to in person appearances, this past year encouraged more utilization of technological options. Online platforms such as the Zoom application, conference calling and Polycom were utilized for court, orientations, appointments and meetings. There were also advancements with paperless procedures to include E Filing across the division.

The division successfully completed its fifth accreditation assessment conducted through the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission (FCAC). The division is evaluated every three years on agency operations against standards developed by the FCAC, the Association of Pretrial Professionals of Florida and the Florida Association of Community Corrections. Accreditation has been a long standing means to demonstrate what sets agencies apart while maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and quality of programs and services.

We continue to foster employee development and involvement in workgroups to foster collaboration. We are thankful for the continued support and guidance from our leaders in the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Judiciary. We appreciate our partnerships with criminal justice stakeholders and recognize that they are essential in order to accomplish common goals. We look forward to another successful and productive year.

Thank you,
Amy Kinsey
Criminal Division Director

“Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after another”. Walter Elliott

DIVISION OVERVIEW & ORGANIZATION



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



*Doug Jaye, Deputy Criminal
Division Director, Probation*



*Joseph Rea
Treatment Courts Manager*



*Shawn Carlson,
Division Systems Analyst*



*Ann Donohue,
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 have 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, ensuring best practices are being met, 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 is the first point of contact for all new employees from scheduling interviews to the onboarding process. The administrative assistant assists as backup to both pretrial and probation clerical supervisors and provides guidance to clerical personnel when needed. The administrative assistant also serves as the alternate FCIC Agency Coordinator (FAC) and liaison to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

INTAKE AND INVESTIGATION

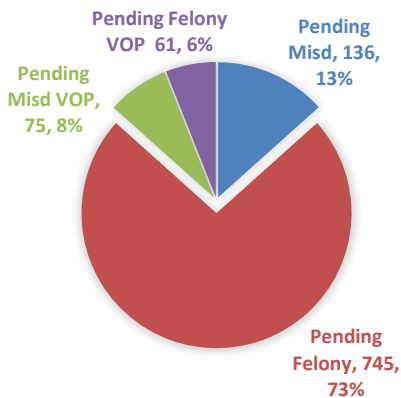
Universal screening-

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 is assessed. Pretrial officers research national, state and local systems. According to the Integrated Justice Information System, there were 13,423 investigations conducted during fiscal year 2019-2020. This was a significant decline in bookings due to the pandemic. A total of 2,082 defendants were identified with substance abuse needs and 1,520 with mental health needs.

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.



Pictured- Intake & Investigation Unit Supervisor Keith McGovern

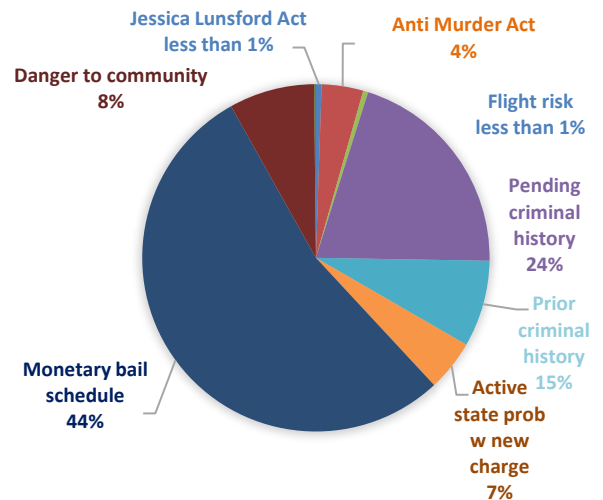


Pretrial officers notify the Department of Children and Families when a child or vulnerable adult has been abused, abandoned or neglected. Officers also contact victims involved in domestic violence to alert the court of pertinent reported information. Probation officers, both county and state, are notified by our Intake Unit of new law violations resulting in 1,089 Widman Warrants being facilitated. Defendants are screened for determination of indigence for appointment of counsel. There were 7,911 defendants appointed for the Public Defender services at Intake. There were 460 veterans identified and those appropriate were linked to services.

Population

The estimated population in Lee County, Florida, according to the US Census Bureau as of July 2019, was 770,577. The average jail population was 1,410 defendants, with a breakdown illustrated above, according to the Lee County Sheriff's Office Classification Unit Jail Indicators.

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 are seen by a First Appearance judge under qualifying factors, in lieu of release via the monetary bail schedule. Officers held 4,920 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 3,350 of those held pursuant the monetary bail schedule. The chart illustrated to the right reflects the risk factors for those ineligible to post bond prior to a First Appearance hearing.



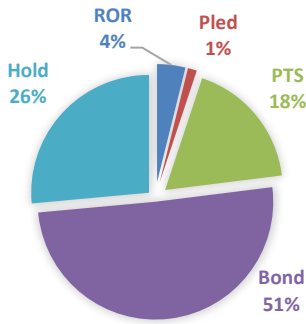
FIRST APPEARANCE

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 10,163 defendants at First Appearance hearings during this fiscal year, with 3,065 bonding prior to First Appearance via the bail schedule. This was a significant decline compared to prior years due to the pandemic. First Appearance hearings resulted in 394 releases on recognizance, 1,824 releases on pretrial supervision, 125 pleas, 5,143 ordered bond and 2,693 held without bond, as illustrated to the left.



Pictured- Pretrial Intake & Investigation Supervisor Melissa Whittington



There were 539 defendants identified and scheduled for Early Resolution Court out of First Appearance thereby increasing earlier resolution of appropriate cases.

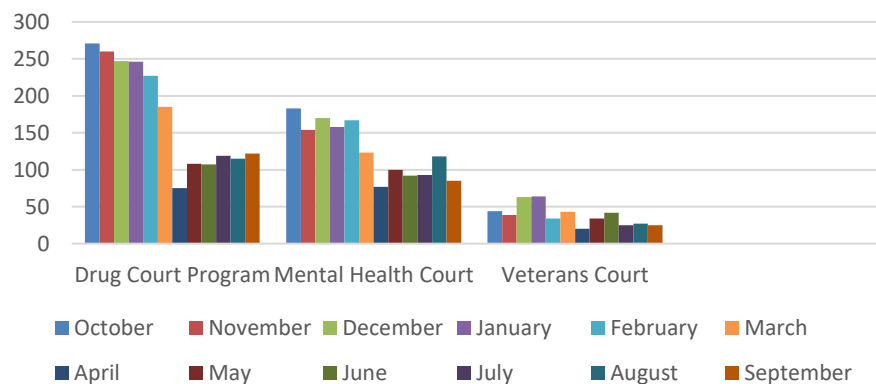
Triage-The Bob Janes Triage Center is a community asset designed to shift defendants away from the criminal justice system and allows an opportunity to provide services to those homeless with high needs. The center began working with the courts to allow through an expansion grant the ability to refer 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 17 defendants approved this fiscal year with a 36% success rate, with a focus on improving outcomes.

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 62 cases, and 1 PTS release, on the Jail Management Docket where non-sentenced incarcerated defendants were reviewed for consideration of a plea or release prior to arraignment.

First Appearance Identification

There were a total of 1,520 defendants identified for the Mental Health Court Program, 2,082 for the Drug Court Program, and 460 Veterans identified for Veterans Court with focused efforts of identifying at the earliest stage possible for appropriate treatment court options.

First Appearance Identification Referrals



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 a monthly average of 243 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 and adopted 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 2,423 defendants placed on pretrial supervision with an average monthly caseload of 201 defendants per officer. The optimal caseload ratio is 175:1 so adjustments were made in order to balance these increased caseloads. An average of 56% of releases included a simultaneous bond and an average of 22% included electronic monitoring. The average length of supervision was 50 days. There were 531 defendants placed on supervision that were determined indigent.

Risk- There were 70% of defendants on supervision identified as low risk, 22% as medium risk and 1% high risk, and the remaining 7% with no risk assessment completed.

Success rate- There were 76% 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.

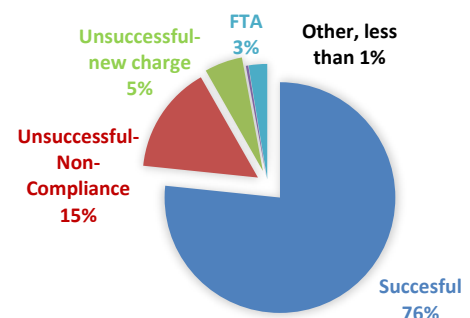
Success by Risk Level- There were 81% of defendants successful identified as low risk, 58% as medium, 33% as high and 71% with no risk indicated.

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

Technical Non-Compliance rate- There were 15% 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 6,651 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 2,527 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. Officers meet with defendants, verify compliance and report status 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- Pretrial Supervisor Scott Peckham

MISSION CRITICAL DATA

Caseloads- There were 968 defendants that entered misdemeanor diversion with an average monthly caseload of 168 defendants per officer. The optimal caseload ratio is 200:1.

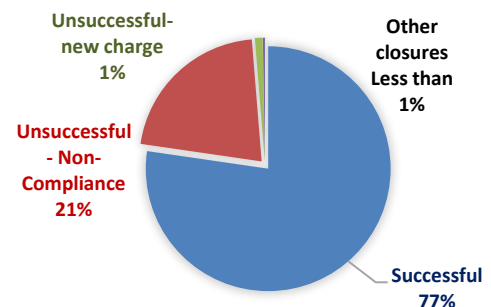
Success rate- There were 77% of defendants who entered misdemeanor diversion and (1) were not revoked for technical violations of the conditions in their agreement, (2) complied with all specific conditions, and (3) were not charged with a new offense during the diversion period.

Safety rate- There were 99% of defendants not charged with a new offense during the diversion period.

Technical Non-Compliance rate- There were 21% of supervised defendants not revoked due to technical violations only.

Supervision fees & Restitution collected- There was a total of \$152,206 in cost of supervision, and \$23,128 in restitution collected and payable to victims, for the fiscal year.

Community services completed- There were 1,200 hours of community service completed in the community.



The Association of Pretrial Professionals of Florida was established to promote pretrial justice through education and collaboration. The APPF provides opportunities and information to enhance professionalism through training and utilization of evidence-based practices. Pretrial Supervisor Scott Peckham serves as the Southwest Regional Director maintaining contact with pretrial programs in the regional area, serving as a liaison to the board and assisting with furthering the growth and development of the Association and its membership. Criminal Division Analyst Shawn Carlson serves as the Communication Director and manages all communications to the membership and the website. All pretrial officers are members of the APPF.

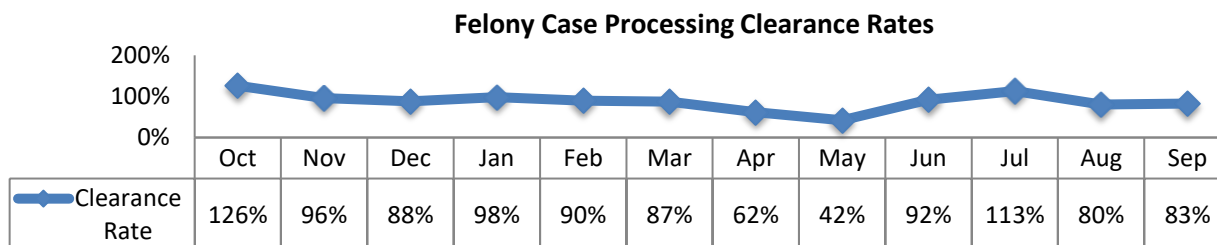
FELONY CASE MANAGEMENT

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 management facilitates early disposition of appropriate cases and allows 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.

COURT PERFORMANCE OUTCOME MEASURES

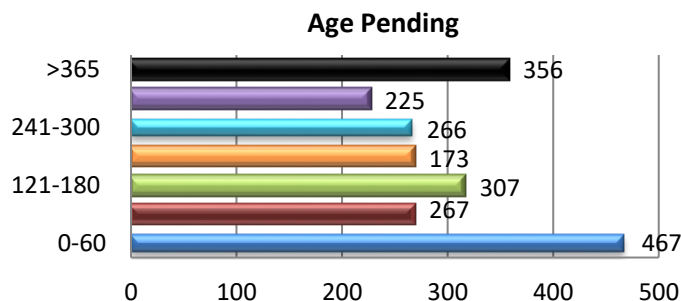
Time to Disposition - Time to disposition measures the percentage of cases disposed or otherwise resolved within established time frames and assesses the length of time it takes a court to process cases. In the 20th Judicial Circuit, time goals are established under Administrative Order 3.25. The goal 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 88% of expedited cases, 93% of standard cases and 88% of complex cases for time goals. Early Resolution Court pled or disposed of 344 cases. Due to the pandemic and Supreme Court Orders, trials and in person hearings were limited.

Case Clearance – Clearance rates are the number of outgoing cases as a percentage of the number of incoming cases. A total of 4,361 cases were opened and 3,906 were closed, resulting in an 88% 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 67% 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 2,163 cases. There were 70 cases pending competency.



The County Probation Department provides misdemeanor probation services for all misdemeanor and circuit courts of Lee County. Probation officers supervise probationers, enforce all court ordered conditions, motivate probationers, and provide probationers with the tools they need to make positive behavioral changes and to succeed. 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. Officers also enforce the payment of restitution, fines, court costs and probation supervision fees.



Pictured-Probation Supervisor Ervin Gill

Probation officers utilize a risk instrument to effectively 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 implement motivational interviewing techniques to assist and motivate the probationers in accepting the need to change and also support them in moving toward successful change. Officers also implement evidence based cognitive behavioral skill building worksheets to effectively address the specific criminogenic needs of probationers and to provide them with the tools to make positive decisions. Officers consistently maintain close and effective contact in person, by phone, mail, email, and via the computer throughout the probation period to ensure compliance and progress toward court ordered conditions. Due to the pandemic, officers had to make adjustments to utilizing online platforms and telephone reporting. Officers motivate, set goals, coach, redirect and refer probationers to outside resources to help achieve success. Officers regularly transform their methods by utilizing their training and evidence based practices to continually meet the needs of the probationer and by providing positive guidance.

COURT PRESENTATION

Court presenters research cases scheduled on court dockets in order to recommend resolutions to any of the judges in criminal 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 court outcomes. Hearings include new violations or other probation-related hearings such as modifications of probation and early termination hearings.



In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, adjustments were made to conduct court via telephone, zoom, and in person. Court presenters have seamlessly adapted to attending court in varying settings each week.

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, providing the necessary relevant information to the court and are called to court to testify as needed.

Pictured- Senior Officer Alonzo Laster

SPANISH SPEAKING TEAM

Designated Spanish speaking probation officers are assigned a caseload of probationers that speak primarily the Spanish language. These officers also conduct separate orientations in the Spanish language in order to effectively communicate and to assist the probationers in thorough understanding of all probation conditions.

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 projects 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 reimburse 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 383 probationers that entered the Day Work Program, with an 89% success rate. Probationers completed a total of 36,387 Day Work community service hours. According to the Lee County Sheriff's Office, this calculates to a cost savings of \$491,536.

Pictured- Probation Supervisor Ashlee Whitewood



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 3,157 defendants ordered on county probation during the fiscal year with an average monthly caseload of 134 probationers per officer.

Success rate- There were 66% 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.

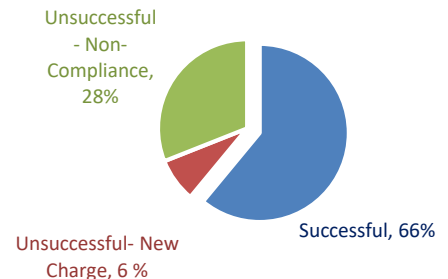
Success by risk level- There were 71% of defendants that were successful identified as low risk, 61% identified as medium risk and 52% identified as high risk.

Supervision fees & Restitution collected- There was a total of \$830,674 in the cost of supervision collected for the fiscal year and \$123,836 in restitution collected payable to victims.

Community Services completed- A total of 9,501 hours of community service were completed in the community, totaling \$95,010 at \$10 per hour.

Fines and Court Costs- A total of \$2,069,488 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 was 33%.



The Florida Association of Community Corrections is a statewide probation association established to identify, develop and promote effective programs. The goal is to offer a high standard of training thereby increasing the professionalism of personnel as well as increase public awareness of the benefits of these programs. County Probation Officer Iris McDonald serves as the Secretary for the Association and is responsible for taking and maintaining minutes and records of the Association, sending out notices, presenting to the board of directions any communication addressed to the Secretary, disseminating board meeting information and is an authorized signatory on all bank accounts and transactions.

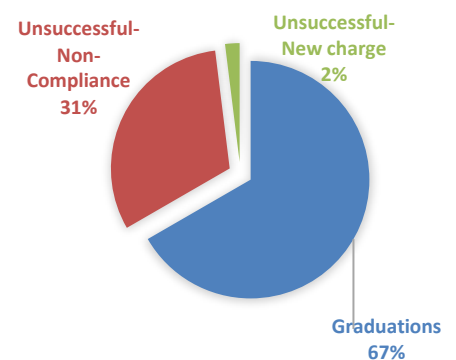
The Lee County Felony Drug Court Program is designed to divert cases from the traditional court system for defendants who are identified as having alcohol and/or drug abuse disorders. The overall objective of the program is to provide an evidence based, individualized substance use treatment curriculum that addresses acute stabilization, clinical stabilization, pro-social habitation, adaptive habilitation, and continuing care. Using a trauma-informed model, focus is placed on abstinence from drug and alcohol use, psychiatric and medical treatment, patterns of criminal thought, employment, transportation, housing, community supports, and long-term recovery maintenance, in order to reduce recidivism and promote a healthier community.



The Treatment Courts Manager and Treatment Courts Officers serve as the program's points of contact and administrative oversight team by facilitating the referral review process, monitoring defendants' progress, ensuring best practices are met, providing relevant training to team members, and reviewing contract deliverables. Defendants must meet legal and clinical eligibility requirements for participation. Drug Court is presided over by the Honorable H. Andrew Swett on Monday dockets and the Honorable Josephine Gagliardi on Thursday dockets where they oversee a team that includes a treatment courts officer, representatives from the Offices of the State Attorney and the Public Defender, a Department of Corrections probation officer, a case manager, and at least one licensed clinician. Each Judge presides over weekly team meetings to discuss participants' progress and identify a plan to address both compliance and non-compliance. TLS Consulting was awarded the renewal contract to provide case management and clinical services and AIM Target Programs, Inc., was awarded the renewal contract to provide drug testing to participants using Thermo Fisher Scientific lab analyzer equipment. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) maintains oversight of contractual agreements with both service providers.

Initiatives- During this fiscal year, several Drug Court team members attended the NADCP Rise 20 Conference held virtually. Circuit-wide PSC judges meetings and Circuit-wide PSC staff meetings continued and are held regularly. As part of the FL Courts Opioid Awareness Initiative, the 20th Judicial Circuit partnered with TLS, Inc. to host an Opioid Awareness event to further opioid awareness and discuss the efficacy of Medication Assisted Treatment in Drug Courts.

Due to COVID-19, Drug Court proceedings were transitioned to virtual format using the Zoom platform and both treatment services and drug testing continued uninterrupted with CDC-recommended modifications.



MISSION CRITICAL DATA

Graduation Rate- Data is compiled using the Integrated Justice Information System and Drug Court Case Management software. This fiscal year, 34 participants graduated and the program improved its success rate to 67%. Of 17 unsuccessful terminations, only one was due to a new criminal offense. The overall average success rate since program inception (2001) increased to 56%. 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 96.

Average Length of Stay- The overall average length of stay was approximately 604 days or 19.9 months. This demonstrates that participants, on average, stay in the program close to the intended time period.

Breakdown at end of FY 19/20- The Drug Court program breakdown at the end of the fiscal year included a total of 83 defendants with 14 participants at a residential treatment facility, 53 receiving outpatient services, 4 in custody on a violation of probation and 12 with active bench warrants. There were 32 new entries into the program this year.

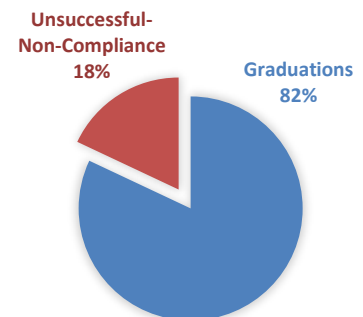
MENTAL HEALTH COURT

The Lee County Mental Health Court Program is designed to divert cases from the traditional court system for defendants who are identified as having serious mental health disorders. The overall objective of the program is to provide an evidence-based, individualized treatment curriculum that addresses acute stabilization, clinical stabilization, pro-social habitation, adaptive habilitation, and continuing care. Using a trauma-informed model, focus is placed on psychiatric and medical stability, abstinence from drug and alcohol use, patterns of criminal thought, employment, transportation, housing, community supports, and long-term wellness, in order to reduce recidivism and promote a healthier community.



The Treatment Courts Manager and Treatment Courts Officers serve as the program's points of contact and administrative oversight team by facilitating the referral review process, monitoring defendants' progress, ensuring best practices are met, providing relevant training to team members, and reviewing contract deliverables. Defendants must meet legal and clinical eligibility requirements for participation. Mental Health Court is presided over by the Honorable H. Andrew Swett on Tuesdays where he oversees a team that includes a treatment courts officer, representatives from the Offices of the State Attorney and the Public Defender, a Department of Corrections probation officer, a case manager, and at least one licensed clinician. The Judge also presides over a weekly team meeting to discuss participants' progress and identify a plan to address both compliance and non-compliance. On July 1, 2020, Centerstone of Florida was awarded a three-year contract through Central Florida Behavioral Healthcare Network (CFBHN) to provide case management and clinical services and AIM Target Programs, Inc., was awarded the renewal contract to provide drug testing to participants using Thermo Fisher Scientific lab analyzer equipment. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) maintains oversight of the contractual agreement with AIM Target.

Initiatives- During this fiscal year, the treatment courts manager worked closely with CFBHN and advocated for the addition of dedicated clinical services to the Lee County Mental Health Court program to improve outcomes for participants. CFBHN agreed with this need and, effective July 1, 2020, following a formal bidding process, Centerstone of Florida was awarded the contract. Under this contract, Centerstone provides a clinical case manager, a licensed clinician, and a registered clinical intern to all participants and ensures that all participants referred receive an objective, evidence-based clinical eligibility screening along with individualized clinical treatment services throughout their time in the program. Additionally, the part time Treatment Courts Evaluator position funded through the Trial Court Budget Commission began assessments in January 2020, completing 37 assessments with minor interruption due to COVID-19 restrictions. Of the assessments completed, 62% went on to successfully engage in program services.



MISSION CRITICAL DATA

Graduation Rate- Data is compiled using the Integrated Justice Information System and Drug Court Case Management software. There were 14 graduations this fiscal year, resulting in an 82% success rate. Of the 3 participants unsuccessfully terminated, none were due to new law violations. The overall average success rate since program inception (2002) is 71%.

Average Length of Stay- The average length of stay was approximately 9.8 months.

Active Participants- The number of participants in the program was 44 at the end of the fiscal year, with 20 new participants entering during this fiscal year.

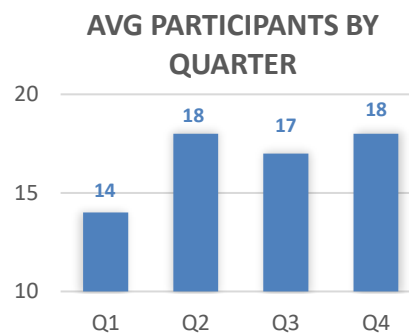
The Lee County Veterans Treatment Court Program is designed to divert cases from the traditional court system for defendants who have served in the United States Military, are current or former US Department of Defense contractors, or are current or former military members of a foreign allied country with a substance abuse, mental health, post-traumatic stress disorder, and/or traumatic brain injury diagnosis. The overall objective of the program is to provide an evidence-based, individualized treatment curriculum that addresses acute stabilization, clinical stabilization, pro-social habitation, adaptive habilitation, and continuing care. Using a trauma-informed model in collaboration with the Lee County VA Healthcare Center, focus is placed on abstinence from drug and alcohol use, psychiatric and medical treatment, patterns of criminal thought, employment, transportation, housing, community supports, and long-term recovery maintenance, in order to reduce recidivism and promote a healthier community.



The Treatment Courts Manager and Treatment Courts Officers serve as the program's points of contact and administrative oversight by facilitating the referral review process, monitoring defendants' progress, ensuring best practices are met, providing relevant training to team members, and reviewing contract deliverable. Defendants must meet legal and clinical eligibility requirements for participation. Veterans Treatment Court is presided over by the Honorable H. Andrew Swett on Tuesdays where he oversees a team that includes a treatment courts officer, representatives from the Offices of the State Attorney and the Public Defender, a Department of Corrections probation officer, a case manager, a Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator (VJO) provided by the VA, and at least one licensed clinician. The Judge presides over weekly team meeting to discuss participants' progress and identify a plan to address both compliance and non-compliance. Effective, August 1, 2020 Centerstone of FL awarded the contract to provide clinical case management to participants in addition to clinical treatment services for participants ineligible for services at the VA. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) maintains oversight of this contractual agreement.

Several ancillary services are provided to participants including a group of volunteer veteran mentors who provide motivational support and improve participant morale, a representative from the local Vet Center to who connects participants with services not provided by the VA, and a Lee County Human Services Veterans Services Officer who assists with VA claims, disability applications and appeals. Additionally, the VA employs a trained peer specialist who facilitates two classes with a 26 week curriculum for veteran peer support groups.

Initiatives- AOC identified the need for clinical services for participants and amended the terms of the VTC contract to include clinical case management for all participants and treatment services for participants who are ineligible for VA healthcare. Centerstone of FL was ultimately awarded this contract and now ensures that all participants referred receive an objective, evidence-based clinical eligibility screening along with individualized clinical treatment services throughout their time in the program.



MISSION CRITICAL DATA

Graduation Rate- Data is compiled using the Integrated Justice Information System and Drug Court Case Management software. There were 6 graduations this fiscal year, no unsuccessful terminations resulting in a 100% success rate and increasing the overall average success rate since program inception (2015) to 78%.

Average Participants & Length of Stay- The average number of participants monthly was 17 and the average length of program stay was 16.6 months.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION SUPPORT

The clerical division team is essential to efficient division operations and continually delivers a high level of customer service. Clerical support assisted with screening over 1,948 defendants for determination of indigence. Clerical support prepared case files, signed up defendants for 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, completed background checks, processed reassignments, entered court outcomes, maintained department supplies, and assisted with community service contracts and managed storage and disaster recovery documents. Support directly assisted over 14,785 visitors in person and personally assisted 19,655 callers via the Call Center, tracked 192 releases on recognizance and sent court date reminders verifying 80% court appearance. Clerical support received restitution payments and processed certified mail to victims.



Pictured Pretrial Clerical Supervisor Alice Colon-Torres & Probation Clerical Supervisor Shawn Carpenter



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. The division successfully passed its fifth accreditation assessment in 2020 with full compliance. 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 Courts updates, initiatives to reduce overcrowding and focus on gaps of services within the county.

TRAINING

The APPF and FACC collaborated to offer a training event on substance abuse and mental illness. Opportunities also include attending the Certified Public Manager Training Program through Florida State University and various virtual training opportunities offered from the National Association of Pretrial Services, the American Probation and Parole Association, the National Institute of Corrections and the Certified Public Manager Southwest Chapter Alumni.

LEE COUNTY AD HOC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER STEERING COMMITTEE

This fiscal year the treatment courts manager participated in a collaborative initiative designed to develop a five-year strategic plan that effectively addresses behavioral health and substance use disorder conditions in Lee County. Along with representatives from several government, law enforcement, private business, and non-profit agencies partner agencies, meetings are held regularly to lead meaningful change in how we think about mental health and substance abuse. This initiative is ongoing with a target of Spring 2021 to present findings and recommendations.

TREATMENT COURTS REFERRAL PROCESS

This fiscal year the treatment courts team partnered with Information Technology to develop a secure electronic referral form in an effort to simplify the referral process and increase accountability in referral tracking. The new form may be submitted by any member of the community or criminal justice system and can be utilized for all or multiple program referrals depending on need. The treatment courts manager and treatment courts officers receive referrals directly and enter them into the IJIS and DCCM systems within one business day to facilitate rapid case review. Referrals are then tracked through each step of the review process to ensure eligibility decisions are reported back to the referral source and their attorneys in a timely manner. The referral form is readily accessible on the Criminal Division website or at <https://www.ca.cjis20.org/tcreferral/>.

TECHNICAL ENHANCEMENTS

The criminal division encountered unprecedented times as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The division transitioned and adapted to conducting business utilizing new methods. Due to the pandemic, in-person reporting procedures for defendants and probationers were modified to reporting by telephone. The Intake and Investigations Unit began assisting with completion of full orientations and reviewed all court ordered conditions for defendants released on pretrial supervision during the pandemic, both at the jail and Core facilities, in order to help increase success and reduce failure to appear. In addition, Intake Officers assumed the responsibility of covering First Appearance Core duties. Probation Orientations were transformed to first telephone Orientations and subsequently to Zoom Orientations. Officers seamlessly adjusted to the newly implemented courtroom procedures conducted for essential court hearings via phone, in-person, and Zoom, to adhere to safety protocols and social distancing guidelines. All management meetings and interviews were transitioned to the Zoom platform or the Suntel Conferencing Line in order to continue collaborating as a team. The criminal division moved to full E- Filing with the exception of First Appearance paperwork due to cases not being yet opened. Felony Case Managers and probation officers were trained and prepared for livestreaming jury trials to ensure public access.

JUVENILE DRUG TREATMENT COURT

This fiscal year, the Treatment Courts team facilitated planning meetings for the implementation of a Juvenile Drug Treatment Court (JDTC) program. Partnerships were forged with the Offices of the State Attorney and Public Defender, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Lee County School District, Southwest Key Programs, Saluscare, and the National Drug Court Institute (NDCI) and several meetings were held to establish policies and procedures based on best practices. NDCI facilitated a training on the JDTC Guidelines published by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and committed to providing training and technical assistance through implementation and one year following. Treatment Court staff attended an 8-hour seminar facilitated by NAMI Lee County and Park Royal Hospital and obtained certification in Youth Mental Health First Aid. Additionally, the proposed JDTC participant handbook and operations handbook were updated to reflect information learned in these trainings. Planning is ongoing with a target implementation in 2021.



Pictured- Treatment Courts Manager Joseph Rea and Officer Miranda Coss with representatives from NAMI & Park Royal who led the training event

DEVELOPMENTS DUE TO COVID-19

The division assisted at each courthouse entrance with those individuals who entered the courthouse and failed a Covid-19 public health and safety screen. Officers notified the court and stakeholders when defendants or jurors would not be attending court and facilitated new court dates thereby eliminating failure to appear warrants being issued. The division assisted the court with moving to Phase 2 of the Operational Plan, resuming trials, coordinating the use of courtrooms with social distancing protocols, use of Polycom, use of jurors and backup trials. Probation also implemented new warrant processes, decreasing file transfers resulting in increasing efficiency.

NATIONAL PRETRIAL & PROBATION WEEK

In 1999, the American Probation and Parole Association began lobbying for every state to make a proclamation in order to honor pretrial and probation professionals for the tremendous role they play. Officers promote pretrial justice while enhancing public safety and motivating positive change. The theme this year was "Restoring Trust, Creating Hope". The division recognized pretrial and probation professionals with a celebration for their daily contributions to defendants, the general public and the community. Staff received criminal division umbrellas and grab-and-go breakfast. The Lee County Board of County Commissioners signed into resolution a proclamation recognizing Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week, during the week of July 15th- 19th, 2020, and the work these professionals do day-to-day. The BOCC encouraged all citizens to honor these professionals and recognize their achievements.

RETIREMENTS

On November 13, 2019, the Lee County Criminal Division said farewell to Probation Team Lead Maria Wendel as she retired from the Administrative Office of the Courts. Ms. Wendel began her career in Collier County as a secretary and then was promoted to clerical supervisor and finally to the position of probation officer. As a probation officer, Ms. Wendel held caseloads including a high level domestic violence caseload.

Ms. Wendel transferred to Lee County in 2008 as an Intensive Supervision Probation Officer and was instrumental in the implementation of the Intensive Supervision program and a major contributor to the success of the program. Maria was promoted to the position of Team Lead and trained many officers. Ms. Wendel was an asset and an integral part of our court presenters' program and a devoted employee to the Administrative Office of the Courts.



On December 31st, 2019, the Lee County Criminal Division said goodbye to Criminal Division Secretary Andrea Wolfe, as she retired from the Administrative Office of the Courts, embarking on her next journey in life. Ms. Wolfe started her career with Lee County Probation in October of 1985. During the course of her career she served the Criminal Division as NCIC/FCIC Operator, assisted in collecting statistical data for First Appearance, assisted in screening defendants for eligibility of the Public Defender services and facilitated supervision releases, prepared files, tracked and collected statistical data for defendants released on their own recognizance and conducted court date notifications to ensure compliance. Andrea has been a dedicated employee to the Criminal Division from the inception of Court Investigations to the merger of the Criminal Division.



Pictured, Andrea Wolfe



Pictured, Yazmin Rivera

On February 6th, 2020, the division congratulated Ms. Yazmin Rivera for accepting the Executive Assistant position for the Chief Deputy Court Administrator. Ms. Rivera provided exceptional, dedicated service to the Lee County Criminal Division since July, 1994. Ms. Rivera served as an integral part of the management team, serving as the clerical supervisor and administrative assistant for the division. Ms. Rivera helped unify the pretrial and probation clerical teams, was instrumental in the success of the call center and various processes she streamlined and enhanced. Ms. Rivera most importantly served as a friend, mentor and role model to all, exemplifying true professionalism, the highest quality of standards, commitment and leadership.



THANK YOU TO ALL CRIMINAL DIVISION STAFF FOR YOUR PROFESSIONALISM AND COMMITMENT, ESPECIALLY DURING THESE UNPRECEDENTED TIMES. YOU ALL HAVE BEEN AMAZINGLY FLEXIBLE, DEMONSTRATED PHENOMENAL TEAMWORK AND UNWAVERING DEDICATION. WE SINCERELY THANK AND APPRECIATE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO ON A DAILY BASIS.