

Public Safety Coordinating Council

December 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Council Members (or designee) in Attendance:

Judge Augustus Aikens	Judiciary
Owen McCaul	State Attorney's Office
Brylan Jacobs	Florida Department of Corrections
Jessica Yeary	Public Defender
John Knowles	Public Defender's Office
Steve Harrelson	Leon County Sheriff's Office
Rebecca Kelly-Manders	REfire Culinary Program
Anne Meisenzahl	Big Bend AFTER Reentry Coalition
Teresa Broxton	Intervention and Detention Alternatives
Nancy O'Farrell	NAMI – Tallahassee Chapter
Paul Knoll	Capital Regional Medical Center

Also, in attendance:

Kendra Brown	Court Administration
Ina Hawkins	Court Administration

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM

Issues Discussed

I. Approval of the October 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Assistant State Attorney Owen McCaul motioned, seconded by Assistant Sheriff Steve Harrelson to approve the October 18, 2022 meeting minutes. The Council voted unanimously in support.

II. LCDF Population Update – Asst. Sheriff Harrelson, Leon County Sheriff’s Office

Assist Sheriff Harrelson reported there were 1,162 inmates in custody and 5 juveniles being housed in Jefferson County. The average daily population for the year is 1,164. Assistant Sheriff Harrelson shared the following statistics on the detention facility’s population.

Length of detention

Length of Detention	Total # of Individuals
Less than 30 days	215
30 days to 6 months	474
6 months to 1 year	230
More than 1 year	243

Top 10 longest periods of detention:

- 6.2 years for murder
- 6 years murder and robbery
- 5.8 murder and sexual battery
- 5.6 lewd and lascivious, sexual battery and attempted murder
- 5.3 years murder
- 5.3 murder and kidnapping
- 4.7 attempted murder and burglary
- 4.7 drug possession and possession of firearm by convicted felon
- 4.6 robbery and possession of firearm by convicted felon
- 4.6 robbery and possession of firearm by convicted felon

**not all charges identified only the most serious per defendant*

***data does not include any periods the defendant was in custody in another facility (i.e. Department of Children and Families)*

Of the total population, 1,126 (92%) of the population are detained for open charge(s); 97 are detained for only VOP charges and average 87 days in detention; and 121 are detained for VOP charges and other open charges.

- Felony Population Breakdown
 - Murder Charges - 128
 - Sex Offenses - 31
 - Robbery - 73
 - Theft/Fraud - 84
 - Property Felony - 11
 - Felony Drug Offenses - 195
 - Burglary Charges - 72
 - Other Violent Felonies - 186
 - Other Felonies - 244
- Misdemeanor Only Population – 64
- Criminal Traffic Only Population – 7

- Civil Charges – 4
- Bond Amount Summary

Total Bond Amount Range	# Total Number of Individuals
\$0 - \$1,000	30
\$1,001 - \$2,500	27
\$2,501 - \$5,000	21
\$5,001 - \$10,000	26
\$10,001 - \$50,000	32
>\$50,000	26
Total # of Defendants	162

- Demographic Statistics

Black Males	Age Groups	White Males	Age Groups
748	18 – 29: 323	238	18 – 29: 56
	30 – 39: 237		30 – 39: 72
	40 – 49: 122		40 – 49: 64
	50 – 59: 62		50 – 59: 29
	60 and over: 27		60 and over: 17
Black Females	Age Groups	White Females	Age Groups
70	18 – 29: 18	70	18 – 29: 15
	30 – 39: 35		30 – 39: 28
	40 – 49: 10		40 – 49: 18
	50 – 59: 6		50 – 59: 8
	60 and over: 1		60 and over: 1

Assistant Sheriff Harrelson reported that there are hundreds of detained individuals who are prescribed medications for various health and mental health conditions and that for the top 10 highest prescriptions by detainee, the detention facility spent approximately \$15,172 in prescriptions (or an average of \$1,500 each) for the month of October. Assistant Sherriff Harrelson shared information on the various collaborations the LCDF has, to mitigate the costs of medications. Last year, LCDF expended more than \$500K on HIV medications working with the Bond Health Center through the federal pricing program. Most recently, LCDF partnered with Independent Medical Group (IMG) which provides prep drugs for HIV and treatment for Hepatitis C and sexually transmitted diseases and enrolls individuals for health insurance through the Affordable Care Act. The health insurance remains with the individual post-release.

Rebecca Kelly-Manders inquired of data with regards to individuals in the LCDF who are taking medications for a mental health diagnosis(es). Asst. Sheriff Harrelson advised approximately 441 individuals are prescribed psychotropic medications. He further shared that the LCDF changed its medical provider from Corizon to Yes Care resulting in increasing the number of mental health personnel from 2 to 14 people working with the mental health population in addition to the creation of a new mental health ombudsman position to ensure processes are reviewed and best practices such as group therapy sessions are implemented

The Council discussed the recent deaths, including suicides, reported in the local news and inquired of precautions being implemented to avoid future suicides and investigative procedures when a death occurs in the detention facility

Asst. Sheriff Harrelson shared that the only absolute preventive measure to suicide is 24/7 observation and the detention facility does not have the capacity for all detainees to be on 24/7 observation. He further stated that the facility has a robust mental health group and correctional staff have been instructed that anyone who indicates self-harm is to be placed on 24/7 observation. He discussed additional changes being implemented to assist with this population such as modifying the mental health pods to provide a more biophilic environment, increasing the mental health staff positions, and the new mental health ombudsman position. He shared that scheduling staff for the Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) remains a priority, check-on training, and implementation of regular mental health teams assigned to the mental health pods.

Commissioner Proctor inquired of the investigative procedures following a death in the detention facility, specifically the LCSO conducting the investigation without any third-party participation/review. Asst. Sheriff explained that the Medical Examiner's Office conducts an autopsy on each death that occurs in the LCDF and that the LCSO treats all deaths in the facility as a homicide until the medical examiner's autopsy determines otherwise. Commissioner Proctor commented that he wanted to plant the seed for the LCSO to consider a third-party process for death investigations.

Ms. Kelly-Manders inquired as to how many individuals are transported outside of the LCDF for medical care. Asst. Sheriff Harrelson explained that these types of transports occur almost daily. In instances where the medical provider cannot provide proper or specialized treatment and/or follow up (i.e. orthopedic appointments, dialysis) than individuals are transported as needed.

Commissioner Proctor asked about the extent of conducting First Appearance hearings electronically eliminating the need for individuals to be transported from the detention facility to the Courthouse. Judge Aikens advised that from his experience a defendant being transported is based on the attorneys and their request for the defendant to be transported and added that the Court's do see a great deal of defendant's remotely because there are some hearings that can easily be conducted remotely.

Commissioner Proctor inquired of the current visitation process, specifically if the facility had returned to in-person visitation. Asst. Sheriff Harrelson shared that the LCDF has moved strictly to video visitation using tablets. He shared families have access to free video visitation sites in the community at the RISE Center. Ms. Broxton shared that the main library also has a free video visitation program, Family Time & Tales, where children can read and visit with incarcerated parent in a family friendly environment.

Asst. Sheriff Harrelson explained that the video visitation has expanded opportunities for detainees to connect with their families as the tablets allow them to participate in family events via video, visit with multiple family members at one time, extend times for telephone calls. Asst. Sheriff Harrelson shared that the cost of telephone calls is .16 cents per minute which is deducted from the detainees account. He announced on December 20th, the Baptist Church and FSU football team will host an event to give gifts to children with incarcerated parents and promote families to come into the library.

The Council discussed the ability for detainees to have books in the facility. Asst. Sheriff Harrelson explained that detainees can have a limited number of books, magazines, and newspapers and all

items are subject to screening by Securus (contracted vendor) for approval. Detainees, however, have access to more than 54,000 free books on their tablets.

Commissioner Proctor commented that the PSCC should share these humane advancements made by the LCSO with the community. The report can illustrate the initiatives to improve quality of life for those incarcerated through technology and the additional staffing resources for the mental health population. Commissioner Proctor closed by stating that this report could demonstrate the PSCC's mission to the public as they are our taxpayers.

Asst. Sheriff Harrelson followed up with details on the Female Incarcerated Needs Essential Services and Self-Empowerment (FINESSE) Team which consists of female correctional officers engaging with and receiving feedback from female detainees regarding a female's unique needs for personal hygiene items, (i.e. shampoos, soaps, lotions), trauma training, etc.

The Council agreed to visiting the detention facility in March or April 2023.

Ms. Meisenzahl inquired on the status of in-person programming returning. Asst. Sheriff Harrelson responded a new Director of Reentry & Inmate Programs has been hired. Their goal is to return to in-person programs; however, the selected programs must have benchmarks to demonstrate their performance and benefit to the detainees.

III. FSU School or public administration and policy capstone project. – Teresa Broxton

Ms. Broxton shared the Askew School of Public Administration has been coordinating with County Administration on a capstone project on alternatives to incarceration and managing the detention facility's population. In the past weeks, staff from County Administration and IDA have meet with Dr. Schrader and her class to provide initial information regarding the Leon County criminal justice system. Ms. Hunter, Assistant County Administrator, has spoken with Ms. Garber, Trial Court Administrator, regarding the student's interest in speaking with members of the judiciary for the research component. Additionally, the students have indicated interest in reaching out to the various criminal justice partners participating on the PSCC for more information on the specific roles of your offices through the criminal justice process.

Ms. Broxton advised that she has shared the 2023 PSCC meeting schedule as the students may attend a future meeting(s) or request to present their findings at a future meeting.

Commissioner Proctor shared his concerns that in this community over the past thirty years, there has not been enough opening of minds to embrace these alternatives to incarceration as well as the lack of communication to result in the implementation of any innovative approaches.

IV. Court Administration Reports – Kendra Brown, Criminal Court Manager

Veterans Treatment Court

There are currently 49 participants currently enrolled in the program, of those, 20 are in the LCDF (5 pre-sentenced; 1 sentenced and waiting transport to DOC; 11 are set for case future court events; 3 defendants waiting residential placement). There are 5 veterans scheduled for the VTC graduation on December 19, 2022. The VTC Court is working to recruitment new mentors for the VTC participants.

Ms. Hawkins reported the VTC continues to coordinate with community partners such as the Tallahassee Veterans Legal Clinic to assist with civil aspects of participants' cases and transportation, and the Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF).

Mental Health Court

Currently, there are a total of 23 participants on the Misdemeanor Mental Health Docket with 3 in custody in the LCDF. In addition, the CMMU staff is tracking 222 throughout the criminal justice system. There are 80 defendants waiting to receive competency evaluations and continues to identify solutions to expand the number of experts to conduct evaluations and ability to conduct evaluations with dedicated space in court administration.

Felony Drug Court

There are currently 38 participants in Felony Drug Court, and none are currently in custody. Felony Drug Court activities including treatment sessions, court hearings, and staffings continue via Zoom. The program continues to graduate eligible participants every two weeks.

Detention Review

Ms. Hawkins provided the LCDF population as of 12/6/22 which was 1,112 and the population as of 12/6/2021 which was 1,202. She advised the current disposition rate for non-VOP cases is 3.82% and for VOP cases is 5.8%. She also reported there are 15 holds for out of county warrants.

Due to a difference in some data elements, Ms. Hawkins and Asst. Sheriff Harrelson explained that all data on the detention facility population is captured at the point in time that the report is generated and constantly changes due to the fluidity of admissions and releases occurring 24/7.

V. Electronic Monitoring Reports – Teresa Broxton, IDA Director

The electronic monitoring report was distributed in the meeting materials for member review.

VI. Other Business

Commissioner Proctor commented that the highest concentration of incarcerated individuals come from the 32304-zip code community. He would like the Council to work to identify the root cause (i.e. poverty, family dynamics, marital status) that is disproportionately contributing to more black men and women being incarcerated. He stated the Council could look at these issues through the lenses of sociology and psychology to identify the underlying causation.

Ms. Meisenzahl proposed the PSCC invite Royle King, Director for Council of Men and Boys, to come speak on their initiatives.

Commissioner Proctor congratulated Judge Aikens on his distinguished service to the Leon County Community and his dedication to the establishment of the Veterans Treatment Court and other problem-solving courts during his career. Commissioner Proctor requested a letter of accommodation to Judge Aikens from the PSCC for his successful career and having the Leon County Courthouse named in his honor.

Next Meeting: *Tuesday, January 17, 2023*
 4:00 PM
 Commission Chambers, 5th Floor, Leon County Courthouse