

Public Safety Coordinating Council

January 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Council Members (or designee) in Attendance:

Judge Augustus Aikens	Judiciary
Brylan Jacobs	Florida Department of Corrections
Jessica Yeary	Public Defender
John MacNamara	Public Defender's Office
Craig Carroll	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

Also, in attendance:

Ina Hawkins	Court Administration
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The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM

Issues Discussed

I. Approval of the December 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Brylan Jacobs motioned and was seconded by Anne Meisenzahl to approve the December 6, 2022 meeting minutes. The Council voted unanimously in support.

II. LCDF Population Update – Capt. Craig Carroll, Leon County Sheriff’s Office

Capt. Carroll shared that as of 1/17/2023 the detention facility’s population totaled 1,059: 918 adult males; 139 adult females; and 2 juveniles with 4 additional juveniles being housed in Jefferson County Jail.

Ms. Meisenzahl inquired of educational programs being provided to the juvenile population and Capt. Carroll confirmed that the juveniles are receiving educational programs but did not know the specifics such as the provider.

Asst. Public Defender MacNamara referenced the meeting minutes from December reflecting the detention facility’s population at 1162 which was a decrease of over 100 individuals. Capt. Carroll advised that at one point the population had declined to 1026 and that it is not unusual for the population to decline during the holidays and increase after the new year.

Ms. O’Farrell inquired if two (2) juveniles is the maximum that can be housed in the LCDF. Capt. Carroll confirmed that was accurate and stated that previously they were able to house approximately 20 juveniles but as the numbers of juveniles declined the space was reallocated for adult males. Ms. O’Farrell also inquired of alternatives to detaining juveniles in the LCDF. Capt. Carroll explained that only juveniles who are direct filed as adults are housed in the LCDF all other juveniles are taken to the Juvenile Assessment Center. The Council discussed that the State Attorney’s Office is responsible for determining whether a juvenile is direct filed as an adult through the court process.

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

Veterans Treatment Court

Ms. Hawkins advised the update will be provided during the February meeting.

Mental Health Court

There are a total of 10 individuals currently waiting to go to the Florida State Hospital (FSH) and 8 waiting to return to the detention facility from FSH.

Felony Drug Court

There are currently 32 participants in Felony Drug Court, and none are 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. Court Administration has contracted with DISC Village to provide substance use treatment and substance testing for the specialty court participants throughout the 2nd Judicial Circuit.

IV. Electronic Monitoring Reports – Teresa Broxton, IDA Director

Ms. Broxton shared that the OIDA began the month of December with 161 (124 GPS and 26 SCRAM) defendants on electronic monitoring. There were 12 defendants ordered to GPS and 4 to SCRAM; 12 defendants were released from custody and enrolled on GPS and 3 on SCRAM monitors. As of December 31st, there were 120 defendants on active GPS and 36 defendants on SCRAM. During the month of December, a total of 14 cases were disposed; of those, 13 (93%) closed successfully and 1 (7%) closed unsuccessfully.

Ms. Meisenzahl asked how the Office of Intervention and Detention Alternatives (OIDA) defines “success”. Ms. Broxton explained defendants are considered successful if there is not a pending violation or failure to appear at the time of disposition. Defendants maybe have previously been referred to the court for technical violations, new arrests, or failure to appears but if the court finds that the violation was not willful and/or reinstates the defendant to supervision and the case is disposed without further issues the defendant is closed from a successful status.

Vice Chair Kelly-Manders stated during the December meeting it was reported there were approximately 100 defendants in custody on violation of probation (VOP) charges and inquired of OIDA’s capacity to eliminate those types of charges from detention facility through electronic monitoring. Ms. Broxton explained the process for defendants being placed on GPS requires a court order. The condition of GPS maybe at the request for either the prosecution, the defense council, or both but requires a judge to grant the request. Vice Chair Kelly-Manders hypothesized if there was legislation for VOPs to be supervised in the community with electronic monitoring what would be the impact on OIDA. Ms. Broxton explained currently the County does not limit the number of GPS units which can be utilized and if the department began experiencing a significant increase in GPS utilization, staff would continue to monitor and coordinate with OMB and county administration if/when it became a concern beyond the department’s current budget and staffing levels.

Mr. MacNamara added that in many of the circumstances the judges do not have the discretion to set a bond due to the defendant having a new offense pending or a criminal history that qualifies them as a violent felony offender of special concern which includes a very broad list of offenses and regardless if the violation is based on a technical issue the statute would have to be changed to give the judges additional discretion.

Vice Chair Kelly-Manders reiterated that the focus of the PSCC is to monitor the detention facility’s population and ways we can safely reduce its population and knowing that electronic monitoring is available, and the cost is substantially lower than housing individuals in the detention facility thought it was worthy of exploring.

Asst. Public Defender MacNamara inquired of the department’s fee collections considering that the judges allow the cost for electronic monitoring to be waived or accrued until final disposition. Ms. Broxton explained that the department does not violate individuals for their inability to pay fees related to pretrial supervision and that collected fees are utilized to offset the cost of the program. Historically, the program is not self-sustainable, and the expenses come from the County’s general revenue budget. MacNamara discussed a F.S. that allows for defendants to request reimbursement from the Justice Administrative Commission (JAC) for expenses incurred when their cases are dropped, or they are acquitted. He stated that he has not fully explored this program but wondered if it could capture some revenues for the County. He will continue to look in to this solution and reach out with additional information.

V. National Association of Counties – Reducing Jail Populations: A Virtual Learning Series – Teresa Broxton, IDA Director

Ms. Broxton shared that the National Association of Counties (NACo) is hosting a five-part webinar series on reducing jail populations which concludes in April 2023. She advised the series initially began in December and that both the December and January webinars were available for review. Ms. Broxton provided a brief overview on the topics to be discussed through the remainder of the series. Ms. Broxton will distribute an e-mail with the webinar information.

VI. Other Business

Judge Aikens announced that Veteran’s Treatment Court held a graduation on December 19, 2022 for five participants.

Judge Aikens motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:39PM, seconded by Capt. Carroll.

Next Meeting: *Tuesday, February 28, 2023*
4:00 PM
Commission Chambers, 5th Floor, Leon County Courthouse