

Public Safety Coordinating Council

June 24, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Council Members (or designee) in Attendance:

Commissioner Bill Proctor	County Commission
Judge Ashenafi Richardson	Judiciary
Michael MacNamara	Public Defender's Office
Owen McCaul	State Attorney's Office
Chief Norman Mack	Leon County Sheriff's Office
Brylan Jacobs	Florida Department of Corrections
Nancy O'Farrell	NAMI Tallahassee
Teresa Broxton	Office of Intervention and Detention Alternatives
Rebecca Kelly-Manders	ReFire Culinary
Dr. Parker	Big Bend AFTER Reentry Coalition

Council Members Not in Attendance:

Also in attendance:

Isaac Boykin	Tallahassee Police Department
Kimberly Holland	Office of Intervention and Detention Alternatives
Rayshell Holmes	Aide for Commissioner Proctor
Irene Law	ReFire Culinary
Ina Hawkins	Court Administration
Dr. Hairston	SWAN

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM

Issues Discussed

I. Approval of April 15, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Owen McCaul moved to approve the minutes from the April 15, 2025 (Attachment #1), meeting; seconded by Brylan Jacobs.

The motion passed unanimously.

II. LCDF Population Update – Chief Norman Mack, Leon County Sheriff’s Office

Chief Norman Mack presented the Leon County Detention Facility Status Report for 6/23/25 (Attachment #2). Chief Mack advised that as of 6/23/25 the population was 994, and shared that the population rise is normal during the summer months which may be attributed to students being out of school and judiciary training/conferences. He provided an overview of the demographics and case statuses of the LCDF population. Chief Mack discussed that the average length of stay (ALOS) for May was 45 days and 61 days as of 6/23/25. He shared that he reviewed the contributing factors to the change in ALOS and there were individuals that had been incarcerated for longer periods released which increased the ALOS for that specific month. There are currently 10 individuals with immigration holds in custody in the LCDF, and each has a local pending criminal case.

Commissioner Proctor shared that Undersheriff Ron Cave stated that LCDF is the largest mental health facility in north Florida. He inquired as to the percentage of the LCDF population that has a mental health diagnosis. Chief Mack stated that he could obtain that number from LCDF’s healthcare provider. Commissioner Proctor commented on the need for facilities to address the mental health population. He requested that the report be augmented to include details on the mental health statistics.

Judge Ashenafi Richardson commended the Public Defender’s Office’s efforts to focus on individuals involved in the criminal justice system with mental health issues, and not to criminalize their behaviors but rather seek treatment for them. Mr. McNamara stated that their efforts come down to communication within their office and criminal justice stakeholders to work effectively to decriminalize behaviors for individuals with mental health diagnoses. Judge Ashenafi Richardson stated there are two tracks for the courts addressing individuals with mental health diagnoses: 1) the psychiatrist finds the individual’s competency is restorable the case is held for six months to allow for the individual’s competency restoration, 2) the individual’s competency is unrestorable, the Court finds the individual incompetent because their conduct is based on behavior but lacks intent “mens rea”. She stated the most common mental health diagnoses are schizophrenia and bipolar disorders which are treatable; however, many clients do not have insurance so the courts work with community partners for treatment services. Judge Ashenafi Richardson stated the

process is more complex at the felony court level and may include individuals being sent to Florida State Hospital (FSH) for treatment. Mr. McNamara added that the transfer process to FSH can increase the LCDF population due to the wait list for individuals being transferred to FSH.

Commissioner Proctor inquired about juveniles being housed in Jefferson County. Chief Mack shared that 2-3 juveniles are housed in Jefferson County, the remaining 7 are housed at LCDF. Chief Mack shared this is due to the parent's not signing the medical clearance so the juveniles can be transferred to Jefferson County and receive medical treatment by another facility's medical provider. Chief Mack discussed the benefits of housing juveniles in Jefferson County due to the facility having a smaller population.

Commissioner Proctor reflected on the services provided by the LCDF and the momentum towards increased mental health services and the transition within the correctional/law enforcement settings to focus on the needs of individuals with mental health diagnoses. Commissioner Proctor referenced the Leon County Detention Facility Needs Assessment and its findings that the LCDF will not need modifications within the next 25 years. He feels that the assessment does not factor in that the majority of the incarcerated population should be receiving mental health services and the current ratio of correctional officer to in custody population (94:1). He discussed the potential need for additional space to address the mental health population.

Commissioner Proctor inquired if Chief Mack could speak to a recent article discussing eight deaths within the LCDF over the past few years. Chief Mack stated that LCDF is taking steps to enhance safety throughout the facility to prevent intentional deaths such as modifying bedding and other fixtures, providing suicide blankets, monitoring phone calls for key words, and increased correctional officer rounds within the pods. Chief Mack referred to the 94:1 ratio within the general population pods. Ms. Broxton shared that during the Board's Budget Workshop in June, the Board approved funding to increase the number of correctional officers in specific pods to two per shift, reducing the ratio of correctional officers to the incarcerated population.

Mr. McNamara raised concerns of delays in court orders, sentencing, etc. being uploaded to the Justice Information System (JIS) which causes delays in individuals being released from custody. He stated the Public Defender's Office has spoken with the Clerk of Court's Office and their standard for data entry is 48 hours. He stated that he understood that the Chief Judge is aware of the situation and is working toward a resolution with the Clerk of Court's Office. Judge Ashenafi Richardson shared that this issue has been brought to Clerk Marshall's attention by Chief Judge Allman and Clerk Marshall is taking the situation very seriously. Judge Ashenafi Richardson stated that as of today all vacant positions have been filled; however, all the new hires are in the training process. The Council discussed factors such as salary ranges and legislative funding for the Clerk's Office contributing to the staffing issues.

The Council discussed strategies to streamline releasing procedures such as releasing individuals directly from court as opposed to being transported back to the LCDF or taking pleas via teleconferencing. Judge Ashenafi Richardson raised concern for the delay of releases particularly

during the facility's shift changes. Chief Mack provided a summary of the process for shift change which includes an official count of all individuals in custody and essentially during this time there is no movement within the facility to ensure accuracy.

Rebecca Kelly-Manders reiterated the necessity of identifying recommendations to expedite and streamline processes while more efficiently and safely releasing individuals. Ms. Broxton recommended that these issues be presented to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CJCC) as it focuses on the operational aspects of the criminal justice system and consist of criminal justice stakeholders, including the Clerk of Court that could discuss potential solutions.

III. OIDA Electronic Monitoring Report – Kimberly Holland, OIDA Coordinator

Ms. Holland shared that we began the month of May with 125 defendants on electronic monitoring. There were 17 defendants ordered to GPS and 2 to SCRAM; 15 defendants were released from custody and enrolled on GPS and 4 on SCRAM monitors. As of May 31st, there were 107 defendants on GPS and 19 defendants on SCRAM. During the month of May, a total of 20 cases were disposed; of those, 10 (50%) closed successfully and 10 (50%) closed unsuccessfully (Attachment #3).

IV. Other Business:

Mr. McNamara, on behalf of Ms. Yeary, motioned to have the Capital Area Justice Ministry (CAJM) to present on the work they are doing at a future meeting; seconded by Rebecca Kelly-Manders.

The motion passed unanimously, with Mr. McCaul in abstention.

Dr. Parker inquired if the PSCC or other criminal justice bodies were benefiting from the excellent doctoral programs at Florida State University such as the School of Criminology, School of Social Work, etc. that may be able to assist with some of the needed assessments in these areas. PSCC members shared specifics regarding doctoral students assisting with counseling in the treatment courts and at the LCDF, as well as developing reports for the PSCC through capstone projects.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:02 PM

Next Meeting: July 15, 2025

4:00 PM

Commission Chambers, 5th Floor, Leon County Courthouse