

Public Safety Coordinating Council

May 21, 2024, Meeting Minutes

**Council Members (or designee) in Attendance:**

Commissioner Bill Proctor	County Commission
Judge Augustus Aikens	Judiciary
Asst. Sheriff Brice Google	Leon County Sheriff's Office
Jessica Yeary	Public Defender's Office
Brylan Jacobs	Florida Department of Corrections
Owen McCaul	State Attorney's Office
Anne Meisenzahl	Big Bend AFTER Reentry Coalition
Kristen Dobson	NAMI Tallahassee
Rebecca Kelly-Manders	ReFire Culinary
Teresa Broxton	Office of Intervention and Detention Alternatives

**Council Members Not in Attendance:**

Kelli Mercer	HCA Healthcare (Behavioral Health)
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**Also, in attendance:**

Chief Mack	Leon County Sheriff's Office
John Knowles	Public Defender's Office
Bradley Janowski	Leon County Sheriff's Office (Reentry & Inmate Programs)
Johnthan Godwin	WAAWN
Clayton Oliver	WAAWN
Amanda Chandler	Apalachee Center, Inc.
Kimberly Holland	Office of Intervention and Detention Alternatives

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM

#### Issues Discussed

I. Approval of the April 16, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Owen McCaul moved to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2024, meeting; seconded by Brylan Jacobs.

*The motion passed 10-0.*

II. Leon County Detention Facility Population Updates and Discussion - Asst. Sheriff Brice Google, Leon County Sheriff's Office

Chief Mack presented the Leon County Detention Facility (LCDF) Status Report for 5/21/2024 (Attachment #1). He reported that the LCDF population was 889 as of 5/21/2024.

Commissioner Proctor commented on defendants remaining in custody with set bond amounts and that he thought the goal of reducing the detention facility population to 850 is related to this issue. He inquired if the average number of days reflected on the table referencing bond amounts was how long it took for the defendant to post bond. Chief Mack explained that the average number of days is how long the defendant has been in custody. Commissioner Proctor stated that approximately 100 people are in custody because they have not posted the set bond and inquired of Vice Chair McCaul's thoughts on identifying an instrument to assist individuals with posting bond and being released from custody. Vice Chair McCaul stated that the Tallahassee Bail Fund assists eligible defendants with posting bonds.

Ms. Broxton stated that she is researching what other communities are doing to assist indigent defendants with posting bond to include charitable bail fund programs receiving public funds and will present that at the June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Commissioner Proctor commented that the detention facility falling below 900 is unprecedented and inquired as to what is contributing to the declining population numbers. Chief Mack responded the Courts have been processing cases resulting in a steady decline of the detention facility's population over the past 10 months or so.

Ms. Meisenzahl stated that she is excited to determine whether County funds can be used to support the Tallahassee Bail Fund as money is sometimes the only obstacle to individuals being released from custody. Additionally, the Tallahassee Bail Fund will assist the individuals appearing at future court dates and meeting their individual needs while in the community.

Ms. Broxton explained that the Workgroup is close to finalizing the recommendations for the FY 2023/2024 allocation which will likely be on the agenda for the June meeting. The PSCC can then begin the process of identifying a recommendation to the Board for the FY 24/25 allocation which will be available October 1, 2024, contingent on the Board's approval. Commissioner Proctor

commented on looking at grants to support initiatives in reducing the detention facility's population and assisting indigent individuals with posting bond.

- III. Leon County Community Safety and Engagement Action Plan Discussion - Commissioner Proctor  
Ms. Broxton shared that following Dr. Nelson's presentation of the Action Plan at the March 26, 2024, meeting, the Council approved this as a standing discussion item at future meetings to review, identify, and coordinate with partner agencies for implementation of recommendations.

Ms. Broxton shared that she has contacted Royle King, Director of The Council on the Status of Men and Boys (CSMB). Mr. King is out of the office until June 3<sup>rd</sup>, but she will follow up upon his return to schedule his attendance at either the June or July meeting to present the initiatives and program activities of the CSMB.

- IV. Court Administration Reports - Ina Hawkins, Detention Review Coordinator  
The Criminal Case Management Unit's Monthly Report for May 21, 2024 was distributed to the Council for review and provided in the meeting minutes as Attachment #2.

Commissioner Proctor reflected on the number of individuals identified as having mental conditions and/or diagnoses who remain in custody and their ability to understand the process of posting bond to be released. He asked Ms. Yeary if individuals are provided instructions on the process after the courts have set a bond on their case. Ms. Yeary advised that the Public Defender's Office typically speaks with their clients within 48 hours to let them know what steps to take for release. Ms. Broxton asked Ms. Yeary if she could share the steps her office takes if the defendant indicates that they cannot afford to post the bond. Ms. Yeary stated that their attorneys file a motion to reduce the bond amount and/or file a motion for Supervised Pretrial Release relatively quickly.

Commissioner Proctor inquired if mental health was a special category because the report reflects cases set for MH court dates. Ms. Broxton explained that the Leon County Courts operate a misdemeanor mental health docket for defendants with eligible mental health diagnoses. The Council discussed the differences between a mental health court and docket and the services provided through multi-disciplinary stakeholders participating in court activities related to defendants with mental health diagnoses.

- V. Electronic Monitoring Reports - Teresa Broxton, IDA Director  
Ms. Holland presented the Electronic Monitoring Program Report for April 2024 (Attachment #3). Ms. Broxton stated that the Office of Intervention and Detention Alternatives is experiencing a slight increase in the number of individuals released on GPS which is a tool available as an alternative to pre-sentence and post-sentence incarceration.

Commissioner Proctor commented that GPS and assisting individuals in posting bonds appear to be significant contributors in reducing the detention facility population and inquired as to what we would need to occur to increase the utilization of GPS monitoring. Judge Aikens explained that there are multiple factors such as the defendant's compliance, the nature of the crime, etc. when

determining if GPS monitoring is a viable release option. Commissioner Proctor inquired of the success rate for defendants released on GPS monitoring. Ms. Broxton shared that at present, approximately 50% of electronic monitoring defendants are returned to custody for technical violations or new arrests. Ms. Broxton shared that defendants who are least successful on GPS monitoring are those with mental health diagnoses and/or are experiencing homelessness. Ms. Broxton shared that OIDA staff works diligently with the defendants to identify solutions to address any barriers for them to remain in compliance and avoid violations being submitted to the courts while maintaining victim and public safety.

VI. Other Business:

Next Meeting: June 25, 2024

4:00 PM

Commission Chambers, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Leon County Courthouse