

Public Safety Coordinating Council

September 2, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Council Members (or designee) in Attendance:

Commissioner Bill Proctor	Leon County Commission
Jessica Yeary	Public Defender's Office
Owen McCaul	State Attorney's Office
Chief Craig Carroll	Leon County Sheriff's Office
Brylan Jacobs	Florida Department of Corrections
Teresa Broxton	Office of Intervention and Detention Alternatives
Anne Meisenzahl	Big Bend AFTER Reentry Coalition
Nancy O'Farrell	NAMI Tallahassee

Council Members Not in Attendance:

Judge Ashenafi Richardson	Judiciary
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Also in attendance:

Bryan Stringer	Capital Area Justice Ministry
Betsy Willett	Capital Area Justice Ministry
Jasmine Queen	Apalachee Center
Ina Hawkins	Court Administration
Abby Thomas	Community Services and Human Partnerships
John Knowles	Public Defender's Office

The meeting was called to order at 4:09 PM

Issues Discussed

I. Approval of July 15, 2025. Meeting Minutes

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

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Chief Craig Carroll advised the Leon County Detention Facility (LCDF) population for 9/2/2025 was 1,047 (876 males, 165 females, and 6 male juveniles). Chief Carroll introduced Dr. Sapp who is the Behavioral Health Director for Yes Care (contracted vendor for LCDF). Chief Carroll shared that Council had several discussions regarding the mental health population in the LCDF and thought it would be a good opportunity to invite Dr. Sapp to respond to any questions or re-address previous discussions.

Commissioner Proctor welcomed Dr. Sapp and expressed appreciation for her work and attendance at the meeting. Commissioner Proctor stated he did not recall what prompted the discussions other than it was noted that 60% of the LCDF population have mental health issues and what services are available to address the needs of the mental health population.

Dr. Sapp shared that she has been the Director of Behavioral Health with Yes Care since October 2023 and has a team of 10 which includes bachelor and master level clinicians, psychiatrist, psychiatric nurse practitioner, behavior health case manager, and a discharge planner. Dr. Sapp shared that her team works closely with Apalachee Center’s liaison in the LCDF for information related to treatment of individuals in the community. Dr. Sapp discussed the services provided by the behavioral health unit which includes mental health evaluations during the booking process, completing referrals to psychiatry for medications as needed, conducting groups (2-3 daily) for trauma care, coping skills, and psychological education for specific diagnoses, weekly rounds to check in on individuals being held in confinement, crisis intervention, suicide (direct) observations and daily assessments, developing safety plans, working with individuals to reduce suicidal ideations to transition back to general population, conduct close (15 minute interval) supervision observations, individual sessions, and linking individuals returning to the community with resources.

Dr. Sapp stated that in August 2025, 577 individuals (55.9%) of the LCDF population had a mental health and/or substance use disorder. The diagnoses range from adjustment disorders, depressive disorders, substance use disorders, and/or severe mental illnesses (e.g. bipolar disorder, schizophrenia). Dr. Sapp shared that in July, 564 individuals had mental health and/or substance use disorder diagnosis and of those 397 had medication orders. Dr. Sapp shared that overall the LCDF’s average daily population (ADP) has increased, which is typical for the summer months, and there was a correlated increase in the number of incarcerated individuals with mental health diagnoses.

Ms. Broxton asked if Dr. Sapp could share more about the variation between Yes Care and Court Administrations calculations of incarcerated individuals with mental health diagnoses. Dr. Sapp stated that Yes Care determines the percentage of the mental health population from a comparison of the overall LCDF population and a report of all individuals with any mental health diagnosis which is generated monthly. The report is provided to Court Administration's Criminal Case Management Unit, and they extract the number of individuals with severe mental illness (e.g. schizophrenia, schizoaffective, bi-polar, major depression, and intellectual disability) and does not include substance use disorders. Members inquired of the 577, how many individuals have a mental health diagnosis, substance use disorder, or co-occurring disorder. Dr. Sapp advised she did not have the data available but would provide it.

Jessica Yeary stated her office has been monitoring clients found incompetent to proceed based on mental illness or intellectual disability and who are then committed to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) for transport to Florida State Hospital or North Florida Center in Gainesville who remain in custody for extended periods due to a three-to-four-month average waitlist for placement. Ms. Yeary added this is not a Sheriff's Office issue, it is a DCF issue. Her office has filed Order to Show Cause (contempt proceedings) against DCF and is in the process of litigating the issue. Dr. Sapp shared that she participates in regular stakeholder meetings, called C2 Waitlist, to discuss incarcerated individuals pending transfer to DCF facilities.

Commissioner Proctor inquired of efforts to see acts resulting from mental health or substance use disorders as health issues versus criminal activity. Ms. Yeary stated that law enforcement responds to people who are experiencing a mental health crisis and instead of taking people to the hospital they are arresting them, which is criminalizing the behavior as opposed to treating it as a mental health issue.

The Council discussed the efforts by the Leon County Sheriff's Office to prioritize treatment of individuals with mental health issues in the detention facility and in the community through programs such as the Homeless Outreach Street Team (HOST) deputies and the Mental Health Unit.

Commissioner Proctor inquired if, in general, the number of individuals with mental health diagnoses has increased over the years. Dr. Sapp shared that there are a lot of factors to consider when discussing mental health and mental wellbeing of individuals in society today such as genetic predisposition, environmental factors (adverse experiences), and effects of prescription medications, availability and/or willingness to engage in mental health treatment.

III. Capital Area Justice Ministry Presentation – Bryan Stringer, Executive Director

Commissioner Proctor welcomed Ms. Willet and Mr. Stringer to the PSCC. Mr. Stringer, Executive Director, of Capital Area Justice Ministry (CAJM) shared that CAJM is a diverse, interfaith, multi-racial coalition united by a shared commitment to solve community problems. He shared that CAJM's philosophy is that justice does not happen by accident but is built on purpose and takes listening, organizing, commitment, and courage. Mr. Stringer stated that at CAJM they train congregational leaders to listen deeply to their congregations and communities, identify shared concerns and take informed strategic actions.

Mr. Stringer shared that CAJM is working on several issues in the community including affordable housing, gun violence, and hunger and food insecurity. He stated that most recently, CAJM working with Leon County Government received Commission approval for \$500,000 annually for six years to address the need for affordable housing in the community. He stated that solutions are derived from setting aside being right and focusing on doing what is right. Mr. Stringer shared that CAJM is a representation of 20 congregations that have a common cause which is that the way justice is being presented in the community is wrong and the way homelessness and mental health is being criminalized is a problem.

Mr. Stringer shared that through research, listening and community engagements, CAJM has identified that hundreds of local people are affected by gun violence. He stated that the community needs a proven gun violence interruption model based on national best practices and that while the City of Tallahassee committed funding for five years to develop a comprehensive community lead violence interruption plan one has yet to be deployed. He commented that the process must involve the community.

The Council discussed the efforts and collaboration from the Leon County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) and the Council on the Status of Men and Boys (CSBM) in the development of the gun violence interruption plan. Mr. Stringer stated there are discussions planned with Florida State University Research Team and the LCSO to identify where the gaps are in developing a violence interruption plan. Mr. Stringer shared that as plans are formulated, he will provide updates.

Commissioner Proctor discussed President Bush's Faith-Based and Community Initiative (FBCI) and an integration plan for CAJM to lead discussions between the community and law enforcement. Mr. Stringer stated that is CAJM's mission and what their organization strives to do, to be a bridge between politics and the community.

IV. OIDA Electronic Monitoring Report – Kimberly Holland, OIDA, Coordinator
July 2025 report included in Attachment #2.

V. Other Business:

Meeting Adjourned at 5:05 PM

Next Meeting: October 21, 2025
4:00 PM
Commission Chambers, 5th Floor, Leon County Courthouse