

Public Safety Coordinating Council

February 18, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Council Members (or designee) in Attendance:

Commissioner Bill Proctor	County Commission
Judge Ashenafi Richardson	Judiciary
Jessica Yeary	Public Defender's Office
Chief Craig Carroll	Leon County Sheriff's Office
Brylan Jacobs	Florida Department of Corrections
Owen McCaul	State Attorney's Office
Nancy O'Farrell	NAMI Tallahassee
Teresa Broxton	Office of Intervention and Detention Alternatives

Council Members Not in Attendance:

Rebecca Kelly-Manders	ReFire Culinary
Kelli Mercer	HCA Healthcare (Behavioral Health)

Also in attendance:

Captain Isaac Boykin	Tallahassee Police Department
Judge Lashawn Riggans	Judiciary
Rayshell Holmes	Leon County Commission Aide
Kimberly Holland	Office of Intervention and Detention Alternatives

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM

Issues Discussed

I. Approval of the December 3, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Owen McCaul moved to approve the minutes from the December 3, 2024, meeting; seconded by Jessica Yeary.

The motion passed unanimously.

II. Election of Chair and Vice Chair – Teresa Broxton, Director, OIDA

Ms. Broxton explained that in accordance with the PSCC Bylaws, the Council shall elect among its members a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, each of whom shall serve a one-year term. Ms. Broxton opened discussion for nominations. Owen McCaul nominated Commissioner Proctor for Chair; seconded by Jessica Yeary.

The nomination passed unanimously.

Ms. Yeary nominated Rebecca Kelly-Manders for Vice-Chair; seconded by Nancy O'Farrell.

The nomination passed unanimously.

III. We are All We Need Quarterly Report (WAAWN) – Kevin Warren, CEO

Kevin Warren and Jonathan Goodwin presented a report (Attachment #1) providing an update of the program's achievements to date for the third and final year of the Criminal Justice Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant, and their progress toward meeting goals and objectives. Mr. Warren expressed his appreciation for his team and community partners for assisting them in delivering the program with fidelity and efficacy.

Judge Ashenafi-Richardson expressed appreciation for the work that WAAWN does for the community youth.

IV. LCDF Population Update – Chief Craig Carroll, Leon County Sheriff's Office

Chief Craig Carroll presented the Leon County Detention Facility Status Report for 2/16/25 (Attachment #2). The population as of 2/16/25 was 945. Chief Carroll added that as of the meeting, there were no individuals in custody being held for immigration only. There are eight immigration detainers on individuals who have local criminal charges. These individuals have criminal charges pending in Leon County and immigration has placed an administrative detainer while they review their citizenship. These individuals are being held on their local criminal charges and not for immigration.

Ms. Broxton inquired as to what would happen if the individual posted bond on their local criminal charges. Chief Carroll advised of the eight with immigration detainers, one does have a bond amount set. If the individual posted bond, the immigration detainer has a 48-hour time limit. If immigration does not pick up them up within 48 hours, they are released to the community.

Judge Ashenafi-Richardson shared that the County Judges receive reports from Court Administration listing all in custody individuals charged with misdemeanor offenses who have a bond of \$2,500 or less. The judges use this data to initiate communication with the defense and prosecution attorneys to determine why the defendant is still in custody. If the defendant is in custody due to a bond issue, a bond hearing can be scheduled. Typically, individuals remaining in custody on a misdemeanor also have a pending felony case(s). Judge Ashenafi-Richardson stated the County Judges are sensitive to individuals remaining in custody based on their inability to pay the bond.

V. Update on Diversion Assistance Program - Teresa Broxton, Director, OIDA

Ms. Broxton shared that in 2019 the Board approved \$20,000 annually to establish a “scholarship” to assist eligible individuals with the costs of the pre- or post-arrest diversion programs offered by the State Attorney’s Office. Last year, the State Attorney notified the County that his office would no longer be able to administer the scholarship program. At the direction of the County Administrator, the Office of Intervention and Detention Alternatives began administration of what is now titled the “Diversion Fee Assistance Program”. Ms. Broxton shared that eligible individuals must be indigent (Federal Poverty Guidelines) and reside in Leon County, additionally to ensure the program can serve as many individuals as possible the fund covers 50% of the associated fees (\$125/misdemeanor and \$250/felony). Ms. Broxton expressed her appreciation for the Public Defender’s Office and the State Attorney’s Offices teams for assisting in the transition.

Ms. Yeary added that when misdemeanor diversion fees were \$100 the \$20,000 annually was able to assist more individuals. When the State Attorney raised the fees to \$250/misdemeanor and \$500/felony it impacted the number of people that the annual allocation can assist. Ms. Yeary shared her concern that the funding is covering 50% of the costs and individuals are responsible for the remaining 50% which may not be affordable for as many.

VI. Opioid Use Disorder Treatment through DISC Village, Inc. – Teresa Broxton, Director, OIDA

Ms. Broxton shared that Leon County participated in the multidistrict opioid litigation against opioid manufacturers resulting in a significant settlement funds allocated to mitigate opioid impacts. Based on the litigation, the County will receive approximately \$110K annually over the next 18 years. In April 2024, the Board approved an agreement with DISC Village to provide opioid use disorder treatment to individuals involved in the criminal justice system. In partnership with our criminal justice partners, we have identified two pathways for referring individuals for voluntary treatment through DISC Village:

1. Early identification during the booking process. The LCDF medical staff is completing a screening tool and for individuals who indicate a possible SUD they offer a voluntary referral to DISC for assessment and treatment.
2. Criminal justice stakeholder referrals, the Public Defender’s Office, State Attorney’s Office, and the Office of Intervention and Detention Alternatives can refer individuals for SUD assessment and treatment on a voluntary basis or as part of a pre- or post-arrest diversion agreement.

Ms. Broxton introduced Jennifer Travieso, Operations Director with DISC Village to provide more details of the substance use disorder treatment programs available through DISC, particularly the Opioid Use Disorder Treatment funded through the settlement funds.

Judge Ashenafi Richardson complimented Ms. Travieso on her and DISC Village's exceptional work with the treatment court staff and participants.

Ms. Travieso explained that the goal of the funding and the partnership is to connect with people and make treatment including medication assisted treatment (MAT) available to them as early as possible. The facility located on Tharpe Street provides MAT and outpatient services such as counseling and peer support services. She shared that with MAT there is the ability to provide injectables or daily medications based on the individual's needs.

Upon a referral, DISC Village will complete an assessment with the individual to determine what substances they are struggling with and the best course of treatment.

Ms. Travieso explained that substance use disorders is a brain disease and their goal is to intervene with individuals as early as possible with the correct level of treatment whether that is inpatient or outpatient treatment.

Ms. Travieso shared that following an assessment, the DISC Village staff will determine if the individual meets the criteria for the funded OUD services. The settlement funding also provides for ancillary services (e.g. housing, transportation, childcare) to assist those in treatment. If they do not meet the criteria, DISC Village will provide services through other programs which are based on a sliding fee scale and will waive fees, if needed, until clients obtain employment.

Ms. Travieso shared that DISC Village has developed posters for individuals to contact DISC Village directly if they are uncomfortable disclosing their addiction.

Judge Ashenafi-Richardson and Judge Riggans both commented on the services for Felony Drug Court and Veteran's Treatment Court. Each of these treatment courts mandate SUD treatment which is provided by DISC Village.

Commissioner Proctor inquired of the criminality of individuals in possession of opioids. The Council discussed the trends in the legislature with treatment courts and the utilization of Felony Drug Court.

VII. FY 2025 Funding Recommendations – Chairman Proctor

Ms. Broxton shared that the Board, as in previous years, has approved \$100K in the FY 24/25 budget from the Diversionary Account to assist the PSCC in effectively managing the detention facility's population. In FY 23/24, the PSCC recommended, and the Board approved the implementation of Reentry Housing Assistance (RHA) Program to assist homeless individuals with criminal justice involvement with housing costs up to \$4,000.

Commissioner Proctor inquired if the Council could recommend the continuation of the RHA Program for FY 25/26, particularly with the Board's concentration of the homeless issues

surrounding the Pensacola Corridor. Commissioner Proctor inquired if we could allocate the funds specifically to the 32304 area. Ms. Broxton shared that we could work with the LCSO HOST to assist with individuals frequenting the 32304 area and that in general, diverting individuals being released from the LCDF from homelessness will eliminate their need for emergency sheltering.

Ms. Yeary inquired about the Council voting today or allowing the members to consider and voting at the March meeting. The FY 25/26 Funding allocation will be included on the agenda for the March 28, 2025, meeting.

Ms. Travieso added having housing is a critical step to supporting individuals in treatment throughout their recovery.

VIII. OIDA Electronic Monitoring Report – Kimberly Holland, OIDA, Coordinator
Included with meeting minutes (Attachment #3).

IX. Other Business:

Reentry Housing Assistance Program

As previously stated, the Reentry Housing Assistance (RHA) Program was implemented last year. The County partnered with Leon County Sheriff's Office to administer the RHA Program. Mr. Brad Janowski, Director, Reentry and Inmate Programs is present to provide an update on the program's activities to date.

Mr. Janowski shared the RHA Program is going well and to date they have received 7 referrals from 5 criminal justice partners. Of the 7 referrals, 4 were determined eligible, 2 were not eligible, and 2 have been approved and are currently in housing. One of the participants is a single mother with two children. A second family whose father was incarcerated, and the mother was struggling to keep the 3 children together are now reunited and living in an apartment.

Mr. Janowski shared that he is receiving multiple letters daily from incarcerated individuals asking to be assessed for eligibility in the RHA Program.

Mr. Janowski announced that the RISE Center is hosting a community event on Thursday 2/20/25 for local employers to hear from presenters on the importance of second chance hiring and to expand partnership in the All In Business Pledge.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:00 PM

Next Meeting: March 25, 2025
4:00 PM
Commission Chambers, 5th Floor, Leon County Courthouse