

Public Safety Coordinating Council

September 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Council Members (or designee) in Attendance:

Bill Proctor	County Commission
Owen McCaul	State Attorney's Office
Jack Lynch	Public Defender's Office
Assistant Sheriff Argatha Gilmore	Leon County Sheriff's Office
Teresa Broxton	Office of Intervention and Detention Alternatives
Brylan Jacobs	Florida Department of Corrections
Rebecca Kelly-Manders	REfire Culinary
Anne Meisenzahl	Big Bend AFTER Reentry Coalition

Also, in attendance:

Chief Norman Mack	Leon County Sheriff's Office
Kendra Brown	Court Administration
Blanca Delgado-Chavez	Court Administration
Kimberly Holland	Intervention and Detention Alternatives
Dale Adams	Citizen who would like to address the committee

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM

Issues Discussed

I. Approval of the July 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Owen McCaul motioned to approved the meeting minutes which was seconded by Brylan Jacobs. The Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

II. Leon County Detention Facility Population Updates and Discussion- Chief Norman Mack, Leon County Sheriff's Office

Chief Mack presented the Leon County Detention Facility (LCDF) Status Report for 9/18/2023 (Attachment #1). He shared the population is currently at 1,032: 127 sentenced, 859 non-sentenced and 2 with a combination of sentenced and non-sentenced cases. Chief Mack shared that the courts have been disposing of cases quicker and population count is lower than it normally is this time last year.

Chief Mack shared the average length of stay is 223 days. There are 7 juveniles housed in the Jefferson County Jail and 5 juveniles in the LCDF to accommodate separation requirements. Chief Mack shared the juveniles were occupying a 30-bed area for proper segregation and housing juveniles in Jefferson County allows more bed space for the male population which is the largest population within the facility. Chief Mack commented the arrangement works well for both Leon County and Jefferson County and provides separation for co-defendants and gang affiliation issues.

Ms. Meisenzahl inquired if the juveniles are receiving education in both facilities. Chief Mack advised they do receive education services through Franklin Academy, Jefferson County and Leon County Schools.

Commissioner Proctor shared concerns of offense rates spiking during this time of year, particularly for the unsheltered population, coupled with the dynamic of political weariness. He discussed the concerns expressed to the Board from the business community and citizens regarding the state of the North Monroe and Pensacola Street Corridors, particularly the loitering and other criminal activity. He commended the Sheriff's Office for their excellent work in approaching this from a social aspect. Commissioner Proctor commented on the increased political tension to arrest violators and inquired if the Sheriff's Office anticipates more arrests.

Assistant Sheriff (A.S.) Gilmore stated that if the law has been violated and law enforcement has all elements of the crime, individuals are being arrested. She stated that Sheriff McNeil is meeting with the North Monroe Corridor group frequently to keep them apprised of what law enforcement is doing to address these issues. A.S. Gilmore concluded that law enforcement is making arrests if needed while simultaneously navigating the LCDF capacity issue and that they are triaging in the best way possible to ensure the safety of our community. Commissioner Proctor commented that there have been concerns that these issues are not being intensely addressed and we are losing that area as it is being reshaped and becoming degenerative of moral, social, and economic value. A.S. Gilmore add that Leon County Sheriff's Office, the Tallahassee Police Department, other law

enforcement agencies work as a team. The conversation and dialogues in terms of law enforcement strategies include all law enforcement partner agencies.

III. FY 23 and FY 24 Diversionary Funding- Teresa Broxton, IDA Director

Ms. Broxton announced that multiple proposals were received which exceeded the available funding. After conferring with the Purchasing Department for guidance, on moving forward, they recommended that a Request for Proposal (RFP) be developed and issued to ensure compliance with the procurement process. The initial step in developing a RFP is for the PSCC to identify a scope of services to support its mission in managing and reducing the Leon County Detention Facility population. After a scope of services is established, the RFP would be developed and issued through the Purchasing Department. Ms. Broxton shared the RFP process could not be completed within the two weeks remaining in the current fiscal year; however, the FY 23/24 allocation would be available on October 1, 2023 pending final approval of the budget by the Board on September 26, 2023. Ms. Broxton explained the steps and timeline required to present a funding recommendation to the Board for final approval and commented that the detention facility administration could assist the Council in identifying services and/or programs to aide in reducing the detention facility population.

Ms. Kendra Brown added that the Supreme Court has a workgroup establishing the statewide bond schedule which anticipates having an impact on the detention facility population. She inquired about waiting to identify a scope of services until more information on the impact is available around October 1st. Ms. Broxton responded that she would not recommend delaying the start of the process to identify a scope of services particularly since the next scheduled meeting is after October 1st.

Ms. Broxton commented that identifying a scope of services requires a concerted effort and recommended developing a workgroup to assist in the process. Commissioner Proctor stated that if the purpose of the RFP is to augment and sustain efforts to reduce the detention facility's population than the Sheriff's Office should be able to assist as they have daily observations of the needs of incarcerated individuals.

Commissioner Proctor inquired as to what some of the elements for the scope of services may be. A.S. Gilmore responded that they are looking at recidivism and are trying to rework the reentry programs, as well as work and school release programs. A.S. Gilmore stated she agreed with the idea of a workgroup to include the Sheriff's Office and other agencies to ensure they are looking at all parts and sides of the issue. A.S. Gilmore advised that they are using screening criteria that is connected to other crime reduction strategies.

The Council identified the Sheriff's Office, Public Defender's Office, State Attorney's Office and Department of Corrections - Probation Services to make up the workgroup to develop a scope of services.

Ms. Meisenzahl inquired of the timeline for the funding allocation. Ms. Broxton shared that the County's budget process begins in March and concludes in September of each year. The FY 23/24

funding allocation will be available on October 1, 2023 and based on the RFP timeline anticipates an agenda item seeking funding approval going to the Board in the first quarter of the calendar year.

Ms. Broxton raised the concern over the funding allocation's flexibility to address the evolving needs of the detention facility and limiting funds to one-year allocations. A.S. Gilmore commented, the allocation is a one-time funding for an entity to make an impact on the current population of the detention facility. Ms. Rebecca Kelly-Manders stated knowing that 85% of the LCDF population is unsentenced, it puts a spin on what the scope of services could and should look like.

IV. Court Administration Reports- Ina Hawkins, Detention Review Coordinator
Report included with meeting minutes (Attachment #2).

V. Electronic Monitoring Reports- Teresa Broxton, IDA Director

Ms. Broxton shared we began the month of August with 116 defendants on electronic monitoring. There were 18 defendants ordered GPS and 3 defendants were ordered a SCRAM monitor. Sixteen (16) defendants were released from custody and enrolled on a GPS monitor and 1 defendant was released on a SCRAM monitor. As of August 31st, there were 99 defendants on GPS and 20 defendants on SCRAM. A total of 16 cases were disposed during the month: 9 successfully and 7 unsuccessfully.

VI. Other Business:

- A. Commissioner Proctor introduced Ms. Stephanie Tolbert, who shared information about her program, Sharing Ideas So That Everyone Reaches Success (S.I.S.T.E.R.S.) and provided brochures to the Council members (Attachment #3).
- B. Mr. Dale Adams attended the meeting to discuss the availability of a work release program in the LCDF and the possibility of transferring individuals to another county facility to participate in a work release program. A.S. Gilmore advised that the Sheriff's Office will look into reestablishing a work release program.
- C. Commissioner Proctor inquired if there was interest in a discussion item pertaining to the Judicial Circuit Assessment process and how the PSCC can support Court Administration (i.e. survey, comments, letter). Ms. Brown stated if there is interest, a resource is flicourts.gov. They have listings of past and upcoming public hearings and survey reports regarding the process. Individuals can register to attend virtually or to provide public comment. Mr. McCaul stated that if this issue is discussed at a future meeting, he will ensure Mr. Campbell is aware so he can plan to attend and share his position on this issue.