

Public Safety Coordinating Council

April 16, 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
John Knowles	Public Defender's Office
Chad Cutkomp	Florida Department of Corrections
Owen McCaul	State Attorney's Office
Anne Meisenzahl	Big Bend AFTER Reentry Coalition
Nancy O'Farrell	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
Chief Sheffield	Leon County Sheriff's Office
Ina Hawkins	Leon County Court Administration
Rayshell Holmes	Leon County Commission Aide
Kimberly Holland	Office of Intervention and Detention Alternatives
Bradley Janowski	Leon County Sheriff's Office (Reentry & Inmate Programs)

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM

Issues Discussed

I. Approval of the March 26, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Owen McCaul moved to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2024 meeting; seconded by John Knowles.

The motion passed 10-0.

Commissioner Proctor called for a motion to approve the February 27, 2024, Meeting Minutes due this action not being taken during the March 26th meeting. Ms. Anne Meisenzahl moved to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2024, meeting; seconded by Judge Augustus Aikens.

The motion passed 10-0.

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

Ms. Broxton introduced Asst. Sheriff Brice Google who was recently promoted to Assistant Sherriff for the Leon County Detention Facility and would be serving on the PSCC as the Chief Correctional Officer.

Chief Mack presented the Leon County Detention Facility (LCDF) Status Report for 4/15/2024 (Attachment #1). He reported that the LCDF population was 923 as of 4/15/2024.

Ms. Meisenzahl inquired if there are juveniles currently being housed in Jefferson County. Chief Mack shared there are currently fifteen (15) juveniles being detained for Leon County Cases. Seven (7) in the LCDF of which one will be transferred to Jefferson County. Jefferson County will house a total of eight (8) juveniles for Leon County.

Ms. Broxton made the observation that the number of individuals detained on felony drug related offenses had declined from approximately 170 to 113 currently. She advised the Council that at the April 9, 2024, Commission meeting, the Board approved a contract with DISC Village Inc., utilizing Opioid Settlement Funds, to provide treatment services to the community as well as the courts to reduce the impacts of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and co-occurring OUD and mental health issues.

Commissioner Proctor inquired if the juveniles charged with murder will be treated as adults. Chief Mack shared that juveniles housed in the LCDF have been adjudicated by the courts as adults and will not have contact with adult offenders pending final disposition of their case(s). Commissioner Proctor further inquired if the juvenile offender is convicted of the charges would they then have contact with adult offenders. Chief Mack and John Knowles both responded that they would.

Commissioner Proctor reflected on the reduction in the average length of custody from 223 to 198, which is a 25-day decrease. He commented on the number of individuals in custody for violations of probation (VOP) and inquired what can be done to reduce the number of VOP(s) in the LCDF. Mr. Knowles provided his observation that the 2nd Judicial Circuit typically imposes both an incarceration and probation sentence as opposed to other jurisdictions that impose one or the other. He stated this appears to be a policy decision within the State Attorney's Office and sentencing philosophy. He stated that over supervision naturally increases the number of violations. Mr. McCaul stated that over supervising may not be an accurate perspective when monitoring individuals ordered to probation.

Ms. Meisenzahl inquired if the term "over supervise" is in relation to the number of people sentenced to probation, the length of probation, or both. Mr. Knowles shared that in his experience it has been both. Mr. Knowles also offered that majority of VOP(s) are technical violations, which is not the commission of a new crime or public safety issue but rather a failure of compliance with reporting requirements.

Ms. Kelly-Manders commented on the 73 individuals with a bond amount of \$5,000 or less of which 29 are for misdemeanor offenses currently in the LCDF due to a lack of monetary means to bond out. Commissioner recalled previous discussions regarding the availability of funds to assist individuals in posting bond and being released.

Ms. Broxton shared that at the February meeting, the PSCC received a presentation by the Tallahassee Bail Fund (TBF) on their services and criteria in assisting individuals with posting bond. Ms. Webb shared that the TBF works very closely with the Public Defender's Office in identifying individuals to assist. Ms. Broxton shared that the workgroup established by the PSCC has identified housing as a funding priority for the FY 2023/2024 funds and we would be bringing that issue back to the Council for final approval at the May meeting. Additionally, if approved by the Board, an additional \$100,000 would be allocated for FY 2024/2025 and the PSCC could identify initiatives or programs to manage or reduce the LCDF population.

Commissioner Proctor stated that he would like information on how other counties are addressing issues of indigent individuals being held in the local facilities.

Judge Aikens added that when looking at the population of the LCDF most of those held in custody are charged with felony offenses. Most people committing crimes are misdemeanants, meaning that most people who commit crimes are not in custody. Mr. McCaul stated that the LCDF is a felony facility.

III. Election of Vice Chair for 2024

Commissioner Proctor opened the floor nomination for Vice-Chair. Owen McCaul was nominated by Chief Sheffield. There were no other nominations. *The motion passed 10-0.*

- IV. Leon County Community Safety and Engagement Action Plan Discussion - Commissioner Proctor
Ms. Broxton shared that during the March meeting, Dr. Randy Nelson presented the Leon County Community Safety and Engagement Action Plan. After discussion, the Council voted to continue discussions at future meetings to identify opportunities to implement recommendations.

Commissioner Proctor inquired of any reflections on Dr. Nelson's presentation. Ms. Broxton recommended reviewing each of the recommendations and identifying programs or activities that are currently occurring in the community through the work of criminal justice stakeholders or community partners to avoid duplicative efforts. This process would identify which recommendations are not currently in progress and the Council could identify key stakeholders to invite to future meetings to discuss the potential for implementation. Commissioner Proctor requested that Ms. Broxton review each of the recommendations and we would circle back for detailed discussion.

Mr. Knowles and Ms. Meisenzahl commented on the participation of incarcerated individuals and returning citizens in Dr. Nelson's process in other jurisdictions. Ms. Meisenzahl stated that she liked the ideal of engaging returning citizens receiving services through the Big Bend AFTER Reentry (BBARC) Welcome Center or serving as mentors to engage with stakeholders like the Council on the Status of Men and Boys (CSMB). Commissioner Proctor requested that Royale King, CSMB Executive Director, be invited to a future meeting to present an update on their impacts and capacity to embrace some of the recommendations from the Leon County Community Safety and Engagement Action Plan.

- V. Court Administration Reports - Ina Hawkins, Detention Review Coordinator
Ms. Hawkins presented the Criminal Case Management Unit's Monthly Report for April 16, 2024 (Attachment #3).

Commissioner Proctor commended Judge Aikens for his work with Veterans Treatment Court. Judge Aikens stated that the veterans are individuals who have served their country and even with criminal charges have so much to give back and that he has enjoyed working with the veterans.

- VI. Electronic Monitoring Reports - Teresa Broxton, IDA Director
Ms. Holland presented the Electronic Monitoring Program Report for March 2024 (Attachment #4).

- VII. Other Business:
During opening remarks, Commissioner Proctor announced the opening ceremony for the Live Oak Behavioral Health Center located at 2600 Centennial Place on April 12, 2024. The center is a collaborative initiative between Tallahassee Memorial Health (TMH) Care and Apalachee Center, Inc. to provide outpatient psychiatry, psychological, and psychotherapy services in one central location for both TMH and Apalachee Center patients. The Live Oak Behavioral Health Center will also be home to the Florida State University College of Medicine's Psychiatry Residency Program which provides four years of training in psychiatry for medical school graduates,

addressing a critical need for the training of mental health care providers for the region and the state. *(Source: Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare Press Release)*

Commissioner Proctor inquired about the circumstances of two deaths of individuals incarcerated in the LCDF. Chief Mack explained that the deaths are currently under investigation, and he is unable to provide details at this time.

Next Meeting: May 21, 2024

4:00 PM

Commission Chambers, 5th Floor, Leon County Courthouse