

Public Safety Coordinating Council

October 21, 2025, Meeting Minutes

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

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Commissioner Bill Proctor      | Leon County Commission                            |
| Judge Nina Ashenafi Richardson | Judiciary   |
| Jessica Yeary                  | Public Defender's Office                          |
| Owen McCaul                    | State Attorney's Office                           |
| Chief Craig Carroll            | Leon County Sheriff's Office                      |
| 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:**

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| Brylan Jacobs | Florida Department of Corrections |
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**Also in attendance:**

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| James Crum    | Intervention and Detention Alternatives |
| Jasmine Queen | Apalachee Center, Inc.                  |
| Madelyn Blair | Public Defender's Office                |
| Kendra Brown  | Court Administration                    |
| Ina Hawkins   | Court Administration                    |
| Dr. Hairston  | SWAN                                    |

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM

#### Issues Discussed

I. Approval of September 2, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Owen McCaul moved to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2025, meeting; seconded by Jessica Yeary.

*The motion passed unanimously.*

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

Chief Craig Carroll reviewed the Leon County Detention Facility Status Report for 10/20/25 and highlighted that the population was 1,029. The full report is included as Attachment #1.

Chief Carroll noted that the number of sentenced cases is low which directly affects the number of individuals eligible for trustee status and impacts the LCDF’s ability to provide individuals for work in the community as only sentenced trustees are allowed to leave the secured area of the detention facility. Commissioner Proctor inquired how someone gets sentenced for a misdemeanor offense(s). Ms. Yeary responded that the defendant can go to trial or enter an open plea and get sentenced.

Chief Carroll reflected that in the past the number of individuals sentenced for misdemeanors was higher but since COVID, the numbers have decreased and are virtually nonexistent. He stated that if an individual has a misdemeanor offense(s) they are either not in custody or those that remain in custody often have mental health issues. In most scenarios individuals charged with misdemeanors are sentenced to time served or released to a program. Judge Ashenafi Richardson shared that the county judges receive monthly reports to monitor cases where individuals charged with misdemeanor cases are remaining in custody. Chief Carroll shared that the in-custody misdemeanor population is low compared to the felony population.

Ms. Broxton referenced Commissioner Proctor’s inquiries regarding the number of trustees assigned to Public Works and various other labor assignments in the community. A key factor in the reduction of labor is the composition of the detention facility population which are primarily felony pre-sentenced, and not eligible to leave the secured areas of the detention facility. Commissioner Proctor commented that in Sheriff Campbell’s era they had individuals working in the community, but he learned that it ended with COVID. Chief Carroll added that this is further impacted by the low population of individuals sentenced on misdemeanor offenses.

Commissioner Proctor inquired how the courts look at sentencing. Judge Ashenafi Richardson shared that Sheriff McNeil brought back the Sheriff’s Jail Work Camp and at the County Court level they prefer to sentence individuals to the Sheriff’s Jail Work Camp over incarceration as the jail work camp provides flexibility in scheduling 10-hour workdays around their work/school schedules and is giving back to the community.

Owen McCaul stated that they have observed the number of jail work camp participants decrease in recent years. Commissioner Proctor inquired of Ms. Yeary whether there are any reservations regarding defendants participating in the Sheriff's Jail Work Camp. Ms. Yeary inquired of costs associated with the programs. Ms. Broxton explained there is a \$30.00 fee to cover the insurance for the participants. Ms. Yeary explained that the bigger issue for her office is that many people incarcerated for misdemeanor offenses are charged with petit theft, trespassing, etc. and this is criminalizing homelessness, which is why the PD's Office prioritizes filing motions to have the individuals released pretrial.

Ms. Yeary recommended that the Council request a presentation from Brad Janowski, Director of Inmate and Re-Entry Programs on the incentivized pods in the detention facility. The incentivized pods offer significant access to programming. The individuals are buying into the programs such as education, employment opportunities, etc. but there seems to be no acknowledgement from the State Attorney's Office and there are no agreements to sentence reductions or rewards for their participation in the incentivized pods.

In reference to the incentivized pods, Chief Carroll shared one of the key issues when evaluating the eligibility for the incentivized pods is the composition of the detention facility population. Based on reports, a majority of the detention facility population is likely to be sentenced to the Department of Corrections (DOC). They were experiencing situations where they would begin the class with 25 to 30 individuals, but by the end of the 10-week program several were sentenced and released to DOC. They tried targeting the misdemeanor population, but many of those individuals were released within 2 to 3 weeks. Chief Carroll stated they are struggling to get the volume needed in the incentivized pods. Ms. Yeary commented that better collaboration between the Public Defender's and State Attorney's Office could improve the success of the incentivized pod program.

Commissioner Proctor inquired if there would be any objections to restarting the jail work camp. The Council reviewed the definitions and characteristics for the programs to ensure everyone was referencing the correct program.

Ms. Broxton provided a summary of each of the programs referenced throughout the discussion.

- **Work Release Program** allows sentenced individuals to be temporarily released from the detention facility for school and/or work, and they return to the detention facility in the evenings as required by their sentence.
- **Sheriff's Jail Work Camp** these are sentenced individuals who are not in custody and are required to sign up for 10-hour workdays as a part of their sentence. They may be assigned to various LCSO or county departments, primarily Leon County Works Department, to perform manual labor.
- **Leon County Work Program** these are sentenced individuals who are not in custody and are required to sign up for 10-hour workday as a part of their sentence. These individuals are assigned to the Leon County Public Works Department to perform manual labor.

The Council discussed the benefits of the work programs as an alternative to post-sentence incarceration, service to the community particularly county departments and schools to provide additional support to maintain grounds, public parks, etc.

Commissioner Proctor inquired how to get the Sheriff's Jail Work Camp started again. Ms. Yeary voiced her concern that these programs are benefiting from labor and the people performing the labor need to be paid or receive some type of incentive such as a reduction in sentence, etc. Mr. McCaul was in favor of the Sheriff's Jail Work Camp returning to operation. Chief Carroll explained that the Sheriff's Work Camp is currently available; however, the numbers have reduced significantly to an average of 5 individuals per day.

Judge Ashenafi Richardson recommended the availability of a resource guide available to the sentencing judges identifying alternatives to incarceration when determining sentencing options and suggested this could be a future Lunch and Learn topic.

Commissioner Proctor commented that the fourth largest offense category for incarcerated adults was murder and inquired if this was the basis for alarm. Chief Carroll shared that this category has been running high for the past several years with numbers between 120 and 130. Commissioner Proctor reflected that these level of offenses take longer to navigate through the court system and should be extracted from the average length of custody and the average length of stay (ALOS).

The Council discussed the ALOS and separating the data for individuals charged with murder and the reduction in the number of juveniles in the LCDF and Jefferson County Jail.

III. Apalachee's Forensic Intervention Services Team (FIRST) Quarterly Report – Jasmine Queen – Associate Director of Residential & Forensic Services

Ms. Broxton reminded the Council that Apalachee's FIRST received a second cycle of funding through the Criminal Justice Mental Health Substance Abuse Reinvestment grant to support the program. Ms. Queen shared that the program recently concluded its third quarter. Ms. Queen shared that during the second funding cycle they are working to continue and expand services. Ms. Queen discussed collaborative efforts between Yes Care staff and the Apalachee Detention Facility Liaison to conduct outreach with incarcerated individuals whose mental health screening indicates the need for follow-up services. Currently, individuals participate in FIRST via court ordered into the program as a condition of Supervised Pretrial Release, County or Circuit Probation, and conditional releases. Ms. Queen reviewed the quarterly statistics provided in Attachment #2.

Judge Ashenafi Richardson inquired of the criteria to participate in the FIRST Program. Ms. Queen distributed cards (Attachment #3) and stated that individuals on Mental Health Supervised Pretrial Release, Mental Health Probation, or Chapter 916, Conditional Release, or those at risk of being involved in the criminal justice system are eligible to participate. Ms. Meisenzahl confirmed that community stakeholders are able to refer individuals who have mental health issues and need assistance with housing to the FIRST Program.

Ms. Blair inquired of Chief Carroll if incarcerated individuals have access to long-acting injectable psychotropic medications. Chief Carroll advised that they do; however, it is on a voluntary basis as medications are not forcibly administered.

The Council discussed the fees associated with the FIRST Program. Ms. Queen shared that some participants have insurance coverage and for those who do not the program pays for the majority of the services.

Judge Ashenafi Richardson inquired about the process for competency restoration. Ms. Queen shared that Apalachee Center offers group competency training to review basic court functions, and some of the case managers conduct individual competency restoration sessions. Judge Ashenafi Richardson asked about follow-up care, because they have experienced situations where individuals go to Apalachee Center for stabilization, treatment and services but without follow up they cycle through the criminal justice system. Ms. Queen explained that under this grant cycle they are working to extend treatment beyond the court ordered time frame to continue supervision and assistance with needed services (e.g. housing, food stamps, etc.) to further reduce recidivism with this population.

Commissioner Proctor asked about any agreement between Apalachee Center and the Kearney Center. Ms. Queen advised she is not aware of a formal agreement but there is collaboration through Apalachee's Homeless Project.

Commissioner Proctor commented on the extensive collaboration between Apalachee Center, the Sheriff's Office and the collective efforts of our community's sensitivity to the mental health population and how the criminal justice system addresses individuals with mental health issues. Commissioner Proctor expressed interest in identifying a grant to assist the Kearney Center with the mental health issues that they encounter daily with their clients.

IV. PSCC Membership Vacancies and Election of Vice Chair – Commissioner Proctor

Commissioner Proctor opened the floor for nominations for the Vice Chair. Ms. Broxton shared that this is in intermediate appointment following Ms. Rebecca Kelly-Manders resignation from the Council. We will hold our annual nominations for Chair and Vice Chair in January 2026. Judge Ashenafi Richardson nominated Owen McCaul for Vice Chair, seconded by Nancy O'Farrell. With no other nominations, Commissioner Proctor called for a vote. Motion was voted unanimously in favor.

Ms. Broxton announced that there are two vacancies on the Council for the roles of 1) representatives from county and state jobs programs and other community groups who work with offenders and victims and 2) director of a local substance abuse treatment program, or a member designated by the director.

She advised that the applications must be submitted by November 12, 2025, and shared the website for the application.

- V. 2026 Public Safety Coordinating Council Tentative Meeting Schedule – Teresa Broxton  
The tentative meeting scheduled for calendar year 2026 was provided in Attachment #4
- VI. OIDA Electronic Monitoring Report – Kimberly Holland, OIDA, Coordinator  
September 2025 report included in Attachment #5.
- VII. Other Business:  
Commissioner Proctor stated he heard that the detention facility may be used for federal agencies for individuals not arrested in our jurisdiction. Chief Carroll stated he believed this referred to a regional facility and he does not have any additional information and would recommend a discussion with Sheriff McNeil.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:05 PM

Next Meeting: December 2, 2025  
4:00 PM  
Commission Chambers, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Leon County Courthouse