

**Public Safety Coordinating Council
Meeting April 13, 2016
Minutes**

APPROVED BY PSCC AT MAY 11, 2016 MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Barbara Revels; Rhonda Harvey for Ivan Cosimi; Winnie Costello; Chief Thomas Foster; Andre Williams; David Kerr; Jaimie Telfer for Jason Lewis; Sheriff James Manfre; Judge Melissa Moore-Stens; Amy Nelson; Jack Pitman; Bill Partington for James Purdy; Becky Quintieri; Tammi Schimming; Mark Weinberg; and Victoria Brown-Seale for Jeff White.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Arnold Anderson; Paul Finn; Linda Murphy; Lynette Shott; Judge Matthew Foxman.

STAFF PRESENT: Sally Sherman, Deputy County Administrator; and Christie Mayer, Recording Secretary.

GUESTS: Jacob Bryant; Jerry O’Gara; and Pierre Tristam.

1. Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Revels called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll Call – A silent roll call showed a quorum was present.
3. Chair Comments – Chair Revels introduced Mr. Andre Williams, the new Probation Director from Corrective Solutions, for misdemeanor division of the courts.
4. Approval of March 9, 2016 Meeting Minutes – The motion was made by Sheriff Manfre and seconded by Ms. Costello to approve the March 9, 2016 meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously carried.
5. Old Business
 - a. Jail Occupancy Report – Ms. Quintieri distributed the jail occupancy report through March 2016 (Attachment 1). The average daily population for the month was 109. The female population today is at 12; which is the most in some time.
 - b. Civil Citation Program Report – Mr. Partington noted that the website has not been updated with the last month’s report. Of the 67 counties in the State, 61 have this program and one is in the process of establishing this program.

Mr. Kerr reported that the bills that were in the legislature during the last session did no changes were made to the existing system.
 - c. Crisis Triage and Treatment Unit (CTTU) Report – Ms. Harvey reported that this program is operating as designed and achieving its goals. She distributed the most recent report (Attachment 2).

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She reported that there may be some funding that is coming down from the State that may be a solution to the fact that the current grant funding for CTTU will be ending in a little over a year. There is no guarantee that SMA would get this funding, but it is something that we are interested in pursuing.

Senate Bill 12 provides language for counties to develop a crisis response plan (or central receiving plan). It is intended for counties individually or as a group to have a plan in place by July 1, 2017. They feel the legislature is now in agreement there needs to be a process, as Flagler County did several years ago, to address the issues. Stewart-Marchman will be working with the county to develop a plan in conjunction with the managing entity (Lutheran Services of Florida for Flagler County), which must have input from the stakeholders (PSCC).

Last year similar funding was available for a centralized receiving process and there were six awardees. Mr. Chet Bell is reviewing these applications to determine if there are similarities that might be useful when we submit for the funding. Since we already have the CTTU process in place and the positive outcomes we have experienced documented, we are hoping it will give us a better chance for the first year funding. The grant will be for three years and renewable thereafter. The main question is whether our proposal would be just for Flagler County or in conjunction with other counties. However, Ms. Harvey feels they are excited for the possibility of continuing funding. Volusia County is in a good position for this funding as well. Neither St. Johns nor Putnam Counties have crisis stabilization units.

Chair Revels spoke about the consortium on which she serves have identified the top two areas that need to be addressed. They are youth and then adult mental health needs and how these affect everything else we do. Ms. Harvey noted that the CTTU was not designed to assist the youth with mental health needs. They will be looking to see if “children response teams” may be something Flagler County could benefit from, either through Halifax Hospital or another facility.

Sheriff Manfre inquired if Flagler County’s program is unique and could be a template for other counties. Ms. Harvey agreed it is very unique in its approach and design. The concept of a central receiving process is not unique, but Flagler County’s process where we were able to get a transportation exception is unique, allowing transportation of an individual in crisis to a crisis facility other than the closest crisis unit (which for Flagler County was Halifax Hospital, which is not the community funded provider).

Sheriff Manfre also asked if it would be helpful to have an informational meeting with Senator Hutson and Representative Renner, especially if Flagler County’s program is so unique and may be applicable to other counties. He feels this issue should be a priority for the county during the next legislative session. Chair Revels

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reported that Representative Renner was in attendance at the consortium meeting and he would like to see Flagler County's unique model portable.

Sheriff Manfre suggested that his office, the County Public Information Manager and Stewart-Marchman put together an article for the Chiefs of Police and other publications about our good best practice. Ms. Harvey will be working with Jim Triano of the Sheriff's office to get the dollar figure of the cost savings that have been realized using the current program. This information will go a long way with our application for continued funding.

Jacob Bryant from the Stewart-Marchman CTTU team has been participating in an evaluation of individuals who have been high utilizers of the program. Over the last 180 days they have been tracking individuals (by county), identifying individuals who were in the CTTU the most days. Typically in a month's period, 3 or 4 out of the top 10 high utilizers have been from Flagler County. They have been trying to identify why they are coming back into the unit so frequently. Their unit is assisting with transportation for individuals to obtain medications, housing, etc.

Chief Foster informed everyone that his department has been taking advantage of on-line training to supplement the CIT training provided law enforcement by this program. Mr. Bryant mentioned a CIT refresher course that is available. They find the course also provides a great opportunity for the exchange of ideas between agencies.

- c. Pre-Trial Release Program Report – Mr. Weinberg distributed the program report for the period through March (Attachment 3). The case load at the end of the month was high at 68. This is above the capacity of one individual so they will be tracking the case load (along with the courts) weekly. They could possibly use another full-time or, at least, a part-time individual to assist.
- d. Sally's Safe Haven Report – At a future council meeting, Chair Revels and Mrs. Sherman will be sharing information from their trip to Washington, D.C. and the "Start by Believing" campaign and video.

The January and February Progress Reports were distributed (Attachment 4).

Sheriff Manfre inquired if there were any conversations at the conference about funding for domestic violence in order to continue the program. As previously reported, Mrs. Sherman noted that the County has applied for another grant in the amount of \$400,000 for continuation of Sally's Safe Haven. An additional aspect that was included in the new grant request is for funding for training in the area of domestic violence and sexual assault for law enforcement, judicial system employees, and service related providers. This grant award announcement is not due until September 30, 2016. The current grant runs until September 30 as well.

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The County will be asking for a one year extension on the current grant to bridge the funding.

In addition, it was reported by Mrs. Sherman that the Family Life Center is also pursuing grants relative to domestic violence. The Children's Home Society (with whom we partner to run Sally's Safe Haven) is also looking for funding for a second facility for the Family Life Center to house additional women and families as well as men. Chair Revels stated that she has seen a report that states that 75% of all law enforcement calls are for domestic violence incidents.

- e. Jail Construction Project Update – Ms. Quintieri reported that several of the current cells are now closed due to construction in the area. The kitchen is set to reopen on May 9th. The booking area and Sally Port are coming along. The ribbon cutting for the new facility is tentatively set for May 25th. Once confirmed, the council will be invited. The possibility of a future council meeting being held at the new facility was mentioned and will try to be arranged.

Sheriff Manfre feels the CTTU and mental health diversion programs have dramatically reduced the jail population. This shows these programs are working.

6. New Business

- a. FY 2016-2017 Crime Prevention Grant Program – Mrs. Sherman reported on her meeting with the Sheriff's Office (as required by the program) regarding the FY 2016-2017 grant program. Initially, there was over \$100,000 in the fund because it had not been utilized. Since the onset of the program in 2010, the program has only been funded around \$20,000 annually, with grant awards being \$40,000 to \$55,000. Therefore, County Administration feels that going through the grant application process for FY 2016-2017 would not be prudent since the amount of grant requests have been averaging \$111,286, far outweighing the amount of funding available on a yearly basis.

As a result of their meeting, the Sheriff's office recommends the following: (1) that the current funding level should continue (\$20,000); (2) to yearly allocate \$15,000 to the Carver Center (through the County General Services Department), \$2,500 to the Family Life Center, and \$2,500 to the Flagler County Schools Building a Crime Free Future through Education program as long as the funding and programs continue successfully; and (3) that the PSCC should recommend to the County Commission to eliminate the formal application process.

Mrs. Sherman then requested input from this committee on these recommendations. Sheriff Manfre agreed this is the proper allocation for the crime prevention funds. Chief Foster made the motion to accept the recommendations as outlined. Sheriff Manfre seconded the motion. There being no one from the public wishing to address this motion, it was unanimously approved.

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Chair Revels spoke about the successful coalition between the Flagler County School Board, the City of Bunnell and the County for funding of the Carver Center as well as the successful efforts of the George Washington Carver Foundation in raising funds for various capital projects at the center.

- b. Small Quantity of Marijuana Adult Citation Program Discussion – Mrs. Sherman noted there had been discussions by this council regarding an Adult Civil Citation Program, but that the consensus had been to wait to see the proposed ordinance before making any formal recommendations to the County Commission. Mrs. Sherman would like to have a speaker come to a meeting (either a subcommittee or full council) to talk about their experiences with a like ordinance.

Sheriff Manfre noted he preferred a subcommittee be formed to review data, current ordinances in place, etc., and then bring to the full council their recommendations. The consensus following further discussion was to ask for volunteers for a subcommittee meeting, which will be publicly noticed and at which all other council members could also attend. Anyone interested in serving on the subcommittee should let Christie Mayer know their availability. It is hoped this meeting could be held prior to the May 11 PSCC meeting. Council members were asked to allow additional time for the May 11 meeting in order to allocate adequate time for a good discussion. In addition, the city police departments and city representatives will be invited to attend this meeting and participate in discussions.

- c. Point in Time Report – At the request of Mrs. Brown-Seale, this item was added to the agenda.

Mrs. Brown-Seale distributed the 2016 Point in Time Count of homeless in Flagler County (Attachment 5). She noted that there were 1,005 individuals counted from both Volusia and Flagler County's, with 104 sheltered and unsheltered individuals counted in Flagler County. This compares to 188 individuals who were counted in Flagler County last year.

In the demographics report, it includes questions regarding substance use and mental illness. These questions are self-reporting so she cautioned that individuals do not have to answer these questions or they can put down a response that may not be completely accurate.

There were not any individuals in Flagler Beach at the time of the count; possibly due to weather.

Chair Revels mentioned that Mr. Sam Willett, Chairman for the Commission on Homelessness for Volusia/Flagler, offered to share information about the coalition and how Flagler County could help with housing the homeless. Sheriff Manfre noted that after hours, law enforcement often becomes the safety net for these individuals. In the past they have had a grant from the Attorney General's office

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where they had (credit) cards that deputies could disburse for temporary housing, gas, or groceries for those individuals who find themselves temporarily displaced. Since the grant is no longer available, Sheriff Manfre would like to use law enforcement forfeiture funds to continue this program. Chair Revels would like to look at the broader picture, noting that the rapid rehousing programs are very successful if individuals can be placed quickly. She is not certain from where the funds for this program would come.

7. Council Comments
 - a. Chair Revels noted that the Daytona Beach News Journal recently published an article about the foster care system. This ties into the challenges being experienced at Sally's Safe Haven and will be part of the overall report on the End Violence Against Women International Conference at a future meeting.
 - b. Sheriff Manfre mentioned the civil asset forfeiture reform that is being discussed on a national level. The reform will affect how the funds are being spent as well as the requirement for an arrest prior to forfeiture of assets.
8. Public Comments – None.
9. Next Meeting -- The next meeting of the PSCC will be May 11, 2016, at the Emergency Operations Center at 8:45 a.m. If arrangements are made for another location, everyone will be so notified.
10. Adjournment -- The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m. following a motion made, seconded and unanimously carried.