

**Public Safety Coordinating Council
Meeting October 11, 2017
Minutes**

APPROVED AT NOVEMBER 8, 2017 PSCC MEETING.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Nate McLaughlin; Chief Steve Cole; Rhonda Harvey for Ivan Cosimi; Judge Dennis Craig; Nadine Dotson; Greg Feldman; Jason Lewis; Judge Melissa Moore Stens; Dr. Phyllis Pearson; Christine Sikora; Sheriff Rick Staly; and Shirley Olson for Mark Weinberg.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Paul Finn; Chief Thomas Foster; Clay LaRoche; Dan Merrithew; Linda Murphy; James Purdy; Bryan Plummer; Tammi Schimming; and Jeff White.

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

GUESTS: Rick Blaine and Carrie Baird.

1. Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner McLaughlin 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 – Commissioner McLaughlin reported to the Council that the County Commission is not moving forward with the proposed Adult Civil Citation Program that has been discussed with this Council. The feeling among the Commissioners is there are sufficient procedures already in place for law enforcement. In addition, Sheriff Staly, again, expressed his position that this is an issue that needs to be addressed at the state level and, at that time, it will be another tool for law enforcement.
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes – The minutes of the May 10, 2017 PSCC meeting was approved by motion of Ms. Sikora, seconded by Mr. Feldman. The motion unanimously carried.
5. Old Business
 - a. Jail Occupancy Report – Chief Cole reported that since the May meeting, the occupancy continues to trend upward (report previously distributed). For the month of September the average occupancy was 191. For October, the report shows the population at well over 200 on a daily basis. There was some impact from Hurricane Irma due to the courts being closed for a week, but the length of stay since last year has also increased from 20.35 days to 26.88 days (which is an additional week's stay in the jail). Both Sheriff Staly and Chief Cole feel this is a result of the judges having the ability to keep individuals incarcerated in the local jail (due to the new facility having more beds) as opposed to sending them to the

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state facility. Chief Cole feels this is a positive thing for the inmates since the Sheriff's Office has a re-entry program which allows for more direct rehabilitation with the inmates.

Also, it was reported that the female population has increased from 16-18 on average daily last year to 45 on average today. Again, this is directly related to the new facility having the ability to house additional female inmates.

Sheriff Staly thinks an inmate workforce can now be set up to allow some inmates to work in the community, thereby saving the taxpayers money by doing roadside clean-up and other tasks.

Mr. Lewis also noted that going from a 250 to 300 case load has also contributed to the increase in the jail population.

- b. Juvenile Justice Civil Citation Program Report – No report.
- c. Central Receiving System Grant Report – Ms. Harvey noted that the CTTU continues even though the CJMHSA grant ended in March. During the last three months, they have transported 90 Baker Act individuals in Flagler County. One of their measuring points for the program's effectiveness is how much time is saved by Stewart-Marchman transporting Baker Act individuals instead of law enforcement. Of those 90 individuals, only 5 required more than 15 minutes of a deputy's time. Therefore, they feel this program is working at an effective level.

One issue regarding the CTTU program to which Ms. Harvey advised and solicited the support of this Council deals with the 40% loss in funding for this program. Therefore, their capacity to receive individuals was substantially reduced this year. The restoration of the 40% of funds will be a major legislative item for Stewart Marchman. They would, therefore, like to ask the Council members to support their efforts when speaking with the legislative delegation. With this funding being non-recurring each year, they need to understand that mental health issues are not "non-recurring" so they need stabilized funding.

Chair McLaughlin agrees that this country needs to take mental health issues a lot more seriously than in the past and hopes the Council members will support the funding.

Ms. Harvey also noted that as with Hurricane Matthew, the CTTU staff were able to assist 53 individuals with services during Hurricane Irma. They found this to be a very rewarding experience.

Ms. Harvey invited everyone to participate in a 5K race on Veterans Day, with the challenge being to beat Stewart Marchman CEO Ivan Cosimi. Law enforcement

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will be given a discount on their registration for this charity event, which will benefit the children's programs at Stewart Marchman.

- d. CJMHSA Behavioral Health Planning Grant – Ms. Baird updated the Council on this project. Her report was distributed with the agenda. They are continuing to refine the strategies that will be included in the strategic plan for the grant. They hope to be able to use the information to apply for a three-year \$400,000 grant to hire up to five positions to fill the holes in the behavioral health care plans for youth. The plans are to identify early-on those youth who may be in need of services. One of the positions will be at the Stewart-Marchman ACT Center and another in the Flagler County Schools. Both positions will help connect the youth with the services needed as well as act as case managers for the youth. Another aspect of the grant will be to subsidize the Flagler County Transportation System so they can transport youth to Halifax Health when they are in need of services at that location.

As part of the grant, this Council has to approve their Strategic Plan. Ms. Baird plans on doing a formal presentation of the strategic plan for this Council's review and approval at the November meeting.

- e. Sally's Safe Haven Program Report – The report of the current services was previously distributed. Mrs. Sherman announced that the \$400,000 three-year OVW grant requested to continue to fund Sally's Safe Haven for the fiscal year that started October 1st was declined. There were 107 applications with awards made to 20 organizations. She has inquired as to where our application may have fallen short. They could not give us a response other than to say that, compared to some of the other areas in the country that had applied for the grant, our area is relatively small in comparison (Houston vs. Flagler). In addition, just like funding for mental health programs, the OVW funding was also reduced this year. Mrs. Sherman immediately reached out to some private organizations, requesting grants.

Mrs. Sherman also reached out to OVW because, as part of the current grant, there are funds set aside in the event the OVW staff has to travel to our community. She would like to be able to use this \$50,000 for continued operational costs.

Mrs. Sherman noted that the cost of the services from Children's Home Society and for security totals about \$50,000 per year. The County currently offsets the costs of utilities, custodial and telecommunications and will continue to do so.

Some of the funds that were included in the \$400,000 grant were for training of law enforcement and judicial employees. Mrs. Sherman will reapply in January when the grant cycle begins for next year.

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- f. Pre-Trial Release Program – The Pre-Trial Release Report (Attachment 1) was reviewed by Ms. Olson. Since September was the end of the fiscal year, the report shows that 389 individuals were in the program for the year, with 69.4% successful rate. The Failure to Appear rate is less than 1% so this shows that this aspect of the program is very successful.

The Failure to Comply statistics consist of individuals who may have committed additional crimes and/or tested positive for illegal substances. Whether they successfully complete the program is then left up to the judiciary on an individual basis as they can remain in the system to ensure appearance even though they had a positive test. The rate of 22.7% of individuals testing positive is partially due to the fact the THC stays in the individual's system much longer than other substances (30 days compared to 24-72 hours). This rate of positive tests is being seen on a national basis.

6. New Business

- a. Domestic Violence Summit Report – Sheriff Staly reiterated that domestic violence is a problem, showing a 7% increase in our County. Back in June, he initiated a Domestic Violence Summit with interested community partners. From there, sub-committee and committee meetings have been held. On October 20, 2017 the committee will present their recommendations and results to the community. This is being held at the Hilton Garden Inn starting at 1:00 p.m. He feels the participants are dedicated in working on solutions that will be good for our community. Everyone agrees that by the time law enforcement is called to a domestic violence event, it is too late to make a change in the lives of the individuals. He hopes that the committee will have some good recommendations for the community in the areas of mental health, substance abuse, etc., which all effect criminal events, including domestic violence. Sheriff Staly also hopes that part of the report will address the generational issues (i.e., children seeing the violent behavior that they later think it is alright for them to do).

As a result of this summit and the publicity surrounding it, Sheriff Staly feels there may be more reports of domestic violence activity in the future (before we see a decline) because the victims will feel they have the support of the community, so they will not be afraid to come forward.

Sheriff Staly noted that Putnam County is also having community meetings on this same subject.

- b. 2017-2018 Crime Prevention Grant Program – Mrs. Sherman reviewed the roll-up of the grant history from 2011 when this committee was tasked by the County Commission with working on this grant program. At the onset, there was approximately \$50,000 in the fund, with grant awards totaling \$20,000 to \$40,000 made each year. The revenue is roughly \$20,000 per year.

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The agencies who were awarded funds for the 2016-2017 fiscal year all submitted their reports and requests for reimbursement in accordance with the grant guidelines.

The current balance of the fund is \$54,468, of which \$20,000 has been encumbered for the fiscal year 2017-2018. With the Council's approval, these include Family Life Center for \$2,500; Flagler Schools Adult Education Program for \$2,500; and Flagler County for the Carver Center for \$15,000. The consensus of the Council was received.

- c. Resolution in Support of NACO Stepping up Initiative: Reducing Number of People with Mental Illness in Jails – Mrs. Sherman noted that Commissioner Donald O'Brien attended a National Association of Counties (NACO) meeting that addressed the issue of Reducing the Number of People with Mental Illness in Jails. He brought back a request for Flagler County to do a resolution in support of this national initiative. Mrs. Sherman is bringing this to the PSCC as it is in line with all of the work being done by the members to reduce the number of individuals incarcerated as a result of mental illnesses. The goal of the resolution is to ask County leaders throughout the country to work with law enforcement and service providers to bring attention to the issue of mental illness, especially where criminal acts are a direct result of mental illness.

The motion was made by Sheriff Staly and seconded by Ms. Sikora to support the resolution. Mrs. Sherman stated that the resolution as written focuses on adults but, after discussion the resolution will be amended to state "individuals" so to include juveniles as well as adults. The motion unanimously passed and Mrs. Sherman will now take this to the County Commission for their consideration.

7. Council Comments

- a. Sheriff Staly reported that the Sheriff's Department has been awarded a grant for a little over \$158,000 for victim advocates. This grant will pay 100% of the salaries for two individuals, 75% of the salary for the third individual plus some incidentals. This will greatly help the victims in the community.
- b. At the beginning of the school year, the Flagler Sheriff's PAL partnered with the School Board to provide sports to students at Buddy Taylor Middle School and Indian Trails Middle School two days a week. Sheriff Staly reported that within the first few months of school, over 400 students (of the 1800 enrolled in those schools) signed up to participate in the program, with the School Board providing transportation for the students, and school coaches, school employees and Sheriff Deputies participating. Their interest is to keep the children in a supporting environment instead of being home alone. In the past, the issue had been the lack of transportation but with the School Board stepping up that issues has been overcome. They are now getting requests for additional sport programs, which they will try to accommodate. This weekend their first inter-school tournament will

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take place. Dr. Pearson gladly reported that this process is working well and even two students with extreme disciplinary issues have turned around and will be recognized for this achievement in their classes.

8. Public Comments – None.
9. Next Meeting -- The next regular meeting of the Council will be November 8, 2017, at the Emergency Operations Center at 8:45 a.m.
10. Adjournment -- The meeting was adjourned following a motion made, seconded and unanimously carried.