

**Public Safety Coordinating Council
Meeting November 8, 2017
Minutes**

APPROVED AT JANUARY 10, 2017 PSCC MEETING.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Nate McLaughlin; Chief Steve Cole; Alicia Vincent for Ivan Cosimi; Nadine Dotson; Greg Feldman; Charles Puckett for Clay LaRoche; Jason Lewis; Judge Melissa Moore Stens; Dan Merrithew; James Purdy; Sharon Davis for Tammi Schimming; Christine Sikora; Sheriff Rick Staly; and Mark Weinberg.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Judge Dennis Craig; Paul Finn; Chief Thomas Foster; Kathleen Moore; Linda Murphy; Dr. Phyllis Pearson; Bryan Plummer; and Jeff White.

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

GUESTS: Ed Fuller; Carrie Baird; Bill Partington.

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 – Chairman McLaughlin reported that one of the county employees lost two family members in the recent Texas shooting and asked for a moment of silence for her, for family and all those affected by the tragedy. Incidents like this cause him to reflect on the effect of mental illness on society.
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes – The minutes of the October 11, 2017 PSCC meeting were approved by motion of Ms. Sikora and seconded by Mr. Lewis, the motion unanimously carried.
5. Old Business
 - a. Jail Occupancy Report – Chief Cole reviewed the report for October 2017 (Attachment 1), reflecting occupancy for the month averaged 209. The occupancy trends continue to go up, with bookings up about 10%. The average length of stay has gone from 50 to 77 days. These numbers are relative to judges sentencing individuals for longer periods of time, setting bonds, or increasing bonds where the individuals cannot make bail as quickly.

Mr. Feldman inquired if the population is larger pre-trial or post-trial. Chief Cole noted probably the larger percentage of population is pre-trial. The County pays the cost of inmates at the county facility. Only when individuals are transferred to state facilities that the state assumes the cost of incarceration. Sheriff Staly noted

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that, as allowed by State Statute, inmates are billed for their incarceration costs, but it only covers about 5% of the cost.

Sheriff Staly noted the capacity of the jail is 403 but, naturally, the more inmates there are, the more strain it is on the staff, transportation to/from the jail and courthouse, potential medical costs, feeding costs, etc. In order to try to minimize the cost, starting in April, Sheriff Staly will be using civilian employees to monitor the cameras and electronic boards in the control room, which will free up 6 deputies for other duties either at the jail or in the community. Using civilian employees in this positions is a less-expensive way of increasing staff.

- b. Juvenile Justice Civil Citation Program Report – Mr. Purdy distributed the Civil Citation Dashboard for the period September 2016 through August 2017 for the state, 7th circuit and Flagler County (Attachment 2). Mr. Purdy noted that the decrease in the numbers over the summer months is due to the youth not being in school. The dashboard also allows the viewer to filter the numbers by school and non-school related citations for more clarification.
- c. Central Receiving System Grant Report – Ms. Vincent reported Stewart-Marchman Act (SMA) is still hoping for the restoration of the 40% in funding lost this year. The loss of these funds means they are not able to assist as many individuals as planned.

Ms. Vincent reported that the Medication Assistance Program is up and running now with outpatient clients in Flagler County. Also, the WARM program is being assisted by the SMA medical team to help with the issues of relapse.

This Saturday is the 5K run at the beach, to which she invited everyone to participate. In addition, she announced that on November 17th there is a “Toss the Boss” event at the Daytona Speedway. You can contribute to the cause to have Ivan Cosimi repel off the building.

- d. Sally’s Safe Haven Program Report – Mrs. Sherman reviewed the report (Attachment 3), showing that 219 services have been provided year-to-date.

Mrs. Sherman reported they are already seeing some of the residual effects of the domestic violence summit, with more individuals coming forward requesting services.

As a follow-up to the County not being successful in obtaining a grant from the OVW for this year, Mrs. Sherman has raised \$20,000 for an organization and has received a \$5,000 commitment from another individual. In addition, there are two other organizations who have promised the proceeds of their fundraising efforts this year will be donated to Sally’s Safe Haven. All of these funds, plus the

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remainder of the funds from last year, will help provide services for this budget year. We will reapply for the grant for the 2018-19 funding cycle.

- e. Pre-Trial Release Program – Mr. Weinberg reviewed the Pre-Trial Release report for October 2017, the first month of the fiscal year (Attachment 4). The program is coming up on two years, with the census staying consistent between 60 and 70 clients. The thing they are most proud of is the small number of individuals who “fail to appear” for court proceedings as one of the main goals of the program is to ensure individuals appear for their court hearings.

Judge Moore-Stens feels the two “failures to appear” this month may have been individuals who already had warrants outstanding for non-appearance or who had tested positive on their drug screenings. Therefore, this number may actually be high for this month.

Chairman McLaughlin inquired if the program is adequately staffed. Mr. Weinberg noted that as long as the number of case load remains consistent, then the staffing is adequate.

Another goal of the program is to keep the community safe. The fact that none of the participants currently in the program had new charges brought against them, also shows that the program is working.

Mr. Weinberg talked about the “Three Days Matters” national initiative, which talks to the fact that when individuals are in jail for as little as 3 days, negative things begin to happen to them (ex: loss of job, rent on housing missed, etc.).

6. New Business

- a. CJMHSA Behavioral Health Planning – Ms. Carrie Baird from Flagler Cares noted that over the 10-month planning process, they have had 40 organizations participate in the planning. The purpose of the grant is to look at the Flagler County behavioral health system in order to identify ways to address mental health and substance abuse issues for youth.

The entire strategic plan was distributed with the agenda (Attachment 5). Ms. Baird specifically reviewed page 5, the Strategy Overview. She is asking for support from the Public Safety Coordinating Council for the plan, by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (pages 12-14). This way they can move forward to apply for the implementation funding.

The group has found through this process that there are behavioral health care resources in Flagler County for the youth but those in need do not get to the resources. The reasons for this lack of connection between the services and recipients could be that the parents do not recognize the signs of mental health

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illness or substance abuse, or there are other barriers to the youth receiving the services needed.

The main strategies of the implementation grant will be:

#1 -- To increase awareness for adults to recognize the signs and of either mental illness or substance abuse and then know where to go for services.

#2 -- Focus on creating 4 portals to access the behavioral health care system (see page 5). The priority schools referred to in Portal 3 will be identified based on the number of youth in need of the services at each the school.

#3 – Increasing resources for mental health and substance abuse care on school campuses.

#4 – Provide access to out-of-county services (at Halifax Health in Daytona Beach) through transportation for youth so they can continue their education as well as receive the needed services. This will include access to the PACE Center for at-risk girls.

#5 – Create a position to manage the entire system of care. It has been proven that you need a local manager to oversee all of the resources as well as continue to look for additional grant funds, etc.

The Memorandum of Understanding is written just so that the agency is in agreement with the philosophy being taken but does not commit any resources to the effort.

As far as the transportation aspect is concerned, Ms. Baird noted that after speaking with the school and county representatives, there may be the possibility of establishing a scholarship fund through the Flagler County Disadvantaged Transportation Fund, but the details are not yet finalized. Under this scenario, the youth would be picked up at their homes daily and transported to the facility for the services.

Ms. Sikora made the motion with Sheriff Staly seconding the motion, to support the strategic plan and for the chairman of the PSCC to sign the Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Feldman inquired if this program would also be available to children who are not in public schools. Ms. Baird indicated that they would through a call-in system and they would then be connected to the needed service provider. The motion carried unanimously.

- b. 2018 Meeting Schedule -- The schedule was distributed with the agenda and will be resent under separate cover.

7. Council Comments

- a. Sheriff Staly – Reported that until 15 months ago Flagler County did not see the heroin epidemic in this county that surrounding areas have experienced. Since January thru October they have used narcan (a drug that counteracts the overdose effects) 190 times to assist those in overdose situations with

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approximately 20 overdose deaths recorded. Their agency has received a grant to obtain the narcan. The number of arrests have also increased across the board and across the country due to this epidemic. As a community we need to address this issue. The component not being addressed, in his opinion, is the treatment of the users. He feels the community will have to come together to address the issue. Emergency responders are reporting they are often times responding to the same individuals more than once because the addiction has not been addressed.

Chairman McLaughlin asked Sheriff Staly to draft a letter to bring this issue to the County Commission to plea to the community for assistance in bringing this issue to the forefront. Sheriff Staly feels it goes much deeper because the legislature needs to provide funds for treatment programs. He feels "the epidemic has arrived in Flagler County."

Mr. Feldman inquired if there is something that this council could be doing now that might help address the problem.

Mr. Purdy noted that we do not have the bed space for substance abuse treatment. Currently, it is being reported in Volusia Council that it could take up to six months awaiting a treatment bed. These drugs need in-patient drug treatment to assist with the recovery, not out-patient treatment. Without an influx of funding from the state and county, it cannot be addressed fully. Mr. Purdy also reported that he is on the State Medical Examiners Commission and the numbers are "off the chart" in regards to deaths due to phetanol and heroin.

Judge Moore Stens stated there are mechanisms for individuals who are not arrested to come to the courts to voluntarily participate in substance abuse services. However, again, there is wait period to get into a facility.

We might need to start speaking with Stewart-Marchman and other agencies regarding expansion of these in-patient services. Ms. Vincent spoke to the fact that Stewart-Marchman, through the CTTU, assists with Baker Acts and transports Flagler County residents, if needed, to Halifax or other facilities. The issue in Flagler County is that there is residential treatment but for women only at Vince Carter Sanctuary in Flagler County, which is an 80-bed program, where they are consistently at capacity. Currently, they have a 2-month wait list but it has been as long as six months. The reason for the wait list is because it is a long-term program with the average stay for residents being 6 months to a year. There is also a long-term treatment men's program in Deland with 45-beds. The immediate/crisis facility for detox or crisis stabilization, that is at another facility. Ms. Vincent agrees that additional beds are needed for both women, men and youth.

Mr. Purdy suggested a presentation on exactly what bed space is available, lengths of stay, map with location of facilities, etc. Ms. Vincent agreed that this

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would be the starting point. Ms. Sikora inquired if there are beds available north or west of Flagler County. Mr. Lewis reported that this was investigated by their office recently and found there are no facilities in St. Johns nor Putnam Counties.

Sheriff Staly also requested the council look at the scope of the overdose problem; where the issues are throughout the county, number of deaths, and how many times the Fire Department have had to use narcan to treat overdose individuals when called to the incident. Flagler County Chief Don Petito has already provided some preliminary information on this subject.

Mr. Feldman asked if the cost of additional beds, narcan, etc., could be included in the discussion so everyone can see the financial impact of this issue.

Mr. Puckett will also have information from DCF for this discussion.

- b. Mr. Purdy shared that the National Parks Service in St. Augustine has a “fee free” day this Saturday at the fort with re-enactments throughout the day.
- c. Mr. Puckett issued disaster SNAP program benefits (following Hurricane Irma) to 4,411 houses (22,000 individuals) in Flagler County, to those not currently on the state program. They also increased benefits for 8,411 households currently receiving benefits. This affected 19,911 individuals. The total benefits was \$5,800,000.

- 8. Public Comments – None.
- 9. Next Meeting -- The next regular meeting of the Council will be January 10, 2018, at the Emergency Operations Center at 8:45 a.m.
- 10. Adjournment -- The meeting was adjourned following a motion made, seconded and unanimously carried.