

Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC)

Minutes – January 17, 2023

Members in attendance (appointed and non-appointed): Chad Monty, Honorable Emily Curington, Major Skott Jensen, Kimberly Lambert, County Commissioner Josh Blake, Jon Cherry, Tony Deaton, Karen Rogers, Mimi Coenen, Debbie Clark, Wanda Greene, Kirsten Mabry, Mark Johnson, Sonya Wildcat, Steven Geohegan, Shantell Dyess, Dr. Brett Meade, Coreen Garrity, Susan Cizmadia, Paul Tarnowski, Reinaldo Cortes, Fred Jones, Honorable Cary Rada, Michael Griggs, Justin Null

Appointed members not in attendance: Michael Graves (alternate was present), Honorable Richard Singletary (alternate was present), Sheriff Peyton Grinnell (alternate was present), Chief Charles Broadway, Joelle Aboytes, and Houston Spore.

The Public Safety Coordinating Council was held on January 17, 2023, and was called to order at 3:00 pm by Chief Probation Officer Tony Deaton. The meeting was advertised as required, introductions were completed, and there were no public comments. A quorum was present. Minutes from the October 2022 meeting were reviewed. County Commissioner Blake made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Debbie Thomas. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Karen Rogers from Lifestream presented to the council the completed strategic plan for the next five years, spanning from 2022 to 2027; however, those years were amended to 2023 to 2028. Ms. Rogers explained that the strategic plan was implanted in order to assist the council with addressing issues of jail overcrowding. In addition, the plan included sequential intercept mapping which identified several areas of priority for the council to address. Many of the items included in the plan have already been successfully implemented such as mobile crisis services/crisis intervention and the Forensic Community Services Team, though data sharing remains difficult. Five objectives comprised the plan including increasing public safety by improving communication and data sharing, keeping mentally ill individuals from becoming unnecessarily enmeshed in the criminal justice system, enable more defendants to be assessed, referred, and released at the earliest possible point with appropriate supervision, to establish/re-establish resources required to facilitate successful re-entry, and to expand specialty court services. Be Free Lake also informed the council that they have received a four-year grant in order to conduct mental health first aid training, and asked to be added as a provider for that service. It should be noted that some action steps had completion dates prior to 2023. It was suggested that any completion date prior to 31 MAR 2023, but changed to 31 MAR 2023. Mr. Jon Cherry made a motion to approve the strategic plan, including completion date changes, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Blake. The strategic plan was approved unanimously.

Assistant County Attorney David Langley provided the council with an update on opioid litigation against large pharmaceutical companies, the result of which resulted in a large settlement of which Lake County was a part. The county has already received some of the settlement money, and is currently awaiting other money to arrive within ninety (90) days. Attorney Langley indicated that opioid task forces are required in order to be a part of fund receipt, and that starting a drug court was going to be a focus of the opioid task force.

Mr. Mark Johnson informed the council that the opioid task force was in place to address opioid overdose issues. He indicated that LSF Health Systems was already working on a plan with Advent Health, which has reduced ER admissions. Mr. Johnson indicated that the settlement funds needed to be used to combat the opioid epidemic, and that the task force thought a drug court was the best way to use the funds. He informed the council that there were other grants available to ensure the sustainability of the drug court program, and that the judiciary has indicated buy in of the drug court program. Ms. Karen Rogers volunteered to be a representative of the Public Safety Coordinating Council to the opioid task force. Mr. Jon Cherry made a motion to vote, the motion was seconded by the Honorable Emily Curington, and the vote was approved unanimously.

Susan Cizmadia, Circuit Administrator from the Department of Corrections (DOC), provided the council with an overview of the Department of Corrections/Community Corrections. She indicated that there are approximately 150 employees in Circuit 5, and supervise over 8,000 felony offenders on felony supervision in the circuit. She indicated that DOC is striving to ensure that defendants have resources necessary to become successful members of society. DOC probation officers continue to work with local law enforcement agencies to conduct curfew/house arrest checks, including sex offender checks during holidays such as Halloween. She informed the council of the \$100.00 Interstate Compact fee to assist with the cost of extradition for those defendants in violation. As of 01 JUL 2023, the Sheriff's Offices may be able to access those funds to assist with covering the cost of extradition. Ms. Cizmadia discussed the re-entry simulator whereby probation officers learn about the obstacles a defendant faces upon re-entry.

Nominations for PSCC were conducted. Assistant State Attorney Chad Monty was nominated as chair. The vote to nominate him as chair was motioned by Commissioner Blake, was seconded by Mr. Jon Cherry, and the nomination was approved unanimously. Assistant Public Defender Wanda Greene was nominated as vice-chair. The vote to nominate her as vice-chair was motioned by Commissioner Blake, was seconded by Mr. Jon Cherry, and the nomination was approved unanimously.

Assistant Public Defender Wanda Greene informed the council that the public defender's office continues to work on early intervention, and with Assistant Public Defender Susan Graves being back in the early intervention role. She also indicated that they continue to focus on the rocket docket.

LCSO Major Jensen informed the council that the jail population was currently at 820 inmates, with the capacity being 960. Since COVID, the population has averaged around 800, and that some cases are still being sentenced following the break in court from COVID. He indicated that mental health cases have increased, with approximately 1200 defendants with mental health issues being detained per month, which is an increase from approximately 800 per month. Major Jensen informed the council that the LCSO has also hired additional personnel to assist with mental health cases. He invited all members of the council to visit the jail to see the great work being performed by LCSO employees.

Dr. Brett Meade from UCF Restores was present to inform the council that UCF Restores provides assistance/counseling to first responders regarding trauma that they may face. Mimi Coenen from Career Source informed the council that Career Source of Central Florida does work with on finding employment for folks who have suffered from opioid addiction. Debbie Clark from Court Administration informed the council that someone is in place when drug court is implemented. The Honorable Cara Rada informed the council that he will be replacing the Honorable Richard Singletary at the end of April.

Representatives from the MidFlorida Homeless Coalition indicated that there is still a heavy need for volunteers, and that the annual homeless count was forthcoming. It was also noted that HUD funding is directly tied to the homeless count(s). Representatives from the Zero Hour Life Center were present to inform the council of the center's program. Zero Hour Life Center is a peer led/governed organization that works with individuals in recovery.

Fred Jones from LCSO was present indicated that no CIT training has been received for approximately three years, and also indicated that mental health calls have increased. He expressed his belief that CIT works, and noted that he sees the CIT-related verbiage used by law enforcement officers in the reports after having been training, suggesting that the training is being used well.

Chief Probation Officer Tony Deaton provided the council with an overview of recent County Probation statistics. Be Free Lake reminded the council that Be Free Lake has received a four-year grant to conduct free Mental Health First Aid training.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.