



**Okaloosa County Public Safety Coordinating Council**  
**Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting: April 2019 12:00 PM**  
**Courthouse Annex Extension, Fort Walton Beach**

**Public Safety Coordinating Council Members**

Present	Name	Agency
x	Graham Fountain	Board of County Commissioners
x	Stefan W. Vaughn	Public Safety Director
x	Judge Gontarek	Circuit Judge
x	Judge Grinsted	County Judge
x	Jay Jones (Harold Mason)	Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Designee
	Bill Bishop	Assistant State Attorney
x	Charles Russell	Assistant Public Defender
	Robert Kemp	Circuit Administrator, Florida Department of Corrections, Probation and Parole Services
x	Kelli Huckabee	Pretrial Services
	Tina Ferland	Judicial Corrections Services, County Probation Provider

**Other Attendees:**

C. Eric Esmond, Chief, Department of Corrections  
 April McDaniel, Captain, Department of Corrections  
 Tammy Matthews, Department of Corrections  
 Desiree Hartwig, Department of Corrections  
 Dennis Knighten, Department of Corrections  
 Susan Priddy, Corizon Health Services, Department of Corrections  
 Sandra Hoffa, Corizon Health Services, Department of Corrections  
 Jeremy Gilbert, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office  
 Jeremy Miller, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office  
 Larry McFarland Bridgeway Center, Inc.  
 J. D. Peacock, Clerk of Court  
 Leah Compton, Department of Children and Families  
 Paul Farnsworth

Meeting opened at 12:00 pm.

**Welcome:**

Commissioner Fountain opened the meeting.

**Minutes**

1. a. The January minutes were approved as sent.

## **2. Old Business**

- a. Chief Esmond reviewed the program established by Ms. Priddy in coordination with the Health Department in vaccinating the majority of inmates in custody. Dr. Chapman has turned the program over to Corizon so new inmates will now be encouraged to be vaccinated if they haven't been previously. The program has been very successful as 1052 inmates have received vaccinations. Our agency has become a model to other agencies due to the success of the operation.
- b. He discussed the opening of the Crestview Courthouse. The opening has gone relatively smooth working with the Sheriff's office to address small lingering issues. Officers have identified a safety issue with the length of time the pass cards take to open doors. The problem has been identified and a resolution is being considered.
- c. Spring break moved to new business.
- d. Ms. Compton will have her presentation toward the end of the meeting.

## **3. Jail Report**

- a. Chief Esmond presented the statistics report. He addressed a question from a previous meeting about the population numbers versus the report of inmates in other locations. The population report provided is accurate to the number of inmates in custody. No questions on the current report.

## **4. Pretrial Services Report**

- a. Ms. Huckabee reported an increase in pretrial services. She reported the spike which occurred previously has come back down. Pretrial services are interviewing to add an additional staff member to their team.


## **5. New Business**

- a. Chief Esmond provided an update on spring break. The amount of spring breakers arrested was strong the first few weeks, but decreased into the season. There have been no repeat arrests so far this year. The average time in custody has been 92 minutes with 548 arrests currently. Members discussed the impact of an arrest and processing through the jail. It appears to be effective as they are not arrested a second time, hopefully will prevent future choices. There is approximately 10 days left for this season.
- b. Dr. Vaughn provided an update on the Forensic Mental Health Hospital. Judge Liefman from Miami-Dade will be coming to our area for a workshop to provide ideas for program operations and funding. Mr. McFarland reported counties in South Florida are very involved in funding this type of programs. The Panhandle has more difficulty getting adequate funding for programs. Funding the program will be the main topic of the workshop.
- c. Chief Esmond reported on the Driver's License Clinic Initiative. Judge Mason was instrumental in meeting with stakeholder and working to assist with fees tied to getting a license back. The program will have the first docket May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The majority of people being offered services will be out of custody with approximately 27 from jail custody. Mr. Peacock informed the committee the clerk's office has set up payment plans for fines and the fines assist in funding unfunded court proceedings. The Florida legislature has considered dropping the connection between fines and license revocations, but

it has not been supported due to revenue it receives. Driving offenses have increased recidivism rate, but the recidivism is often due to non-payment of the payment plan which was set up. Bridgeway Center will be on site during the clinic to register people who need DUI School. The clinic has been a great collaborative effort and it will be continued if successful.

- d. Leah Compton, Department of Children and Families Headquarters, provided a report on court ordered forensic admissions to the Florida State Hospital, which have increased 18%. Big Bend is contracted to provide financial oversight for the hospital. The cost for housing inmates at the hospital for competency restoration is very high, so they are considering filling gaps and community resources. Ms. Compton is available to provide outreach to counties working with the nationwide initiative to decrease mental health issues. She reviewed the Sequential Intercept Model. John Barnes is our county's representative working with Florida State Hospital on competency restoration. She reported grants are available to assist with funding for planning, mapping, implementation, and operations of options to reduce costs to the state for the mentally ill.
- e. Judge Gontarek reported the court is working to reduce the count at the facility and keep the population issues on the forefront.
- f. Ms. Rushton reported on the task force addressing the opioid crisis. Commissioner Fountain reported the opioid crisis has led to a rebound of ability for veterans and elderly having the ability to receive needed medications. Pam Bondi is concerned certain populations are being overlooked in the effort to address people overdosing.
- g. There are no reported conflicts for upcoming meetings scheduled July 18, 2019 and October 24, 2019.

Meeting ended at 01:12 pm.



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Commissioner Graham W. Fountain  
Okaloosa County Commissioner  
Chairman, Public Safety Coordinating Council