



Okaloosa County Public Safety Coordinating Council

Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting: October 25, 2018 12:00 PM

Courthouse Annex Extension, Fort Walton Beach

Public Safety Coordinating Council Members

Present	Name	Agency
	Graham Fountain	Board of County Commissioners
x	Stefan W. Vaughn	Chief Corrections Officer
x	Judge Brown	Circuit Judge
x	Judge Grinsted	County Judge
x	Jay Jones (Harold Mason)	Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Designee
x	Bill Bishop	Assistant State Attorney
	Charles Russell	Assistant Public Defender
x	Julie Gaither	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, Major, Department of Corrections
 April McQueen, Department of Corrections
 Tammy Matthews, 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
 Harold Mason, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office
 Tracie Moorer, BBCBC
 Valerie Broxson, Court Administration
 Larry McFarland Bridgeway Center, Inc.
 J. D. Peacock, Clerk of Court
 Bonnie Barlow, Bridgeway Center, Inc.
 Paul Farnsworth

Meeting opened at 12:05 pm.

Welcome:

Director Vaughn apologized on behalf of Commissioner Fountain as he is unable to attend.

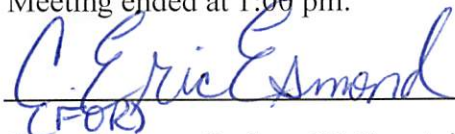
Minutes

1. a. October minutes were approved as sent.
2. **Old Business**
 - a. Ms. Priddy provided an update on the process for obtaining accreditation for the mental health component of the National Commission on Correctional Health Care accreditation. The application has been completed and are waiting for approval to move forward. Once the application has been accepted and approval granted, the agency has one year to complete the process of compliance and assessment. Director Vaughn stated the medical department has conducted a pre-assessment to determine ability to show compliance and staff is confident it can be obtained. The department would be the second in the nation to complete the process which would show a higher standard of care. Meeting national compliance standards could offer better options for additional funding sources.
 - b. Director Vaughn provided an update on building plans for the jail. The plan includes a two prong approach which includes a new housing unit and a mental health transitional housing unit to meet the needs of overcrowding and mental health inmates. He hopes to move forward after the first of the year to obtain solicitations for building plans for the additional units.
3. **Jail Report**
 - a. Chief Esmond presented the statistics report. He announced the retirement of Paul Farnsworth and the position will be posted soon. He reviewed the statistics. He asked committee members to review the statistical report to determine which statistics are important and needed. Any items identified as unnecessary can be removed after next meeting as identified. Judge Brown stated each position represented may use different statistics and the committee will need to address it globally after identifying the committee goals. Mr. Farnsworth stated the statistics report was established following a submission to Florida legislature a bill by bondsman pertaining to pretrial services. The data provided information to defeat the bill. He reported the main purpose of the committee is jail population management. Director Vaughn has reached out to other counties discussing the PSCC meeting and our county has develop and is working better than others in the state. We want to continuously review relevant goals and improve.
4. **Pretrial Services Report**
 - a. Ms. Huckabee reported an increase in pretrial services. They have conducted more screenings and accepted more clients. She would also welcome feedback on reported information to stay relevant. She wants to make best use of time and resources.
5. **New Business**
 - a. Director Vaughn reported the jail has moved under the umbrella of Public Safety which formally moved Eric Esmond into the position of Chief of Detention.
 - b. Hurricane Michael required county departments to operate under a state of emergency and prepare for the possibility of a direct hit of the hurricane. The preparations the department made proved they were ready in case the storm

had not shifted east. After action reports showed some considerations to improve the process.

- c. Director Vaughn received a request to assist the Sheriff's office in support of Bay County following Michael. Bay County requested officer support and needed supplies. Their facility was short staff and without power for days, needing both road deputies and correctional officers. He is proud of the support provided by both agencies to assist a neighboring county. The damage and shortages could easily have led to riots. The knowledge gathered will continuously help the county in recognizing how to improve preparations should we meet the same challenges.
- d. The jail medical department has faced medical challenges as several inmates' required significant medical care. One inmate had stage 4 cancer which required extended hospitalization calling for the resources of two officers at the hospital ICU for 11 days. The hospital cost exceeded \$175,000. Another inmate was hospitalized for 4 days for end of life treatment. Medical staff will continuously update the Chief of Detention on serious medical cases to determine if any legal options are available to reduce the cost to the taxpayers. The court is only contacted for consideration in extreme cases. Director Vaughn reported a better working relationship with the attorneys and judiciary by only presenting cases which are medically serious and could possibly be dealt with through conditional release. All parties recognize the need to keep dangerous felons in custody, but want to keep everyone informed of cases which may cost upwards of \$200,000 for medical care. Judge Brown and Judge Grinsted stated the judiciary is always interested in having as much information as possible to make decisions and are receptive to options.
- e. Mr. Peacock announced a statewide initiative to have electronic notification of court proceedings. The goal is to reduce Failure to Appear cases. The difficult piece is getting all defendants to sign on to the program. The program could eventually assist with tracking continuances.
- f. Judge Brown announced the approval for reassignment of criminal and family court Judges. Judge Brown has been reassigned to Family Court with Judge Gontarek getting assigned to criminal court starting January 1, 2019.
- g. Mr. Bishop and Judge Brown discussed problems with continuances. Both identify continuances as an issue, but they are primarily filed by the defendant's attorney. Many defending attorneys don't meet their clients until just prior to the court proceeding which prevents a plea agreement from being presented. The docket calendar runs monthly, so each continuance pushed the case at least a month ahead. The jail affords access to the attorneys and is working with Securus to afford video access as well.
- h. Upcoming meeting have been scheduled for January 24, 2019. Feedback on having quarterly meeting is requested.

Meeting ended at 1:00 pm.



C. Eric Esmond

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