



Okaloosa County Public Safety Coordinating Council

Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting: October 14, 2013 12:00 PM

50 2nd Street, Shalimar Florida

Attendees:

Committee Members

Dave Parisot, County Commissioner
Paul Lawson, Department of Corrections
Stefan Vaughn, Department of Corrections
Paul Farnsworth, Department of Corrections
Tammy Matthews, Department of Corrections
Matthew Harrison, Sheriff's Office
Mike Flowers, Judge
Pattison Maney, Judge
Kelli Huckabee, Pretrial Services
Robin Wright, Court Administration
Allison Mikel, Court Administration
Dino Villani, Public Safety Director
Agnes Coppola, Judicial Corrections Services
Tina Ferland, Judicial Corrections Services
Janice George, Big Bend
Susan Priddy, Corizon Health Care
Donald Allgood, Clerk of Court
Paul Wallis, Department of Juvenile Justice
Deborah Brown, Florida State Probation
Robert Kemp, Florida State Probation

Meeting opened at 12:00 pm.

Welcome:

Minutes

Motion was made and seconded for minutes from previous meeting approved as sent.

Old Business

Paul Lawson reviewed the minutes from the committee meeting on the Day Reporting Center held on October 1, 2013. Three considerations were presented: invite Judicial Corrections Services for suggestion on alternatives to incarceration, consider which community programs can be consolidated and pursue funding for additional electronic monitoring.

Paul Lawson expressed concern with the population of the jail staying between 650 and 700. He would like consideration of adding five additional officers to staff so the closed housing unit can be re-opened. The Department of Corrections is committed to a cap of 650. If the count continues in excess of 650 after the holiday season, the upstairs housing area will need to be re-opened requiring five new correctional officer positions. The facility has been operating over rated capacity as well as actual bed capacity.

New Business

Robin Wright expressed concern that the mental health population cannot get evaluations which is reducing the amount of defendants that can be released to Mental Health Court. Paul Lawson stated that the contract the county has in place addresses Baker Act evaluations only, but does not handle Mental Health Court or forensic evaluations. Continuity of care is becoming a concern due to funding and resources.

Dave Parisot reported that the commission is asking for consideration from Tallahassee concerning how the county must bear the cost of 1.5 million dollars of unfunded mandates. Janice George from Big Bend reported that they are working with Bridgeway Center to address this issue and to determine most effective utilization of available funds. The highest risk population needs to be addressed as a priority. Consideration needs to be given to what is best for the community with a coordinated effort for treatment. Robin Wright stated there are funding concerns because treatment is unavailable once the person is released from custody.

Robin Wright reported that Mental Health Court is short a staff member.

Dave Parisot attended a meeting with Leon County that presented a civil citation program which offered the ability to transfer a criminal summons to a civil fee with adjudication withheld until the fee is paid. Once the fees are collected, the citation is dropped from the person's record. In order for this to be effective in Okaloosa County, all arresting agencies must cooperate with the program. Further discussion will be presented at the December or February meeting.

Paul Wallis reported that the Juvenile Justice system is seeking a similar program. Agnes Coppola stated that this type of program has been effective with the Tobacco Initiative for juveniles. She reported it has also been used with county ordinance violations. Dave Parisot questions if enforcement of county ordinances is effective since many result in criminal cases. Robin Wright suggested including Bill Bishop at the State Attorney's office for consideration of the program which deals with civil and criminal cases.

Judge Maney has begun to review Baker and Marchment Acts providing a clear definition of each. He requests a review of the forensic competency court evaluations. He stated that they are equally divided in their resolution with Mental Health Court and treatment, State Hospital competency stays and to prison. He is requesting that the PSCC be proactive and consider up front funding for treatment for these type of defendants which could alleviate multiple Baker/Marchment Acts or stays at the state hospital. This

would be a pilot program and research is available to substantiate funding high volume user treatment.

The committee discussed the use of jail beds to act as mental health treatment beds as a result of de-institutionalization and consideration of the least restrictive environment which didn't consider care and treatment for those who can't care for themselves. Janice George stated that Big Bend has a meeting scheduled with Fort Walton Beach Medical Center to discuss consideration of increased case management services for high utilization patients. Judge Maney agreed to author letters to legislature for consideration to Florida delegates to assist in funding for a program. Robin Wright stated it is a circuit wide issue and Clay Wilder from Escambia County could assist in supporting the program.

Dave Parisot reported that the request for proposal for county probation services will be submitted to the commission this week.

Dave Parisot reported that a draft for the Department of Juvenile Justice report will be submitted for legislative review and will be going to the House Justice Committee. The State v Okaloosa County issue will not be addressed in this report.

Paul Farnsworth reviewed the jail population statistics. Robin Wright stated an increase in domestic violence and child support cases may be coming.

Paul Farnsworth reported the Pheonix House rehabilitation center has a six to nine month wait time. He reported the Judges are not sentencing defendants to this program at this time.

Judge Maney requested information concerning length of stay for an inmate incarcerated on a VOP and no other charges. He feels they are handled quickly in Crestview court but he would like to know if the Fort Walton Beach courts are as timely. He proposed increasing the amount of cases put in an accelerated docket. Robin Wright stated that if they have statistics then the committee can review if delays are occurring and reason for any delays. Paul Farnsworth has been asked to submit a report with this information.

Kelli Huckabee reviewed the statistics for Pretrial Services. She stated they currently have the maximum amount of defendants on GPS monitoring and additional people on GPS would require additional staff.

Kellie Huckabee reported that the legislative members were impressed with the reduction of Failure to Appear rates with Pretrial monitoring.

Dave Parisot reported that over twenty million dollars has been saved utilizing Pretrial Services instead of keeping the inmate in custody. The program has been efficient and cost effective.

Paul Lawson reported that funding sources need to be identified in the County's next budget cycle for eventual expansion of the jail.

Robin Wright reported that Veteran's Court has received \$150,000 and a contract has been signed with Mental Health Services. Virginia Barr from Mental Health Services will be adding services that will need consideration for future funding.

The next full meeting for the Public Safety Council will be December 9, 2013.

Meeting ended at 12:52 pm.

Commissioner David Parisot, Chairman
Public Safety Coordinating Council