

July 15, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) – Regular Meeting Monday, July 15, 2024 – 3:00 p.m.

Growth Services Training Room, 2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL 34470

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair, Judge Robert Landt, at 3:01 p.m. on Monday, July 15, 2024 at the Marion County Growth Services Building, 2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd, Ocala, FL 34471.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Vice-Chair, Judge Landt.

Roll Call:

Members in Attendance: *(A quorum was present)*

Vice Chair Judge Robert Landt; ASA Cindy Harper; PD Michael Graves; Judge Robert W. Hodges; Major Clint Bowen; Joshua Fairbrother; Robin Lanier; Susan Cizmadia. Chair Kathy Bryant arrived after roll call.

Members Absent:

Rusty Skinner

Staff Present:

Chief Assistant County Attorney Dana Olesky; Heather Flynn; MCSO: Major Ron Burnett; Captain Brian Peterson.

Notice of Publication

Notice of meeting published online on June 20, 2024 in accordance with Florida Sunshine laws.

Minutes Adoption

A motion to approve the 04/15/24 PSCC Meeting Minutes was made by Major Bowen, seconded by Cindy Harper. With no further discussion and no objections, the motion passed unanimously.

Member Discussion Items

- SMA Criminal Justice/Substance Abuse Planning Grant Application:

Robin Lanier from SMA Healthcare advised the council that the grant application was submitted and they are awaiting determination on whether or not they will receive the grant. Robin indicated there would be an answer 'any day now.'

- Ratification of replacement member for a local substance abuse treatment program:

A Motion to approve ratification was made by PD Michael Graves and seconded by Major Bowen. With no further discussion and no objections, the motion passed unanimously.

- Jail Population:

Average daily population and total number of inmates in custody, booked and released statistics were given by MCSO. These statistics included number of inmates arrested on no bond status, veterans arrested and indicated that the average daily population is up by 100 since this time last year; however, the arrest rate also increased. Jail renovation timeline was discussed and Chair Bryant suggested that the Facilities Director attend the next meeting with an update. Current jail population is at 1888 nearing full capacity of 1924.

Federal and Immigration detainees' numbers and daily cost discussed along with potential to request additional Federal reimbursement for costs of housing them and perhaps reimbursement for housing Immigration detainees. Length of stay for inmates with ICE detainers after local charges are completed is currently at no longer than 48 hours; ICE either picks up the inmate or releases the detainer. Also, discussion of federal inmates being held in custody, what the contract looks like, and look into how to increase funding. Chair Bryant asked Dana Olesky to reach out to the Counsel for the MCSO regarding the current contract and billing.

There was discussion regarding the Jail notifying the PDO and SAO when an ICE detainer is placed on an inmate in custody. MCSO offered to email lists weekly and there will be further discussion on this success in the next meeting.

Finally, there was a discussion of the quality of cases for those arrested, how many arrests ended with the SAO not filing charges, and it was determined that would be an issue that should be discussed by the law enforcement agencies and the State Attorney's office.

- Re-entry Programs:

Major Burnett discussed the hand outs that everyone was given. He described the new vocational certificate programs offered to inmates, to include welding and construction. He indicated that during the 2nd quarter of 2024, they had handed out 16 certifications for the inmates to take with them once they're released.

The re-entry committee has not met since the last meeting; however, there was some discussion of possibly tying a program in with Probation and there was a possible offer for the committee to discuss with probation and see which direction they want to go. Also, that there may be some funding available with the opioid settlements to increase the number of people eligible to go into treatment.

- Pretrial Intervention Program (PTI):

Cindy Harper from the SAO started the discussion from their prospective, there are a lot of hands in the pot. First, the SAO must determine if someone is appropriate for the program; then they contact the defense attorney and together they create a contract; then it has to go to Probation for them to decide and contact the defendant.

Officer Bedell, the subject matter expert from Probation and Parole, described that once all the steps are completed, their office is required to call the defendant within 30 days to get them settled depending on their next court date. There was discussion on how sometimes defendants are released without proper direction and a next court date. Judge Hodges discussed that he doesn't release someone on PTI without a next court date and that he gives them 5 days to contact their PTI coordinator.

Further discussion on whether this paperwork could be sent electronically to Probation, like when someone is placed on Probation, and there could a more streamline approach to getting defendants eligible for PTI, released and reporting in a shorter length of time. The SAO, PDO and Probation and Parole agreed to have further discussion on this matter and have an update at the next meeting.

Finally, there was discussion during this time regarding the court-appointed anger management and batterers' intervention program, and if they can be started while the inmate is still incarcerated. Potential problems were mentioned, to include lack of manpower at the jail to monitor these classes, and lack of providers to facilitate the classes. There are some online versions, but the obvious roadblocks include inmates lack of access to computers and/or mobile devices.

Major Bowen asked when does this Council report their findings back to the BCC. Chair Bryant advised that after the next meeting, all of the updates discussed can be brought to the BCC in a thoroughly drafted report.

Susan Cizmadia gave an update that their office had received funding for a mobile probation reporting unit, to go out into rural areas to assist probationers who are unable to report on their own. That last year, there were 510 non-technical violations simply for non-reporting, due to lack of transportation or funds for transportation to their office. This mobile unit can also help with drug testing and re-entry tracking.

The question was posed regarding the new bond schedule and if the Jail is seeing an increase in jail population. Major Bowen indicated that there is not and that the only increase is in the number of arrestees having to stay overnight to receive a bond during first appearance. And most arrestees that aren't able to post bond, wait until first appearance for a possible reduced bond. Chair Bryant asked this Council, is there something we are missing to get arrestees out of jail quicker? Judge Landt discussed a program that he is aware of in other counties, where the jail does an immediate 'needs assessment' and if the arrestee meets certain criteria, the Jail can release, issue bond conditions or divert them as they come into the jail to be released on supervision. There was discussion that the people who might qualify for this are

already being released on bond. Also, that there are programs like this near us but that the Judges have to be actively involved. The discussion also brought up the issue of ankle monitors, and that there are not enough readily available in this county/circuit. There used to be a program like this in the '90s at the Jail, but most people who were eligible were released on bond, and in order for this to make a difference, there would have to be a reduction of 300 inmates.

Joshua Fairbrother brought up a study that was done with Judge McCune, and possibly Judge Tatti, approximately 5 years ago, whether there were more that could be released on supervision at first appearance. Also, that there is a pretrial release program in Manatee County that seems successful. A sub-committee was created when Chair Bryant asked Mr. Fairbrother to work with Major Bowen and Cindy Harper from the SAO and look at the program in Manatee County and for Dana Olesky to help facilitate.

Public Comments – General Public Comment

- Robert Fox – Asked if the welding certificate that was mentioned, whether it was a real certificate or just a piece of paper. He also discussed that there are NOT enough ankle monitors. He also brought up the discussion of asking the Federal Agencies for more funding to house their inmates; he expressed concern with asking for this because our county utilizes a lot of their technology and resources to help with apprehensions, etc.
- Cathy Wyckoff – Asked if the committee could tell her why the Lake County population is similar to Marion County; however, their jail population is half what our population is. She also asked if there were any updates from the Subcommittee for re-entry and if there is a chair, and a discussion ensued that the subcommittee was not having regularly scheduled meetings.

Action Items for next meeting:

- SMA planning grant application status
- MC Facilities Director Jared Goodspeed to attend next meeting to give Facilities Update.
- Chief Asst. County Attorney Dana Olesky to reach out to MCSO Counsel to discuss Federal Inmate Billing
- Jail Leadership to send weekly email to SAO/PD offices list of Misdemeanor inmates with ICE Detainers.
- Joshua Fairbrother to reach out to his Anger Management/Batterer's Intervention Program Vendors to see if they are interested in starting their programs while defendants are in Jail. If so, he will ask that they prepare proposal and Fairbrother will share it with Captain Bowen.
- Create subcommittee to look into possible Pre-Trial Release program, similar to one in Manatee County, per Judge Landt's suggestion. Dana Olesky to help facilitate.
- Next meeting, bring breakdown of who's in jail and why.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Kathy Bryant, Chair

Date