

October 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes

**Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) – Regular Meeting
Monday, October 21, 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 Chairman Bryant, at 3:03 p.m. on Monday, October 21, 2024 at the Marion County Growth Services Building, 2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd, Ocala, FL 34471.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Chairman Kathy Bryant.

Roll Call:

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

Chairman, Kathy Bryant; Vice Chair, Judge Robert Landt; ASA Cindy Harper; PD Michael Graves; Major Clint Bowen; Robin Lanier; Susan Cizmadia; Rusty Skinner. Judge Robert W. Hodges arrived at 3:08 pm after roll call.

Members Absent: Joshua Fairbrother

Staff Present: Dana Olesky; Heather Flynn; Alina Stoothoff; Jared Goodspeed; MCSO: Matt McNeely; Dr. E. Judge Cochran.

Notice of Publication

Notice of meeting published online on October 16, 2024 in accordance with Florida Sunshine laws.

Minutes Adoption

A motion to approve the 07/15/24 PSCC Meeting Minutes was made by Vice Chair, Judge Landt, 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 informed the council that the grant was approved. SMA is interviewing for a position to gather data, analyze it, and manage the grant. They will be ready for the target start date of December 1, 2024. Robin mentioned the grant requirement to add additional members to the Council. The status of the new roles appointments was discussed along with next steps to formalize the addition of the new PSCC members, which will be invited to the next PSCC meeting after their appointment ratification by the Marion County Board of County Commissioners. Current PSCC members will be informed of the new members selection prior to the next PSCC meeting.

Jail Population:

MCSO Captain McNeely reported an average inmate population of 1,868, with 1,868 inmates in custody this morning. The September daily average was 1,864, including 105 federal holds.

Facilities Director Jared Goodspeed provided an update on jail projects, focusing on kitchen and laundry expansions necessary before considering an inmate capacity increase. He and Maj. Bowen agreed that common facilities expansion must precede any projects to increase jail population capacity. Judge Hodges inquired about plans for additional courtrooms, to which Goodspeed confirmed the current expansion does not include them. Further discussion noted the jail is 56 beds from maximum capacity and questioned plans for federal inmate holdings and future capacity limits. Maj. Bowen stated it is unclear how the U.S. Marshal will respond if Marion County jails reach capacity and cannot accept federal inmates. Chairman Bryant commented that the Marion County jail, built and funded by taxpayers to house local inmates, is reaching capacity due to an influx of federal detainees, prompting its expansion and asked if at any point these federal inmates can be refused. Maj. Bowen noted that housing a federal inmate costs about \$73 per day, while Marion County receives \$100 per inmate, which does not go to the jail operations fund. Federal Judges can order the County to take federal inmates.

Goodspeed noted that additional capacity is built based on MCSO's requests, and jail expansion costs were discussed. The design could take 18 months, with construction taking up to three years.

Judge Hodges received confirmation that the average annual population growth is 9%. Further discussion covered case types and how security levels might impact inmate numbers. Maj. Bowen stated that, if approved, Amendment 3 could increase the jail population.

Pretrial Intervention Program (PTI):

Cindy Harper mentioned that Joshua Fairbrother has information on this topic but was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Harper indicated that adjustments have been made since the last meeting. The incoming Division Chief revised contract policies to implement an email notification system for the appropriate resources. Mr. Graves and Judge Hodges commented that this new approach has expedited the process. Ms. Cizmadia agreed that it has been successful.

Pretrial Release Program:

Ms. Harper said that Mr. Fairbrother would have provided a more complete update, but they reviewed a study report from 2022 and deemed it a dead end, as Chief Judge Merritt does not support the program. The program was previously presented to him four or five years ago, and he has not changed his position, demonstrating a preference to have felons in custody rather than released on supervision at first appearance. According to information Mr. Fairbrother shared with Ms. Harper, Manatee County has a similar program in place.

Judge Landt discussed potential ways to present a program in a manner that the Chief Judge may be more inclined to approve. Judge Hodges mentioned a study indicating that there are not enough judges to manage the workload.

Public Comments – General Public Comment

None

Member Comments

Cindy Harper introduced Sasha Kidney as her replacement as the State Attorney's designee.

Action Items for next meeting

- SMA planning grant implementation status.
- Ratification of Additional PSCC members to comply with CJMHSa planning grant requirements.
- Jail population update.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by Chairman Bryant at 4:06 pm, immediately re-opened to discuss PSCC meetings frequency. Members decided to remain on a quarterly schedule, with a preference for Mondays at 3:00 pm and the next meeting occurring in January 2025.

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was officially adjourned at 4:09 pm.

Kathy Bryant, Chair

Date