

**Okeechobee County Public Safety
Coordinating Council Meeting (PSCC)
Minutes**

February 13, 2018 10:00 A.M.

1. Introductions:

Terry Burroughs, Chairman of Board of County Commissioners
Tom Bakkedahl, State Attorney's Office
Tom Genung, Court Administration Director (via phone)
Wendy Parent, Court Administration (via phone)
Judge Elizabeth Metzger, Chief Judge 19th Judicial Circuit (via phone)
Sheriff Noel Stephen, Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office
Howard Koff, Chief Probation Officer
Suzanne Caudell, C.O.R.E. Director
Ivelisse Chico-Randazzo, St. Lucie Pre Trial (via phone)
Roy Hudson, St Lucie County Criminal Justice Coordinator (via phone)
Jennifer Baird, New Horizons (via Phone)
Becky Walker, South East Florida Behavioral Health (via phone)
Paula Poskon / Deputy Clerk /Minutes

2. Secretary Report

John Romano could not attend as he was in Tallahassee as this time.

3. Approval of Minutes

Suzanne Caudell made a motion to accept the minutes from December 5, 2017 PSCC Meeting and Howard Koff seconded the motion. Vote was accepted unanimously.

Suzanne Caudell made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 13, 2017 PSCC Sub Committee Meeting and Howard Koff seconded the motion. Vote was accepted unanimously.

4. Current Status of Public Safety Council Projects:

a. Citizens Advisory Committee

Sheriff Stephen gave an overview of the Citizens Advisory Board. The Citizens Advisory Board is comprised of citizens within Okeechobee County. The Sheriff selected members of the Board by selecting two different individuals from each group of 4 entities. Ex: City, County, Agriculture and Faith Based and having 3 meetings a year. He had his first meeting three weeks ago whereby the group stated they were not aware of the Public Safety Coordinating Council Meetings. They asked what we do, what the purpose is, and what the goals are. He explained the Statute and how we are

structured. He told them how proud he is of what has been done in the short time we have been meeting together. It was requested that he approach the county, and ask if they could have the minutes placed on the county website so they can see what we are doing. The Sheriff approached the Chairman with this request, whereby the Chairman has the County designate space on the County website strictly for the PSCC where minutes can be published and viewed

b. Jail Assessment Plan:

Sheriff Stephen discussed the Jail report population. The length of time an inmate is in jail has been an issue. After an inmate is sentenced to DOC time, there was a delay with the Clerk's office creating the packet, then the delay getting the Judge to get the packet signed. Then back to the Clerk's Office and having a processing delay due to illnesses, holidays, & shortages. Then coming back to the Sheriff's Office and having another delay. It took between 45 to 75 days to release people from the jail.

In January there were 31 inmates that were taken to Prison. In January the jail population was 259 and now it is 237. He said he appreciated everyone's cooperation in speeding up the process. Even though it minimized the number of inmates there is still a need for the jail expansion.

Tom Bakkedahl requested someone from the Clerk's office to participate in the meetings here.

Judge Metzger stated that Judge Heisey was also looking at this issue as well. He is trying to turn around the sentences and judgements and requested to be put on the members list.

5. 2017 Public Safety Coordinating Council Objectives

a. Mental Health Court Update:

Judge Metzger gave an update regarding how well the cases are going. There are six cases at this time and Amanda is doing a great job. Everyone is working together to identify and once they get them in, they are setting them up with services.

1. Update from Case Manager

The Chair stated that the Sheriff has Michael Hazellief training the officers, on initial interdiction to try to identify those folks at arrest. The Sheriff's Office and State Attorneys are all working together on

this, and the Board of County Commissioners are ecstatic with the work that has already been done.

Becky said they will have a system in place to take care of the invoices. They are going to set up petty cash availability so the case manager can get some of the less costly items that they need right away. Another system will be set up to get the larger items quicker.

They have not filled their Project Coordinator position yet. The team is progressing well without a coordinator. Their mental health coordinator is also new and has been going to all the court dates, so whatever the issues are, they can address them right away. The invoices can be given to her or Gregg to be paid. The providers also know how to invoice them, and how to access the incidental funding.

Judge Metzger asked about how the Case manager issue is going there At New Horizons.

Jennifer Baird stated they have received two (2) applications for that position. One applicant did not show up for an interview. Another one she has not been able to get a hold of yet.

Becky stated they had 2 applications for the Project Coordinator position there, but they were going to offer it to the one and she could not pass the background check. The other one has not given a response yet.

The Chair asked how fast the petty cash and the invoices can be paid and how soon the monies will be available from the grant to get things paid. Becky stated the monies should be available and to these people by next Friday.

Judge Metzger brought up the issue of transportation. The Chairman will review local options if any and report back at the next meeting.

Wendy brought up the housing issues to the committee. At this time, we do not have any prospects for housing opportunities. This is a serious issue as we move forward, if we have the need to house a person. Judge Metzger stated there is one person who does need housing as she is pregnant.

The Sheriff asked about housing them in a motel with grant dollars.

The Chair stated he will check with some of the Realtors in town, to see what can be done. Also he will check with the Administrator, to check out the ship program or some county owned properties. Rental properties are almost non-existent in Okeechobee.

b. Jail Project Update

1. Update from BOCC:

There are two solutions the BOCC will consider for funding of the jail expansion (Bond or a loan). The BOCC has not made a decision as of yet. The County Administrator is still working on gathering information on which is the most efficient method to use for funding. The RFQ has been sent out seeking engineering for the expansion.

c. Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy

2. Update:

The Chair sent this over to Congressman Rooney to see if he would consider assisting us on Federal side, as this is a federal policy. That's how the state has the county paying for a percentage of the Medicaid itself. We are in a five (5) year transition plan, by where we pay a portion of people who are enrolled. Then we pay another portion for the people who are utilizing it.

He asked Representative Cary Pigman & Senator Denise Grimsley to request assistance from American Health Care Act (AHCA) to find out when a person is in jail, do they come off the Medicaid list. If not, we may be paying for them twice.

Last year we paid over \$700,000 for Medicaid to the state. Some of the other rural counties are looking into this.

Additional Issues PSCC Committee Desires to Focus on

Roy Hudson gave an update on the annual Pre-Trial program for 2017 in Okeechobee County. They supervised 160 defendants, 551 field visits,

Saved over 10,398 jail bed days, which saved over \$700,000 for Okeechobee County. Their county drug lab did over 5,700 drug tests here.

The next meeting will be on Tue, April 03, 2018 10:00 am - 11:00 am

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.