**Notice of Public Safety Coordinating Council Meeting**

Pursuant to section 286.011, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby provided that the Public Safety Coordinating Council will convene a meeting to be held on the 9th day of November 2023 at 12:00 p.m. at the Courthouse located at 1940 Lewis Turner Blvd, Fort Walton Beach, FL, 32547. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Okaloosa County adheres to the American Disabilities Act and will make reasonable modifications for access to these meetings upon request. Requests may be made to the County Commission office (850-689-5030 or 850-651-7105) and must be made at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting in order to provide the requested service.

**Okaloosa County Public Safety Coordinating Council**

**Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting: August 10th, 2023 12:00 PM**

**Okaloosa County Courthouse, Crestview**



**Public Safety Coordinating Council Members**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Present | Name | Agency |
| X | Paul Mixon | Board of County Commissioners |
| X | Nolan Weeks | Chief Corrections Officer |
| X | April McDaniel | Major of Corrections |
|  | Judge Polson | Circuit Judge |
|  | Judge Mason | County Judge |
| X | Craig Coffey | Deputy County Administrator |
|  | Michelle Sandler | Assistant State Attorney |
|  | Charles Russell | Assistant Public Defender |
|  | Robert Kemp | 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:**

Bonnie Barlow, Bridgeway Center, Inc.

Larry McFarland, Bridgeway Center, Inc.

Tricia Fagan, HSA, YesCare, Department of Corrections

Andrea Oliver, Accreditation Lieutenant, Department of Corrections

Michael Swanson, Support Services Captain, Department of Corrections

Haydon O’Brien, Program Coordinator, Department of Corrections

Matthew Harrison, Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office

Brad Embry, Inspector General, Okaloosa Clerk of Court

Samantha Cutsinger, Commissioner Aide, Board of County Commissioners

Stephen Mixon, Public Non-Member

Adaisha King, University of West Florida Intern

Meeting opened at 12:04 pm.

1. **Minutes/Commissioner Report**

Commissioner Mixon opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The minutes were approved as sent by the majority.

1. **Old Business**
2. Craig Coffey noted that Chief Nolan Weeks has plans to attend a conference intended to discuss work costs, projected budget, and specific fee breakdowns that relate to the construction of a new correctional facility. Craig Coffey then mentioned that discussion regarding land and acreage to fully accommodate the new correctional facility and allow for future expansions will be the next order of business.
3. Tricia Fagan discussed the positive impact the IMG Bus services have offered the facility’s medical department. Tricia Fagan mentioned that the average cost of high demand medication decreased from 23,000 dollars in 2022 to 16,000 dollars in 2023 after implementing the services offered by IMG. Tricia Fagan then noted that Florida Model Jail Standards (FMJS) representatives conducted their first on-the-spot inspection of the facility’s medical department and no deficiencies and discrepancies were found.
4. Chief Nolan Weeks announced that there has been a conscious effort to maintain collaboration between local law enforcement, the State Attorney’s office, and County Judges in order to promote a decrease in the current inmate population. Matthew Harrison concurred with this statement.
5. **Jail Population Report**
6. The statistics report was presented and attendees had no questions. Major April McDaniel noted that the current inmate population as of the morning of August 10, 2023 was 682.
7. **Inmate Programs Update**

Haydon O’Brien announced that Dana Bafetti-Clah, founder of Emerald Coast Life Center (ECLC), was recently nominated as Hero of the Month. Haydon O’Brien mentioned that Dana Bafetti-Clah is a devoted volunteer at the facility and offers ECLC classes to currently incarcerated individuals. Haydon O’Brien then mentioned that the FLOW (Florida License on Wheels) Bus intended to provide currently incarcerated inmates with updated identification cards was cancelled due to the bus being needed for crisis relief in South Florida. Haydon O’Brien closed the discussion by stating that efforts have been made to offer inmates other types of identification (i.e. birth certificates, DD214s, etc.).

1. **Pretrial Report**
   1. Kelli Huckabee provided a report for review on pretrial services statistics. She advised that there have been noticeable changes in non-monetary bond approvals. Commissioner Mixon commented that this change is most likely related to the recent modification in bond schedule. Kelli Huckabee closed the discussion by noting that GPS is still being utilized for 90 individuals.
2. **New Business**
   1. Tricia Fagan advised that a program intended to assist currently incarcerated pregnant females was recently nominated for Program of the Year by NCCHC. Tricia Fagan explained that the program, Baby and Me, provides incarcerated pregnant females with mental health referrals, detailed birth plans, and assistance in coordinating with social services in order to decrease the likelihood of hospitalizations. Tricia Fagan closed her discussion by noting the nomination is set to occur in October 2023.
   2. Chief Nolan Weeks commented that the recruitment of civilian technicians has been successful and effective. Chief Weeks then mentioned that there are currently 10 civilian technicians that have started the correctional officer academy in order to become certified. Chief Weeks closed his discussion by noting that the facility currently has 3 vacant certified correctional officer positions; however, the facility had 46 vacant certified correctional officer positions shortly before he assumed his role as Chief.
   3. Major April McDaniel noted that the facility’s population has been affected by the newly implemented restrictions placed on bond issuances prior to first appearance. Major McDaniel stated that the number of incarcerated individuals transported to first appearance has increased by 16 percent. Major McDaniel then mentioned that the inmate population has also been affected by housing limitations brought forth by juvenile inmates. More specifically, Major McDaniel stated that, because juvenile inmates must be segregated from the adult inmate population, open beds and cells have been rendered unusable. Major McDaniel closed her discussion by also mentioning that certain housing areas are also unable to be used due to staffing issues. Chief Nolan Weeks commented that he has recently requested a new sergeant position for the classification department in order to relieve housing issues. Commissioner Mixon presented the notion that legislative action is taken to mitigate the issues caused by the required isolation of juvenile inmates. Commissioner Mixon and Matthew Harrison stated that new measures should be taken to promote effective communication with the Department of Juvenile Justice.
   4. Tricia Fagan noted that a meeting to address issues regarding mental health and recidivism was held on July 17th, 2023. Tricia Fagan stated that the attendees of this meeting discussed ways to effectively handle inmates returning from Florida State Hospital and ways to resolve recidivism amongst individuals that are considered mentally non-restorable.
   5. Tricia Fagan stated that there have been recent efforts to promote

collaboration with NOMC to help resolve issues that have been arising with transfers. Tricia Fagan mentioned that the facility’s medical team has considered and discussed the possibility of on-site doctors authorizing direct admissions to avoid continued strain on the facility’s security team.

1. **Closing Announcements**
2. Larry McFarland noted that Bridgeway has revised their hours of operation and are now open from 9 am to 9 pm.
3. Commissioner Mixon closed the meeting with mentioning that the next meeting will be on November 9th. 2023. The next meeting will be in Fort Walton Beach at 12 PM.

Meeting ended at 12:40 pm.