

Okaloosa County Public Safety Coordinating Council

Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting: December 9, 2013 12:00 PM

50 2nd Street, Shalimar Florida

Attendees:

Dave Parisot, County Commissioner Paul Lawson, Department of Corrections Stefan Vaughn, Department of Corrections Paul Farnsworth, Department of Corrections Tammy Matthews, Department of Corrections Robert Boddy, Department of Corrections J. D. Peacock, Sheriff's Office Allison Mikel, Court Administration Dino Villani, Public Safety Director Agnes Coppola, Judicial Corrections Services Tina Ferland, Judicial Corrections Services Tamara Taylor, Corizon Health Care Michaelle Frelix, Corizon Health Care Bill Bishop, State Attorney Paul Wallis, Department of Juvenile Justice W. Glen Richards, Florida Department of Corrections Jack Hammon, Florida Department of Corrections

Meeting opened at 12:00 pm.

Welcome:

Minutes

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

Old Business

Paul Farnsworth reported that the average time it takes for a VOP to get to court on a misdemeanor is 17 days and for a felony is 47 days which is the same amount of time it takes for other charges. Bill Bishop stated the VOP cases are on the docket within 14 days and a review is completed with an offer made during that time. If the offer is not accepted then the case moves to an evidentiary hearing 30 days later. To have the case move faster requires the Public Defender to be involved with the case faster and work with a plea faster. The judiciary has opened up additional court days for hearing VOP cases which help move them through the system faster. If a new law violation has occurred, the person is arrested quickly while still in custody. Bill Bishop stated the defendant is given every opportunity for consideration but they have already shown they are not compliant.

New Business

Dave Parisot stated that the decision has been made for the probation contract and it will remain with Judicial Corrections Services.

Paul Lawson, Judge Grinsted and Susan Priddy attended a meeting of the League of Women Voters on November 16 and participated in a panel discussion regarding mental health care in the courts and in jail.

The same presentation was present to the PSCC by Tamara Taylor regarding the medical care for inmates in custody. The medical staff is involved within minutes of the inmate's arrival throughout their incarceration with initial screening, a 14 day physical and physician and mental health services.

Dave Parisot reminded members that JCS offers not only probation services but day reporting options as well. During the RFP process, they stated they would like to offer a presentation at the next meeting of what the day reporting services can do. Agnes Coppola reported that the most successful reporting centers are funded by the county since most clients do not have the ability to pay. The centers cannot be self supporting.

Paul Farnsworth reviewed the jail statistics. There has been an increase in female population. Dave Parisot asked if weekenders are being handled in the most efficient way. Bill Bishop stated that some charges require jail days and they are giving the defendant the option of weekends so they can keep their employment.

Dave Parisot requested information concerning dismissing charges. Bill Bishop reported that a final decision is routinely made within 30 days and must be decided no longer than 40 days. County court may take longer because they have a higher volume of cases moving through the system and the defendant may be on a ROR bond.

Paul Farnsworth stated Pretrial Services was unable to provide statistics because their system is down.

Paul Farnsworth reported on juvenile detention days. The charges changed from June to July because the fees reduced as a result of winning the lawsuit. Dave Parisot asked to see a comparison of the old charges against the new charges each month to determine the savings to the county.

Paul Lawson reported that the jail had 14 people reviewed for Baker Act placement this fiscal year; 5 determined to meet criteria.

Dave Parisot reported that the PSCC committee makes a significant impact on the jail population and continuity of court systems which provides a saving to the community and taxpayers. He appreciates all participants and said "Thank You!"

The next full meeting for the Public Safety Council will be February 10, 2014.

Meeting ended at 12:44 pm.

Commissioner David Parisot, Chairman

Public Safety Coordinating Council