

Public Safety Coordinating Council
Volusia County
Seventh Judicial Circuit of Florida
June 7th, 2023 @ 9:00 A.M.
Emergency Operations Center
3825 Tiger Bay Rd, Daytona Beach, FL 32124
Approved September 6th, 2023

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Matt Rhinehart, Council Member
Wesley Heidt, Court Judge
Steven Smith, Volusia County Acting Corrections Director
Mark Weinburg, Court Administrator
Jennifer Wipple, State Probation Administrator
Nicole Sharbono, SMA Healthcare
Matthew Metz, Public Defender's Office
Melanie Anderson, Clerk's Office

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Sherri Rader, Volusia County Corrections
Jennifer Stephenson, SMA Healthcare
Robert Brown, Volusia County – IT

I. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Corrections Director Steven Smith called the June 7th, 2023, meeting of the Volusia County Public Safety Coordinating Council to order at 9:00 am. Introductions were completed.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes approved from the March 8th, 2023. The minutes were approved unanimously.

III. REPORTS

A. JAIL REPORT – Steven Smith

Trends – average daily population 1289 for current fiscal year, down 139 from last fiscal year, of 1420. 5 years daily average 1393, currently 140 below that average. From 3/2022 average of 1360 to 3/2023 average of 1255, which is 105 less.

Current Projects:

West-wing scheduled in August to come down and will be replacement housing.

South-wing closed for maintenance, capacity of 192 beds, can open other beds to accommodate if the need arises.

County approved Ajax Building Co. for the TLC project, security system up-grade for 2 control rooms, officer station, adding cameras to both buildings, which will enable control rooms to act as back-up as needed.

Re-entry based training – working to find partner for ABE and GED – look at funding by inmate welfare funds. Will put this out to the Inmate Welfare Committee at the appropriate time for fund approval. Working with a 3rd party to make these programs available.

Hurricane Preparedness - Proposal out to Judge Clayton and Judge Case – Corrections Director could give up to 60 days of gain time during an emergency. The standard last year was every 2 hours of work was a day off but had to be sent back out for approval. A new proposal will handle internally up to 60 days, a court request will be submitted for anything outside of that. Will request a judicial order to support changes, will take care of all sentenced inmates and non-sentenced inmates during the emergency and will back-fill the credit. Will submit a master list of all non-sentenced inmates to the court – so there is consistency of all reporting systems. All inmate reports will be uploaded to BEACON. Is there a credit issued for inmates sentenced to prison after the facts or a issued a certificate. Judicial order applied to the amendment packet.

1200 bags an hour with new the machine. 1700 in less than half a day. Goal by the end of the week 10,000 bags in dry storage. EOC bought equipment with grant money. Sand comes from public works and the bags come from FEMA. No cost to the county.
Note a - Thank you from Steven Smith to the EOC.

Question asked.

What are the contributing factors to the trends? Steven Smith stated - The trends are attributed to sentencing factors such as more inmates transferring to prison and programs. Also stated - some of the population trends are related to COVID back-logs, space, staffing issues, and a new medical provider, Vital Core.

Is there a credit issued for inmates sentenced to prison after the fact? Steven Smith stated - A judicial order will be attached so the amendment packet can be updated.

B. CJIS REPORT – Robert Brown

End of the month goal is that the first appearance app is ready for review. Invites will be sent out for feedback. After that will start on EOC app. 1st appearance app goal is to digitize as much as possible to speed up process and limit paperwork.

Question asked.

Are there any updates on keeping the women inmates first appearances in-house? Steven Smith stated - Networking phase currently in process. A request was made to have a discussion on how private communications with inmates will meet policy before the project is too far along.

C. PRETRIAL SERVICES REPORT – no name

Pretrial Services Dept. is accredited through FL corrections accredited commission. This is the same body that accredits all county jails in the state. In June the jail is up for 6th re-accreditation and are seeking accreditation for Excelsior Status. Excelsior status is the highest accreditation you can achieve for pre-trial services.

The report shared had the following information:

Static information regarding the pretrial assessment unit, who puts together criminal history and a public safety assessment, which then provides this information to the courts to aid in an informed release decision. Also present in the courts to answer questions.

In May: interviewed 304 inmates, contacted, and provided assessments to 151 DV victims, 1301 inmates first appearance, 66 jail arraignments, 298 cases released to pretrial and of these 298, 33 or 11% pretrial bond.

Pretrial Supervision – 611 on May 1st, 688 on May 31st, of the 298 mentioned above, 221 completed successful, 9 failed to appear or 4%, 30 failures to comply, 11 arrested for new charges.

2 labs, 1 in Daytona Beach, 1 in DeLand – all the courts. – Static information for testing: 1593 specimen, 19% reported for substances – this includes legal use of marijuana.

Public Safety assessment implemented in 2016 – it gives information of likelihood of a person's failure to appear or offend while out on release.

Questions asked.

Is the level of charges tracked, misdemeanor or felony and the level of the felony?

Stated – the level of charges is tracked but the level of the felony is not.

Do you know what percentage of arrest are misdemeanors or felonies? Stated – No but can get that data for next meeting.

Question/Statement (no name) Pre-trial supervision was terminated but not for failure to comply and it does not automatically trigger a determination? Stated - No.

What is the average length of time an individual will spend in the program. Stated - 2 1/2 to 3 months, some cases could take longer, depending on the system.

Is there a max number that can be handled? Stated - That is a complex question, but general 100 per officer. But there are other factors that could affect this based on trends, that could show higher caseloads at times, such as like what happened during COVID.

How many officers are you at right now? Stated - 10.

Are you down positions? Stated - The only vacancy Volusia County has right now is for the lab, Court Services Officer position, but staff are cross-trained so staff can be rotated out.

D. DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE REPORT – Steven Smith

291 intakes of those are 33 on pending adult charges, 172 in diversion, 269 probation, 53 residential commitment program, 34 post commitment probation, 1 conditional release.

civil citation data from 3/22 to 2/23 – 475 eligible for citation, 202 arrested, 273 issued alternatives to arrest, 57% utilization of the civil citation program

IV. OLD BUSINESS – Nicole Sharbono

The Reinvestment Grant was discussed, and it was revealed that the committee did not pursue due to the requirements of the grant.

Christy Gillis – Dept. of Family and Children – bring the SIM data that's in place now to share at the next meeting.

Recommend having on-going conversation regarding the grants available – Reinvestment and Implementation Grants for SIM – and what the committee should/could be doing to prepare for the applications of these grants. It was recommended that a sub-committee may be beneficial in the process.

Steven Smith asked for names of who should be recommended for the SIM sub-committee.

V. NEW BUSINESS – Steven Smith

Request for a new chairman for this committee. Nominated Chief Judge Leah Case.
The minutes were approved unanimously.

Family Resource Center staffing update – Childrens Homes Society currently has 2 staff, Halifax has posted 2 positions for Care Coordinators, Department of Children and Families has a Hope Navigator, DJJ has staff.

Are those services only for juveniles? Probably not staff yet for walk-ups but may be able to work with the family as a whole unit. Not sure if could serve adults recently release.

VI. GENERAL DISCUSSION – Steven Smith

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 A.M.