



**Okaloosa County Public Safety Coordinating Council**

**Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting: October 26, 2017 12:00 PM**

**Courthouse Annex Extension, Fort Walton Beach**

**Public Safety Coordinating Council Members**

Present	Name	Agency
x	Graham Fountain	Board of County Commissioners
x	Stefan W. Vaughn	Chief Corrections Officer
x	Judge Brown	Circuit Judge
x	Judge Grinsted	County Judge
x	Jay Jones	Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Designee
	Bill Bishop	Assistant State Attorney
x	Charles Russell	Assistant Public Defender
	Julie Gaither	Circuit Administrator, Florida Department of Corrections, Probation and Parole Services
	Kelli Huckabee	Pretrial Services
x	Tina Ferland (Ms. Davis)	Judicial Corrections Services, County Probation Provider

**Other Attendees:**

C. Eric Esmond, Major, Department of Corrections  
Tammy Matthews, Department of Corrections  
Susan Priddy, Health Services Administrator, Corizon Health Services  
J. D. Peacock, Clerk of Court  
John Anderson, Clerk of Court Office  
Robin Wright, Court Administration  
Lisa Lydston, Bridgeway Center, Inc.  
Jeremy Gilbert, Okaloosa Sheriff's Office

Meeting opened at 12:01 pm.

**Welcome:**

Commissioner Fountain opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. He had the opportunity to visit other judicial circuits in the state and expressed appreciation in how well this judicial circuit operates.

**Minutes**

1. a. June minutes were approved as sent.

## **2. Old Business**

- a. Mr. Peacock reported on the electronic bond system. The clerk's office has accepted over \$13,000 in bonds through the new system. Chief Vaughn reported 14 inmates have posted bond through the system from the jail and have not returned on new law violations. Mr. Peacock stated the next phase of the system will be accepting remote payments from other people paying the inmate's bond, such as family. The option of paying bonds on site of the arrest for spring break was discussed, but would not afford the person the inconvenience of going to jail. For someone arrested during spring break, the trip into custody can be a learning experience that would not be afforded to them if the person could pay bond at the time of arrest. The office may establish a remote booking/bond location in Destin, but it has not been decided at this time. The clerk's office allows another cardholder to post the bond for an inmate if they show up in person and have verification they are the cardholder, but an inmate in custody can only post his bond with his own credit card.

## **3. Jail Report**

- a. Chief Vaughn discussed the statistics report. The count of the facility is fluctuating between 750 and 800. He reported the county has approved the purchase of the property next to the corrections facility for future expansion. He has discussed with stakeholders having a new building with EMS and the Sheriff's office included with the jail as a Public Safety Complex since the Bracken Building will be utilized for future jail expansion. Many positive possibilities are being discussed. Judge Brown asked if anything would explain the increase in property crime and Capt. Jones stated most thefts are crimes of opportunity, especially car theft with doors being left unlocked.

## **4. Pretrial Services Report**

- a. Ms. Wright reported an additional Pretrial Officer position has been funded and posted. The mental health evaluations have held steady. Judge Brown asked why a cap has been established for GPS monitoring. Ms. Wright stated the GPS monitoring still requires human contact which is a staffing concern as technology cannot be the only thing the person depends on to monitor the defendant. She stated the new position will allow the office to accept an increased amount for GPS monitoring.


## **5. New Business**

- a. Judge Brown asked for clarification on pretrial sanctions attached to a bond, similar to community control sanctions or curfew. Ms. Wright explained those type of sanctions can be established as probation options. Chief Vaughn expressed appreciation for consideration of various options.
- b. Major Esmond reported the department is updating the gain time policy with consideration of what other agencies are allowing if the inmate participates in programs, such as GED. The programs considered for gain time would be programs which increase the inmate's employability upon release. Outside agencies have expressed interest in offering training programs, but most are longer term which are beneficial to prison inmates. Trinity is the food vendor for the facility and has started offering a training on Serve Safe food certifications. The agency is helping those that graduate find employment

after they are released from custody. Food service is a great program since there are many employment opportunities throughout the county. Judge Brown asks defendants and has discovered most do not have either a GED or high school diploma. He is pleased to know the facility is partnering with the school board and NWFSC to offer education opportunities and GED testing to the inmates. Chief Vaughn stated he considers any opportunity for programs that will release an inmate into the community with better options than when they arrived.

- c. Commissioner Fountain asked if the public defenders and state attorneys can have a meeting to determine if plea agreements could be met sooner. Judge Brown is open to the discussion. He would be willing to attend a meeting with stakeholders to determine barriers and options for improving efficiency. Ms. Wright stated recommendations could be made after a study was conducted of the judicial schedules and changes needed.
- d. Commissioner Graham discussed the option of holding meetings quarterly. The statute states meetings are held as scheduled by the committee chair. He would like consideration of having meetings in January, April, July, and October. Reports can still be provided monthly for discussion at the meetings. The current meeting location assists with allowing judicial participation and would continue, if available. The date for the January meeting will be sent as established.

Meeting ended at 12:50 pm.



Commissioner Graham W. Fountain  
Vice-Chair, Okaloosa County Commission  
Chair, Public Safety Coordinating Council