

MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL (PSC) FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE, MENTAL HEALTH, & SUBSTANCE ABUSE

A meeting of the Public Safety Council for Criminal Justice, Mental Health, & Substance Abuse (hereafter referred to as the PSC) was held on Friday, May 26, 2023, at 12:00 PM in Conference Room B1-501 of the County Administration Building B, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida. You may hear an audio of the meeting and review the agenda on the IRC website at www.ircgov.com/Boards/PSC/2023.

PSC Members Present

David E. Currey, Chairman, Chief of Vero Beach Police Department
Eric Flowers, Vice Chairman, Indian River County Sheriff
Ann Berner, SE Florida Behavioral Health Network (SEFBHN)
Dawn Boulding, Circuit Administrator, 19th Judicial Circuit
Elizabeth (KJ) Demich, Peer Support, Substance Awareness Center
Irene Cauwels (for Carrie Lester), Executive Director, Substance Awareness Center of IRC
Rayme Nuckles, Treasure Coast Homeless Services (TCHS)
Tony Schwab, Chief Judge, 19th Judicial Circuit
Valerie Smith, National Alliance on Mental Illness
William Wims, President/CEO, New Horizons Treasure Coast
Justin Barenborg (for Diamond Litty), Public Defender's Office

PSC Members Absent

Joseph Flescher, Commissioner
Donna Morris (for Suzanne Caudell), Director, Comprehensive Offender Rehab & Education
Joseph Cracchiola (for Mike Davis), FL Department of Corrections
Thomas Bakkedahl, State Attorney
Kent Campbell, IRC Sheriff's Office (IRCSO) Chief Correctional Officer
Dedilia Finlayson, Detention Facility Director, FL DJJ
Carol Martin, Director of Consumer Services, Mental Health Assoc. of IRC
Nicole Menz, County Judge
Nathan Peterson, Chief Probation Officer, FL DJJ

Others Present

LaToya Bullard, Miss B's Learning Bees

IRC Staff

Dylan Reingold, County Attorney
Kimberly K. Moirano, Commissioner Assistant, Recording Secretary

Call to Order

(12:06 PM) Chairman Currey called the meeting to order; a quorum was present. At the suggestion of Mr. Reingold, introductions proceeded around the table.

Approval of the PSC Minutes for November 18, 2022 and February 24, 2023

(12:07 PM) ON A MOTION BY Sheriff Flowers, SECONDED BY Mr. Wims, the members voted unanimously (11-0) to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2022, and February 24, 2023, meetings.

Election of Officers for 2023

(12:08 PM) ON A MOTION BY Ms. Berner, SECONDED BY Mr. Wims, the members voted unanimously (11-0) to elect Chief Currey as Chairman for 2023.

(12:08 PM) ON A MOTION BY Ms. Berner, SECONDED BY Mr. Wims, the members voted unanimously (11-0) to elect Sheriff Flowers as Vice Chairman for 2023.

Expansion to the SE Florida Behavioral Health Network Grant (Ann Berner)

(12:09 PM) Ms. Berner declared that the SEFBHN grant from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) where SE Florida was the Applicant on behalf of the County expired as of the end of April. They worked with the IRC Hospital District to secure some additional funding so it looked like that is going through. They are still working on May so they're hoping to clarify what their intent is and they will be continuing the grant at least through September 30th. The funding for subsequent grants will not be available until the following October with DCF. They have applied for two additional grants to help fill the funding void and they are hopeful to secure some additional funding to keep the program intact. There were some issues about SE Florida acting on behalf of the County. It is not that they're looking for a big thank you but it's arduous work in trying to work with DCF from their main contract and so there was some interest in someone else applying in the future. She just wanted to have that conversation if there were any specific concerns. It is paper and labor intensive. You're coordinating across a lot of different sectors. From her perspective, Amanda Busbin has done an exceptional job in trying to coordinate and piece together a lot of staffing issues that providers have been looking for some continuity. At some point if there is an interest of someone stepping up to do those applications, let Ms. Berner know.

(12:10 PM) Sheriff Flowers asked whether they had taken in the opioid funds for the entire region. Ms. Berner stated not for St. Lucie because they get the funds directly. DCF thought that they were going to have the information every day for 18 months and so they're still working with them. There was some Legislation passed that set up an opioid office under DCF to do the data collection and so there's a whole database that's being created to collect information about the funding from the settlement. There is some money coming directly to Indian River County. Sheriff Flowers stated the County has received one payment. Mr. Reingold stated his conversations with the folks in the Attorney General's Office was they have received \$150,000 that came in at some point in December. His understanding from the conversations that he had with the State was that there was a one-time Walmart payment that was supposed to come within 30 to 90 days and that was probably about 30 to 90 days ago when he got that comment. He was also informed that the next year's payment of roughly \$150,000 should be coming in the August-September timeframe. Sheriff Flowers stated they also have the ability to go to Walmart to get Narcan from them directly. Mr. Reingold stated he planned to bring an agenda item on June 6th to the BOCC for the final approval of what the ultimate plan will be for the first \$150,000 and going forward. The concept that the Board leaned on was to try to utilize it for opioid use issues relating to our alternative courts. Commissioner Loar and himself met with Judge Cox, Judge Stone and Judge Mentz and they discussed utilizing that for treatment, testing, wrap around services such as transportation and housing issues and that was going to be the focus of the funds. His understanding under the State Agreement is he just has to send them some sort of information by July as to what is the proposal from the County. Sheriff Flowers stated there is a whole separate pot that Ms. Berner is managing for us that the BOCC has not made a decision on what they're doing with that yet. Mr. Reingold has been waiting for SE Florida Behavioral Health Network to say this is what we have got with our funds and this is how we can leverage to work together. Sheriff Flowers thought that the money should go towards supplementing the IRC Hospital District and making those courts work because they're talking about combining the Mental Health Court and the Substance Court. He stated he would like to discuss doing stuff in the jail about some renovation type stuff specific to opioid treatments and try to find a way to leverage some of the bigger knowledge. It's not just a one-time payment. Ms. Berner stated the amount is coming over an 18-year period. They're waiting for the allocations to come out of DCF. It's a little concerning because they do

keep talking about the information that has to be collected that is consistent with the settlement terms. They have had to go back and revise a whole database that will be required to collect. She thought it was also on the County direct funds as well. Mr. Reingold stated the County entered into the Settlement Agreements. He stated there are reporting requirements as part of their agreement. His understanding of the deal is that he has tell them by the beginning of July which is why he is bringing the item in June. At some point he has to show them the data or evidence of how they spent the funds so that they get an accounting of where the invoices are from. He envisioned that SE Florida Behavioral Programs' exhibit of allowable uses and the like is probably the same as the County's. There are programs in the jail that are referenced in the settlement documents. Sheriff Flowers stated they have plans already. They have an idea that part of their medical ward could be transitioned from what it is now into holding areas specific to opioid treatments and moving their medical people. Mr. Reingold said he is not aware of any current shifting away from the ME with assistance on these things. Ms. Berner stated in the negotiations with the hospital district there was some issues expressed.

Commissioner's Matters (Commissioner Flescher)

(12:18 PM) There were none.

Committee Members Matters

(12:19 PM) Sheriff Flowers stated some of the stuff that they're doing in the jail is pretty revolutionary to the point of they had their sheriffs submit earlier this month. They're having him present at the July conference to all of the sheriffs and then he is going back in November to the Executive Leadership Conference for Florida Sheriffs Association to present as well. Everybody around the state is struggling with the cost of medical care for inmates and the fact that they've entered into this agreement with the non-profit and the way that they've done it to where they have a cushion on both sides where their agency is protected of major costs. Their agency is protected and they've got a little give and take. There is only one other county that works with a non-profit anywhere in the state and that's Marion County and that has actually been in place for many years before the current sheriff. In the future, jails across the state will work with non-profit organizations to provide healthcare to the inmates. They've got a dialysis machine inside the jail. He does not have to transport people anymore. That's a cost savings to the Sheriff's office. It is costing them more in the contract for TCCH but he pays more in overtime of having their people transport them to 37th Street to get treatment. They pay a little more in the contract but he's got a nurse practitioner. They have done a big mural inside of the jail. They're getting ready to start up a farm. They're going to have some rabbits. They've expanded their female inmate print shop program. Before they were just printing for non-profits. They're putting in a t-shirt machine. Their floor cleaning program has expanded. Everything they're doing from trying to get people hired before they leave them. Working with second chance employers who will come in and hire them before they even leave them. They're making big strides over there in the jail. They leave the jail with an appointment card to TCCH to get dental care, eyeglasses, mental health care. As far as the Pretrial Release Program they took that in January. The folks in the courthouse are doing a great job. They are putting ankle monitors on people when they leave. In Indian River County, they have fee schedules for misdemeanors but all felonies see a judge for first appearance. The Supreme Court has been tasked with creating a fee schedule for the State to make it uniform because across the state it is not. It's all over the place. Mr. Reingold asked about the grant cycle opening up again. His understanding is that those grant cycles were three-year cycles and so anybody who was planning to apply for that DCF Funding this year was basically blocked. So, his understanding is that Martin County and Indian River County were both kind of caught in the slamming of the door on them. Ms. Berner stated that was because a decision was made that there was such a small amount available that they would only award planning grants and so that's the door that was closed. It's actually October of 2024. Mr. Reingold's concern was for those counties who were on the three-year cycle for the implementation grant they got slammed the door on this time. They're going to now be in the same boat with all of the other counties next year who are on their three-year cycle and he was wondering whether that's going to impact the ability of counties, like, us and Martin County.

(12:27 PM) Mr. Kuckles stated he is the new CEO for Treasure Coast Homeless Services (TCHS). He attended the last meeting. He was not provided any information about what his role is on the Committee or what we as Treasure Coast Homeless Services (TCHS) should be providing as assistance to this Committee. He requested a briefing on the role. He wanted to know what the Board needed from their organization so they can be a better partner. Mr. Reingold stated under the statute there are roughly 20 different positions that are established as to the folks who are part of this Committee. He stated their organization represents one of those partners. What he has found is that they have talked about a lot of different programs, concepts, ideas and sometimes some groups have more kind of input than others depending on what the topic is. He knew in the past they have talked about what are we going to do with our reinvestment grant of 1.2 million dollars every three years and sometimes it comes down to a housing question or an issue of transportation or peer review and what types of things. Often times the CEO can help provide input just from his perspective on the ground. Sheriff Flowers also stated he hoped that in this room that they would be able to deal with issues that we have like we're a group or organizations that come together that are taking care of a certain subset of the public here and if TCHS is having issues with their law enforcement or the courts or whatever, the problems are brought to the meeting and say my folks are struggling with this. He stated that they are getting ready to bring in this group that does free IDs for inmates that are homeless. If you're having issues, bring that to the meeting and they can help and try to figure out how to make that stuff work for their clients. Chief Currey stated anything relating to what he does as a CEO there and housing and the homelessness. Sheriff Flowers stated he has a deputy that is just dedicated to homelessness Scott Burke. He's in the Community Affairs Unit. He goes out and deals with any homeless issue. Mr. Reingold stated he would send the state statute to everyone on the committee.

Chairman's Matters

(12:36 PM) There were none.

Public Discussion Items

(12:37 PM) LaToya Bullard, who is the CEO and Founder of Miss B's Learning Bees presented a presentation describing their services. Their mission is to help children become sufficient.

Adjournment

(1:00 PM) There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the PSC is scheduled for **August 25, 2023, at 12:00 PM**, in Building B, Conference Room B1-501, at 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, FL.