

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, February 23, 2024, 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/2024.

PSC Members Present

David E. Currey, Chairman, Chief of Vero Beach Police Department
Eric Flowers, Vice Chairman, Indian River County Sheriff
Thomas Bakkedahl, State Attorney
Ann Berner, SE Florida Behavioral Health Network (SEFBHN)
Dawn Boulding, Circuit Administrator, 19th Judicial Circuit
Kent Campbell, IRC Sheriff's Office (IRCSO) Deputy Chief Correctional Officer
Diamond Litty, Public Defender's Office
Rayme Nuckles, Treasure Coast Homeless Services (TCHS)
Charles A. Schwab, County Judge
Carrie Lester, Substance Awareness Center of IRC
Joseph Cracchiola, FL Department of Corrections
Nicole Menz, County Judge
Dedilia Finlayson, Detention Facility Director, FL DJJ
Michelle Zawistowski (for Nathan Peterson), Detention Facility Director, FL DJJ
Valerie Smith, National Alliance on Mental Illness

PSC Members Absent

Joseph Flescher, Commissioner
Suzanne Caudell, Director, Comprehensive Offender Rehab & Education
Carol Martin, Director of Consumer Services, Mental Health Assoc. of IRC
Valerie Smith, National Alliance on Mental Illness
Mike Davis, FL Dept of Corrections
William Wims, President/CEO, New Horizons Treasure Coast
Kathy Jones, Substance Awareness Center of IRC

Others Present

Amanda Busbin, SE Florida Behavioral Health Network (SEFBHN)
Shaun Leydon, Treasure Coast Community Health
Angela Rosado Jones, IRC Sheriff's Office (IRCSO)
Justin Barenborg, Public Defender
Vicki Soule, Treasure Coast Community Health Inc.
Wendy Parent, 19th Judicial Circuit Drug Court Program
Demetria Williams, Take Flight Counseling & Consulting
Wes Samons, The Mental Health Collaborative
Bill Long, Office of the State Attorney
Adrian Stewart, Florida Department of Corrections
Meredith Egan, United Way IRC

Michelle Zawistowski, Department of Juvenile Justice

IRC Staff

Bill Debraal, County Attorney

Keith Jackman, Assistant County Attorney

Ashley Brown, Recording Secretary

Call to Order

Chairman Currey called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm; a quorum was present.

Approval of the PSC Minutes for November 17, 2023

ON A MOTION BY Eric Flowers, SECONDED by Rayme Nuckles, the members voted unanimously (15-0) to approve November 17, 2023 minutes.

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

Amanda Busbin introduced Shaun Leydon as the newest member of the Southeast Behavioral Health Network. As Project Director, Mr. Leydon will be delivering updates during future Public Safety Council meetings. While bringing Mr. Leydon up-to-date, Ms. Busbin explained that she typically discusses performance outcome measures. Also covered are trends they are seeing, discussions pertaining to funding and providing other applicable information to committee members.

Sheriff Flowers inquired about the status of the opioid settlement funding. Ms. Busbin reported that the recommendation made by the Public Safety Council was presented to the Board of County Commissioners and the motion was approved. Mr. Debraal stated it would be added to the agenda for the next meeting in March. These funds will be reoccurring and be distributed annually. At this time, the payout for the next fiscal year has yet to be determined. However, the Public Safety Council will meet in 2025 and committee members will determine how the money should be spent.

Ms. Berner explained there are already several approved individual providers, such as the Substance Awareness Center. On June 30th the money will be advanced to each provider and the SEFBHN will receive supplemental invoices to break down how the funds are spent. This will provide accountability for the County and show that the money was spent on services. Additionally, managing entities have the ability to carry over unspent general revenues but it is capped at 8%. Ms. Berner said we need to be sure that the money is moved in the event the total allocation is not reached. There is currently an 18-year schedule for the opioid settlement funds.

Ms. Lester of the Substance Awareness Center explained her organization is currently working on a Needs Assessment. She discussed the importance of this and how they are hoping to expedite the process. Ms. Lester previously discussed this matter with the Board of County Commissioners and asked the committee if a Live Dashboard would be helpful. Sheriff Flowers affirmed it would be and Chairman Currey stated this topic was touched on during the last PSC meeting.

Mr. Debraal informed committee members that when we voted upon the disbursement of funds during the November 17, 2023 PSC meeting and made the recommendation to the BCC, the amount used was \$1.1 million. However, the true number is actually *\$1.2 million* which means there is a remaining \$99,000

of unallocated funds that must be utilized. Ms. Lester said that with an additional \$60,000 they could complete the Needs Assessment. Ms. Berner added Miranda Swanson of the Health Department stressed the importance of a Needs Assessment during the November 17, 2023 PSC meeting. Sheriff Flowers asked if the Dashboard would only contain self-reported information from the SAC or if it would be a community-wide database. Ms. Lester said it will serve as a community survey where we can monitor all information in one place.

ON A MOTION BY Eric Flowers, SECONDED by Kent Campbell, the members voted unanimously (15-0) to allocate \$60,000 to the SAC Dashboard & roll the remaining \$40,000 into next year.

Commissioner's Matters

There were none.

Committee Members Matters

Ms. Lester stated that Kathy Jones is no longer with the Substance Awareness Center. Her seat will need to be filled. Sheriff Flowers then discussed the fentanyl lawsuit. He informed committee members that yesterday the IRSCO, in partnership with the Southern District of the United States, proceeded with a federal case regarding a local man that was distributing fentanyl. The fentanyl he provided wound up killing someone. Sheriff Flowers stated they worked the case backwards and have a number of cases similar to this one. He shared that due to this crime the dealer is now facing life in prison. When it comes to overdose cases, they are now going after the dealers and holding them legally responsible for any deaths. As such, they are beginning to see the fruits of their labors.

Sheriff Flowers then brought up the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Fundraising Event on March 6th. He invited everyone to come out for a barbecue. It is not necessary to spend any money should you wish to attend, however, any money that is spent will go directly to the Sheriffs Youth Ranches. He said that they will be providing tours of the jail. Sheriff Flowers discussed their GED program and the work placement program which provides inmates with work/ culinary skills. This enables formerly incarcerated individuals to get jobs in restaurants upon release.

Other updates were provided regarding the IRCSCO's new phone service provider. Inmates can now access communication such as text messages and video calls. They are offering numerous training programs for a variety of career paths. Options include training for barbers, welders, phlebotomists, nail technicians and more. The success rate has been excellent so far. Fourteen people gained employment upon release— only one was rearrested. These statistics are incredibly promising as the normal rearrest rate is 75%.

Lastly, Mr. Nuckles wanted to bring committee members' attention to House Bill 1365 and Senate Bill 1530. It is regarding unauthorized camping, and he believes it will have a major impact on our county moving forward. The Florida Housing Coalition produced a report pertaining to the bill and they determined the cost that this bill would incur for our county alone is nearly \$6 million. Mr. Nuckles stated this is applicable to any kind of camping. Campsites would need to be highly regulated and require the implementation of different services. Currently it has gone through both the Senate and the House. Mr. Nuckles is keeping a close eye on these Bills as they could have a huge impact on the homeless population.

Chairman's Matters

There were none.

Public Discussion Items

There were none.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.

The next meeting of the PSC is scheduled for **May 24, 2024, at 12:00 PM**, in Building B, Conference Room B1-501, at 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, FL.