

Public Safety Coordinating Council
Pinellas County
August 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The Pinellas County Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) met in regular session at 2:00 PM on this date in the Third Floor Judicial Conference Room at the Pinellas County Justice Center, 14250 49th Street North, Clearwater, Florida.

Present

Dave Eggers, Chair, County Commissioner
Bruce Bartlett, State Attorney
Shawn Crane, Chief Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit
Deanna Carey, representing Sheriff Bob Gualtieri
Christopher Dudley, Department of Corrections
Michael Jalazo, Pinellas Ex-Offender Re-Entry Coalition (PERC)
Jim Miller, Operation PAR, Inc.
Paige Parish, representing Public Defender Sara Mollo
Dorothy Vaccaro, County Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit

Not Present

Bob Gualtieri, Pinellas County Sheriff
Sara Mollo, Public Defender

Others Present

Amanda Bonham, PERC
Maxine Booker, Personal Enrichment through Mental Health Services (PEMHS)
Nick Bridenback, Court Administration
Siomara Bridges-Mata, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
Tim Burns, Pinellas County Human Services
John Cornett, Department of Children and Families
Katiah Fitzpatrick, Pinellas County Justice Coordination
Yashira Gonzalez, Pinellas County Justice Coordination
Frank Kopczynski, Pinellas County Bail Bond Association
Kenneth Lyons, Department of Corrections
Joseph Morrissey, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Jennifer Parker, Trial Courts Administrator
Melissa Reid, Department of Juvenile Justice
Beth Stephens, representing Largo Police Chief Mike Loux
Abigail Nygaard, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk
Other interested individuals

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF PSCC MEMBERS

Chair Eggers called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM and requested that those in attendance introduce themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chief Judge Crane made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of May 6, 2024. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jalazo and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one responded to the Chair's call for public comment.

State Attorney Bartlett arrived at 2:05 PM.

REPORTS

Indicators Report

Mr. Burns, with input from Ms. Gonzalez and Chief Judge Crane, discussed the increase in jail population, noting legislative changes to the uniform bond schedule as a contributing factor and related that there has been a subsequent decrease in the number of participants in the Released on Recognizance program. Chief Judge Crane, with input from State Attorney Bartlett, provided details regarding current efforts to address the increased jail population; whereupon, discussion ensued regarding a vacancy in staff that had a significant impact on the ability to move individuals through the system.

Thereupon, Mr. Burns, with input from Ms. Gonzales, indicated that he would like to gauge interest in forming a subcommittee to review the Indicators Report and to make suggestions regarding potential data that could be added. Following discussion, Ms. Gonzalez related that she would follow up via email relating to interest in developing the subcommittee.

Mr. Burns provided an update relating to Safe Harbor and the impacts of new legislation regarding public camping, indicating that several collaborative grants have been awarded, which will allow for additional services.

Criminal Justice Reinvestment Grants

Mr. Jalazo provided an update regarding the Complex Case Reintegration Program (CCRP), noting that there are 32 individuals currently enrolled and 15 successful

completions; and that staff is considering utilizing opioid abatement funds to expand the CCRP and enhance the Harm Reduction Program.

Referring to a document included in the agenda packet, Mr. Jalazo indicated that it contains a menu of technical assistance and training options related to the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant; and that PERC has selected care coordination of complex care management, best practices for Medication Assisted Treatment, and co-occurring disorders and service delivery; whereupon, he requested a motion to approve the selections.

Responding to queries by Mr. Bridenback, Mr. Jalazo provided clarifying comments and noted that the PSCC must approve the selections.

Chair Eggers indicated that Mr. Jalazo made a motion and that a second is needed; whereupon, the motion was seconded by Chief Judge Crane and carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Vote to Adopt PSCC Website and Member Packets

Ms. Gonzalez displayed the PSCC website and provided an overview of its contents, noting that the members can request that other information be added to the website.

Responding to a query and comments by the members, Ms. Gonzalez indicated that the Indicators Report and a data dashboard could be added to the website. At Chair Eggers' request for a motion for approval, Mr. Miller made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Jalazo and carried unanimously.

Ms. Gonzalez referenced a document titled *Public Safety Coordinating Council Welcome Packet for Members & Designees* and indicated that it includes the Council's purpose, plans, and bylaws; and that it will be accessible electronically via the PSCC website. Chair Eggers requested a motion for approval of the welcome packet; whereupon, Ms. Carey made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dudley and carried unanimously.

DCF Reinvestment Grant Update

This item was not addressed.

PRESENTATIONS

Opioid Abatement Fund

Referencing a discussion at a previous PSCC meeting, Mr. Burns provided information regarding opioid settlement funds received by the County, noting that funding is allocated by the State into a city-county fund and a regional fund. He indicated that the regional funding allocation is distributed to the County; that the County entered into an interlocal agreement with the Cities of Clearwater, Pinellas Park, and St. Petersburg to govern the use of the settlement funds and establish an abatement funding advisory board; and that the board is tasked with reviewing opioid-related data, setting priorities for regional settlement funding, and providing funding recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners; whereupon, Mr. Burns briefly discussed a gap analysis that was conducted at the request of the abatement funding advisory board.

Mr. Burns discussed the city-county fund and indicated that all municipalities in the county collaboratively manage the funding; whereupon, in response to comments by Mr. Jalazo, he provided information related to guidance from the State regarding use of the funds for harm reduction efforts.

Responding to a query by Chief Judge Crane, Mr. Burns provided brief comments regarding funding disbursed to the regional fund to-date.

Idea Exchange

Referring to a PowerPoint Presentation, Ms. Bonham discussed the purpose of harm reduction and syringe service programs and provided a lengthy overview of Pinellas County's syringe service program, IDEA Exchange Pinellas, including its services, accomplishments, and ongoing partnerships with external stakeholders.

Thereupon, Mr. Jalazo provided brief comments regarding the potential for PERC to expand its services by utilizing the opioid abatement funding.

NEW BUSINESS

Membership

Referencing new membership for the Planning Council, Ms. Gonzalez indicated that Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) Regional Substance Abuse and Mental Health Director Melissa Leslie selected DCF Behavioral Health Integration Specialist John Cornett to fill her vacancy; whereupon, Ms. Bridges-Mata indicated that NAMI selected Dawn Handley and Jessica Kushner to fill the two remaining vacancies.

Responding to a query by Mr. Burns, Attorney Morrissey suggested that the Board approve the designations; whereupon, Mr. Jalazo made a motion to approve the three selected individuals. The motion was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

Discussion of future topics/presentations/priorities

Ms. Gonzalez indicated that the PSCC website will be updated to reflect the names of the new Planning Council members; and that she is coordinating with staff at Operation New Hope to conduct a presentation at the next PSCC meeting.

ROUNDTABLE/UPDATES

Mr. Burns, with input from Chair Eggers, provided information related to the County's Care About Me program, noting that it provides a streamlined approach to accessing mental health, substance abuse, and addiction services; whereupon, he distributed fliers with information related to various programs.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 PM.