



PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

November 1, 2024
Administration Building,
4th Floor, BCC Meeting Room,
477 Houston Street,
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
11:00 AM

WELCOME

Chairman Joe Bucci welcomed and thanked everyone for their attendance.

CALL TO ORDER

Present: CCSO Director of the Detention, Joseph Bucci, Chairman
Chief of Detention Security, William Arnold, CCSO
Judge Steven Whittington, Clay County Circuit Judge
Judge Raymond Forbess, Clay County Judge - Division C
Commissioner, Vice-Chairman Mike Cella
Director of Clay County Probation, Stephanie Wright
Public Defender, Mark Wright
State's Attorney Office - Clay County Director, Pam Hazel

Absent: None

Staff Present: Program Unit Supervisor, Patty Atkinson
Medical Services Manager, Margaret Pittenger
Chief of Detention Administration - CCSO, Larry Henry
Norah Marler
Debra Troupe

Chairman Joe Bucci called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Public Safety Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes, August 2, 2024.

Director Stephanie Wright made a motion for approval of the August 2, 2024, PSCC meeting minutes, seconded by Chief William Arnold, which carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Current Status of the Clay County Detention Facility

The discussion of the Current Status of the Clay County Detention Facility can be seen at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKbwEp50_cw. Beginning at 0:52 and ending at 17:43 Below is a summary of the discussion.

William Arnold, CCSO Chief of Detention Security addressed the Council to provide the current status of the CC Detention Facility. Chief Arnold the Clay County daily average for the third quarter is 457 inmates - 93% of max capacity. As of today the jail is at 414 inmates - 84% of max capacity.

- 336 Males
- 79 Females
- 89% of the population - Felonies
- 11% of the population - Misdemeanors
- 102 sentenced to Clay County Jail
- 33 sentenced to Department of Corrections

Chief Arnold also provided details and information to give an update regarding the new construction of the jail. Due to issues with contractors there has been a delay and the anticipated completion date is December 2025.

There were comments, questions, and discussions regarding resolutions for any population issues, a matrix setup for drug treatment, limitations for space, other locations for the program, grant applied for substance abuse program, vision for the program, required classes, counseling, Vivitrol program details - shot provide every 30 days for six months that blocks the receptors in the brain from the cravings of alcohol and opioids, success rate, timeframe, number of participates, availability of the program, partnership with Clay Behavioral, after-care for inmates, helping inmates move back into the community, qualifying for the program and medication, administration of the medications while incarcerated and once released, benefits from the Vivitrol, and moving forward with the program.

Ms. Atkinson mentioned that on November 7, 2024, there would be a job fair at the jail and there are six individuals that are ready to take their GED test.

There were comments and discussions regarding the positive impact of the job fairs and other programs are for inmates, and major factors for crime - drugs and alcohol.

Chairman Bucci expressed his gratitude to Ms. Atkinson and the team for all they do and their endless work.

3. Clay County Detention Facility Mental Health

The discussion of the Current Status of the Clay County Detention Facility Mental Health can be seen at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKbwEp50_cw, beginning at 22:42 and ending at 32:06. Below is a summary of the discussion.

Nora Marler, Licensed Mental Health Counselor - Clay County Jail, addressed the Council to provide an update regarding the CC Detention Facility - Mental Health. Substance abuse disorder is at the top of the list of issues. Roughly 70% struggle with addiction and dependency disorders. There were 159 inmates scheduled for counseling in October - 22 refused - 3 were released, and 12 struggled with 100% homelessness with zero support system. A large focus is psychoeducation and the Nero sides of addiction that have had a positive response when showing what happens to the brain from drug use.

There were questions and discussions regarding the number of inmates seen daily (varies), roughly ten a day - In October - roughly ten mental health provision evaluations with the threat of harming someone or themselves with follow-ups until they are released - roughly 48 mental health follow-ups, 22 mental health evaluations, and details regarding the process and scheduling to seeing inmates, adequate time and space issues being the a large challenge and the need for mental health program, clarification of recidivism and upcoming programs for inmates.

4. Clay County Detention Facility Re-Entry Program

The discussion of the Clay County Detention Facility Re-Entry Program can be seen at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKbwEp50_cw. Beginning at 17:44 and ending at 22:40. Below is a summary of the discussion.

Patty Atkinson, Program Unit Supervisor, addressed the Council to provide details and information regarding the update on The New Hope Program. The average is more males than females. To get participation, there are incentives, i.e., an extra art class, etc. A life skills class is also offered to inmates, and the job fair has a positive impact.

Chief Arnold addressed the Council to provide details and information for the re-entry program build update, with the biggest challenge being securing funding to move forward with construction.

5. Reorganization of the Public Safety Coordinating Council

Reorganization of the PSCC can be seen at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKbwEp50_cw. Beginning at 32:07 and ending at 38:38. Below is a summary for the discussion and the vote for this item.

Chairman Joe Bucci opened the floor to discuss the reorganization of the PSCC and requested nominations.

Judge Steven Whittington nominated Mark Wright to be the Chair, seconded by Judge Ray Forbess, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Wright spoke about the positive impact of the PSCC and the need to provide programs to help inmates move forward to re-enter the community.

Chairman Bucci welcomed Judge Forbess to the Council and thanked everyone for their support. Judge Forbess expressed his gratitude for being included and looks forward to serving on the Council.

Chairman Bucci wished Commissioner Mike Cella all the best in his retirement and thanked him for his service. Commissioner Cella spoke about the positive impact of having the PSCC and the programs offered in the jail.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Joe Bucci opened the floor for public comment at 11:39 am.

Hearing no comments, Chairman Joe Bucci closed the public comment at 11:39 am.

ADJOURN

Hearing no further business, Chairman Joe Bucci adjourned the meeting at 11:39 am.

Attest:

Tara S. Green
Clay County Clerk of Court and Comptroller
Ex Officio Clerk of the Board

Chairman or Vice-Chairman

Attachment
“A”
PSCC Sign-In
Sheet

Public Safety Coordinating Council
Clay County, Florida

ATTENDANCE SIGN-IN SHEET

Course/Topic: Public Safety Coordinating Council

Date: 11/2/2024

Location: Administration Building

Time start: 11:00 Stop: 12:00

Instructor(s): Chairperson Joe Bucci

Print your name with member ID Number

- 1 Joe Bucci - Chair - CCSO 21 _____
- 2 William Arnold 22 _____
- 3 Margaret Pittenger 23 _____
- 4 LARRY HENRY 24 _____
- 5 Norah Marler 25 _____
- 6 Debra Troupe 26 _____
- 7 LATTY ATKINSON 27 _____
- 8 Mark Wright 28 _____
- 9 RAY FORBESS 29 _____
- 10 MIKE CELLA 30 _____
- 11 Steven Whittington 31 _____
- 12 Stephanie Wright 32 _____
- 13 Yegor Pam Hanzel 33 _____
- 14 _____ 34 _____
- 15 _____ 35 _____
- 16 _____ 36 _____
- 17 _____ 37 _____
- 18 _____ 38 _____
- 19 _____ 39 _____
- 20 _____ 40 _____