

**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 25, 2022, 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/2022.

PSC Members Present

David E. Currey, Chairman, Chief of Vero Beach Police Department
Eric Flowers, Vice Chairman, Indian River County Sheriff
Amanda Busbin (for Ann Berner), SE Florida Behavioral Health Network (SEFBHN)
Donna Morris (for Suzanne Caudell), Director, Comprehensive Offender Rehab & Education
Mike Davis, FL Department of Corrections
Joseph Flescher, IRC Board of County Commissioners (BCC)
Louise Hubbard, Treasure Coast Homeless Services (TCHS)
Kathy Jones, Women's Recovery Assistance Program Manager, Substance Awareness Center
Michelle Rhodeback (for Diamond Litty), Public Defender
Chris Seagrist (for Nathan Peterson), Chief Probation Officer, FL DJJ
Tony Schwab, Chief Judge, 19th Judicial Circuit
Valerie Smith, National Alliance on Mental Illness
William Wims, President/CEO, New Horizons Treasure Coast

PSC Members Absent

Thomas Bakkedahl, State Attorney
Dedilia Finlayson, Detention Facility Director, FL DJJ
Carrie Lester, Executive Director, Substance Awareness Center of IRC
Carol Martin, Director of Consumer Services, Mental Health Assoc. of IRC
Nicole Menz, County Judge
Milo Thornton, IRC Sheriff's Office (IRCSO) Chief Correctional Officer
Myra Zilahy, Circuit Administrator, 19th Judicial Circuit

IRC Staff

Dylan Reingold, County Attorney
Ed Offutt, Commissioner Assistant, Recording Secretary

Call to Order

(12:02 PM) Chairman Currey called the meeting to order; a quorum was noted.

Approval of the PSC Minutes

(12:02 PM) ON A MOTION BY Commissioner Flescher, SECONDED BY Mr. Wims, the members voted unanimously (13-0) to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2021, meeting.

Election of Officers for 2022

(12:03 PM) ON A MOTION BY Commissioner Flescher, SECONDED BY Sheriff Flowers, the members voted unanimously (13-0) to elect Chief Currey as Chairman for 2022.

(12:04 PM) ON A MOTION BY Commissioner Flescher, SECONDED BY Ms. Busbin, the members voted unanimously (13-0) to elect Sheriff Flowers as Vice Chairman for 2022.

Expansion to the SE Florida Behavioral Health Network Grant (Amanda Busbin)

(12:06 PM) Ms. Busbin provided an eighteen-month statement of performance regarding the Grant. (See Attachment 1 for the full statement.) She disclosed that SEFBHN is meeting all of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) performance measures, with the exception of stable housing support; Ms. Busbin asserted that many agencies across the state had difficulty meeting the stable housing measure due to difficulty in contacting clients a full year after leaving the program (one year being the state's directed time for taking the measurement). She also called the Board's attention to the cost-avoidance calculations (estimated from the cost benefits of keeping clients out of jail) and competency status table; she noted that IRC's incompetency numbers were higher than most of Circuit 19's other counties. For the system's heaviest utilizers, Ms. Busbin highlighted IRC's "wrap-around" case management service, which integrates clients' families or preferred support groups into their programs and assists with finding housing, medical coverage, or any other needed services.

(12:10 PM) Ms. Busbin next specified that SEFBHN would like to begin writing a proposal to renew the Grant, requesting the BCC again designate SEFBHN to represent the County in this matter. She explained that SEFBHN would appreciate a six-month period to write the new proposal, and receiving timely permission to proceed would allow for the earliest-possible submission of the grant paperwork to the DCF and minimize the possibility of funding gaps.

(12:13 PM) ON A MOTION BY Sheriff Flowers, SECONDED BY Mr. Wims, the members voted unanimously (13-0) to recommend to the BCC that SEFBHN continue to serve as the County's applicant to DCF for the next iteration of the Indian River Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant.

(12:14 PM) Mr. Reingold specified that he would bring the item before the BCC on March 15, 2022, and encouraged the PSC members to attend that meeting. He then asked Ms. Busbin if she would present the draft proposal to the PSC in May or August of this year, and she replied affirmatively. Ms. Rhodeback questioned if the Grant applied only to the Mental Health Court and not the Drug Court; Ms. Busbin replied that the Grant was directed solely at the Mental Health Court, but that many clients in MHC faced co-occurring substance abuse and, as a result, Grant funding was also used for drug-related issues. Ms. Busbin further explained that the Grant provided funding for housing, social services personnel (case managers), drug testing, and transportation for high-demand utilizers. Chairman Currey inquired about the 28 listed "unsuccessful discharges" in the report, and Ms. Busbin stated that some clients simply could not abide by the program's requirements. Ms. Hubbard voiced that the overall success rate within the targeted population was quite good and felt the Grant had positively impacted her efforts to find housing for at-risk individuals. Ms. Busbin opined that the "wrap-around" program had made a measurable difference, with results that were twice as effective as past efforts.

Commissioner's Matters (Commissioner Flescher)

(12:24 PM) Commissioner Flescher commented that he was anxious for the March 1st start of the County's pre-trial services program. Judge Schwab thanked Clerk of Court Jeff Smith for coordinating a "great spot in the courthouse" for the program, calling it a "one-stop shop" for the staff. Sheriff Flowers cautioned that the program might have a slow start but was optimistic that it would show good progress within six months. Judge Schwab responded that he looked forward to discussing the early program data at the August PSC meeting.

Committee Members Matters

(12:28 PM) Sheriff Flowers called attention to the annual Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Barbecue, taking place at the Indian River County Fairgrounds on Wednesday, March 2nd.

Chairman's Matters (Chairman Currey)

(12:29 PM) Chairman Currey added that the Substance Abuse Free Indian River (SAFIR) Coalition was holding a Family Fun Fest at the Intergenerational Center on Oslo Road on Saturday, February 26th.

Public Discussion Items

(12:29 PM) There were none.

Adjournment

(12:30 PM) There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the PSC is scheduled for **May 27, 2022, at 12:00 PM**, in Building B, Conference Room B1-501, at 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, FL.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Ann Berner Report on the Expansion to the Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network Grant, dated February 25, 2022

**Eighteen-month Report from the Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network
Indian River County Public Safety Council
February 25, 2022**

The Indian River Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant is entering its sixth quarter of the current CJMHSR Reinvestment Grant. We had 15 clients who entered this quarter who received an assessment. All the highest utilizers were referred to the wrap-around case managers for a more intensive approach. There are 36 clients who have been referred to New Horizons for the Wraparound Case Management. We are already seeing a reduction in these high utilizers with less hospital admissions and a stabilization in housing. For the first six quarters, 60 clients were discharged, with 49 of those clients being deemed successfully discharged, meaning 81% of clients who left Mental Health Court did so having met all expectations. This quarter we have continued to operate while being understaffed and continue to adhere to all the CDC guidelines. We have encouraged those clients who can and desire to get the vaccine to do so and are assisting some with making those appointments. Clients continue to find employment opportunities, with many open and hiring positions currently available, and several are doing very well at maintaining those positions. We have begun working in partnership with Vocational Rehabilitation and UP to assist clients in finding employment.

Mental Health Association is providing therapy and now some psychiatric services. MHA IRC received a special provision of funds and will be filling in the gaps for clients who need immediate psychiatric services and medication management. These services will allow for clients to avoid deterioration in their mental health needs until a more stable provider can be established. Wrap-around case management with New Horizons is working very well in conjunction with court case management for our high-utilizers. The addition of wrap-around is proving very effective in keeping these clients engaged in treatment and thus avoiding costly hospital visits and re-offending.

We have maintained the two transitional houses and the clients residing in them are working towards independent living. The clients in these homes are provided peer support services who meet at least weekly for group/house meetings to provide additional support and supervision. Housing is always a challenge, so we continue to utilize boarding housing opportunities and other assistance to ensure no one is homeless. Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council is a vital partner in this effort.

Number of Participants Enrolled

Year/Quarter	Number Enrolled
Grant Year 1	
Quarter 1	98
Quarter 2	10
Quarter 3	11
Quarter 4	35
Grant Year 1 Total	154

Grant Year 2

Quarter 1	14
Quarter 2	17
Quarter 3	7
Grant Year 2 Total	38
Grand Total	192

Discharge Status

Status	Totals
Deceased	2
Successful	73
Unsuccessful	28
Unsuccessful (blank)	1
Grand Total	104

Program Performance Measures

Performance Measures	Percentage	Target
Percent of Participants Assessed for Benefits Upon Intake	100.00%	65.00%
Percent of Participants Assisted with Benefits	100.00%	65.00%
Stable Housing From Admission to 90 Days	75.63%	67%
Stable Housing From Admission to Discharge (if successful discharges)	82.61%	80%
Stable Housing 1 Year Following a Successful Discharge	26.09%	24%
Percent Arrested While Enrolled	7.38%	<=30%
Arrests Within 1 Year Following Discharge (if successful discharge)	5.63%	30%
Program Participants Not Employed at Admission who are Employed at 180 Days Following Admission	90.32%	60%

Program Participants Employed full or part time 1 year following program discharge (If successful program completion)	21.92%	24%
Percent diverted from State Mental Health Treatment Facility	91.67%	15%
Percent of Participants Diverted from Criminal Justice System and Successfully Discharged	70.19%	30%

Cost Avoidance

Performance Measures	Number of Cases	Number of Jail Days Avoided	Cost Avoided*
Misdemeanors	55	2200	\$275,000.00
Felonies	135	13230	\$1,653,750.00
Total	190	15430	\$1,928,750.00

Competency Status	Count
Competent	156
ICP	25
NGI	8
(blank)	
Grand Total	189