

**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 27, 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
Bill Long (for Thomas Bakkedahl), State Attorney
Amanda Busbin (for Ann Berner), SE Florida Behavioral Health Network (SEFBHN)
Mike Davis, FL Department of Corrections
Joseph Flescher, IRC Board of County Commissioners (BCC)
Louise Hubbard, Treasure Coast Homeless Services (TCHS)
Chris Walsh (for Diamond Litty), Public Defender
Valerie Smith, National Alliance on Mental Illness

PSC Members Absent

Dawn Boulding, Circuit Administrator, 19th Judicial Circuit
Suzanne Caudell, Director, Comprehensive Offender Rehab & Education
Dedilia Finlayson, Detention Facility Director, FL DJJ
Kathy Jones, Women's Recovery Assistance Program Manager, Substance Awareness Center
Carrie Lester, Executive Director, Substance Awareness Center of IRC
Carol Martin, Director of Consumer Services, Mental Health Assoc. of IRC
Nicole Menz, County Judge
Nathan Peterson, Chief Probation Officer, FL DJJ
Tony Schwab, Chief Judge, 19th Judicial Circuit
Milo Thornton, IRC Sheriff's Office (IRCSO) Chief Correctional Officer
William Wims, President/CEO, New Horizons Treasure Coast

IRC Staff

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

Call to Order

(12:04 PM) Chairman Currey called the meeting to order; a quorum was not present.

Approval of the PSC Minutes for February 25, 2022

(12:04 PM) As there was no quorum, approval of minutes was deferred.

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

(12:04 PM) Ms. Busbin provided a brief update to the Grant. (See Attachment 1 for the full

statement.) She expressed some concern about a new provider at the IRC jail, reporting that the provider was only allowing mental health court clients to leave the jail with three days of medication, whereas previously the Sheriff's Office permitted these clients to leave with whatever amounts of medication had been issued to the patient. Ms. Busbin explained how difficult it was for psychiatric patients to schedule appointments and get new medications in just three days. She added that any medications received at the jail should be specified for a single inmate and not allocated to a community pharmacy for all inmates to use. Sheriff Flowers related that the new provider, Treasure Coast Community Health, had just started on May 1st and was still working toward full staffing, with only three full-time staff currently employed plus some temporary personnel. He said he would work with TCCH to improve this situation.

(12:10 PM) Ms. Hubbard asked about the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH), explaining that the program was a state-funded service delivery model providing specialty mental health care via a navigator/facilitator. Ms. Busbin replied that the PATH local contract would now be administered by RiteLife Services of Port St. Lucie. Ms. Smith wondered about the effects of inflation on group housing for the mentally ill, and Ms. Busbin asserted that, while costs have increased, those costs are not passed on to the Grant's clients. Mr. Reingold asked for a refresher on what exactly the IRC Grant covered, and Ms. Busbin detailed that it absorbed the cost of medicines, housing, and treatment for all clients. Mr. Reingold followed-up by asking if any facilities utilized by the Grant were having trouble staying open due to rising costs, and Ms. Busbin advised that SEFBHN had been proactive in making cost adjustments where needed.

Commissioner's Matters (Commissioner Flescher)

(12:18 PM) Commissioner Flescher commented that "budget season" was approaching, but that IRC would not cut funding to any key services.

Committee Members Matters

(12:20 PM) Sheriff Flowers noted that the IRC pre-trial services program currently had 30 people enrolled, and that it was proving popular with the local judges. He disclosed that Martin County had left the St. Lucie County-administered program and elected to manage the program on their own; the Sheriff felt that IRC could potentially save money and improve performance in the future by choosing the same course of action. Mr. Reingold remarked that the pre-trial services program contract required only a 60-day notification to opt-out. Chairman Currey asked whether the pre-trial services team was using the room set aside for them at the IRC Courthouse, and Sheriff Flowers said they were, but there were some access requests from the team that his office was still negotiating.

Chairman's Matters (Chairman Currey)

(12:25 PM) Chairman Currey had nothing to add.

Public Discussion Items

(12:26 PM) Mr. Long expressed his enthusiasm for the pre-trial services program.

Adjournment

(12:28 PM) There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the PSC is scheduled for **August 26, 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 May 27, 2022

**Attachment 1 to PSC Minutes
May 27, 2022**

The Indian River Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant is entering its sixth quarter of the current Grant. We had 19 clients who entered this quarter and received an assessment. All the highest utilizers were referred to the Wrap Around case managers for a more intensive approach. Already, there are 36 clients who have been referred to New Horizons for the Wraparound Case Management. We are 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 and 49 of those clients were successfully discharged, meaning 81% of clients who left Mental Health Court did so having meet 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 COVID-19 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; 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 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 have allowed clients to avoid deterioration in their mental health needs until a more stable provider can be established, or receive psychiatric medications right away once released from jail without a break in receiving medications. This is proving to have a great effect on the continued stability of mental health courts clients entering the community and staying in the community with less hospitalizations and less new crimes committed.

Wrap-around case management with New Horizons is working very well in conjunction with court case management for our high utilizers. The addition of wraparound is proving very effective in keeping these clients engaged in treatment and 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, meeting at least weekly on a group/house basis to provide additional support and supervision. Housing remains a challenge, so we continue to utilize boarding opportunities and other assistance to ensure no one is homeless. Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council continues to be vital partner in this effort.

The County Specialty Courts recently were awarded a grant for Inpatient SUD treatment and have had 3 clients utilizing that so far, with at least one more referred. Two clients are at Port St. Lucie Hospital, and one is scheduled for intake at Independence Recovery of New Horizons.

The mental health court program routinely completes a cost-avoidance analysis as a

return-on-investment measure. The data has been measured by calculating the daily cost of jail, multiplied by the average number of days for a jail sentence for individuals convicted of a misdemeanor and the average number of days for a jail sentence for individuals convicted of a felony. The below cost avoidance is for clients who have been in Mental Health Court. Calculations as follows:

- 68 clients w/misdemeanor x avg 40 jail days x \$125 avg cost/day = \$340,000
- 138 w/felony charges x avg 98 jail days x \$125 avg cost/day = \$1,690,500
- 206 total clients = 16,244 jail bed days x \$125/day = \$2,030,500 Est Cost Avoidance

Number of Participants Enrolled

Year/Quarter	Number Enrolled	
Grant Year 1		AW
Quarter 1	97	102
Quarter 2	10	9
Quarter 3	11	17
Quarter 4	35	25
Grant Year 1 Total	153	153
Grant Year 2		
Quarter 1	14	22
Quarter 2	17	15
Quarter 3	21	23
Quarter 4	11	
Grant Year 2 Total	63	60
Grand Total	216	213

CONTRACT MANAGER EDITS IN RED

Discharge Status

Status	Totals
Deceased	3
Successful	85
Unsuccessful	27
Unsuccessful (blank)	1
Grand Total	116

Contract Program Performance Measures:			
Performance Measures	Percentage	Target	Measure
Percent Arrested While Enrolled	7.58%	<=30%	E-1.1
Arrests Within 1 Year Following Discharge (if successful discharge)	4.65%	<=30%	E-1.2
Stable Housing From Admission to 90 Days	75.37%	67%	E-1.3
Stable Housing 1 Year Following a Successful Discharge	25.00%	24%	E-1.4
Program Participants Not Employed at Admission who are Employed at 180 Days Following Admission	52.00%	60%	E-1.5
Program Participants Employed full or part time 1 year following program discharge (If successful program completion)	42.35%	24%	E-1.6
Percent of Participants Assessed for Benefits Upon Intake	99.09%	65.00%	E-1.7.a
Percent of Participants Assisted with Benefits	90.41%	65.00%	E-1.7.b
Percent diverted from State Mental Health Treatment Facility	93.64%	15%	E-1.8

Percent of Participants Diverted from Criminal Justice System and Successfully Discharged	70.83%	30% 40%	E-1.9
			E-1.10

NON-CONTRACT PERFORMANCE MEASURE:

Stable Housing From Admission to Discharge (if successful discharges)	85.71%	80%	
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Cost Avoidance				
Performance Measures	Number of Cases	Number of Jail Days Avoided		Cost Avoided*
Misdemeanors	70	2800		\$350,000.00
Felonies	147	14406		\$1,800,750.00
Total	217	17206		\$2,150,750.00

Competency Status	Count
Competent	177
ICP	27
NGI	8
(blank)	
Grand Total	212