

**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, August 26, 2022, at 12:00 PM in Conference Room B1-501 of the County Administration Building B, 1800 27<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.ircgov.com/Boards/PSC/2022).

**PSC Members Present**

**Eric Flowers**, Vice Chairman, Indian River County Sheriff  
**Amanda Busbin (for Ann Berner)**, SE Florida Behavioral Health Network (SEFBHN)  
**Nikhil Primm (for Dawn Boulding)**, Circuit Administrator, 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit  
**Suzanne Caudell**, Director, Comprehensive Offender Rehab & Education  
**Mike Davis**, FL Department of Corrections  
**Joseph Flescher**, IRC Board of County Commissioners (BCC)  
**Kathy Jones**, Women's Recovery Assistance Program Manager, Substance Awareness Center  
**Carrie Lester**, Executive Director, Substance Awareness Center of IRC  
**Dorothy Naumann (for Diamond Litty)**, Public Defender  
**Nicole Menz**, County Judge  
**Patty Harris (for Tony Schwab)**, Chief Judge, 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit  
**Valerie Smith**, National Alliance on Mental Illness

**PSC Members Absent**

**Thomas Bakkedahl**, State Attorney  
**David E. Currey**, Chairman, Chief of Vero Beach Police Department  
**Dedilia Finlayson**, Detention Facility Director, FL DJJ  
**Louise Hubbard**, Treasure Coast Homeless Services (TCHS)  
**Carol Martin**, Director of Consumer Services, Mental Health Assoc. of IRC  
**Nathan Peterson**, Chief Probation Officer, FL DJJ  
**Milo Thornton**, IRC Sheriff's Office (IRCISO) Chief Correctional Officer  
**William Wims**, President/CEO, New Horizons Treasure Coast

**Others Present**

**Vicki Soulé**, CEO, Treasure Coast Community Health, Inc. (TCCH)

**IRC Staff**

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

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**Call to Order**

(12:05 PM) Vice Chairman (Sheriff) Flowers called the meeting to order; a quorum was noted.

**Approval of the PSC Minutes for February 25 and May 27, 2022**

**(12:05 PM) ON A MOTION BY Ms. Busbin, SECONDED BY Commissioner Flescher, the members voted unanimously (12-0) to approve the minutes from both the February 25 and May 27, 2022, meetings.**

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

(12:06 PM) Ms. Busbin provided a brief update to the Grant, stating that “things are going well” but reporting elevated spending due to high rental housing costs. (See Attachment 1 for supporting performance data.) Judge Menz concurred, noting that more funds were being expended on in-patient treatment. Vice Chairman Flowers broached the topic of medications for inmates, and Ms. Soulé stated her goal of continuing to treat inmates after their release from jail if they wished to become patients of TCCH. Vice Chairman Flowers said that feedback was positive – from both staff and inmates -- since TCCH began its role as the jail’s healthcare provider on May 1, 2022. Ms. Naumann inquired about how much medication inmates hold in their possession when leaving the jail, and Ms. Soulé confirmed that they could leave with as much as 29 days if released immediately after a 30-day prescription had been filled; on the opposite extreme, if departing just prior to a refill, the inmate can receive a voucher for one week of medication. Vice Chairman Flowers said the IRCISO is also providing inmates a booklet listing all of the places they can go to receive help after release, in an attempt to establish a process that ends in success for all parties rather than reincarceration. Ms. Lester remarked that available data from the IRC jail could be used to create an evidence-based discharge plan for inmates. Judge Menz divulged that, when a judge sees a defendant who clearly has a mental health issue, there are now better communication systems in place to alert the jail of the inmate’s need for psychological assistance.

(12:15 PM) Mr. Reingold asked if there were any upcoming deadlines the PSC needed to be aware of in regard to the Grant, and Ms. Busbin replied that she was meeting with advisors to discuss future areas of emphasis. She revealed that the SEFBHN may not know if the next grant will be approved until just prior to the expiration of the current one (on June 30, 2023), which she felt was stressful for the staff hired through the Grant. Overall, however, Ms. Busbin recited her confidence in those individuals writing the new grant package and eventual approval to continue these efforts. Mr. Reingold said he wanted to be sure the PSC was fulfilling its role to support the current Grant and the application for the next one.

### **Update on Pre-Trial Services (PTS)/Supervision Program (Vice Chairman Flowers)**

(12:19 PM) Vice Chairman Flowers commented that all signs pointed towards the IRCISO managing the PTS program on its own, most likely starting within the next six months. He revealed that the higher number of users in the program (over 50, compared to an expectation of about 30) had predictably resulted in St. Lucie County asking for more funds to support the effort, and the Sheriff felt that IRC could potentially save money and improve performance in the future by assuming responsibility and control. Vice Chairman Flowers advised that his staff had been examining new ankle cuff monitors at a cost of approximately \$4 per day, per monitor. He also described the need to update some of the IRCISO’s paperwork dealing with domestic violence and reported that the agency would work with the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence to make those changes.

### **Commissioner’s Matters (Commissioner Flescher)**

(12:27 PM) Commissioner Flescher asked Vice Chairman Flowers to comment on the IRCISO’s Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) capabilities. Vice Chairman Flowers replied that the IRCISO had contracted for systems from Axon and Flock Safety to position ALPRs at every entry road into IRC; he went on to describe some of the successes the agency has experienced with the systems thus far. He thanked the BCC for increasing his budget by \$7.25M so he could hire 14 new patrol officers and 14 corrections deputies, and he mentioned that, eventually, there would be about 100 ALPRs installed in fixed locations around the county, augmented by ALPRs installed in IRCISO patrol vehicles.

### **Committee Members Matters**

(12:36 PM) Judge Menz noted that the next Mental Health Court graduation ceremony -- with 17 graduates -- would be held on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM, and that all were welcome to attend.

### **Chairman's Matters (Vice Chairman Flowers)**

(12:37 PM) Vice Chairman Flowers informed the PSC that he'd had a meeting this week with the Mental Health Collaborative where he proposed two-person mental health response teams consisting of a "sworn law enforcement deputy and a mental health person." There was discussion within the group as to potential grant funding for such a concept, "ownership" of the team(s), and the chance to visit Martin County and explore how their similar teams operate.

### **Public Discussion Items**

(12:39 PM) There were none.

### **Adjournment**

(12:40 PM) There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the PSC is scheduled for **November 18, 2022, at 12:00 PM**, in Building B, Conference Room B1-501, at 1800 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, FL.

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### **Attachments**

Attachment 1 – Performance Measures Summary for the Expansion to the Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network Grant, dated August 26, 2022 (A. Busbin)