



DeSoto County

Public Safety Coordinating Council

Meeting Agenda

Thursday, July 17, 2025

9:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER

MINUTES APPROVAL

Public Safety Coordinating Council Minutes from April 17, 2025

Attachments: [4-17-2025 PSCC Minutes](#)

COUNCIL DISCUSSION/COMMENTS & REMARKS

Drug Court Presentation

Update on the Jail Study

Courthouse Elevator Update

OTHER TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

NEXT MEETING AGENDA TOPICS

ADJOURN



DeSoto County

7/17/2025

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- ☒ Consent Agenda ☐ Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing
☐ Regular Business 10:00 am
☐ Public Hearing Minutes

DEPARTMENT: Administration
SUBMITTED BY: Sylvia Altman

TITLE & DESCRIPTION:

Public Safety Coordinating Council Minutes from April 17, 2025



DeSoto County

Public Safety Coordinating Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 17, 2025

9:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER

MINUTES APPROVAL

Public Safety Coordinating Council minutes from January 17, 2025

Attachments: [01-16-2025 PSCC Minutes for Legistar](#)

A motion to approve the minutes from January 17, 2025 was made by Sheriff Potter and seconded by Stephanie Ditroia.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION/COMMENTS & REMARKS

Probation Work Program

Chairman Hickox started the discussion about the work offender program with the challenges and opportunities everyone seems to be running in to. Raquel stated the current challenges are staffing and resources. She said there is currently no extra staff available to handle the work program and that the program is limited to Animal Services and the Landfill due to transportation issues. Raquel also said there is certainly a need for a passenger van that will hold 12-14 people that also requires no CDL to operate. She stated Judge Brewer was going to be reaching out to Sarasota County Sheriff's office for a possible van donation or reduced cost purchase. There was more discussion regarding the type of vehicle needed, insurance and licensing. Judge Flowers brought up the cost of supervision for probationers. He stated it is currently \$50 per month and has not increased in over 17 years so there is a need to review and potentially increase these costs. It was unclear if these supervision costs were set by statute or county ordinance. Mandy said she would try to find that information and report back. Judge Flowers also talked about probationers being able to buy out community service hours. He said he was okay with that to a certain extent as he felt work offender program days are meant to be an alternative jail sanction and you shouldn't be able to buy your way out of jail. Much more discussion took place regarding the need of probationers at the Landfill in several different areas not just by the roadside and also Road and Bridge and using probationers to help clear areas that are to be mowed. Mandy stated if the probationers could be used to pick up all the furniture people dump on the side of the road it would be a huge help.

Updates of the Conceptual Plans for the Jail

Mandy said the jail conceptual contract for the scope was awarded to Securitecture LLC and will be going to the board on next Tuesdays meeting. She said it came in at \$47,000 and there was \$150,000 budgeted. She said the walk-thru would be next Tuesday the 22nd. She stated this company has a lot of experience and they are currently working on Okeechobee's jail, as well as experience with others. She also stated this conceptual plan will not be like a buildable design,

but will help figure out from a design perspective the next step in what type of site will be needed to accommodate the building. As she said you could pick a site and design around it or go with a design and then find the appropriate piece of property. Mandy also said we still haven't figured out how we are going to come up with the \$60-100 million to build just yet but this certainly needs to move forward in some way. There was much discussion about the problems the Sheriff's Office faces with the bed space available right now and the need for a new jail. Lieutenant Pitts spoke about being on the selection committee and how he had been looking for a company with Florida experience for a while and was impressed with Securitecture and them having quite a bit of experience in Florida. Colonel Vitali also spoke in regards to the selection committee and his thoughts on the company. Mandy spoke on getting in touch with our lobbyist to see if we can have the more than \$100k left over go towards the land purchase or something else as she said she would hate for it to go back into the pot. She also spoke on how to go about finding a piece of property and what would meet the site requirements as in the water and sewer has to be close by where you can connect. There was much more discussion on the needs of the jail and the property location.

Courthouse Third-Floor Revamp

Judge Flowers spoke of the third-floor renovations at the Courthouse. He said court administration had a meeting and everything is approved to move forward. He said they do have small hearings or trials, or they have traffic court on the third floor. He went on to say the way it is set up now is a bit of a security risk as the Judges have to walk through the audience to get to the bench which he said isn't really a safe condition. Judge Flowers said it will actually be inverted so the Judges will enter from behind the bench like you would normally expect and the jury will be able to enter and exit in a logical way as well. He stated that as far as capacity it will hold roughly the same number of seats that it currently has. Judge Flowers said the biggest benefit he believes will be the technology upgrade that will be happening as well. He said they have some pretty complex serious cases so technology involvement has been huge. He also said there has been some concerns that the way it is set up now, when showing photographic crime scene evidence or displaying a video or pictures, it is all open for everyone to view. He said this upgrade will limit that refinement so the parties that should see it can see it. The upgrades will allow attorney's to plug in laptops right from the councils table box for easier presentations as well. Judge Flowers said the upgrades are very much appreciated and they are truly necessary as it will be easier to serve people better and keep everyone safe. He also said Judge Hall has been involved and is also very happy with the layout as well. Judge Flowers said he was told hopefully by December the construction will be completed. There was much discussion of where the files/records would be going during the construction and after and secure parking for the Judges was also brought up.

OTHER TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

Mandy spoke on the Governor's established DODGE office by executive order. She stated she will be taking a Resolution to the Board to basically say we are all in and will fully cooperate. There was much discussion on this topic and the amount of information needed to complete the request. Angela Dunbar ask the Sheriff if Charlotte Behavioral was still located in the jail and he answered yes. She said she had staff that wants to volunteer to do weekly groups for the inmates called "living the sober life" if ever a need arises. She stated these would be for the long-term people that when they do get out of jail they have some tools under their belt to help not be repeat offenders and would be for an hour a week once a week for the inmates that want

to come. Colonel Vitale said right now they are having Charlotte Behavioral focus on inmates not acting on suicidal ideation as the primary focus over group therapy. Judge Flowers ask if this weekly group living a sober life was offered outside of the jail and Angela said they actually offer it through Drug Court which they run. It's for graduates of Drug Court and they can come anytime. She said they have about 8 groups a week. Judge Flowers wanted to follow up on Treatment Court and how with the treatment team's assistance, the program is being refined and organized to help make the program work better for the people being served. He said they are looking to expand the number of people that are now currently being served. There was more discussion on Treatment Court. Angela ask how much the daily jail costs per inmate and it was stated \$85 per day. Lieutenant Pitts said the charge is \$5 when they get booked in and then it's a \$3.50 per charge. Angela said in Manatee/Sarasota it is \$200 for booking. There was much more discussion on the low cost of fees being charged.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA TOPICS

Judge Flowers said he would love to do a presentation on Drug Court. Mandy said she would like to do another update on the jail study as that should be done. There was also talk of an elevator update.

The next meeting will be Thursday July 17th, 2025 at 9:00am in the Board Room.

ADJOURN

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned.