



DeSoto County

Public Safety Coordinating Council

Meeting Minutes

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](#)

A Motion to approve the minutes from April 17, 2025 was made by Colonel Vitale and seconded by Cliff Ramey.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION/COMMENTS & REMARKS

Drug Court Presentation

Judge Flowers gave a presentation on the Desoto County Drug Court highlighting on every aspect of the program. He gave a summary of who and who is not eligible for the program as well as a description of the 12-24 month program and each of the 4 phases required to complete the program. He also went over the members of the treatment team and outlined their roles throughout the program. He discussed " staffing", how members of the treatment team collaboratively discuss the progresses made by each individual in the program. He elaborated on how participants progress and participation, violations are addressed by the treatment team as well as how sanctions are an important part of the rehabilitative process. He detailed the types of sanctions that can be imposed by the Court. Once staffing is completed, the treatment team then moves to the Courtroom, where each participant is given an opportunity to update the treatment team with their perspective updates. The Judge's meaningful involvement through the application of best practices, constructive feedback, positive reinforcement, and helping individuals uncover their personal motivations or 'why'-significantly contributes to each participant's growth and overall success within the program. Judge Flowers shared the main reason criminal defendants enter the drug court program is oftentimes a means to avoid facing a prison sentence and he encourages defendants to find another reason for their recovery. He reviewed the benefits of the drug court program which is for the defendant to achieve stable employment, reduce jail and related court cost, maintain stable housing, treat and reduce mental health symptoms, reinstating their drivers licenses so the individual can return to their families with valuable life skills to become a functioning member of society which will consequently affect the community as a whole. Currently the Desoto County Drug Court has the highest number of clients (28) since its inception. There have been 15 graduates since January 2024. Judge flowers encourages defendants to participate in community engagements, he has plans to work with the Florida Adopt a Highway and would like to organize some back to school backpack and shoe drives. There was further discussion amongst the treatment team in regards to participants of Drug Court having fostered a community where they attend meeting and

group sessions even after graduating the program in order to support each other through their recovery. Angela Dunbar talked about how this program is staffed for 30 participant and having 28 clients enrolled currently shows how successful this program can be. She also made the council aware that with the number of participants, the space for gatherings has become challenging. She is currently looking for space to hold meetings to accommodate for both Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous, as some area churches where meetings are held do not accommodate for both.

Update on the Jail Study

Mandy Hines updated the council with the findings of Securitecture, LLC Jail Study. She detailed the conceptual design and cost estimate to address current deficiencies and accommodate future needs of the DeSoto County Jail Administrative Complex. She reviewed the proposed design, highlighting that the new facility will be designed with scalability in mind, allowing for future expansion as needed. Ms. Hines stated even with the significant reduction of the buildings gross square feet, which was achieved during the workshop, the mean total opinion of probable cost of \$108,382,464 was reduced by \$15,722,866 to \$92,669,598, is still an insurmountable cost for the county. There was further discussion on legislative factors that would allow for budgets to be re appropriated to purchase the site property. Sheriff Potter also acknowledged that the conceptual design is an effect way of bringing all departments and facilities under one roof would make things run more smoothly and help manage staffing and costs more effectively.

Courthouse Elevator Update

Mandy Hines communicated developments to the council on the 3rd floor courtroom and the time frame for the installing of the elevator. Mr. Ramey questioned when improvement will be done to the 2nd floor courtroom. There was further discussion on where the 12th Judicial Circuit administration has allocated funding for improvements to the courthouse.

OTHER TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

NEXT MEETING AGENDA TOPICS

The council discussed the topics they would like to focus on at the next meeting, which will be held on October 23, 2025 at 9:00 AM. Some of the topics for discussion are The Work Offender Probation Program to include talk on setting a fee schedule. Also Judge Flowers would like to further discuss acquiring a passenger van that does not need a CDL to operate for the Probation and Drug Court participants. Mandy Hines added with the legislative budget and DOGE efforts from the Governor, acquiring a van may be unlikely. Also give an update to the secure parking and teen court.

Supplement Documents Drug Court Presentation

Attachments: Desoto County Drug Court Presentation

ADJOURN

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:27AM.