

Alachua County Public Safety Coordinating Council

Thursday, June 5, 2025

Alachua County Family & Civil Justice Center, Chief Judge's Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

Approval of PSCC Meeting Minutes from December 12, 2024

Brian Kramer made a motion to approve the PSCC Meeting Minutes, Cheryl Kauffman seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Public Comments

There were no public comments at today's meeting.

CEPP Presentation

Dr. Kelvin Banks introduced his team, which includes Cynthia Mausser and Tara Boh Blair, and gave an overview of the [Center for Effective Public Policy](#) (CEPP). For the past 45 years, CEPP has supported policymakers, practitioners, and communities in reimagining a justice system that works for all - providing training, resources, and strategic planning grounded in local and national expertise. CEPP team members have decades of experience working at all levels of the criminal legal system, and subject area expertise to help agencies move their work forward. They have partnered with every state in the US, training more than 83,500 practitioners, and providing training or assistance to more than 1,000 counties. They've trained judges, lawyers, community partners, corrections staff; and they've developed a library of hundreds of tools, reports, and guides that span many topics.

CEPP has a Three-Step Approach for assisting Court Services in their Reorganization:

1. Assessment (March to June 2025)

CEPP held virtual meetings prior to their first on-site visit in March 2025. They met with Major Dorian Keith at the Jail, observed the First Appearance process, including Overnight and Courtroom processes. They met with multiple stakeholders including County Commissioners, County Manager Lieberman, State Attorney Kramer, Public Defender Scott, members of the Judiciary, and multiple Court Services Leadership, program supervisors and staff. This first visit was to learn everything they could about Alachua County and Court Services as a whole. Since that site visit, they have been holding weekly meetings with the Court Services Internal Workgroup (made up of Court Services employees). These meetings have been geared towards building strong teams and change management (procedures/environments). CEPP plans to have a second on-site visit in June 2025 for additional informational gathering meetings.

2. Designing (July to August 2025)

Once site visits have been completed, the team will start to synthesize the information they've gathered, review Best Practices, doing a deep dive into the data they've requested, reviewing State Laws, Statutes, Local Court Rules and County/Department Policies, and plan to submit to the County Manager a draft report, including recommendations, in August 2025.

3. Implementation (September 2025 and beyond)

CEPP is hopeful to be involved in the Implementation Stage. They would like to support the county to implement the recommendations made in the Design Phase. They'll assist with developing an Implementation Plan, collaborate with local stakeholders, and continue to review and adjust changes as needed.

Dr. Banks shared the *Six Keys to Successful Organization Restructuring*, which are:

- 1) Clear Vision & Business Case
- 2) Effective Communication
- 3) Employee Engagement & Support
- 4) Strong Leadership
- 5) Phased Implementation
- 6) Adapting to the New Structure

Judge Moseley thanked everyone in the room who participated during the site visits. Heather Akpan thanked everyone as well for their participation, and shared that there may be additional meetings with stakeholders at the upcoming June visit. She clarified that the Draft Report will go to County Manager Lieberman first, who may make recommendations to the Board. After that, there will be more discussion before implementation begins. Moving forward, everyone's thoughts and input are greatly valued throughout this process.

The entire CEPP presentation is available upon request.

Jail Population Management Report

Joe Lipsey shared that as of **Wednesday, June 4, 2025**, (the day that the *Live Inmate Status Report* was compiled), the current jail population was 922 which is 80.3% of total jail capacity (1,148). In the report, the inmate status breaks down as follows:

Status Description	Cases	Inmates	Status Description	Cases	Inmates
Felony Awaiting Trial	944	650	In Transit	18	18
Misdemeanor Awaiting Trial	153	128	Misdemeanor Probation Violation	25	24
Felony Sentenced (Under 1 Year)	125	102	Civil Action	14	13
Felony VOP	112	91	Other Jurisdictions	5	5
Misdemeanor Sentenced	79	64	Book In / Book Out (Blank)	0	3
Felony Sentenced (Over 1 Year)	48	31	Other / Juvenile / Unspecified	3	3
Criminal Traffic	26	23			
TOTAL INMATES – 922		TOTAL CASES – 1,552			
<i>Total Inmates by Status (Some inmates have multiple status)</i>			<i>Total Cases by Status (Some inmates have multiple cases)</i>		

Anna Prizzia asked how the Jail determined the number of inmates with Mental Illness? Lillie Perkins said that is determined by screenings at time of booking in, as well as self-reports from inmates. Anna continued, does Wellpath update the numbers after booking-in, if mental illness is discovered? Major Keith stated that the number typically changes after a few days. There is a secondary Mental Health check that occurs within 14 days of initial check in, via Wellpath. If there is an inmate who did not present with mental illness symptoms during screenings, but show those signs at a later date, they will be screened by psych. The screening tool used by Wellpath also has specific mental health questions ([Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale](#)) that have been included by Meridian.

Court Services Data Review

Joe Lipsey reminded this committee that at the last meeting, there were questions regarding the increase in jail population numbers and a decrease in Court Services' programs being utilized. He presented a spreadsheet detailing the number of clients served by all Court Services' programs since FY18, and the differences in numbers are noticeable. Overall, there has been a 2,700+ drop in clients served between FY18 and FY24. It is notable that Work Release has been closed since the end of FY23. Anna pointed out the

correlation between the drop in Court Services client numbers and the increase in population, and asked if there has been any analysis done to determine the reason for the drop in numbers in each program? Joe stated that no analysis has been done, but it is something they could do in the future; he will have that conversation with other Court Services leadership. Anna pushed back that the large drop in numbers cannot be blamed on the closure of Work Release (she was the commissioner who made the motion to close Work Release, though she is open to reestablishing the program, if it's a program that provided justice and support to those using it). Joe continued, pointing out that there are a lot of variables that affect Court Services decrease in numbers, because of the number of stakeholders involved. Judge Susan Miller-Jones said that there has been an increase in defendants ordered to programs like Treatment Courts, Day Reporting, Metamorphosis, and OPUS. Judge Moseley wonders which Program loss equates to increased jail population? Does this spreadsheet show that a drop in program participants results in increased population, or does it simply show an overall decrease in the number of individuals ordered to a Program? He believes that these types of questions should be asked in that analysis of Court Services' Programs. He said that First Appearance and Bond Hearings are the two main options to screen defendants out to Programs, to keep them, or get them, out of the jail. Though he doesn't believe that releasing defendants at First Appearance is happening as much as it could. Right now, the courts have to believe that what's available to a defendant is a good option. If Court Services staff could attend Bond Hearings, staff would be able to advise judges about which program may be available to the defendant. But right now, judges have no idea what a defendant might qualify for otherwise. Anna stated that monitoring someone with an ankle monitor is much cheaper than paying for that individual to be housed at the jail, so if a judge is okay with electronic monitoring (EM), Anna sees that as a financial win all the way around. It also allows the defendant to keep their job, take care of their families, and be home while they await trial. Judge Moseley said all judges need to be more aware that EM is available, and that the county will pay for it. Heather interjected that the Alachua County Board recently ended all non-statutory fees, which means that EM is free for anyone on Pretrial Supervision (Probation clients ordered to EM still have to pay, since that is a statutory fee). She pointed out that everyone received a sheet listing *Pretrial Release Options Least to Most Restrictive*, that judges can keep on their bench, to know what is available to them for defendants. Heather is more than happy to meet with any judge about what Court Services currently offers.

Judge Moseley said that he is pleased with how Court Services staff file Compliance Reports and Violation Reports in a timely manner. Judge Davis added that if a client isn't doing well on Pretrial Release, they aren't going to go to court, because they know that they're going to get in more trouble; but if they're doing well, they show up, and judges commend them for their progress. Staff putting this info in those reports helps the judges ascertain how well the defendant would perform if put on probation.

Anna is curious if all of Court Services programs have the resources they need to be able to take all defendants who qualify for the programs. The County Commissioners are very dedicated on reducing jail population, to lessen the number of inmates in the jail, to reduce the stress on jail staff who are already understaffed, but also to give individuals the opportunity to continue their lives within the community while they await their trial dates; the more that the BoCC can do to give resources to the programs that the Judiciary believe to be strong and beneficial, the better. Judge Davis stated that he likes the EM/GPS program, he feels more assured with that option than a \$25,000 bond. Cash bond doesn't necessarily make someone safer, and a monitor can give an early warning that the defendant isn't where they're supposed to be. He asked if the ankle monitors work outside of Alachua County? Joe stated that they do work, with some caveats (this was discussed a few meetings ago). Users need to have a landline telephone connection, to be able to plug in to the base station at night. Judge Davis would like to know more about the EM/GPS program, its limitations, and its capabilities, so that he can share this information with other judges, who then could reach out to the attorneys about using the monitors. Heather shared that defendants on EM/GPS are monitored 24/7 by dedicated staff. If staff receives an alert about an individual, the staff will first check in with the individual, and barring a successful conclusion, then reach out to the Sheriff's Office, if needed.

Judge Miller-Jones asked what resources would be available for Mental Health Court, as she is always asking for more assistance. She told Anna to feel free to come and visit a staffing at any time to see the struggles they face, such as finding available bed spaces, or how long a defendant is on the wait list for a bed; there are trickle-down issues - if they are waiting on bed space for 2-3 months, they develop mental health problems, they may get depressed. Judge Miller-Jones emphasized that they are doing the best they can with what they have. Numbers may go up in jail population through no fault of the court system or Court Services.

Lillie added that mental health issues are plentiful in the jail, but the resources to fix the problem are just nonexistent in Alachua County. Staff try to come up with creative ways to address these issues, but new cases come up every day. Deputies and Correctional Officers are not Mental Health Counselors, or CNAs, but they have to step up because there's no other assistance available. It takes many man hours to assist one person. It's important to remember that the jail population numbers are *people*, and the County is failing them. She thanked Judge Miller-Jones for speaking up on these issues, and said that these issues should be in mental health facilities, not in jail. The county has a brand new receiving facility, but she doesn't know if that's helping. Judge Moseley predicts that the Central Receiving Facility will increase jail population, because there's no resources to send newly-stabilized individuals. Alachua County has become the hub for all outside cities and counties, and more people will end up in jail because of that. It also appears to him that the more severe the mental health issues, the longer that person remains in jail. Many of those inmates are deemed Incompetent to Proceed (or in the process of), and nothing can move forward with the case; it takes longer to resolve ITP cases. He reiterated that beds are needed. Bed space is critical. There needs to be more funding for bed spaces and treatment.

Anna thanked everyone for the honesty and candor in this discussion; this openness continues the conversation toward solutions.

Salathia Brown added that the Guide to Court Services can be a good reference to describe everything Court Services offers.

Anna asked if there's been any results from the Interval "Weekenders" program? Major Keith said that there's currently about 15 weekenders. Judge Miller-Jones said that she typically uses Interval Sentencing for employed defendants. Cheryl Kauffman also uses Interval Sentencing for felony alternative sanctioning program. Joe added that Court Services has one dedicated Probation Court Officer who manages all interval sentencing cases.

Program Achievements

a. Combined City & County Initiative on Gun Violence Prevention Update

Carl Smart shared an update about Gun Violence Prevention. He reminded everyone that both Gainesville and Alachua County declared Gun Violence a Public Health Crisis in summer 2023, with initial funding of \$300,000 between the two commissions. The *Gun Violence Prevention Alliance* was formed in May 2024, made up of City, County, and Santa Fe College. There are planning meetings, monthly stakeholder meetings, and hope to hold stakeholder meetings in more rural areas at least once per quarter. The Children's Trust of Alachua County awarded the GVPA \$500,000, which will be used for small grant-funded projects, Youth Steering Committees, Violence Interrupter Training, Technology Hub Carts, staffing, and more. Tech Carts will have items like WiFi, computers, printers, etc, which will help youth at after-school or mentoring programs. Currently, it is unsure where these tech carts will go (suggestions included libraries, community centers, churches). Fifteen small grant applications were received, reviewed and scored by County staff, and six grants (up to \$10,000 per organization) were awarded to:

- Strong-Minded Mentoring - Structured mentoring program for 12-24 years of age
- Black on Black Crime Task Force - Multifaceted gun violence prevention program
- Star Center Theatre - "Voices for Change: Healing Through Theater"
- Total Life Productions - Leveraging Drama, the Arts, and Youth-Centered Workshops

- League of Women Voters Alachua County - Public Education on Safe Storage and Use of Guns (they only requested \$9,800)
- Gladden Boxing Club - Leveraging Boxing to Instill Discipline, Structure, and Mentorship (the remaining \$200, from LWVs grant)

The Children's Trust Grant Funding Projects are still in progress, with RFPs to be released soon. There is \$222,850 in funding available, with a max grant award of \$33,000 each. Grants will be for community-based projects with evidence-based strategies, and one grant specifically reserved for an organization which provides support of youth involved in youth steering committees.

Since the last PSCC meeting, Cure Violence Global has chosen not to work with Alachua County or the City of Gainesville; both commissions have decided to proceed with local resources only.

Youth Steering Committees aim to elevate youth voices in violence prevention strategies. YSCs will recruit youth between 16-24, who have been personally impacted by gun violence. They will meet regularly to discuss issues and propose solutions. Members will receive stipends for their involvement, and each YSC will have an Adult Facilitator. Gainesville currently has a YSC; Alachua County is in the process of starting two more, in rural areas outside of Gainesville, preferably one in the east and one in the west. Alachua and High Springs are enthusiastically on-board, with their Police Chiefs requesting to be involved. Carl mentioned that in Youth Court recently, he noticed multiple pastors and community leaders there to observe. A lot of repeat offenders have histories that begin as juveniles. There are many youth who are committing crime with guns. Judge Bullard mentioned that she's seen youth as young as nine years old in her courtroom.

Community Care Call-Outs first started in 2020 during Pandemic Lockdown, working with Community Support Services (Crisis Center, Victim Services, Rape Crisis Center). This program will engage and support residents impacted in the immediate aftermath of gun violence. CSS works with Law Enforcement Officers and First Responders to provide services after an event, such as the recent shooting event at [TB McPherson](#).

Anna asked if any of these committees have discussed repeat offenders, and come up with any possible solutions to this problem? Have these individuals been referred to wrap-around services (such as Released, Inc, or mentoring programs)? Carl said that there's been discussions, but no solutions have been identified yet. Cheryl stated that a few years ago when Tony Jones was Gainesville Police Chief, State Probation had a few meetings with multiple services available, but very few people took advantage of those opportunities (and most of those individuals eventually ended up back in jail.)

Jason Crews said that ASO is identifying these individuals and labelling them "Prolific Offenders" and monitor them in the community. They find that less than 20% of the local population are committing 90% of the violent crimes. They watch them and target them, collaborating with GVPA, and they *have* seen a decrease in gun violence; he believes that GVPA is making a difference. Cheryl said that the State also does searches at Probation Sweeps. Jason said that ASO would be interested in partnering with State Probation Sweeps. Cheryl has partnered with GPD in the past, so she will speak to Jason after this meeting.

Anna stated that money in the GVPA program should be used to target those repeat offenders; they need wrap-around services, mentorship, sponsors, and some intensive hand-holding to get them on the right track. She requested that Carl take this idea back to the GVPA for discussion. Carl said that a reentry program should help recidivism rates.

Cheryl suggested that, if a mentorship program was available to those on probation, individuals could they be court-ordered to participate. Jason added that intervention is difficult, especially after a violent act. Who would choose to hand-hold a violent offender?

The entire Gun Violence Prevention Update presentation is available upon request

b. Report from Meridian

Alan Paulin shared a one-sheet informational flyer regarding all of their current Community Diversion Programs.

Forensics Multidisciplinary Team

This team is funded by recurring annual funding through Lutheran Services of Florida, serving all Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGI) and Incompetent to Proceed (ITP) defendants. Whenever there is opportunity to do so, staff is working on Competency Restoration with individuals.

Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant

This is the 6th three-year grant awarded to Meridian, in collaboration with Alachua County. This program can serve anyone who doesn't meet the criteria for a diversion program. This grant funds the Co-Responder Teams in the county (two at UPD, three at ASO, and four at GPD, though it is difficult to get clinicians to fill those roles). It also funds Peers and Care Coordinator Clinicians, to work with individuals being released from the jail. This program, though capped at 45 participants, has 50 participants right now. One Care Coordinator is on board, while the other position has not been filled yet.

Court Diversion Program

This three-year grant is funded from the State of Florida, utilizing some of the money from the [Opioid Settlement](#). This program will cover all of Circuit 8. Care Coordinators are doing screenings in the jail right now. Peer Specialists teamed with Care Coordinators are going out to Levy, Bradford, Gilchrist, and Alachua Counties right now. They are providing staffing to Mental Health Court and Drug Court, and plan to work with Veteran's Court as well. The team does a lot of screening and a lot of outreach, but the criteria tied to the funding is very strict - cases must involve Opiate Use Disorder.

Meridian is working on updating the Strategic Plan to reflect changes in the community providers. Judge Miller-Jones asked if Meridian assists at all with the Misdemeanor ITP defendants? Currently, those clients are the responsibility of Eleanor Drakeford at Court Services, due to a pilot program created by Alachua County, and she has been doing a phenomenal job. But because this population doesn't fall under Div V, there's not much help for those clients. Alan stated that CJMHSAG may be able to help with those clients, and stated he'd speak with Eleanor after this meeting. Currently, MMITP has been doing their own "wrap around" as much as possible. Alan will add this to the Strategic Plan. Alan shared that, as of now, Meridian is \$1,000,000 over budget on bed space. They are looking for more funding to assist more clients. Currently, the state legislature wants a lot of services, but does not give money for those services. Alan suggested that if a client has been on a bed space waiting list for more than 30 days, someone should reach out to Meridian at diversions@mbhci.org. Clients can also use that email themselves. Anna asked why is there not a running list for continuum of care? Could the CRF be the keeper of such a list? Alan said that this is not the function of the CRF. It is better to email the Diversion Team with questions (or call 352-374-5600).

In the month of May, the CRF served 225 individuals. The facility has an average 4-5 minute drop-off time. Alan hasn't seen any increase in jail population due to the CRF. Carl asked if Meridian is tracking the numbers and data; Alan said he would be able to share those numbers. They've had 900 clients since opening in January.

To wrap up, Alan summarized that Meridian is always looking for more funding and more beds. Anna offered that if Meridian needs lobbies, please ask, because the BoCC can help! Judge Moseley emphasized again the need for more bed space - get people in beds *then* work on the other issues. Beds are essential and there's just not enough.

The Community Diversion Programs handout is available by request

Other Business

- **Chief Judge Changes** – Judge Moseley will be retiring on June 30, 2025. As of Friday, June 6, Honorable William Davis will assume the role of Acting Chief Judge, and become the permanent Chief Judge beginning on July 1.
- **Results for America** – Max Tipping shared information about a sprint training called [Diversion Done Right](#), led by Results for America. They are currently signing up teams. The event is a 7-week process (one session per week), held online. It's a great training opportunity, and a grant opportunity at the end. Max will send the information with Amy Weber, who will share with the entire PSCC distribution list.

2025 Meeting Schedule

- June 5 Fall/Winter TBD

DRAFT

Meeting Attendees

PSCC Committee Members Present:

- Heather Akpan, Interim Director Court Services
- Lauren Cohn, President, Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. (Alan Paulin as Designee)
- Cheryl Kauffman, Eighth Circuit Administrator, FL Department of Corrections
- Dorian Keith, Jail Director, Alachua County Sheriff's Office, Department of the Jail
- Brian Kramer, Office of the State Attorney
- Honorable Susan Miller-Jones, Alachua County Court Administrative Judge
- Honorable Mark W. Moseley, Chief Judge, Eighth Circuit
- Sheriff Chad Scott, Alachua County Sheriff's Office
- Stacy Scott, Public Defender (Kristofer Eisenmenger as Designee)
- Claudia Tuck, Interim Director Court Services (attended via Zoom)

PSCC Committee Members Absent:

- Chair Mary Alford, Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
- Chief Nelson Moya, Police Chief, Gainesville Police Department
- Sandi Brannan, Chief Probation Officer, FL Department of Juvenile Justice (Andrea Douglas in her place)
- Municipal Ex-Officio Representative (2025)

Other Attendees:

- Honorable Judge William Davis, Eight Judicial Circuit
- Joshua Crews, Undersheriff, Alachua County Sheriff's Office
- Commissioner Anna Prizzia, Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
- Alan Paulin, Meridian Behavioral Healthcare
- Michael Reeves, Court Administration
- Allison Franklin, Alachua County Attorney's Office
- Joe Lipsey, Court Services
- Lillie Perkins, Court Services
- Katy Burnett, Alachua County Sheriff's Office
- Bruce Barnard, Alachua County Sheriff's Office
- Laura Kalt, Alachua County Office of Victim Services
- Max Tipping, Community Spring
- John Velez, Alachua County Court Services
- Carl Smart, Alachua County Public Safety and Community Relations
- Salatheia Brown, Alachua County Court Services
- Eleanor Drakeford, Court Services
- Dr. Kelvin Banks, Center for Effective Public Policy {CEPP} (via Zoom)
- Cynthia Mausser, CEPP (via Zoom)
- Tara Boh Blair, CEPP (via Zoom)
- Amy Weber, Court Services

**Audio Recording of Meeting and All Handouts Available Upon Request.*