

Volusia County Pretrial Services Annual Report 2007-08



Volusia County Pretrial Services Annual Report October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2008

Volusia County Pretrial Services completed the 2007/2008 fiscal year with a sense of accomplishment and a renewed determination to continue to provide quality services to our stakeholders.

The quest for the agency to become accredited through the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission (FCAC) was a significant goal for this fiscal year. In March 2008 accreditation assessors completed an on-site assessment culminating in their “appreciation for the enthusiasm and hard work that was clearly displayed by all agency staff members” and a favorable recommendation. On June 10, 2008 in Coral Springs, Florida, the agency was approved and awarded accreditation through a unanimous vote by the commission. Volusia County Pretrial Services thus became the third Pretrial agency in the State of Florida to achieve accreditation.

Staff development through skills training and education continues to be emphasized within Volusia County Pretrial Services. All officers completed a minimum of forty (40) hours of cross-training in their non-assigned units, the three units being Drug Lab, Assessment, and Supervision. This cross-training enhanced the officers’ appreciation of the duties involved within all units, and has led to an increased sense of teamwork.

Volusia County Pretrial Services met the extensive challenges presented by the passage of Senate Bill 2676 “Citizens Right to Know Act” by the Florida Legislature. The law took effect on July 1, 2008 and requires all Pretrial Service agencies statewide to collect and submit weekly data to a public registry within the respective Clerks’ offices. The information collected includes but is not limited to data concerning defendant interviews, recommendations for release, scheduled court appearances, violations of release conditions, and defendants’ failures to appear at scheduled court dates. The law also requires the Office of Program Policy and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to conduct a study of all Pretrial Service agencies to assess business practices and operational effectiveness.

The National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies (NAPSA) began offering pretrial services professionals the opportunity to obtain certification. The certification assures that Officers have a comprehensive knowledge of Pretrial practices. Eleven Volusia County Pretrial Services Officers have taken the exam and earned the nationally recognized certification.

Each of the units within Volusia County Pretrial Services met or exceeded their established goals during the year. Performance highlights within the Drug Lab, Assessment and Supervision follow.

Drug Lab

By The Numbers

263,317	Individual tests run
7,334 or 3.8%	Individual tests with positive results
33,827	Specimens tested
7,935 or 23.5%	Specimens with positive results

Overall Goals

- Maintain status as DATIA certified collectors—*achieved*.
- Supply test results to all customers in a timely and efficient manner—*achieved*.
- Install a new analyzer in the Daytona Beach lab— *achieved*.

Other Accomplishments/Goals FY 2008-09

- Worked with Integrated Management Systems to install an advanced analyzer reporting system. Continued to meet customer demands for accurate and timely results during a challenging software reporting system transition.
- Strive to maximize the utility of the new software system and continue education on best practices of laboratory collections and reporting mechanisms during the next fiscal year.

Assessment

By The Numbers

269	Notices to Appear issued
6,819	Interviews conducted
2,550	Defendants released to PTS with adjacent bond
4,288	Defendants released to PTS at first appearance
20,962	Criminal histories provided at first appearance
582	Defendants released to PTS after first appearance

Overall Goals

- Increase number of defendants interviewed—*achieved, with 432 increase*.
- Increase number of defendants released to PTS without adjacent monetary bond — *achieved, with 588 increase*.
- Streamline operations and modify weekly work schedules for consistency through proficient use of Judicial Inquiry System (JIS) —*achieved*.

Goals FY 2008-09

- Increase the number of defendant interviews and implement the use of a Risk Assessment tool to more objectively quantify defendants’ “risk” in next fiscal year.

Supervision

By The Numbers

4,792	Cases supervised
4,618	Cases closed
3,996 or 86.5%	Cases closed successfully
122 or 2.6%	Cases closed due to Failure to Appear
401 or 8.7%	Cases closed due to Failure to Comply
99 or 2.1%	Cases closed due to New Arrests

Overall Goals

- Increase number of cases supervised —*achieved, with 406 or 9% increase.*
- Increase number of cases closed successfully —*achieved, with 396 or 4.2% increase.*

Other Accomplishments/Goals FY 2008-09

- Expanded coverage of court events such as felony bond hearings and domestic violence arraignments. Attendance at these court events resulted in the placement of 533 defendants on Pretrial supervision.
- Seek methods to assist clients in successfully completing their terms of Pretrial supervision during the next fiscal year.

The Volusia County Pretrial Services Assessment Unit provides accurate, unbiased information to the Court for purposes of making informed release decisions regarding individuals arrested and booked into jail. The Pretrial Services Supervision Unit monitors conditions of release of individuals placed under its authority while awaiting the disposition of their criminal cases. The Pretrial Services Urinalysis Labs are tasked with providing accurate and timely drug and alcohol test results to the Court and our community partners. Mission related duties are accomplished treating all individuals served with dignity and respect while utilizing evidence-based best practices and technological resources.

Statistical Data

The Volusia County Pretrial Services statistical summary below captures fiscal year data (October 1 through September 30).

6-YEAR STATISTICAL COMPARISON						
FISCAL YEAR	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Supervised by Pretrial Services	4,433	4,999	5,089	4,603	4,491	4,792
NTA's through Pretrial Services	225	231	177	209	280	269
Straight ROR from First Appearance	958	902	798	702	633	708
TOTAL RELEASES	5,616	6,132	6,064	5,514	5,404	5,847
TOTAL PRETRIAL SERVICE CASES CLOSED	3,927	4,688	4,928	4,494	4,373	4,618
Successful Completion Rates	74.3%	76.9%	75.1%	78.7%	82.4%	86.5%
Other Rates						
Failure to Appear- Warrant Issued	8.6%	7.9%	5.1%	3.9%	3.4%	2.6%
New Arrest	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%	1.8%	2.6%	2.1%
Failure to Comply	17.1%	15.2%	18.5%	15.6%	11.6%	8.7%
TOTAL INTERVIEWS	5,459	6,651	6,581	6,048	6,387	6,819
Felony Domestic Violence	533	539	545	578	454	632
Misdemeanor Domestic Violence	2,401	2,521	2,508	2,285	1,970	2,129
Other (Non-DV, felony & misd.)	2,525	3,591	3,528	3,185	3,963	4,058
TOTAL BOOKINGS	29,292	29,910	28,844	29,538	29,726	28,988
TOTAL DEFENDANTS AT FIRST APPEARANCE	20,921	22,112	21,780	22,385	21,892	20,962
TOTAL DEFENDANTS AT JAIL ARRAIGNMENT	2,770	2,853	3,682	3,736	3,202	3,025