THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE OPPAGA

OFFICE OF PROGRAM POLICY ANALYSIS & GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

December 2014



Report No. 14-13

County Pretrial Release Programs: Calendar Year 2013

at a glance

Pretrial release programs supervise defendants who have been released from jail while awaiting disposition of their criminal charges. Twenty-eight pretrial release programs responded to our survey requesting information regarding their 2013 operations. No program reported receiving state general revenue, with most (27) programs primarily funded through county funds. In addition, three programs received federal or state grants.

Ten programs were able to provide a detailed breakdown of the nature of defendants' criminal histories, which varied among programs. For these programs, the percentage of defendants with violent felony criminal histories ranged from 0% to 43%. Twenty-seven programs reported that judges in their circuits have the discretion to release a defendant on bond and require supervision by pretrial release programs to provide an additional layer of accountability.

While programs reported varying numbers of defendants that failed to appear or had new arrests, most programs reported that few defendants they supervised failed to appear in court or were arrested while in the program.

Programs have generally complied with statutory requirements, as 27 submitted an annual report and reported that they maintain the required weekly registers. Some reporting requirements do not apply to programs that do not make release recommendations. Programs also could not report some criminal history information due to state and federal restrictions.

Scope

Section 907.044, *Florida Statutes*, part of the Citizens' Right-to-Know Act, directs OPPAGA to annually evaluate the following aspects of Florida's pretrial release programs.^{1, 2}

- How are Florida's pretrial release programs funded?
- What is the nature of the charges and criminal history of defendants in pretrial release programs?
- How many defendants served by pretrial release programs were issued warrants for failing to appear in court or were arrested while in the program?
- Are pretrial release programs complying with statutory reporting requirements?

This report assesses the programs' compliance with statutory requirements for Calendar Year 2013.

¹ Prior annual reports are Pretrial Release Programs Vary Across the State; New Reporting Requirements Pose Challenges, OPPAGA <u>Report No. 08-75</u>, December 2008; Pretrial Release Programs' Compliance With New Reporting Requirements Is Mixed, OPPAGA <u>Report No. 10-08</u>, January 2010; Pretrial Release Programs' Data Collection Methods and Requirements Could Improve, OPPAGA <u>Report No. 10-66</u>, December 2010; Pretrial Release Programs Generally Comply with Statutory Data Collection Requirements, OPPAGA <u>Report No. 11-27</u>, December 2011; Most Pretrial Release Programs Continue to Comply with Statutory Reporting Requirements, OPPAGA <u>Report No. 12-13</u>, December 2012; and Most Pretrial Release Programs Continue to Be Compliant with Statutory Reporting Requirements, OPPAGA <u>Report No. 13-12</u>, December 2013.

² Section 907.043, *F.S.*, defines "pretrial release program" for purposes of the Citizens' Right-to-Know Act as an entity, public or private, that conducts investigations of pretrial detainees, makes pretrial release recommendations to a court, and electronically monitors and supervises pretrial defendants.

Background-

Pretrial release is an alternative to jail that allows arrested defendants to be released while they await disposition of their criminal charges. Pretrial release is a constitutional right for most people arrested for a crime and is generally granted in one of three ways.³

- Release on recognizance allows defendants to be released from jail without posting a bond. These defendants are not supervised.
- **Bond** allows defendants to be released by monetary payment to the court (cash bond) or to a private bondsman (surety bond).⁴ A surety bond requires defendants to pay a nonrefundable fee to the bondsman of 10% of the bond amount set by the court. If the defendant does not appear in court, the bondsman is responsible for paying the entire bond amount. Bondsmen are not required to supervise defendants but have a vested interest in ensuring that their clients keep their court dates and do not abscond. Judges in some circuits require defendants who have posted bond to also be supervised by a pretrial release program as an added layer of accountability.
- Local pretrial release programs allow defendants to be released under the program's supervision. The programs

supervise defendants through various methods such as phone contacts, office visits, and electronic monitoring. Judges typically assign defendants to a program, but some programs can select the defendants that participate in their program. Judges generally allow defendants to be released to the program without a bond; however, in some counties, judges may require defendants to also post bond when assigned to a program.

Questions and Answers –

How are Florida's pretrial release programs funded?

During 2013, none of the pretrial release programs responding to our survey reported receiving state general revenue, and 27 of the 28 programs reported that they were primarily funded through county funds.⁵ In addition, three programs received grants. The programs in Leon and Manatee counties received federal Justice Assistance Grants, while the program in Okaloosa County received a grant from the Department of Children Florida and Families.^{6, 7} Details on reported program budgets are included in Appendix A.

Eighteen programs reported that they charged fees to defendants. Counties used these fees to support program budgets, pay vendors for services rendered to defendants, or fund county general revenue. Programs most commonly charged fees for electronic monitoring. Please see Appendix B for more information on fees.

³Article I, Section 14, *Florida Constitution*, provides that unless charged with a capital offense or an offense punishable by life imprisonment and the proof of guilt is evident or the presumption is great, every person charged with a crime or violation of municipal or county ordinance shall be entitled to pretrial release on reasonable conditions. Further, s. 907.041, *F.S.*, states that it is the intent of the Legislature to create a presumption in favor of release on nonmonetary conditions for any person who is granted pretrial release unless such person is charged with a dangerous crime. Dangerous crimes are described in s. 907.041(4), *F.S.*, and include offenses such as arson, aggravated assault, aggravated battery, child abuse, abuse of an elderly person or disabled adult, kidnapping, homicide, manslaughter, sexual battery and other sex offenses, robbery, carjacking, stalking, and domestic violence.

⁴ A cash bond is paid directly to the court/jail for the total amount of the bond, in cash. If the arrestee does not appear after posting a cash bond, the money will be forfeited. If a not guilty verdict is rendered or the case is dismissed, or at the conclusion of the trial proceedings, bond money will be refunded minus any fines and court costs.

⁵ The Seminole County program did not provide budget information in its annual report or survey response.

⁶ The Leon County program received pass-through federal funding from a \$109,422 Justice Assistance Grant, which was administered through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Leon County was also a sub-recipient of \$28,934 in funding through a federal Justice Assistance Grant awarded to the City of Tallahassee. This funding allowed for the continuation of the GPS monitoring program and the on-site drug and alcohol testing program.

⁷ The Okaloosa County grant covers the salary and benefits for a mental health pretrial officer.

What is the nature of the charges and criminal history of defendants in pretrial release programs?

Judges have broad discretion to place defendants, including those with more serious charges and criminal histories, in pretrial release programs.⁸ As a result, programs may serve defendants with violent charges, such as domestic and aggravated battery and sex offenses.

Ten programs were able to provide a detailed breakdown of the nature of defendants' criminal histories, which varied among programs.⁹ For example, as shown in Exhibit 1, Citrus County's program reported that 43% of its defendants had violent felony criminal histories, while Putnam County's program reported that none of their defendants had violent felony criminal histories.

Exhibit 1

Ten Programs Were Able to Provide Defendants' Criminal Histories; Most Had No Prior Violent Felonies

| County | Criminal History of Most Defendants | Percentage of All Defendants Who Had Violent Felony Criminal History |
|--------------|--|---|
| Citrus | Violent felony (43%) | 43% |
| Duval | Non-violent felony (67%) | 4% |
| Highlands | Misdemeanors only (44%) | 28% |
| Hillsborough | Misdemeanors only (42%) | 11% |
| Leon | First offense (59%) | 13% |
| Miami-Dade | No prior convictions (74%) | 9% |
| Monroe | No prior offense (77%) | 5% |
| Putnam | Non-violent felony (100%) | 0% |
| Sarasota | No prior offense (61%) | 5% |
| St. Lucie | First offense (49%) | 24% |

Source: OPPAGA analysis of pretrial release program survey responses.

While judges generally allow defendants to be released to a pretrial release program without a bond, 27 programs reported that judges in their circuits may also require defendants to post bond when assigned to a program. (See Exhibit 2).

Exhibit 2

Judges in 27 Counties May Require Defendants to Pay a Bond in Addition to Being Supervised by the Pretrial Release Program¹

| Defendants | Percentage Who |
|------------|---|
| | Also Paid a Bond |
| 696 | 8% |
| 1,324 | DNP |
| 2,585 | DNP |
| 3,653 | 28% |
| 319 | DNP |
| 36 | 36% |
| 126 | 21% |
| 2,088 | DNP |
| 2,289 | DNP |
| 349 | DNP |
| 631 | DNP |
| 2,824 | 27% |
| 1,084 | 61% |
| 1,815 | 24% |
| 8,781 | 10% |
| 786 | DNP |
| 912 | 75% |
| 2,388 | 43% |
| 1,822 | 76% |
| 5,210 | 35% |
| 5,040 | DNP |
| 14 | DNP |
| 126 | DNP |
| 1,922 | 7% |
| 123 | 1% |
| 759 | 70% |
| 4,089 | 31% |
| | 1,324 2,585 3,653 319 36 126 2,088 2,289 349 631 2,824 1,084 1,815 8,781 786 912 2,388 1,822 5,210 5,040 14 126 1,922 123 759 |

¹ DNP denotes that the program did not provide this information.

² In Hillsborough County, judges can only order both bond and pretrial release if there are multiple charges.

Source: OPPAGA analysis of pretrial release program survey responses.

⁸ Pretrial release programs that screen defendants for their programs generally restrict eligibility to defendants with less serious criminal charges.

⁹ Section 907.044, *F.S.*, requires OPPAGA to report on the nature of criminal convictions of defendants accepted into the programs. However, programs are not required to report this information in their annual reports. Therefore, we requested the number of defendants who had criminal histories of violent felonies, non-violent felonies, misdemeanors only, and no prior offenses. Most programs reported that they did not collect data at that level as it is not statutorily required or they did not categorize data in that manner.

How many defendants served by pretrial release programs were issued warrants for failing to appear in court or were arrested while in the program?

With some exceptions, pretrial release programs reported that few defendants they supervised failed to appear in court or were arrested while in the program. As shown in Appendix A, programs reported varying numbers of defendants who failed to appear. For example, the programs in Putnam and St. Lucie counties reported that no defendants were issued warrants for failure to appear, while the programs in Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties reported that 154 (3%) and 469 (4%) defendants, respectively, were issued such warrants.¹⁰

Programs also had varying numbers of defendant arrests. For example, the programs in Collier and Putnam counties reported that only one defendant was arrested for any offense while in their program, while the programs in Broward, Polk, and Miami-Dade counties reported that 427 (7%), 508 (10%), and 545 (5%) defendants, respectively, were arrested for a new offense while in their program.

Are pretrial release programs complying with statutory reporting requirements?

Section 907.043, *Florida Statutes*, requires pretrial release programs to prepare a register, which must be updated weekly, displaying descriptive information about the defendants released through the program. Additionally, no later than March 31 of every year, each pretrial release program must submit an annual report for the previous calendar year to the governing body and to the clerk of the circuit court in the county where the pretrial release program is located.

In 2013, pretrial release programs generally complied with these statutory requirements, as 27 programs submitted an annual report and reported that they maintain the required weekly registers. Twenty-eight programs also responded to OPPAGA's survey that requested additional information.

Some of the data required to be included in the annual report does not apply to all programs. For example, nine programs reported that they did not recommend defendants for pretrial release, did not recommend against nonsecured release, and did not recommend defendants for nonsecured release. As a result, these programs could not report data for these required elements.¹¹

Also, several programs did not provide criminal history data required in the weekly register.¹² Florida statutes require pretrial release programs to disclose the nature of prior criminal convictions of defendants accepted into their programs. However, in 2010, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) determined that s. 907.043, Florida Statutes, does not and cannot authorize or permit reporting national criminal history information (information obtained from FDLE pertaining to jurisdictions other than Florida, including federal and other state information) to the public.¹³ FDLE advised that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) could limit or deny access by Florida criminal justice agencies to national criminal history information if it is released in violation of federal restrictions. This revocation could extend to all law enforcement and public safety entities in the Appendix C describes program state. compliance with s. 907.043, Florida Statutes.

Additionally, according to s. 907.041(3)(b), *Florida Statutes,* before a person can be released on nonmonetary conditions under the supervision of pretrial release, the program

¹⁰ Charlotte and Collier counties reported that only one defendant was issued a warrant for failure to appear.

¹¹ The nine programs were in Hillsborough, Leon, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Polk, Sarasota, Seminole, and St. Lucie counties.

¹² One program that provided criminal history data limited the information to the total number of convictions, one program provided the criminal history information for Florida adult convictions, and another program provided only Florida prior criminal history information.

¹³ Federal law restricts access to this information, as provided in s. 943.054, *F.S.*, and 28 CFR 20.33.

must verify to the court that it has investigated or otherwise verified information such as the accused's family circumstances, employment record, criminal record, and appearances at court proceedings. As shown in Exhibit 3, 15 pretrial release programs reported that in all cases they certified to the court that they had obtained and investigated or otherwise verified these elements at first appearance in 2013.

Programs that could not certify this information in all cases provided various reasons for being

Exhibit 3

Fifteen Pretrial Release Programs Reported That They Had Obtained and Investigated or Otherwise Verified Information for All Defendants¹

| 0 | Percentage of Cases |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| County | Certified in 2013 |
| Alachua | 100% |
| Вау | 0% |
| Brevard ² | 100% |
| Broward | 100% |
| Charlotte | 100% |
| Citrus | DNP |
| Collier | 100% |
| Duval ³ | 100% |
| Escambia | 50% |
| Highlands | 45% |
| Hillsborough | 100% |
| Lee | 100% |
| Leon | 100% |
| Manatee | 91% |
| Miami-Dade | 100% |
| Monroe | 70% |
| Okaloosa | 100% |
| Orange | 81% |
| Osceola | DNP |
| Palm Beach | 72% |
| Pinellas ² | 100% |
| Polk | 95% |
| Putnam | 100% |
| Santa Rosa | 60% |
| Sarasota | 100% |
| Seminole | 0% |
| St. Lucie | 0% |
| Volusia | 100% |

¹ DNP denotes that the program did not provide the percentage of cases at first appearance in which the program certified to the court that it had obtained and investigated or otherwise verified elements such as the accused's family circumstances, employment record, criminal record, and appearances at court proceedings in calendar year 2013.

² The data provided by Brevard and Pinellas counties is in reference to defendants released into the pretrial release program prior to a court appearance.

³Duval County noted that it only certifies criminal record and court appearances.

Source: OPPAGA analysis of pretrial release program survey responses.

unable to do so. In one case, a program noted that the court determines if a defendant is eligible for the pretrial release program, not the program staff. Other programs noted that defendants may refuse to be interviewed, not be available because of medical or housing reasons, provide incorrect reference or contact information. Other programs reported that defendants who are already on probation or under other supervision or those appearing for warrants are not screened for supervised release.

Agency Comments

In accordance with the provisions of s. 11.51(2), *Florida Statutes*, a draft of OPPAGA's report was submitted to the pretrial release programs and to the Office of State Courts Administrator for review.

Appendix A

Pretrial Release Program Budget, Failure to Appear, and New Offense Information

As shown in Exhibit A-1, pretrial release programs' reported budgets and outcomes varied. Comparisons of budgets should be made with caution because of differences in caseloads and responsibilities. For example, Citrus County's program, which served 55 defendants in 2013, electronically monitored and supervised pretrial defendants but did not conduct investigations of pretrial detainees or make pretrial release recommendations to the court. Miami-Dade County's program, which served 10,579 defendants in 2013, conducted investigations of pretrial detainees, made pretrial release recommendations to a court, and supervised pretrial defendants.

Exhibit A-1

Pretrial Release Programs' Budgets and Numbers of Defendants Who Failed to Appear or Committed New Crimes Varied¹

| County | Calendar Year 2013 Total Budget | Total Accepted in 2013 | Total Served in 2013 | Issued a Warrant for Failing to Appear in Court | Arrested for Any Offense While in the Program |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---|---|
| Alachua ² | \$1,271,825 | 696 | 898 | 24 | 37 |
| Bay | 60,000 | 1,324 | 2,587 | 15 | 62 |
| Brevard | 120,389 | 2,585 | 2,585 | 76 | 106 |
| Broward | 6,123,880 | 3,653 | 6,046 | DNP | 427 |
| Charlotte | 404,648 | 319 | 321 | 1 | 11 |
| Citrus | 65,352 | 36 | 55 | 4 | 17 |
| Collier ² | 88,900 | 126 | 126 | 1 | 1 |
| Duval | 816,032 | 2,088 | 1,907 | 26 | 52 |
| Escambia | 435,283 | 2,289 | 1,044 | 131 | 33 |
| Highlands | 92,771 | 349 | 351 | 21 | 23 |
| Hillsborough | 212,598 | 631 | 724 | 2 | 8 |
| Lee | 2,115,836 | 2,824 | 3,402 | 99 | 165 |
| Leon | 782,390 | 1,084 | 1,522 | 58 | 56 |
| Manatee | 548,920 | 1,815 | 1,815 | DNP | 117 |
| Miami-Dade ³ | 4,515,198 | 8,781 | 10,579 | 469 | 545 |
| Monroe | 558,729 | 786 | 1,181 | 13 | 43 |
| Okaloosa | 364,208 | 912 | 912 | 39 | 52 |
| Orange | 2,626,960 | 2,388 | 3,469 | 75 | 76 |
| Osceola ² | 584,245 | 1,822 | 1,822 | 79 | 122 |
| Palm Beach | 1,237,047 | 5,210 | 5,906 | 154 | 273 |
| Pinellas | 1,209,312 | 2,862 | 5,348 | 100 | 104 |
| Polk | 1,008,539 | 5,040 | 5,040 | DNP | 508 |
| Putnam ⁴ | 4,725 | 14 | 14 | 0 | 1 |
| Santa Rosa | 100,577 | 126 | 560 | 10 | 35 |
| Sarasota | 1,371,360 | 1,922 | 2,393 | 61 | 112 |
| Seminole | DNP | 123 | 135 | 7 | 5 |
| St. Lucie | 668,735 | 759 | 986 | 0 | 29 |
| Volusia | 1,317,422 | 4,089 | 4,960 | 66 | 204 |

¹ DNP denotes that the program did not provide that information.

² Alachua, Collier, and Osceola counties provided Fiscal Year 2012-13 budget information. Alachua County noted that program realignment in calendar year 2012 resulted in staff previously included in the budget of another division being consolidated and moved into the pretrial budget. Collier County noted that it collected \$878 in fees from defendants during calendar year 2013.

³ Miami-Dade County's program staff noted that its budget is based on a fiscal year, so its calendar year 2013 budget is approximate.

⁴ Putnam County's program was operated as part of county probation.

Source: Pretrial release program annual reports and survey responses.

Appendix B Pretrial Program Defendant Fees

Exhibit B-1 lists the 18 counties that reported charging fees to defendants. Counties used these fees to support program budgets, pay vendors for services rendered to defendants, or fund county general revenue. Programs most commonly charged fees for electronic monitoring.

Exhibit B-1

Eighteen Programs Charge Defendants Fees^{1, 2}

| County | Service | Fee Amount | Total Collected | Fee Assessment | Recipient of Fees |
|----------------------|---|--|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Alachua ³ | Electronic Monitoring | \$7.96/day from January 1, 2013, through September 30, 2013 | \$21,880 (includes GPS Monitoring fees) | Per fee schedule based on federal poverty guidelines | Vendor |
| | GPS Monitoring | \$10.85/day from January 1, 2013, through September 30, 2013 | Total included in Electronic Monitoring fees above | Per fee schedule based on federal poverty guidelines | Vendor |
| | Electronic/GPS Monitoring | \$5/day effective October 1, 2013 | \$7,545 | Per fee schedule based on federal poverty guidelines | Vendor via general fund |
| Brevard ⁴ | Judicial Correction Services Pretrial and Community Supervision Administrative Fee | \$10/week | \$29,278 | Mandatory unless waived | Program revenue |
| | Brevard County Community Corrections Pretrial and Community Supervision Administrative Fee | \$10/week | \$28,582 | Mandatory unless waived | Program revenue |
| Broward | Electronic Monitoring | \$5/day | \$71,376 | Mandatory unless waived or is using the services of an appointed attorney, typically a public defender | County general fund |
| Charlotte | Alcohol/EtG Testing | \$14.95/test | DNP | When court-ordered | County |
| | Drug Testing | \$5/test | DNP | When court-ordered | County |
| | GPS or Alcohol Devices | \$6 to \$12/day | DNP | Mandatory unless waived | Vendor |
| | Synthetic Drug Testing | \$19.95/test | DNP | When court-ordered | County |
| Citrus⁵ | Electronic Monitoring | \$8/day or \$59/week | \$11,002 | Mandatory unless waived | Program revenue |
| Collier | Alcohol Monitoring | \$5.75/day | \$868 | When court-ordered | Vendor |
| | Drug Screens | \$4.19/test | \$4.19 | When performed | Vendor |
| | Drug Screen (Spice) | \$6.00/test | \$6.00 | When performed | Vendor |
| | Electronic Monitoring (Domestic Violence-Related) | \$7.52/day | \$0 | When court-ordered | Vendor |
| | Electronic Monitoring (Not Domestic Violence-Related) | \$7.02/day | \$0 | When court-ordered | Vendor |
| Lee | Misdemeanor Diversion | \$150/flat fee | \$454,212 | Mandatory unless community service is allowed in lieu of cost of supervision | Board of county commissioners |
| Leon | GPS Monitoring Fees | Sliding fee scale | \$79,855 | Mandatory unless waived | Vendor |
| | Monthly Administrative Fees | \$40/month | \$102,601 | Mandatory unless waived | Program revenue |
| | Secured Continuous Random Alcohol Monitoring (SCRAM) Fees | \$12/day | \$64,953 | Mandatory unless waived | Program revenue |

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| County | Service | Fee Amount | Total Collected | Fee Assessment | Recipient of Fees |
|---------------------|--|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--|
| Manatee | Drug Testing | \$50/one-time fee | \$4,075 | When court-ordered | Program revenue |
| | Electronic Monitoring | \$5.95/day | \$12,495 | When court-ordered | Vendor |
| Monroe ⁶ | Electronic Monitoring | \$4.25/day | \$2,563 | When court-ordered | County general revenue |
| | Urinalysis | \$10/test or \$37/test | \$9,065 | When court-ordered | County general revenue |
| Okaloosa | Electronic Monitoring | \$12/day | \$29,535 | When court-ordered | County general revenue |
| Orange | Drug Testing Fees | \$17/one-time fee | \$11,384 | Mandatory unless waived | County government general fund |
| | Electronic Monitoring Cost of Supervision Fee | \$6/day | \$420 | Mandatory unless waived | County government general fund |
| | Pretrial Supervision Telephone Reporting Fee | \$6/month | \$3,196 | Mandatory unless waived | \$4 of each \$6 fee is paid to the vendor and \$2 goes to the county government general fund |
| Osceola | GPS Monitoring | \$5.85/day | DNP | When court-ordered | Vendor |
| Palm Beach | Cost of Supervision | \$10/week | \$196,750 | Mandatory unless waived | Program revenue |
| Pinellas | Alcohol Monitoring | \$10/day | DNP | Mandatory unless waived | DNP |
| | Electronic Monitoring | \$7/day | DNP | Mandatory unless waived | DNP |
| Putnam | Cost of Supervision | \$2/day | \$1,169 | When court-ordered | General fund |
| | Electronic Monitoring | \$7/day to \$10/day | \$3,556 | When court-ordered | Vendor and general fund |
| Santa Rosa | Administrative Fee | \$25/one-time fee | \$3,357 | Mandatory | Program revenue |
| | Drug/Alcohol Testing | \$15/test | \$5,513 | When tested | Program revenue |
| St. Lucie | GPS Supervision | \$2/week to \$30/week | \$6,373 | When court-ordered | County general revenue |

¹ DNP denotes that the program did not provide that information.

² Miami-Dade County's program staff noted that electronic monitoring is provided by the Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department's Monitored Release Program, and defendants are required to pay fees for the cost of supervision.

³ Alachua County pretrial defendants are not charged fees to participate in the program; however, they are charged for the services of electronic monitoring and GPS monitoring. All monies collected are in accordance with the county's established fee schedule. During the calendar year the charge for services was reduced from \$7.96 per day for electronic monitoring and \$10.85 per day for GPS monitoring to \$5 per day for either electronic or GPS monitoring. Additionally, this fee is now collected by the county, placed into the general fund and then transferred as a form of payment to the vendor.

⁴ In Brevard County a private probation company, Judicial Correction Services, supervises all misdemeanor pretrial and community supervision releases, while Brevard County Community Corrections supervises all felony pretrial and community supervision releases. Judicial Correction Services operates the pretrial release program while the county oversees Judicial Correction Services and supervises felony releases. Both Judicial Correction Services and Brevard County Community Community Corrections charge each defendant accepted into the community supervision program \$10.00 per week. A defendant cannot be removed from either community supervision program for failure to pay administrative fees.

⁵ Citrus County defendants are charged \$8 per day and a \$3 filing fee for every transaction made, for a total of \$59 per week.

⁶ In Monroe County, the defendant's financial situation dictates the amount he or she must pay for these services. When placing the defendant on electronic monitoring or requiring urinalysis, the judge will also determine who will pay the costs. The pretrial program has an in-house lab that charges \$10 per test, while a contracted lab (for out-of-area tests) costs \$37 per test. The cost for electronic monitoring is \$4.25 per day. The judge will often order that the defendant only pay \$5 per urinalysis and \$2.50 for electronic monitoring, with the pretrial program making up the difference in cost.

Source: Pretrial release program responses to OPPAGA survey.

Appendix C Compliance with Statutory Reporting Requirements

Section 907.043, *Florida Statutes*, requires pretrial release programs to prepare a register, which must be updated weekly, displaying descriptive information about the defendants released through the program. Additionally, by March 31 every year, each pretrial release program must submit an annual report for the previous calendar year. Twenty-seven programs complied with the annual report requirement, while 28 programs responded to our survey for additional information. Some programs' annual reports did not contain all data required by law as some data elements did not apply to all programs and some criminal history data could not be released.

Exhibit C-1 summarizes the number of programs that met the requirements to maintain and update a weekly register and provide an annual report.

Exhibit C-1

Some Programs Did Not Provide All Requirements

| Weekly Register Requirements (s. 907.043(3)(b), <i>F.S.</i>) | Number of Programs That Provided Data | Number of Programs That Did Not Provide Data |
|---|---|--|
| Number of defendants assessed and interviewed for pretrial release | 27 | 1 |
| Number of indigent defendants assessed and interviewed for pretrial release | 21 | 7 |
| Names and number of defendants accepted into the pretrial release program | 27 | 1 |
| Names and number of indigent defendants accepted into the pretrial release program | 23 | 5 |
| Charges filed against and the case numbers of defendants accepted into the pretrial release program | 26 | 2 |
| Nature of any prior criminal conviction of a defendant accepted into the pretrial release program | 24 | 4 |
| Court appearances required of defendants accepted into the pretrial release program | 23 | 5 |
| Date of each defendant's failure to appear for a scheduled court appearance | 21 | 7 |
| Number of warrants issued for a defendant's arrest for failing to appear at a scheduled court appearance | 22 | 6 |
| Number and type of program noncompliance infractions committed by a defendant in the pretrial release program and whether the pretrial release program recommended that the court revoke the defendant's release | 24 | 4 |
| Annual Report Requirements (s. 907.043(4)(b), <i>F.S</i> .) | Number of Programs That Provided Data | Number of Programs That Did Not Provide Data |
| | | |
| Number of defendants assessed and interviewed for pretrial release | 27 | 1 |
| | 27 16 | 1 121 |
| Number of defendants assessed and interviewed for pretrial release | | 1 12 ¹ 13 ¹ |
| Number of defendants assessed and interviewed for pretrial release Number of defendants recommended for pretrial release | 16 | |
| Number of defendants assessed and interviewed for pretrial release Number of defendants recommended for pretrial release Number of defendants for whom the pretrial release program recommended against nonsecured release Number of defendants granted nonsecured release after the pretrial release program recommended | 16 15 | 13 ¹ |
| Number of defendants assessed and interviewed for pretrial release Number of defendants recommended for pretrial release Number of defendants for whom the pretrial release program recommended against nonsecured release Number of defendants granted nonsecured release after the pretrial release program recommended nonsecured release Number of defendants assessed and interviewed for pretrial release that were declared indigent by the court Name and case number of each person granted nonsecured release who failed to attend a scheduled court appearance | 16 15 17 24 22 | 13 ¹ 11 ¹ |
| Number of defendants assessed and interviewed for pretrial release Number of defendants recommended for pretrial release Number of defendants for whom the pretrial release program recommended against nonsecured release Number of defendants granted nonsecured release after the pretrial release program recommended nonsecured release Number of defendants assessed and interviewed for pretrial release that were declared indigent by the court Name and case number of each person granted nonsecured release who failed to attend a scheduled | 16 15 17 24 | 13 ¹ 11 ¹ 4 |

¹ Nine programs (Hillsborough, Leon, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Polk, Sarasota, Seminole, and St. Lucie counties) included in this figure reported that they did not recommend defendants for pretrial release, did not recommend against nonsecured release, and did not recommend defendants for nonsecured release.

Source: Pretrial release program annual reports and survey responses.

Report No. 14-13

The Florida Legislature Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability



OPPAGA provides performance and accountability information about Florida government in several ways.

- <u>Reports</u> deliver program evaluation and policy analysis to assist the Legislature in overseeing government operations, developing policy choices, and making Florida government more efficient and effective.
- <u>PolicyCasts</u>, short narrated slide presentations, provide bottom-line briefings of findings and recommendations for select reports.
- Government Program Summaries (GPS), an online encyclopedia, <u>www.oppaga.state.fl.us/government</u>, provides descriptive, evaluative, and performance information on more than 200 Florida state government programs.
- <u>PolicyNotes</u>, an electronic newsletter, delivers brief announcements of research reports, conferences, and other resources of interest for Florida's policy research and program evaluation community.
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