



Jail & Huber Utilization Committee

Thursday, March 11, 2021 – 8:30 AM - Virtual Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Tom Reed, Sheldyn Himle, Ken Straight, Brandon Hutchins, Stephanie Garbo, Aaron Dobson, Nathan Jussila, Rose Stietz, Susan Fischer, Peter Koneazny, Derrick Lashua, Erin Perkins, Adam Oldenburg, Christopher Stevens, Steve Johnson, Erich Susan Eckhart, Jamie Scheiber, Robert Glowacki, Kaelin Rapport, Katie Lynch, Lisa Vlatch, Angelique Richards, Lottie Mitchell, Jeanne Geraci, Santana Beckman, Nelson Phillips

Staff Present: Mandy Potapenko, Alyssa Doman, Erin Perkins

1) Introductions and Call Meeting to Order - Chair Reed called the meeting to order at 8:32am. Participants proceeded with introductions.

2) Jail Population Update and Trends – Inspector Aaron Dobson, MCSO, began by sharing updates from MCSO and jail. The jail and HOC population have been trending upward. As of today, the jail census was at 688. This has been, in part, due to a slight uptick in intakes each day, as well as an increasing number of individuals awaiting transfer to the State prisons (on new commits and revocations). This increase has been discussed in prior months and conversations continue with the Department of Corrections to advocate for the timely transfer of individuals. Secretary Carr has indicated to MCSO that as COVID-19 numbers in DAI decrease, they will be increasingly willing to scale up transfers/admissions. Individuals coming into the jail are coming in on very serious charges. Due to this and the setup of the HOC, it has become increasingly difficult to find candidates eligible to be transferred to the HOC. Inspector Dobson also shared that average length of stay is up around 35 days, which is quite higher than it has been in the past. It will take time to process through cases and get numbers down, but partners continue to communicate regularly and work on operations together.

HOC: Captain Brandon Hutchins provided an update on behalf of the HOC. As of this morning, there were 871 persons at the HOC, 232 awaiting transfer to State DOC; roughly 27% of the HOC population. Captain Hutchins echoed Inspector Dobson’s sentiment about the challenges in taking transfers from the jail. To assist in balancing the population, the HOC began transferring all women back to the HOC a week and a half ago.

The committee also discussed ways to measure or analyze potential public safety implications related to the policies implemented due to COVID-19. The CJC has partnered with the Homicide Review Commission and DataShare to use the data they have through its current contract under the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge to study this further.

MSDF: Deputy Warden Chris Stephens indicated MSDF’s population was currently 511. There are currently 18 females, which is up from 12 last week. COVID rates are currently very low; zero positive staff at this time. MSDF implemented antigen testing last week for individuals coming into their facility. Staff were able to identify several individuals who came in positive, and because of the immediate result, they could go straight into isolation units avoiding transmission to others.

3) Update on Programming in the Jail and House of Correction

Chris Stevens shared that MSDF is working to formalize a relationship with an Illinois program entitled “Suits for Success.” Through this partnership, WI DOC can expect a donation of 5,000 suits for individuals in DOC custody.

MSDF will be launching a new program in partnership with Community Corrections called the RESTORE program. RESTORE stands for *Responsibility Equals Sanction Time Opportunity Reduction Earned*. RESTORE is a short-term sanction program of 60 or 90 days, depending on the violation. Referrals will begin being accepted early next week. More details can be obtained through Chris Stevens.

MSDF continues conversations with Advocate Aurora Health and the Transitions Clinic. MSDF is pushing weekly notices to TCN of those being released within 30 days with medical needs so that the TCN can support them upon release.

- 4) **Other Agency/Partner Updates** – The committee had a significant discussion around vaccines and vaccination acceptance within the jails and DOC. The WCS Day Reporting Center also provided an update on their service array.
- 5) **(Optional) Additional updates from MCSO re: Jail Population Analyst** – None noted at this time.
- 6) **Revisit/Refresh Stated Goal(s) for Committee** – Meeting participants were encouraged to review language below and send input for further discussion.

“Jail & Huber Utilization Committee members are focused on establishing sustainable diversion, alternative and inmate programs as well as developing and implementing a quantifiable reduction in incarceration levels consistent with public safety goals. This Committee works to examine how detention facilities are being used and by whom, by focusing on both defendant and offender characteristics including demographics, residence, criminal conduct, and criminal history.”

- 7) **Any final comments/questions/requests** – None noted at this time.
- 8) **Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 9:33am. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 8, 2021, at 8:30 am via Zoom.