

Jail and Huber Utilization Committee

March 17, 2014

Minutes

Attendance:

Lisa Boyd	Center for Self-Sufficiency	Lisa.Boyd@centerinc.org
David Cullen	County Bd. Of Supervisors	
Carmella DeLucia	CJC Coordinator intern	
Sue Eckhart	Justice 2000 (Muni Court)	
Mike Hafemann	HOC Superintendent	
Pete Koneazny	Legal Aid Society	
Hon. Jeff Kremers	Courts	
Annie McGahee, RN	Armor Correctional Health	amcgahee@armorcorrectional.com
Kerri McKenzie	HOC	
Kit Murphy-McNally	CJC/Community	kitmcnally@att.net
Floyd Mitchell	MSDF Warden	Floyd.mitchell@wi.gov
Tom Reed (Chair)	SPD	
Holly Szablewski	Courts	
Marilyn Walczak	Justice Initiatives Institute	mwalczak@jiinstitute.org
Capt. B. Williams	Sheriff's Detention Serv.	
Mike Williams	DOC/DCC	mike.williams@wi.gov

1) Discussion: Lack of family/non-professional visits at the Jail.

Family visits are not being allowed at the jail except as telephone (i.e. voice only) calls from booths in the jail. This has been the case for many months, possibly a year.

- Capt. Williams reported that the jail's equipment for video visits was defective and has not been replaced. The Sheriff's office has asked the County Board to fund repair or a new system, with cost estimate approximately \$1.5 million.
- In spite of no actual "visits" some family members still come to the jail to have phone contact. The jail staff does what it can to inform family members that if they travel to the jail expecting a visit that they will not be having any visual contact.
- The video system had been the exclusive visit method since an occurrence several years ago, when a visitor dismantled a glass partition, allowing an inmate to exit the jail via the visiting room.
- There has been money in Sheriff's past budget requests for video repair, but it has not been funded. The question was raised why the Sheriff has continued spending for other non-funded functions, but has chosen to not repair the video visit equipment.

- One option being considered is video visits using home or other off-site computers. This would apparently entail costs charged to the person initiating the video visit.
- HOC uses video visits from booths at the HOC (which are recorded). HOC has considered but not tried video visits accessible from a city venue (e.g. a church) to save family members the time and travel to be on video in Franklin.
- Question raised whether inmates have any right to visits while in jail; several people opined that there is no constitutional right to visits per se, although it is strongly desirable, for inmate management and humanitarian reasons.
- Current cost for phone calls from HOC or Jail (same vendor contract) is \$3.30 for a 15 minute phone call.
- General agreement that while visual visits should happen, it would entail costs and potentially require raising tax money to support visits.
- Koneazny asked that the Committee advocate, through the Executive Committee, for visits and that it should not be limited to a system that costs inmate families money to visit, because such costs can be a burden on low-income families.
- The phone system for inmates calling from the jail is part of a contract that generates revenue for the Sheriff; a vendor system for video contact would potentially also be fund generating at inmate-family expense.
- **Action:** Tom asked that the Sheriff's department provide the committee with more detailed information about options and costs, to inform whatever recommendation, if any, the committee or Exec. Committee may wish to take.

2) **Discussion: Recent changes within Armor medical program.**

Armor has had several recent changes in leadership staff, including the departure of medical administrator Wade Daley and chief psychiatrist Dr. Lothian.

- Mike Hafemann confirmed that Wade Daley had left and that it was a "corporate" matter and not an issue related to medical care of inmates.
- He noted that there was also a departure of a psychiatrist working at the HOC, but that there is a new psychiatrist, Dr. Sinkovan (phonetic), staffing the HOC.
- His view is that the Armor has been running its program well at the HOC and that whatever changes have occurred have not noticeably impacted inmate medical care.
- Nursing Director Annie McGahee from Armor confirmed that there has been no interruption in quality of care and that Rusty Perry has taken over the medical administrator position from Wade Daley as an interim replacement. It appears that there is not yet a replacement, but may be one soon, for Dr. Lothian as chief psychiatrist and as the psychiatrist staffing the jail.

Kit McNally asked about an incident, reported in the newspaper, as to a pregnant woman being shackled and fed "nutriloaf" diet while in the Jail. Captain Williams was not familiar with the details of why the woman was in punitive segregation, noting that it could have been behavior during

incarceration or while being brought into jail. She offered the opinion that the pregnant woman would have been monitored by medical staff.

- Captain Williams noted that there are typically several pregnant women in the jail at any given time, usually four or less.
- Also, there are typically ten or less women in disciplinary segregation.
- HOC reported no women currently in discipline and typically under 200 women at HOC, with current count of 124 residing in general dorms and an additional 20 on Huber status.

3) MSDF update.

- Warden Mitchell reported that MSDF has been undergoing renovations, including installation of air conditioning.
- MSDF is also upgrading its programming, including expanding GED education programs and adding a Drivers License reinstatement program.
- Current MSDF count is around 900, with approximately 250 serving DOC sentences and the remainder being on some level of Community Correction sanction status.
- Warden Mitchell mentioned a particular frustration has been in not getting cooperation from BHD, when it is necessary to transfer an incompetent person or person w/ mental illness who should not be at MSDF.
- Tom noted that the Evidence Based Decision Making grant workgroups include a mental health coordination group. He suggested that Warden Mitchell or another MSDF staff person join that group.
- Ideally, there should be an early “critical care” response to assess and find appropriate placement or intervention for persons w/ mental illness entering a criminal justice facility.

4) Closing of PPS.

Kerri McKenzie initiated a discussion about the recent closing of MPD’s “PPS” (prisoner processing) function, which was an intermediate step between police detention and delivery of an arrestee to the Jail. This early March development can be expected to impact jail population, because it removes a stage at which some arrestees may be diverted from jail admission.

- While there has not been an immediate and obvious impact, this development would more likely cause issues in warmer months when jail admissions typically rise.
- EBDM group had proposed “station house release” as an evidence based practice that could be implemented to reduce jail admissions.
- *Action:* Tom will invite MPD (and possibly others relevant to this issue) to April Jail & Huber meeting to address this issue in detail.

Next meeting: Monday, April 21st. 8a.m. , Courthouse Room 609