

Jail Working Group
September 19, 2011
Minutes

The Jail Working Group met on September 19, 2011, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 345, City-County Building, 316 N. Park Avenue, Helena, Montana.

Call to Order

Attendees included Commissioners Derek Brown, Andy Hunthausen and Mike Murray, Chief Administrative Officer Eric Bryson, Ast. Dir. of Public Works Kyle Thomas, Captain Dave Fradette, County Attorney Leo Gallagher, Chief Troy McGee, Sharon McCabe and Recording Secretary Rita Cortright. Sheriff Leo Dutton and Undersheriff Dave Rau were absent.

Minutes

The minutes of the September 12, 2011, meeting were e-mailed prior to today's meeting. No formal minutes approval will take place; however additions or corrections were welcomed. Minutes will be emailed to the Working Group and the e-mail distribution list prior to the next meeting.

Process Review

Eric Bryson had not yet received a response to his September 1, 2011, letter sent to the First Judicial District Court.

Project Recognition

Commissioner Brown opened discussion on the Needs List developed at the Sept. 12 meeting, suggesting the Working Group could work through the list and group the needs and identify options under each need.

County Attorney Gallagher expressed concern that he had not been in the loop up to this point and stressed the need to first go through the process of defining whether we needed a new facility. Eric Bryson reviewed the Working Group's activity and process to date, noting that the requested historical data from the Sheriff's Office had not yet been received, but would serve as a part of the Needs Assessment. Mr. Gallagher stressed the need to explore all options first, such as pretrial, drug court, etc. Mr. Bryson agreed that all of the programs would be considered, but noted help from the CJCC was necessary. Mr. Gallagher noted the lease-back option explored years back with the Dept. of Corrections. Commissioner Murray also noted Boyd Andrew's offer of a build and lease option.

Discussion turned to the Needs List review and the following grouping of needs developed:

HOUSING

Male/Female Control

High Security

Showers, toilet, sink, bed, day area

- Medium-High Security
 - Showers, toilet, sink, bed, day area
- Medium Security
 - Showers, toilet, sink, bed, day area
- Low Security
 - Showers, toilet, sink, bed, day area
- Isolation
- Protective Custody
- Medical
- Services
 - Food delivery
 - Medical/Dental
 - Programming (ed. , spiritual, recreation)
 - Library
 - Visitation
 - Video Appearance
 - Laundry
 - Property Room
 - Attorney Visitation
- Administration
 - Reception/public area
 - Staff Space (lockers, showers)
 - Admin. Offices
 - Break/Training Room(s)
- Intake/Booking
 - DUI Processing
 - Holding Cells
 - Medical
 - Isolation
 - Property
 - Sally Port

Kyle Thomas asked if the group was working towards a Needs Assessment, noting the next step would be to take the information and data and have a consultant catalog and analyze it for us. Commissioner Brown responded that the 20-25 years of data, once compiled, will help determine the future facility need, but the group first needed to know what to apply the data to. Eric Bryson expressed the need for the CJCC to get started, adding eventually a technical person would need to be hired, but in the meantime we can gather information which will keep the costs down.

Data Evaluation

Captain Fradette said he hoped the data would be ready next week.

Web Page Development

The Sheriff's Office has been tasked with the development of a webpage, which is not up yet.

Other

Updates to the e-mail notification list were discussed. Leo Gallagher, Troy McGee, Anthony Strainer and Dale Aschim will be added to the list.

There was discussion on coordinating with surrounding counties, in particular regarding financial aspects and the number of inmates. Laura Obert, Broadwater Co. Commissioner, had contacted both Commissioner Brown and Commissioner Hunthausen. Chief McGee expressed the need for a really good holding facility and also a DUI (low security) processing area. Commissioner Brown suggested an agreement could be put in place with the idea of expanding as the need arose. There was discussion of the fluctuating weekend inmate population. Chief McGee noted most were not hard-core prisoners; they get a hearing and are transferred out to another program. Commissioner Brown noted the supervision ratio of 5.4 to 1. An alternate DUI processing area would take the pressure off the jail. The Justice and City Court inmates are housed in Pod 8. The group discussed ways to reduce the populations and open up space in the Pods. The County receives payment for housing Dept. of Commerce inmates, and it's easier for us to move them to Broadwater County. Commissioner Brown noted that staffing remained the same regardless of population. Chief McGee suggested the addition of a weekend judge to reduce weekend populations and Captain Fradette noted this was already being done. Commissioner Brown said an estimated facility cost of \$25 million resulted in \$2.5 million in operating costs for staffing only. Eric Bryson said minimizing staffing and security could be accomplished in the facility design. Commissioner Brown suggested a design that would allow for three pods, all designed as high-security, but utilizing one as a 3-day, Friday – Monday, overflow space. This could be adjusted as the population changed. Chief McGee suggested separate sites; one each for low and high security. Captain Fradette suggested the current facility could be utilized for the Courts, temporary holding, but the staffing would remain high in this option. Commissioner Brown asked how we would work out financial costs between the County and Broadwater. Eric Bryson suggested negotiating less than the state pays. Currently the cost per inmate per day was estimated at about \$100. The State pays between \$63 and \$65 per date. Commissioner Brown said a more efficient facility would result in a lower cost per inmate, and cited the 48-bed pods with one direct supervisor model in Broomfield.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 26, 1:30 pm in Room 309.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.