

**MEETING OF THE
JUVENILE DETENTION BOARD OF MANAGERS
June 21, 2022 4:30 PM**

Present: Vice Chair Marie N. Williams
Chris Eiserman
James E. Turner
County Controller Joanne Phillips
Council Chairwoman Dr. Monica Taylor
Chekemma Fulmore Townsend

Call to Order. Vice Chair Marie N. Williams called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments on Agenda Items. There were no public comments on agenda items.

Approval of Minutes. County Controller Joanne Phillips moved to approve the May 16, 2022 minutes, and Board Member James E. Turner seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Juvenile Court and Probation Services Report.

Danielle DiMatteo, Juvenile Probation Director, Delaware County Court & Probation Services, reported there were two (2) juvenile direct files in Abraxas, and one (1) direct file in Bucks County, male.

Questions/Comments

Council Chairwoman Dr. Taylor asked if there were any services affected by the closing down of one of the Aspire centers. The response by Ms. DiMatteo was that they were not accepting referrals.

Controller Phillips asked if detention beds were available in Bucks, Montgomery, and Chester Counties. The response by Ms. DiMatteo was that Montgomery County has building issues, and Chester County was limited on beds.

Superintendent for Juvenile Justice Services Report.

Status Report- Secure Detention Space: Superintendent Irizarry stated the County is involved in on-going discussions with its neighboring counties with regard to finding immediate assistance to find space for secure detention. There is not major movement on this agenda item.

2022 Juvenile Justice Service Strategy update(s)

1. Youth Rehabilitation Center Design Committee Update.

An architect has been identified. Public Works is going to present the recommendation for Spiezle Architectural Group, LLC at the July 5, 2022 County Council meeting for approval. The firm will come up with the timeline and cost for four (4) options: 1) renovate the existing site; 2) total demolition and rebuild on current site; 3) renovate part of the current site; and 4) identify another available county-owned space. Options will be

presented to the Board. The Board will then choose the most time and cost-efficient option. Estimated timeline of plan is the end of 2022.

Questions/Comments

Controller Phillips expressed concerns that four (4) options will prolong the process. Response: the request was for a high-level assessment not an in-depth look.

Vice Chair Williams stated the subcommittee was looking at more options as a feasibility study.

Board Member Turner, as a subcommittee member, wanted to ensure the best options were presented for the best cost.

Controller Phillips thinks the process is prolonged and we should look at what is available and what has to happen to the current center and make a decision. Four options are too many.

Council Chairwoman Dr. Taylor stated that while reviewing current projects for the County, Public Works is realizing rebuilds are costing as much as new builds. Also, there are some facilities already identified via facilities studies that are owned by the County. In addition to the physical building, the detention center is under investigation by the Attorney General, and we still must go through the licensing process.

2. Juvenile Justice Service Strategy RFP.

Presentation by David Irizarry regarding the state of our detentions, size, demographics, historical data etc.

Questions/Comments

Board Member Turner asked if an analysis was done regarding the reduction in admissions?

Vice Chair Williams asked are these single admissions or multiple of the same person? Response: single admissions. There are various reasons that could account for the decrease i.e., partner efforts to reduce admissions.

Controller Phillips wanted to make sure the criteria are weighed correctly.

Council Chairwoman Dr. Taylor made a motion to approve the RFP for Evaluation Services to present to the County Council. Board Member Turner seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Old Business. Vice Chair Williams requested the status of the YAP grant. David Irizarry stated the grant proposal will be submitted before the County Board on July 5, 2022 for approval.

New Business. There were no new business items to report at the time.

Presentation of Detention Alternatives

- a. Clock Tower Schools. Presented on an evening and weekend reporting model in which the County can use as an alternative to detention.
- b. Arise Foundation. Presented on a program that provides alternative services for adjudicated youth by assisting with terms of probation.

Public Comments. (All relevant items.)

Pastor Harrison of Chester, PA asked for assistance for his children whom he believes qualify for detention services.

Board Member Comments

Council Chairwoman Dr. Taylor wanted to reiterate if we had a detention center that was fully functional, we would not be able to put kids in that facility because we are not licensed. We have contracted out as many available beds as we can and continue to seek more places to work with. We do not want to send people that are dangerous back out into the community.

Board Member Fulmore Townsend stated we are working as fast as we can on those things that are within our control. Opening up the detention center is our priority.

Board Member Turner stated this is where we are, and we are doing everything within our control.

Adjourn. Council Chairwoman Dr. Taylor moved to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Fulmore Townsend. The motion carried unanimously.