

**MEETING OF THE  
JUVENILE DETENTION BOARD OF MANAGERS  
16 AUGUST 2022**

**Present:** Chair/Councilman Kevin Madden                      Deputy Policy Analyst, Kelly Diaz  
                 James E. Turner    Councilwoman Elaine Schaefer  
                 Candice L. Lineman    Chris Eiserman  
                 Chekemma Fulmore Townsend                      Vice Chair Marie N. Williams  
                 Nathaniel C. Nicholas

**Call to Order:** Chair/Councilman Kevin Madden.

Note: There was an executive board meeting August 15, 2022 to discuss public safety and contractual matters.

**Pledge of Allegiance.**

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Nathaniel C. Nicholas moved to approve minutes from July 19, 2022. The motion was seconded by Candice Linehan. Motion passed unanimously.

**Juvenile Court and Probation Service Report:**

Danielle DiMatteo, Director, Delaware County Juvenile Court & Probation Services, reported that there were three youths (male) detained at partnering juvenile facilities; one at Abraxas Academy; one at Central County's youth center; one at Bucks County's youth center. There are three interest of justice matters that are in custody: one in Philadelphia and two in Morgantown Abraxas.

**Superintendent for Juvenile Justice Service Report:**

**Status update on licensing application:**

David Irizarry stated the application to renew the Lima Facility Detention Center was submitted via mail August 12, 2022.

**Design Sub-Committee Update:**

The members of the sub-committee consist of David Irizarry, Nelson Walker, Marie Williams, Rev. James Turner, Judge Nathaniel Nichols, Mike Resnick, Dr. Monica Taylor, Shelley Smith, Carlton Johnson, and Danielle Floyd. The committee meets bi-weekly.

The presentation consisted of the following common themes: trauma-informed design; on-site service delivery; and family and community involvement.

There will be a dual-purpose campus:

- 1) Secure rehabilitation which will provide
  - a. Minimum of 20 beds
  - b. Reflect best practices in trauma-informed care

- c. Designed to assist youth in establishing a “normal” day-to-day routine in a less institutionalized-feeling environment
- d. Services: educational, recreational, therapeutic/mental health, food and health related

David Irizarry as well as various members of the sub-committee visited several detention centers across Pennsylvania. Pictures and notes were taken, and interviews were conducted.

In addition to the above services, the following amenities were offered:

- Several medication/therapeutic support spaces
  - Medical/clinic exam center
  - Family/visitation center
  - Administrative offices
  - Visitor lobby
  - Enclosed sallyport/garage
- 2) Family and youth community space that provides services that are designed to equip our young participants with needed resources to remain arrest free as well as to prevent future and/or further involvement with the juvenile justice system. Services and spaces should include:
- a. Operations 4pm-8pm M-F and 11am-7pm on Saturdays during the academic year to address out of school time activities
  - b. Resource/transition area
  - c. Youth lounges and homework spaces
  - d. Mental health center for youth and their families
  - e. Café
  - f. Community garden
  - g. Classrooms for structured programming
  - h. Computer lab
  - i. Public event space
  - j. Indoor/outdoor recreational space
  - k. Separate entrance from secured side of the campus

It was stated that the Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center was the closest case study because they used an evening and weekend reporting model within their center.

Since the secured side is the priority, it will be asked of the architect to be completed first then the dual-purpose side of the site will be built in a later phase.

Questions/Comments:

Nathaniel Nichols stated after seeing this presentation and touring the current facility that day, it really shows how the current facility is lacking and how much has to change to achieve the intended goals.

Councilwoman Elaine Schaefer asked where we with the process are, i.e., plans, drawings, etc.

David Irizarry stated as per the contract, the architect had the first walkthrough August 16, 2022. The goal is to have the plans and cost for the county council within four months.

Chair/Councilman Kevin Madden expressed appreciation for the work the sub-committee is doing. The family center is a large add-on for the committee. The County may have more pressing needs. Wanted to make sure the second phase did not slow down the secured side.

James E. Turner stated that after working with PCCD, the community side is extremely important if we are going to stop having to use the secure side so much. If we do not, as a County, as a people, begin to recognize members of our community have trauma and needs, we are going to continue to add beds and we are going to continue to have the same issues we've always had. Studies have shown if you do not have models of de-escalation, intervention and prevention, and the ability for families to heal from the trauma together, the issue(s) will perpetuate. Both sides, the secure side and the community side, are equally important. This is an opportunity for Delaware County to become a model of what correction can be throughout this area.

Chair/Councilman Kevin Madden would like to confirm whether programming is currently available. If so, does the County have to provide more support to existing organizations.

James E. Turner stated that incorporating the second phase may give us a "leg up" on licensing. When having discussions with other members of the State, there is much more consideration given to places like Lancaster, who have programming.

Nathaniel Nichols would like to know more about the youth in violation coming in and their needs from probation.

Chris Eiserman stated the design and everything that went into the redesigning the center is great. His only concern is not having a fence to ensure public safety. We have to make sure the juveniles cannot escape out of the facility.

David Irizarry would be glad to show the operational issues which is why the fence is currently needed and shared the solution to your concerns.

Vice Chair Marie N. Williams feels that information has been given regarding who these individuals are – mostly Black males between 14-17 years old, either in possession of guns or involved in assaults or something of that nature. This Board has discussed the youth advocacy program; we got data from them that shows there has been success in other communities around the country, much more violent than Delaware County, dealing exactly with that population. We have the historical data concerning who is coming in and the nature of the

charges they are coming in with. The dual purpose for the detention center is a best practice. We need to have services on site for those youths who may not be adjudicated but are high risk.

Chris Eiserman does not feel anyone on the Board is against the dual purpose, we just want to be sure the secured side is completed first.

### 2023 Budget review/approval

Essentially this is a placeholder budget; a general overview of what was submitted: \$6.1 million submitted with \$2.4 million of that being dedicated to personnel for salaries. In 2020, the last time the center was fully operational, the budget for salaries was about \$3.9 million (\$3.6 million detention: \$311,000 kitchen). Additional operational costs of \$3.7 million with one-time costs of over \$500,000. We plan on having more contracted services for education, food services, medical, services, and preprogramming. In the past, the County has spent an average of \$7 million of which the state reimburses half (\$3.5 million).

Regarding the budget please note:

- The budget was drafted on or around July 2022 with many unknowns
- We are looking for the Board's input, as the budget has not been finalized
- We are to review this budget with the Executive Director and Budget Manager (8/25/22)
- If you chose, the Board would have another opportunity for review at September's meeting
- The Budget Management Director's budget submittal to the Executive Director is due the first week of October 2022.

### Questions/Comments:

Councilwoman Elaine Schaefer asked why is the State reimbursement so low in 2023 comparatively to the history?

David Irizarry responded that usually the State reimburses at 50%. If we are fully staffed and operational by July 2023, we would only get reimbursed 25% for half of the fiscal year.

Councilwoman Elaine Schaefer asked the 50% reimbursement is 50% of what?

David Irizarry responded that its 50% of costs associated with the center, predominately costs related to staff. A lot of the staff needed to run the center is state-mandated; we get reimbursed half for staff. This is contingent upon the architect's timeline. We would need to onboard and hire staff.

Councilwoman Elaine Schaefer asked if the licensing corresponds to the architect's and hiring timeline.

David Irizarry responded that we will be working close with the architect on the timeline and will coordinate visit by the State to coincide with the final work on the secure side. We would not advise the State coming out prior to the renovations.

Councilwoman Elaine Schaefer asked if the staff had to be hired and trained prior to getting the license back?

David Irizarry answered no, we can receive a license prior to having staff; hiring can be part of the onboarding plan. The site visit consists of looking at the physical center. The State would assess if the center would be able to run tomorrow if we had the staff. The application was submitted, and we will be assigned someone from the region to work with us. They (the site inspector) will be able to answer some of these questions.

Chekemma Fulmore Townsend asked is this for a 66-bed facility or for less beds?

David Irizarry stated this is based on a 24-bed model. We will get you an updated version of the budget.

Rev. James Turner asked if the State will reimburse for the staff and the County will take care of the operations?

David Irizarry responded that this budget took into account staffing for sixth months into the year which means we would get a quarter of the reimbursement.

Chair/Councilman Kevin Madden asked for some clarity on the State reimbursement – we get reimbursed by the State for local detention costs. So what is included within the \$3.5 million? Is it the \$2.4 million plus what?

David Irizarry said it is predominately the staffing; \$2.4 million for staffing.

Chair/Councilman Kevin Madden asked what percentage does the State reimburse us for?

David Irizarry responded 50%, but we are basing this off a quarter of what it is. The State will not make any reimbursements until a young person resides at the center.

Chair/councilman Kevin Madden asked from this, what will the State reimburse us at 50%? The personnel costs, plus what else?

David Irizarry answered plus operating and for contracted services, such as medical.

Kelly Diaz asked if this just for Juvenile Detention or if it includes kitchen?

David Irizarry responded that it includes both.

Kelly Diaz asked if budget worksheets were submitted? It might help us understand better.

David Irizarry responded yes; budget worksheets were submitted to Budget Management.

Kelly Diaz stated there are a couple of items that appear to be capital. Was that submitted to Capital Budgets? Medical equipment?

David Irizarry responded that capital items were submitted by Danielle Floyd of Public Works. We plan on renting out a lot of the equipment, i.e., x-ray machines, etc. Again, there are a lot of unknowns still.

**Old Business:** There was no old business

**New Business:** There was no new business.

**Public Comment:**

Sarah Coufold, Media. She is glad the application has been submitted. The closing of the facility caused a strain on resources. She is sorry for what youth suffered and she wishes that they heal. For the perpetrators, shame on you. She hopes you are fully prosecuted. We need detention center until there is reform.

Craig Coufold, Media. After watching his wife work for countless hours trying to find beds for juveniles, Mr. Coufold is concerned about the lack of urgency the community has about getting a detention center. He feels the community is unaware of the youth committing crimes and not being detained because of lack of beds.

Colleen Kennedy, West Chester Pike. We need to invest in mental health and other trauma enforced care instead of reopening a center that has so much negative history.

Pastor Jay Harrison, Chester. Thank you for hearing his plea for the need of a detention center. Invited Board members to a town meeting at his church. This town meeting will be addressing youth that are a target group at 701 Morton Avenue.

Ashely Balsamore, Darby Township. Thinks reopening a center where kids were traumatized is not only a poor investment but a poor decision. Wants to know why we are planning for twenty beds because there were four kids there when it was closed. The actual population was around ten so why plan for more beds. Money should be used for preventative measures, such as mental health services.

**Board member comments.**

Chris Eiserman wanted to thank David Irizarry for taking time out of his schedule to visit the eastern part of the County and speak to police chiefs and listen to their issues. Please note, to be fair to the staff that worked there, to date no one who formerly worked at the detention center

has been arrested or charged. There was a lot of good people who worked at the center. He asked that everyone reserve judgement until the Attorney General comes out with the report.

Candice L. Lineman asked if all newly hired staff will be DELCO employees?

David Irizarry stated yes, they would be DELCO employees.

Candice L. Lineman asked if it was brought to and cleared by the AG that we would recruit and post for those who have been without a job and are interested in serving our youth?

David Irizarry stated yes. I was always clear from day one in terms of everyone is eligible to apply. No one is guaranteed a job. We must make sure they are in line with our new vision. We encourage anybody who is willing to work with kids to apply.

Chair/Councilman Kevin Madden stated there is a lot of intense feelings across the spectrum as to how people perceive detention and he would like everyone to give the Board and this process a chance. Everything that may or may not have happened was prior to this Board. He appreciates everyone's statements.

Rev. James Turner stated it is an important piece to listen to the youth and he wanted to thank the young lady for her thoughts.

**Motion to adjourn.**

Nathaniel Nichols motioned to adjourn. Chris Eiserman seconded. All was in favor.

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