

**DELAWARE COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION BOARD OF MANAGERS  
TUESDAY JULY 18TH, 2024  
5:30PM  
HYBRID: DELAWARE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING ROOM AND VIRTUAL**

**Board Members Present:**

Kevin Madden, Chairman/Council Member  
Marie Williams, Vice Chair  
Elaine Schaefer, Council Member  
Dr. Monica Taylor, Council Chair

Kelly Diaz, Deputy Controller  
Candice L. Linehan  
Rev. James Turner

**Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:33PM.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Public Comment (Agenda Items Only):** No public comment.

**Approval of Minutes:** Vice Chair Williams moved to approve the meeting minutes from the June 2024 meeting. Council Chair Dr. Taylor seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

**Report:**

- A. Monthly Detained Youth Report, Danielle DiMatteo- There are two (2) males at George Junior Republic (Grove City, Pa), one (1) male at Bucks County, and one (1) male at Abraxas Morgantown. Additionally, there are three (3) direct file males at George W. Hill Correctional Facility and one (1) direct file female at State Correctional Institution Muncy.
  
- B. Superintendent for Juvenile Justice Services, David Irizarry- In his final address to the Juvenile Detention Board of Managers, Mr. Irizarry provided a report on the current state of the department. Mr. Irizarry began by thanking the team at the Juvenile Detention and Rehabilitation Department. He then began his address by reviewing key accomplishments; list ongoing departmental projects; list current departmental challenges; and provide his recommendations for the department's future.

Since Mr. Irizarry's tenure began in January of 2022, Mr. Irizarry has worked to advance the department through four stages as follows:

**Stage 1: Data Collection & Evaluation.**

- Geographic priorities
- Asset mapping existing resources
- Surveying youth

**Stage 2: Collaboration.**

- Community leaders
- Internal stakeholders
- State and national partners

**Stage 3: Investing in new and innovative evidence-based programing/models.**

#### **Stage 4: Reforming and Re-establishing a local secure care (detention) option.**

##### **Key Accomplishment(s): Juvenile Justice System Assessment and Improvement.**

- Conducted a baseline assessment with the Center for Children's Law and Policy
- Identified crucial areas for improvement and front-end opportunities
- Recognized by state and national partners for authentic engagement

##### **Key Accomplishments: Public Works Planning and Coordination**

- Developed a multi-purpose design concept with the Juvenile Detention Board of Managers' Design Sub-Committee
- Emphasis on trauma-informed rehabilitation, staff wellbeing, and secure environment
- Focus on programming and community partnerships

##### **Key Accomplishments: Community Outreach**

- Improved community trust and engagement despite historic distrust
- Fostered a sense of community involvement for future prevention efforts
- Drastic positive change in department climate and trust

##### **Key Accomplishments: Delinquency Prevention Program Development**

- Aligned with Delaware County's Social Service and Community Support Departmental Cluster
- Address delinquency through a child welfare/social service lens
- Utilized Act 148 funding and fostered a sense of community internally

##### **Key Accomplishments: Infrastructure Building**

- Established a robust organizational framework starting from zero staff and procedures
- Recruited highly qualified, master's-level local government professionals
- Enhanced efficiency, effectiveness, and strategic direction

##### **Current Projects**

- Project 1: Community-based Detention Shelters (CBDS)
- Project 2: Piloting Delinquency Prevention Programming through NBB
- School Prevention Programming
- OST safe space/pro-social activity spaces (NRC)
- Project 3: OJJPD Building Local Continuums of Care to Support Youth Success Federal Grant
- Project 4: Coatesville Secure Detention Partnership Pilot
- Project 5: Planning Delco Assessment Centers with NAC
- Project 6: The Delaware County Delinquency Prevention Collaborative
- Project 7: Training and Technical Assistance for Youth Justice-Focused Community-Based Organizations
- Project 8: Former Center Demo & Future Center Design
- Project 9: Delco Juvenile Restitution Fund

- Project 10: Archive Data Base for Residential Files
- Project 11: Data Dashboard- Empact Services
- Project 12: TAPS Academy Expansion

### **Challenges and Opportunities**

- Personnel
  - Board's Personnel sub-committee meet with Chief Garrison re: vacancies & plan
- Establishing formal Role & Responsibilities
  - Breaking silos & authentic partnerships
  - Need for balanced solutions to address all parties' concerns

### **Moving Forward**

- Recommendation for Successor: Nelson Walker
  - qualified and experienced
  - familiarity with community and stakeholders
  - Important to have strong leadership at the table for the department's success
- Importance of establishing clear authority and guidelines
- Need for strong partnerships and collaborative efforts
- Wholistic Focus on juvenile justice including prevention, diversion, community empowerment and secure car

Vice Chair Williams stated that throughout his tenure in Philadelphia, Nelson Walker's reputation preceded him in that he is genuine, passionate, and full of integrity. Vice Chair Williams additionally stated that she has witnessed those qualities in Mr. Walker's current position in Delaware County.

Board Member Turner noted that Mr. Irizarry has set an exceptional precedent for the department as echoed by the community. Mr. Turner additionally stated that he is optimistic with Mr. Irizarry's recommendations.

Chairman Madden stated that he is grateful for Mr. Irizarry's leadership as the county shifts towards a new approach at juvenile justice and detention as well as the team that Mr. Irizarry has crafted for the department and thanked him for his service.

Mr. Irizarry additionally stated that he was grateful for the opportunity to have served the County in this capacity and that he is proud of the collaboration and achievements. Mr. Irizarry also thanked the Board for their unwavering support and stated that he is confident the department is being left in good hands, with those that understand and strive towards the mission of the department.

Councilwoman Schaefer thanked Mr. Irizarry for his service and noted that the department has made tremendous strides based off the strength of his leadership. Councilwoman additionally highlighted Mr. Irizarry's persistence toward community engagement and expressed her gratitude for that insistence. Councilwoman Schaefer wished Mr. Irizarry good luck in his future endeavors.

Chairman Madden stated that Juvenile Justice belongs under Human Services. Issues Delaware County youths face often intertwine with matters that are not criminal in nature. He thanked Mr. Irizarry for creating ease in working with and utilizing other services that address those needs. As next steps are considered, Chairman Madden stated that the Chief of Social Services and Community Programs, Sandra Garrison, will also give input as it relates to the larger tree of human services. Chairman Madden additionally stated that there continues to be room for improvement and that the Board will strive towards metric driven action. Chairman Madden again thanked Mr. Irizarry for all that he has accomplished.

**Old Business:** No old business.

**New Business:** No new business.

**Public Comment:** Tasliym Morales, Chester, Pa- Ms. Morales commented on the impact and level of engagement Mr. Irizarry was within Chester city during his tenure with Delaware County and asked the Board to be very mindful with selecting a candidate to fill the vacancy. Ms. Morales also stated frustration with Delaware County's struggle to retain qualified and engaged leadership.

Nicole Paulman, Middletown Township, Pa- Ms. Paulman voiced her support for previously mentioned restorative justice programming and making data informed decisions. Ms. Paulman additionally referenced a study published in 2023 by Catherine S. Kimbrell examining restorative justice and lowering recidivist behaviors.

Tonita Austin, Upper Providence, Pa- Ms. Austin thanked Mr. Irizarry for his willingness to engage with the community and noted that Mr. Irizarry's style of leadership is rare within the County. Ms. Austin additionally expressed optimism in Mr. Irizarry's recommendations for the future of the department.

Colleen Kennedy, Upper Darby, Pa- Ms. Kennedy expressed her support of departmental achievements under Mr. Irizarry's leadership and wished him luck in his future pursuits. Ms. Kennedy additionally volunteered to help with disseminating raw data in an appropriate way to the community. Ms. Kennedy also stated that she would like to see more action being taken against fees for youthful offenders and implored the Board to keep the voices of those juveniles in mind as the department moves forward.

Jonathan King, Chester, Pa- Mr. King thanked Mr. Irizarry for his service and highlighted Mr. Irizarry's accomplishments and successes during his tenure with Delaware County.

Andre Simms, Chester, Pa- Mr. Simms thanked Mr. Irizarry for continuously seeking out the voices of young people and engaging with the community. Mr. Simms stated that his community is better because of the work that Mr. Irizarry has done and expressed his gratitude for his commitment and leadership.

**Board Member Comment:** Board Member Turner thanked Mr. Irizarry.

Chairman Madden thanked Mr. Irizarry and noted that his absence will be missed.

Judge Krull thanked Mr. Irizarry for his services.

**Adjourn:** Chairman Madden moved to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Diaz seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:14PM.