

Jail Study Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes (same as Notes) – Approved 1-18-18
Thursday, December 21, 2017 4:30 PM
Legislature Chambers

Attendance

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Departed
Rich John	Chair	Present	
Anna Kelles	Vice Chair	Present	
James Dennis	Member	Present	5:00 PM
David McKenna	Member	Present	
Martha Robertson	Member	Present	
Arel LeMaro	Facilities Director	Present	
Kenneth Lansing	Sheriff	Present	
Ray Bunce	Captain of Corrections, Sheriff's Department	Present	
Marcia Lynch	Public Info. Officer, County Administration	Present	
Paula Younger	Deputy County Administrator	Present	
Michelle Pottorff	Chief Deputy Clerk	Present	
Lance Salisbury	Supervising Attorney, Assigned Counsel Program	Present	

Guests: Nick Reynolds, Ithaca Times; Anne Koreman, Legislator-Elect

Call to Order

Mr. John, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Changes to Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Chair's Report

Mr. John recognized and thanked Mr. Dennis for his service to the Public Safety and Jail Study Committees.

Public Comment

No member of the public wished to speak.

Minutes Approval

November 16, 2017

The minutes were approved as corrected.

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Martha Robertson, Member
SECONDER:	David McKenna, Member
AYES:	John, Kelles, Dennis, McKenna, Robertson

Report from County Administration

Ms. Younger reported on communication she has had with LaBella Associates and said they are approaching the work in three phases. A document showing proposed new program space was distributed to the Committee. She said Phase I takes into account all of the space that is available along with the space projected to be needed and confirming with the Sheriff, Undersheriff, and Captain Bunce, how the space could be best allocated. Once that is confirmed they will move into Phase II where there would be sketches to review that would serve as a graphic for how space would be laid out. A conference call took place this morning with the Sheriff, Undersheriff, Captain Bunce, Arel LeMaro, Mark Kukuvka, and Amy Daley to discuss the results of the first phase.

Ms. Younger said an extensive walk-thru of the Jail took place this morning of the entire building including the Jail, Road Patrol, and storage areas. She distributed a document showing the amount of space that would be needed to enhance the alternative-to-incarceration programs and said currently the best estimate of program and support space needed is 1,176. She said discussion of the program piece is going to need to be held at the CJA/ATI Board's January meeting and this will delay the second Phase. Ms. Younger distributed a preliminary list of proposed new program space that would be housed at the facility.

Mr. LeMaro said assuming it would be an independent building there is approximately 16,000 gross sq. ft. needed for the Civil, Investigation, Road Patrol, and Sheriff's Administration. The amount of existing space those programs currently occupy was not available at this time. Ms. Robertson stated a comprehensive list of programs and space is needed. Mr. Bunce noted the purpose of the document is to discuss the programs and to make sure that the space that is designed for the facility or programs is provided for.

In response to Ms. Kelles, Sheriff Lansing said it is his hope to move Road Patrol, Civil, and Administration out of the building, which will free up space.

Mr. John stressed the importance in making sure CJA/ATI members are prepared to discuss this at their next meeting.

Ms. Buechel expressed concern that there be enough space for large group programming and suggested BOCES and Mental Health could share space. She also suggested adding a third or fourth medical room. Ms. Robertson agreed with Ms. Buechel and said thought should be given to the amount of space that would be ideal for programming. Sheriff Lansing clarified that the space currently under discussion is in addition to what currently exists.

Mr. LeMaro shared Ms. Buechel's concern that there be more space for programming and said he has asked Mr. Kukuvka to provide the Committee with additional information along with an initial draft of the space layout at the next meeting. That information would show what Labella initially proposed in 2002 and what is currently being proposed. He also said Mr. Kukuvka will be attending the CJA/ATI meeting.

Mr. Dennis was excused at this time.

Committee Structure

Mr. John said he thinks the time has come to fold this Committee's work into the Public Safety Committee and asked for input from the Committee. Members were supportive of this as long as it does not impact time or attention to other Public Safety programs and with the understanding that there may be a need for additional meetings as the design process moves forward.

How do we Measure the Effectiveness of ATI's

Mr. John said there is a very clear budget for the Jail and one can compare the operational expense of running the Jail. From a financial standpoint and as part of measuring success the Legislature needs to define some boundaries around what is an alternative-to-incarceration (ATI) program, who is participating in an ATI program, and how to allocate expense to it. He said at this time the Legislature does not have a good idea of what those boundaries are and he also doesn't think it can be done perfectly or to everyone's satisfaction.

Mr. John gave an example of electronic monitoring, which is clearly an ATI program; however, an effective youth services program can have tremendous impacts as it diverts kids to pathways other than criminal justice. Another example is the Assigned Counsel Program but stated the Counsel at First Arraignment is specifically tasked to address jail population. There is a lot to think about but he thinks the Committee should have a discussion of what and how to measure the effectiveness of programs.

Ms. Kelles said outside of its impact on the Jail each program has its own program goals and outcomes and suggested the Committee obtain and review a list of what programs exist that is considered ATI programs.

Ms. Robertson said the global measurement is Jail population and within that there is recidivism and would like to know how many individuals have been incarcerated in the Jail more than once. Mr. John responded that if the County was reducing recidivism it would be winning but questions how the individual pieces would be measured to show the effectiveness of each of the individual programs. Ms. Buechel said first recidivism needs to be defined.

Ms. Robertson recalled when the Legislature first included a significant amount of funding in its budget for ATI programs and said early childhood education was included but she is unclear if that is captured now.

Mr. John said reducing recidivism will tell the County whether it is winning but would like there to be some metrics developed to see what is producing that effect. Mr. McKenna said data needs to be gathered to provide a means of comparison and he is interested in learning what the cost is of all programs per inmate. Ms. Younger said there are sources at the national level where a set of measures already exist and that could serve as a guideline.

Ms. Robertson referred to a two-part report done by Deana Bodnar of the Department of Social Services approximately ten years ago that was an evaluation of Misdemeanor and Felony Drug Courts, Family Treatment Court, and other ATI programs, and suggested it be used as a starting point.

Ms. Kelles spoke of the many variables associated with evaluating programs and noted there are

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some that are more expensive but provide a great benefit to the community. She said instead of trying to identify everything she would like to develop a list that is manageable and realistic. Ms. Buechel noted the Program Impact Statements that are submitted during the budget process have metrics on them.

Mr. John described how an estimate of what it costs to incarcerate a person at the Jail per day could be used as a starting point.

Ms. Kelles said there are many benefits other than monetary and wants to see that the full conversation takes place and captures that information. Ms. Robertson said the focus without variances is lowering the population and keeping board out costs down at \$85/day but that doesn't include other things such as transportation, medical, and other costs.

Mr. John noted that the cost of keeping someone at the local Jail could be higher than boarding out but that doesn't mean the preference would be to board out. He said it will be difficult to determine what to measure in the ATI programs but the Committee needs to take a look at it.

Mr. Bunce announced the Sheriff has partnered with CARS (Cayuga Addiction Recovery Service) and is doing a Vivitrol program out of the Jail that began four weeks ago. He said there has already been a patient and benefit from it.

He also reported the Department has made arrangements to have double bunks removed by the Facilities Department. The Commission of Correction requires that they be removed by January 10th. They will be stored on site and can be used in the future if needed. A second Jail Nurse position was approved in the 2018 budget and an offer was extended and accepted today. Also, a Social Worker for the Jail has been hired and is ready to begin in mid-January.

Sheriff Lansing said Commissioner of Correction Riley came and visited the facility and said he understands Tompkins County's position as he was a Sheriff previously and was trying to do similar things with his facility. Mr. Lansing said he found this very encouraging.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.