

Due to COVID-19, the special meeting for the Delaware County Jail Oversight Board was held via ZOOM and aired live online on Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 10:00 am. The public was permitted to submit questions or comments before and after the meeting at JOB@co.delaware.pa.us.

Present: Kevin Madden, Chair; Howard Lazarus, Executive Director; Honorable John J. Whelan; Honorable Mary Alice Brennan; Joanne Phillips, County Controller; Jerry Sanders, County Sheriff; Brian Corson, Citizen Appointment; Deborah Love, Citizen Appointment; Jonathan King, Citizen Appointment; Majid Alsayegh of Alta Management; Karl Becker of CGL; Brad Sassatelli of CGL; Bill Lawhorn of CGL; and Interim Warden Lee Tatum. Also, on the call were Carlton Johnson, Esq. and Shelley Smith, Esq., of Archer & Greiner, PC.

Karl Becker of CGL presented the De-Privatization Financial Feasibility Assessment. Mr. Becker presented statistics on the current cost of the GEO contract and George W. Hill historical spending. CGL identified 3 scenarios for county management:

Scenario #1 County Management status quo: The same staffing levels and operational approach stay in place with 6% across the board salary increases/county benefits with an average daily population of 1,883 (facility capacity). Current programs would remain in place, healthcare and food services would be outsourced. Scenario #1 has a projected cost of \$49.9 million.

Scenario #2 Revised Staffing Plan/Programs: A revised staffing plan that would eliminate 48.5 full time employees from the current staffing plan. There would be 6% across the board salary increases/county benefits with an average daily population of 1,883 (facility capacity). There would also be \$1.6 million investment in new programs, healthcare and food service would be outsourced. Projected cost for scenario #2 is \$47.7 million.

Scenario #3 Reduced ADP: Assumes staffing efficiencies included in scenario #2, with 6% across the board salary increases/county benefits with an average daily population of 1,450. Scenario #3 includes closing a housing unit which would allow an additional reduction of 20 full time employees. There would also be \$1.6 million in enhanced substance abuse treatment and behavioral program services. Healthcare and Food Services would be outsourced. Projected cost for scenario #3 is \$43.1 million.

Mr. Becker also presented a scenario comparison, capital and transition costs and included a de-privatization schedule. It was estimated that the county could assume prison operations by March 2022. Mr. Madden noted that the current GEO contract does allow for medical, food service and maintenance services to be outsourced. There was discussion among the JOB about the de-privatization and financial and feasibility assessment provided by CGL.

Public Comment: Joe Qualtieri, 621 Magill Road, Swarthmore, PA: Asked what would de-privatization mean for the ability to lessen the prison population? Does it mean that there is no longer an immoral prisoner quota? Mr. Madden stated that the recidivism rate is over 60% and the prison is only one element of that. The GEO contract has a reduction rate of \$13.00 per day.

Mr. Madden mentioned a 5-page letter submitted by GEO but did not read it in its entirety. The letter will be posted on the county website.

Nelson V. Vecchione, 4719 Woodland Avenue, Drexel Hill, PA: Asked if Delaware County Council has contracted with GEO Group to provide "Re-Entry" services to Delaware County residents following their release from custody? If so, why was GEO Group selected to provide the services over other potential providers? Mr. Madden noted that prior County Council had a contract with GEO Cares in 2018 for services that are targeted at formally incarcerated individuals.

Sarah Rosier, 413 Alexander Avenue, Drexel Hill, PA: Mentioned that her son is currently incarcerated at George W. Hill and he struggles to maintain sobriety while incarcerated due to the amount of contraband currently on his unit. Ms. Rosier's son actively participates in programs and seems to enjoy them but has told Ms. Rosier that K2, suboxone strips and marijuana is rampant and having them readily available are huge triggers for him. Ms. Rosier's son had also stated that there are multiple cell phones in the facility. The cell phones have been introduced into the facility by correctional officers in exchange for money on "cash app". Ms. Rosier would like to know what is being done to stop the introduction of contraband to the facility by staff? Are the staff getting caught? And if so are they being prosecuted? Ms. Rosier asked if the problem is a priority due to all the staffing issues that are reported each month, or is it more of a "a bad CO is better than no CO at all" attitude? Ms. Rosier wants to hold the security staff accountable for the safety and well-being of incarcerated family members. Mr. Corson advised Ms. Rosier that it's unfair and he would like the contraband issue addressed. Mr. Alsayegh of Alta Management mentioned that the staff turnover rate is high at George W. Hill and believed that there will be less risk of contraband once operations are improved.

Jane Dunbar, 232 Garfield Avenue, Norwood, PA: Ms. Dunbar would not mind paying a LOT MORE MONEY in her taxes for an outside medical service to take over before the county official takeover, given the disgrace that GEO's medical department has proven to be. Ms. Dunbar asked if the public would have the opportunity to review the RFPs for food and medical services before they are sent to potential vendors? Ms. Dunbar also asked if there will be certain stipulations regarding quality written into each RFP? Mr. Madden advised Ms. Dunbar that the RFPs would first go to County Council, and Mr. Lazarus stated that RFPs are publicly advertised on the county website.

Peggy Bradin Wilson, 824 Drexel Avenue, Drexel Hill, PA: Ms. Wilson stated that she is impressed by the strategic approach the JOB is taking toward the issue of de-privatization. Ms. Wilson had been concerned about the state of the building systems and how diligent GEO had been in providing preventative maintenance. Assuming responsibility for the replacement and maintenance of George W. Hill facility would require a large, upfront cost. Over the long-term modern, efficient, well maintained systems will reduce cost and provide a better, safer, environment for employees and residents.

Mr. Madden stated that the decision to de-privatize must be done in a responsible manner. Delaware County's responsibility is the health, welfare and safety of the community.

There was no further business, nor public comment. Motion made by Ms. Phillips to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Love. Motion carried.