

**MEETING OF THE  
JUVENILE DETENTION BOARD OF MANAGERS  
19 JULY 2022**

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

**Call to Order:** Chair/Councilman Keven Madden

Note: Joanne Phillips, Controller asked for a designee to replace here on the board. Kelly Diaz from the Controller's Office is designee.

**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 21 June 2022. The motion was seconded by Dr. Monica Taylor. Ms. Diaz abstains from her vote due to Her absence during the previous meeting. Motion passes unanimously.

**Juvenile Court and Probation Service Report:**

Kiersten Fitzsimmons, Resource Supervisor, Delaware County Court & Probation, Resource Supervisor reported that there were four (4) youths detained at partnering Juvenile facilities; two (2) youths being detained in Bucks County and two (2) direct file youths were being held at Morgantown (one male, one female). Ms. Fitzsimmons also reported six (6) pending direct files in various locations including jail, AWOL, or Philadelphia.

**Superintendent for Juvenile Justice Service Report:**

**Status Report– Detention Space:** David Irizarry stated that he was informed by the Attorney General on June 27th that the physical building was released from investigation and is now ready for cleaning without special accommodations. The overall criminal investigation is still ongoing. Mr. Irizarry discussed organizing with the Facilities Department in the retrieval of two hundred (200) boxes of files in storage located in Harrisburg as well as working with the Purchasing department to organize and digitizing of those files in county facilities. Five (5) years must remain on the premises the remaining will be digitized and we will locate find storage. Mr. Irizarry also discussed seeking assistance from the Public Works Department regarding facilities. Mr. Irizarry also cited figures for justification of the 20-bed minimum

**Questions/Comments:**

Chair/Councilman Kevin Madden wanted to clarify the Attorney General's Office (AGO) investigation is not completely over with in terms of findings, but the building aspect to it is

complete so the so the County has access to do what is necessary with regards to use of the facility or renovation or whatever that might be.

David Irizarry confirmed the AGO is finished with the physical site not the total investigation.

Chekemma Fulmore Townsend asked if this had impact on our timeline with regards to the license.

David Irizarry stated is not going to affect us regards to applying for licensing, then deferred to the Solicitor.

The Solicitor confirmed Mr. Irizarry's statement. The investigation does not have any "*direct*" bearing on the application process. Circumstances will be relevant.

Chair/Councilman Kevin Madden there has been some discussion with proceeding with a conditional license while we get the work done that's needed.

David Irizarry confirmed.

#### 2022 Juvenile Justice Services Strategy Update(s):

1. Personnel Updates: David Irizarry announced the approval of one (1) Administrative Support position intended to be filled and on boarded in the next one (1) to two (2) months.
  
2. Youth Center Design Committee Update:  
Ms. Danielle Floyd, Director of Public Works reported that there is a revised proposal with Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc. with objectives being the development of program requirements regarding secure detention requirements, programming, and re-entry. Information regarding staffing numbers will be needed to determine appropriate square footage. Revisions to the proposal are focused exclusively on the Lima campus rather than other locations. One consideration was the partial demolition of sections of the building with some selective new construction. The overall deliverables within the revised proposal are 1) the clearly defined program of requirement; 2) the required square footage in alignment with the licensure requirements, as well as 3) a minimum of a 20- beds; 4) an opinion of cost to be brought to the Board to receive guidance on next steps.

#### Questions/Comments:

David Irizarry within that proposal we wanted to highlight that it would be a dual purpose and highlight two (2) key components; 1) that is was not just going to house young people in detention but 2) service young people proactively and built in cost for best practices in trauma informed care and bring in a specialist to advise our architect on the space and how it could be reimaged.

Councilwoman Elaine Schaefer wanted to know how we landed on 20 beds.

David Irizarry responded after looking at the data, young people who commit very serious crimes, averaged to about 23 per year with average length of stay being three (3) months to a year. The County averages about seven (7) per week at any one time and five (5) being turned away at any one time. We have the capacity of 24 beds (12/pod) considering the gender for which they identify. These numbers were based on 2018 and 2019 before the pandemic.

Chair/Councilman Kevin Madden stated the trend for detention services has declined by 90% over the last ten years. The reason for the decline is the County would like to provide alternatives to detention

Nathaniel C. Nicholas requested information from Chief DiMatteo about what her office does with those who have charges that they do not end up in detention.

Councilwoman Elaine Schaefer asked if housing is different for direct file verses no direct file?

David Irizarry the focus is not on direct or indirect files but providing space for those in a crisis.

**Old Business:** Candice L. Lineman wanted requested an update on staffing. David Irizarry responded we have two new staff/directors. We are approved for one more position some administration support.

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

**Public Comment:**

Andre Simms, Sharon Hill PA originally from Chester, PA, Lead Youth Organizer for Youth Art and Self-Empowerment Project. Part of the care-not-control coalition. Concerned about reopening without the investigation not complete. Would like money spent on the detention center on resources instead of putting kids in jail.

Chair/Councilman Kevin Madden the board was formed, and new staff was hired to address previous issues

David Irizarry stated he cannot speak to what has happened in the past, but he cares for kids that look like him. Although we do not have any control on who is placed in our center, we can make sure they are treated correctly.

Jarret Cooper, Certified Para-Specialist, Youth Organizer for Youth Art and Self-Empowerment Project. The worse thing in the world is to take people's freedom away. We need to address the mental health issue. Mentioned unequal treatment of people of color.

Mary Austin, Media PA was concerned with Juveniles at George W. Hillyard. Who are there, why they are there, and any other demographics.

Mike Resnick, Criminal Justice Program Director for DELCO, there was a deadline when the law changed. He was there three weeks ago, and youth are separated from adults and not held in solitary confinement. They have educational services, go out for recreation, and don't have sight of sound of with adults.

Amara Coles, Juvenile Law Center, Philadelphia PA wanted to talk about the alternatives. While she was incarcerated only the basic subjects were taught and education credits do not transfer towards graduation. There are other needs i.e., homelessness, poverty, etc.

Dana Lomax Ailer, Trainer PA, Changing the imagination about incarceration will never happen due to traumatic memories. We need to discuss alternatives.

David Irizarry accepts the challenge of things can't be different. He has the authority to hire staff.

Chair/Councilman Kevin Madden we always address alternatives detention is the last resort.

Board Member Candice L. Lineman, we need to address victims of crime.

Joshua Glenn, Co-Founder of Youth Art, and Self-Empowerment Project. Youth in the communities impacted need to be involved in the process.

David Irizarry, Council approved an RFP that must talk with youth to find out what services are offered we want to include the youth in our decisions.

Heather Channel, Philadelphia PA, shared experiences of family members were mistreated in facilities. Evaluations should be taken into consideration. It is a racial issue. We are not offered the opportunity to plead insanity. Where are the resources?

Ami Glazer, Philadelphia PA, what are we going to do differently after this meeting?

David Irizarry wants to meet with the group to discuss how to move forward.

Julian Diya, Philadelphia PA address not putting kids in cages, but we are putting kids away. What are we going to do going forward with the allegations?

David Irizarry, we plan on raising the education level as well as the pay of new staff. We will have a grievance policy and leading by example.

Nathaniel C. Nicholas, this Director has gone to every facility that he could think of in this area to see the pros and cons. He supports the Director

Hannah Spielberg, Philadelphia PA she can see Mr. Irizarry is an ally. Prisons don't work it is a form of slavery. Are we be moving forward with the detention center without acknowledging alternatives?

Chekemma Fulmore Townsend we agree with you. We are all Champions of what you are saying.

Monty Mitchell, we have been waiting so long for change and we are hungry for it.

Gabby Jackson, Philadelphia PA, what is the goal? Detention Centers create more harm. What are the alternatives.

David Irizarry use Youth Advocacy Program where we use people to reach out to youth. Provide opportunities for idle time. Have a Holistic approach.

Kiersten Fitzsimmons people in the probation department care. There are many mentor-based models are used by the probation department. There is a tool used to see if a youth is scored for detention. We hear you.

**Board member comments.** There were no board member comments.

**Motion to adjourn.**