

**DELAWARE COUNTY BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING
TUESDAY MARCH 21, 2023, 4:30PM
HYBRID: DELAWARE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING ROOM AND VIRTUAL**

Members Present:

Councilwoman Dr. Monica Taylor
Councilwoman Elaine Schaefer
Vice Chair Marie N. Williams
Chekemma J. Fulmore Townsend
Councilman/Chairman Madden

Christopher Eiserman
James E. Turner
Candice Linehan
Kelly Diaz

Call Meeting To Order: The meeting began at 4:33pm

Pledge Of Allegiance: Attendees stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment (Agenda Items Only):

Mary T. Austin, Media, Pa- Ms. Austin voiced her concerns about building a new facility in light of the culture of abuse at the previous Lima facility.

Approval of Minutes: The Meeting Minutes from Tuesday February 21st, 2023, were approved.

Reports:

Juvenile Probation Service: Kiersten Fitzsimmons, Resource Supervisor, provided the Monthly Detained Youth Report. There are currently five (5) youth detained. One (1) male and one (1) female at Jefferson County Ohio (1 direct file). Two (2) juvenile females (direct files) in Morgantown and one (1) juvenile male (direct file) in a borrowed bed at Morgantown.

Juvenile Detention Services: David Irizarry introduced Jason Szanyi, Interim Executive Director for the Center for Children’s Law and Policy (CCLP), Molli Cook, Executive Director for the National Assessment Center Association (NACA), and Anne Marie Ambrose, a Stoneleigh Foundation Visiting Fellow who are partnering on this project.

Mr. Jason Szanyi presented a quarterly project update for the board since being awarded the contract in December 2022. Mr. Szanyi began by listing organizational partners of the project which include National Assessment Center Association (NACA), Stoneleigh Foundation, and Empact Solutions. Mr. Szanyi additionally outlined the methodology for the project which focuses on front-end diversity by employing the following approaches:

- Data analysis of Delaware County’s Youth Justice System
- Reviewing Delaware County’s Youth Justice Process
- Reviewing existing community based diversion programs and alternative services
- Interviewing key stakeholders with youth justice
- Making effort to gather perspective from youth, families, and community members
- Complete and present an assessment report potential roadmap

Mr. Szanyi then presented a nine-month timeline for the project which anticipates the following schedule for completion:

- March/April 2023- Provide a draft of aggregate data analysis for key decision points
- June 2023- Provide in depth analysis of key decision points, share survey results of community providers and diversion/detention alternative placement providers, and provide preliminary youth and family member survey results from focus groups
- October 2023- Provide preliminary recommendations for review by Delaware County Stakeholders
- December 2023- A finalized roadmap and recommendations for youth justice system improvements.

Mr. Szanyi also provided the following status updates for tasks aligned with the proposed timeline include the following which have been completed:

- Identifying community partners to assist with youth and family outreach
- Coordinating with the Board of Managers data request
- Avoidance of duplicating efforts undertaken by the Court and Probation

Immediate next steps include:

- Completing stakeholder interviews and system mapping
- Finalizing data requests including assessing scope and targeted outreach including law enforcement asset mapping
- Reviewing existing service provider asset mapping and conducting additional outreach based on identified gaps
- Exploring the creation of an inclusive advisory committee

Mr. Szanyi provided snapshots of data work done for Monroe County, Indiana, and the state of Iowa as an example of how jurisdictions have benefited from these programs.

Molli Cook, Executive Director of NACA explained that the mission of NACA is to facilitate early intervention and diversion from the justice system and focuses heavily on

- Diversion and prevention through single point of contact
- Identifying underlying issues contributing to concerning behavior
- Partnering with youth and families to access individualized services and/or resources

Ms. Cook elaborated that Assessment Centers essentially serve as “off ramps” to the justice system to be diverted as follows:

- Before Police Contact- Utilization of schools, youth, family, hospitals, and communities
- Police Contact With No Citation- Status offences, family conflict, misdemeanors, and community determined criteria
- Police Contact With Citation and Release- Misdemeanors, felonies, community determined criteria
- Police Contact With Arrest/Detention- Felonies, community determined criteria

Placement of these Assessment Centers is determined by data driven metrics and community input. Comparable metric outcomes to what would be desired in Delaware County can be found in data from Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, which in 2022 saw a 45% reduction in Petitions, 49% reduction in status referrals, 58% reduction in detention referrals and delinquency diversions have increased 34% compared to 2014 data.

Essential planning components for these centers include:

- Understanding current pathways
 - Quantitative: Data informed processes
 - Qualitative: Stakeholder informed
- Multidisciplinary approach and inclusion of the most impacted
- Understanding of existing community resources
- Sustainable funding

Anne Marie Ambrose emphasized her belief in the cause and her support of research backed data and commitment to listening to the needs of the community.

Mr. Irizarry asked the Board for any questions specific to the partnership with CCL&P.

Council Chair Taylor asked Ms. Cook whether assessment and prevention centers are located within “high risk” areas. Ms. Cook responded that it depends on the community. Some communities may have satellite locations, while others might have a single brick and mortar building. Ms. Cook elaborated that while these sites may look different across communities, they still serve their purpose of best serving the community.

Council Chair Taylor asked whether Ms. Cook has seen mixed model referrals (referrals from multiple agencies). Ms. Cook responded in the affirmative and stated that referrals are based on the multiple community partnerships.

Board Member Turner asked for more information regarding the involvement of the courts, law enforcement, schools, and probation in determining the needs of the program. Mr. Szanyi responded that they ask these entities for input regarding community needs and not just metered data. Mr. Szanyi reiterated the importance of these entities' ground view perspective. Ms. Ambrose added that there have been meetings with probation and upcoming meetings scheduled with representatives of the courts. Ms. Ambrose additionally stated that she is open to meeting with anyone in the community regarding input on diversion and prevention.

Board Member Turner asked at what point an advisory committee is formed for the project. Is it put in place after or during the assessment? Mr. Szanyi responded that an advisory board is best selected early in the process to ensure full commitment.

Mr. Turner asked if they had begun the process of forming an advisory board. Ms. Ambrose responded in the affirmative and additionally stated that they are actively looking for candidates to serve that role.

Mr. Irizarry thanked Mr. Szanyi, Ms. Cook, and Ms. Ambrose for their hard work and dedication. Mr. Irizarry also thanked the design subcommittee.

Mr. Irizarry introduced Bob Reid of Spiezle Architectural Group to present the Board with further information regarding a previously requested feasibility study for a third option for a new detention facility at Lima.

Mr. Reid presented the Board with a new program design model and highlighted some differences in both the building program design as well as structural design of the facility. Mr. Reid stated that the new design (option #3) could be an academic looking facility with the nonsecure portion of the facility facing Route 352. This design would allow for more natural light and a more optimistic sight for the public. Regarding the cost estimate for this design, 2 options are possible. Option 1 includes total demolition and construction happening all at once. The cost for this option is estimated at \$426,000 for demolition, \$26.4 million for the secure portion of the facility and \$10.6 million for the nonsecure side of the building for a total cost estimate of \$37.5 million. Option 2 for this design involves a phased construction option with the nonsecure side opening in 2026/2027. This estimate is at a slightly higher cost with demolition costing \$426,000, the secure portion of the facility costing \$26.9 million and the nonsecure portion of the facility costing \$12.4 million for a total cost estimate of \$39.9 million. The timeline of the first option is as follows:

- January 2023 to March 2023- Feasibility Study
- April 2023 to June 2024- Full Design/Land Development
- July 2024 to September 2024- Bidding/Contract Award
- October 2024 to December 2025-Construction

The second option with the secure side being built in a separate phase* is as follows:

- Bidding/Contract Award- 3 Months
- Construction- 12 Months

*Assuming design and land development was completed along with option 1.

Councilman Madden asked Mr. Reid for more information regarding the cost of facility design option #3 in comparison to the costs of facility design options #1 and #2. Mr. Reid responded that the structure of the old facility is inconsistent with the needs of the new project and that redesigning the existing structure simply is not possible. While it is possible to make the program work in a structure that includes partial demolition and partial new construction, the cost of that option is roughly \$3 million more than the option of total demolition and reconstruction.

Board Member Diaz asked if the Board is grandfathered into the planned use of the facility. Mr. Reid responded that the Board would still need to go to the township for approval, however since the use would be for the same purpose, Mr. Reid did not anticipate roadblocks for the Board to gain approval. Mr. Irizarry commented that he and Michael Resnick had visited the site with the township and that with transparency, they would be as supportive as possible.

Vice Chair Williams asked for clarification regarding grandfathering. Ms. Williams asked if grandfathering referred to the land use or licensure. Mr. Irizarry responded that the grandfathering refers to facility as it relates to licensing requirements and that paperwork regarding licensure has been submitted.

Vice Chair Williams asked for clarification regarding the options listed in the agenda. Mr. Reid specified that these options refer to avenues for pursuing a third design option and do not refer to design options themselves.

Board Member Linehan asked what costs were currently being incurred by the county to maintain the abandoned facility. Mr. Irizarry responded that he could gather that information and present it to the Board later.

Vice Chair Williams took a poll of the Board's support for the three facility design options presented. The Board was in favor of facility design option #3 with the cheaper option of total construction at one time.

Council Chair Taylor commented that she hears and understands community concerns for resource centers to be based within the communities in need. Council Chair Taylor asked the Board to explore the idea of proceeding with a secure facility in Lima with two possible resource centers located elsewhere in the community. These locations could include Chester and a township in the southeastern portion of the county.

[Inaudible]

Mr. Irizarry responded that he sees value in both ideas for resource centers and that a central location could successfully serve multiple communities within Delaware County without initial satellite locations. A central location could provide all the needs for the community.

Old Business: No old business

New Business: Board Member Linehan commented on the need for the new facility's name to accurately reflect the purpose of the building

Vice Chair Williams commented that as focus shifts towards services provided, more emphasis will be placed on a name that accurately reflects the building's purpose.

Board Member Turner commented on the opportunity for community members to be engaged in this step of reimagining Juvenile Justice in Delaware County.

Public Comment:

Katie McGee, Deputy DA of Juvenile Courts- Ms. McGee commented on the Youth Aid Panel program, a diversion program that keeps youth aged 10-17 out of the Juvenile Court System. Ms. McGee asked for public support and involvement with the program to help continue to divert low level offenses away from the court system.

Diamond Gibbs, Upper Darby- Ms. Gibbs expressed her continued lack of support for a new facility in Lima and noted that Youth Aid Panel locations do not serve black and brown communities.

Melita Regan, Sharon Hill- commented that the time of these meetings are inconvenient for many working families including her own.

Ashley Jones Perkins, Education Law Center- Ms. Perkins commented that she is available to speak with board members regarding long term solutions to help at-risk youth.

Andre Simms, Chester, Pa- Mr. Simms commented on his continued lack of support for the new facility at Lima and opined that a name change does not change the nature or purpose of the facility.

King X, *Address not stated*- Mr. X commented on his frustration with perceived mistruths regarding construction of the new facility in Lima.

Darren Lawson, Chester, Pa- Mr. Lawson commented on the need for more resources within Delaware County communities and increased community engagement.

Kay, *Address not stated*- Ms. Kay voiced concerns over the construction of a new facility and suggested investing money into resources to empower and support black and brown communities.

Echo Alford, Boothwyn, Pa- Ms. Alford commented on the punitive nature of the court system and how her son has been victimized by punitive responses from schools and authorities and voiced frustration with the struggle to find him adequate mental health care.

Ingrid Byrd, Havertown, Pa- Ms. Byrd commented on the need to continue giving thought to the name of the planned facility in Lima.

Diana Esposito, Delaware County- Ms. Esposito implored the board to delay the opening of the secure side of the facility to prioritize the nonsecure side of the facility that can provide various resources to the community.

Name not Stated, Address not Stated- Community member voiced her frustration and anger over the new facility and expressed the need for alternative options to detention.

Name not stated, Address not stated- Community member voiced his concern that the detention model is unsuccessful and voiced support for diversion when public safety is not a concern.

Barbara, *Address not stated*- Ms. Barbara commented on the structural racism that surrounds the criminal justice system.

Alicia, Chester, Pa- Ms. Alicia commented on the need for justice for the victims of crime. Ms. Alicia stated that while some facilities have fostered cultures of abuse, other facilities are life changing and enable a rehabilitative effect in offenders.

Mary T. Austin, Media, Pa- Ms. Austin commented that the county does not legally require a facility and that the community's trust in this endeavor is diminished.

Board Member Comment:

Board Member Linehan commented that she would like an update on the number of volunteers for the Youth Aid Panel as stated by Ms. McGee.

[Inaudible].

Vice Chair Williams implored community members to reach out to Ms. McGee with more questions on the Youth Aid Panel as the Board did not present the information and is unprepared to give more detailed answers about the program.

Name not Stated, Address not Stated: A community member asked about maintenance and salary costs for the facility following its completion.

Vice Chair Williams responded that more information regarding the cost of the facility would be available following its completion.

Board Member and Vice Chair Williams restated the question asked by Board Member Linehan that addressed allegations that the Board Members were in violation of the Sunshine Act and asked the Solicitor to provide clarity on how the Sunshine Act was violated.

The Solicitor clarified that Board Members not responding to questions asked directly to them is not a violation of the Sunshine Act and that there is no obligation for Board Members to provide response during public comment.

Council Chair Taylor responded to the public commenter and clarified that this facility is not a for profit model and that no profit will be made from this facility. Council Chair Taylor also addressed concerns from the public regarding timing of the Board of Managers meeting and requested time to discuss the issue further at next month's meeting.

Vice Chair Williams commented on the fervor of the public, mainly those who show up consistently working to affect positive change within the community. Vice Chair Williams agreed with many community members that there is a great need for more resources for at-risk youth. Vice Chair Williams said that while many people disagree with the need for a facility, it is still a community necessity and that a facility based in Delaware County under supervision of the County is a far better option than having children sent as far away as Ohio with no facility and staff oversight in control of Delaware County. Vice Chair Williams invited the public to be open to compromise and be open to working with the Board to make effective change in the new facility.

Board Member Turner thanked Vice Chair Williams for her comments and further emphasized the need of the community to rally together to find solutions that meet the needs of young people who are struggling within the community.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 7:09pm.

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