

DELAWARE COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION BOARD OF MANAGERS
TUESDAY AUGUST 20TH, 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
Chris Eiserman

Kelly Diaz, Deputy Controller
Chekemma Fulmore Townsend
Rev. James Turner

Call Meeting to Order: Vice Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Approval of Minutes: Board Member Turner motioned to approve the meeting minutes from the July 2024 meeting. Board Member Diaz seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Report:

- A. Monthly Detained Youth Report, Danielle DiMatteo- There are currently five (5) male youths in detention who are being housed at Abraxas Morgantown, Bucks County, and Chester County, and George Junior Republic (Grove City, Pa). Additionally, there are three (3) direct file males currently being house at George Hill Prison (Delaware County) and one (1) female direct file female currently being housed at State Correctional Institution (SCI) Muncy.

- B. Interim Director of Juvenile Justice Services, Nelson Walker- Mr. Walker introduced himself to the Board as the new Interim Director following David Irizarry's resignation from Delaware County. Mr. Walker stated that his career in secure detention has spanned twenty-seven (27) years, Mr. Walker started his career as a counselor and worked his way to the Executive Director and Deputy Commissioner positions in the Philadelphia Juvenile Detention system. Mr. Walker left in 2021 to coach college football in North Carolina before returning to the Philadelphia area to work with Mr. Irizarry in Delaware County. Mr. Nelson additionally stated that he and Mr. Irizarry had previously worked on programming in Philadelphia as part of a rapid response to gun violence initiative.

Mr. Walker stated that as Interim Director, he intends to follow the trajectory that Mr. Irrizarry has started in this department. Mr. Walker stated that he intends to use the most appropriate resources in Delaware County to serve youth, while also focusing on

upstreaming resources so that they are available prior to youth making initial contact with law enforcement.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) for community-based detention was closed on August 9th, 2024, with no bidders. Feedback from potential bidders stated that the lack of an existing facility or usable space is a concern. In response, Mr. Walker stated that he is planning meetings with the Public Works department to identify spaces within Delaware County that could be suitable for community-based detention.

Mr. Walker additionally stated that the department is working with Safe Corridors, an organization that provides wrap around services to schools to provide a safe haven environment for all students and maintain a presence in or nearby areas that have been locations in the school for incidents to occur.

Board Member Turner asked if Safe Corridors is active in any schools and what, if any, the plans around expanding the program were.

Mr. Walker responded that there are currently fourteen (14) schools in Delaware County that have the Safe Corridors and that there are plans to expand to another high school, with Chester High School and Chichester High school being on the short-list.

Vice Chair Williams asked who the personnel are in Safe Corridors.

Mr. Walker responded that Safe Corridors hires community members as well as utilizes staff within the building to run the program.

Vice Chair Williams asked if community members are volunteers to the project.

Mr. Walker clarified that the community members are hired for paid work with the Safe Corridors program.

Vice Chair Williams, regarding the RFP, asked if there were providers that are licensed and could have bid, or if there were no providers that could appropriately respond to the RFP.

Mr. Walker stated that there were providers who would have been capable however, there was confusion among providers stemming from the language of the proposal. Mr. Walker indicated that there was confusion in the language and that providers assumed they would be taking over the existing Lima facility. Mr. Walker additionally clarified that community-based detention centers have key differences from secure detention centers and that will be clarified and emphasized when the RFP is reposted.

Board Member Townsend asked if Safe Corridors was currently active in any high school and if the goal is to extend their services to high school.

Mr. Walker responded that they currently are in high schools, including Academy Park High School. Additionally, Mr. Walker stated that there are plans to expand throughout other high schools in Delaware County.

Board Member Townsend, in reference to the lack of responses from the RFP, asked if there was a bidder's conference or initial conversations prior with providers before the bidding period closed.

Mr. Walker stated that the bid was reviewed over forty (40) times, however no bidder's conference was held.

Board Member Turner suggested that the next bid allow for a bidding conference.

Mr. Walker agreed and stated that future bids would.

Old Business: Vice Chair Williams informed the public of an Executive Session that discussed matters of public safety.

New Business: No new business.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Board Member Comment: No Board Member comment,

Adjourn: Board Member Eiserman moved to adjourn. Board Member Turner seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:41PM.

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