

DELAWARE COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION BOARD OF MANAGERS
TUESDAY OCTOBER 15, 2024
5:30PM
HYBRID: DELAWARE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING ROOM AND VIRTUAL

Board Members Present:

Kevin Madden, Chairman/Council Member
Dr. Monica Taylor, Council Chair
Elaine Schaefer, Council Member
Chris Eiserman

Kelly Diaz, Deputy Controller
Hon. Nathaniel Nichols
Rev. James Turner

Call Meeting to Order: Chairman Madden called the meeting to order at 5:33PM.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Approval of Minutes: *An error on the agenda stated that the approval of minutes was from July's meeting. Board Member Eiserman motioned to amend the agenda to reflect that the approval was for September 2024's meeting. Councilwoman Schaefer seconded the motion. The motion for an amendment was passed unanimously*

Board Member Nichols motioned to approve the meeting minutes from the September 2024 meeting. Board Member Diaz seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Report:

- A. Monthly Detained Youth Report, Danielle DiMatteo- There are currently nine (9) youths in detention. Four (4) juvenile males are being housed at George Junior Republic (Grove City, Pa) and of those four (4), two (2) are direct file. One (1) additional direct file juvenile male is being housed at Abraxas Morgantown. Additionally, three (3) male direct file juveniles are being housed at George Hill Prison (Delaware County) and one (1) direct file female is being held at State Correctional (SCI) Facility Muncy.
- B. Interim Director of Juvenile Justice Services, Nelson Walker- Mr. Walker stated that the department recently received a grant in the amount of \$425,000 from the US Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Additionally, the Juvenile Justice Leadership group consisting of stakeholders from the Public Defender's office, Juvenile Probation, and the District Attorney's office has began having regular meetings and plans to open to members of law enforcement, local school districts, and members of the public to continue to strategically plan for and provide up stream services to youths before they make initial contact with law enforcement.

Mr. Walker additionally stated that the presenter for this meeting, Molli Barker Cook, Executive Director of the National Assessment Center, would be unable to attend the

evening's meeting as she is a resident of Stillwater, Florida and was recently impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Mr. Walker and the Board offer their support to Ms. Cook during this time and wish for the safety of Ms. Cook, her family, and property. Mr. Walker additionally stated that Ms. Cook intends to be in attendance for next month's meeting.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: No new business.

Public Comment: Ingrid Bird, Delaware County Victim's Advocate—Ms. Bird, stated that following last month's meeting, she was surprised to hear that the existing Lima Facility remains vacant with no immediate plans to reopen or be scheduled for demolition.

Mr. Walker stated that the holding pattern regarding the existing facility is the result of the County continuing to explore other options for detention that may be better fiscal and logistical options.

Ms. Bird stated that it was her understanding that Delaware County has a legal obligation to provide a shelter for detained youth within Delaware County.

Chairman Madden responded that while Delaware County has a responsibility to have placement for detained youth, there is no statute that dictates it must be within Delaware County. Chairman Madden additionally stated that most counties within the Commonwealth outsource their detained youths to counties that do have the necessary facilities.

Board Member Comment: Board Member Diaz stated that the public should be given a full update on what is going on with the existing facility.

Mr. Walker stated that there are plans to post a request for proposal (RFP) for an architectural firm, however cost barriers are present.

Councilwoman Schaefer added that there is a pending grant application to fund demolition of the Lima Facility. Councilwoman Schaefer additionally stated that, regardless as to whether or a new building at the current site would be a detention center, or community center, the existing facility will not be used for detention.

Chairman Madden stated that the community detention model is worthwhile while Delaware County continues to assess the true need for detention beds in Delaware County.

Adjourn: Board Member Nichols motioned to adjourn. Board Member Eiserman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:44PM.