

DELAWARE COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION BOARD OF MANAGERS
TUESDAY DECEMBER 17TH, 2024
5:30PM

HYBRID: DELAWARE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING ROOM AND VIRTUAL

Board Members Present:

Kevin Madden, Chairman of the Board/Council Member	Kelly Diaz, Deputy Controller
Dr. Monica Taylor, Council Chair	Candice Linehan
Elaine Schaefer, Council Member	Chekemma Fulmore Townsend
	Rev. James Turner

Call Meeting to Order: Dr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 5:34PM.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Madden moved to approve the Meeting Minutes from October's meeting. Board Member Turner seconded the motion. The Meeting Minutes from October 21st, 2024 were approved.

Report:

- A. Monthly Detained Youth Report, Danielle DiMatteo-There are currently eight (8) juveniles being held in detention. There is one (1) direct file male currently being housed at Abraxas Morgantown, two (2) direct file males currently being housed at George Junior Republic. There is one (1) juvenile in detention at Adelphi and one (1) juvenile currently being housed at the Chester County Juvenile Detention Center. Additionally, there is one (1) female currently being housed at State Correctional Institution (SCI) Muncy, and two (2) males currently being housed as adults at the George W. Hill Prison.
- B. Interim Director of Juvenile Justice Services, Nelson Walker- In a year end address to the Board, Mr. Walker provided a report on the current state of the Juvenile Detention and Rehabilitation Department. Mr. Walker updated the department on the following areas: reviewing key accomplishments, listing current department projects, listing department challenges and opportunities for growth, and listing the goals and objectives for the department in the 2025 calendar year.

Reviewing Key Accomplishments:

- Secure grant funding through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.
 - \$425,000
- Secure grant funding through the Annie E. Casey Foundation.
 - \$15,000
- Delinquency Prevention and Programming

- Continue to foster partnerships with Delaware County's Social Service and Community Support Departmental Cluster.
- Continue to address delinquency through a child welfare/social service lens.

Current Department Projects:

- Project 1: Community-based Detention Shelters (CBDS)
 - Working to establish leased space within Clocktower and running a youth shelter with County supplied and trained staff.
- Project 2: Piloting Delinquency and Prevention Programming through NBB
 - School Prevention Programming
 - OST safe space/ socio-emotional activity spaces (NRC).
- Project 3: OJJDP Building Local Continuums of Care to Support Youth Success Federal Grant
- Project 4: Planning Assessment Centers in Delaware County with the National Assessment Center (NAC).
- Project 5: Delco Juvenile Restitution Fund
- Project 6: Data Dashboard with Empact Services
- Project 7: TAPS Academy Expansion

Board Member Linehan asked for clarification on what the Restitution Fund is and how it will be utilized.

Mr. Walker explained that the Restitution Fund is being created to help juveniles, especially those who are experiencing poverty, be relieved from the system when court costs and fees are further anchoring those individuals to the system.

Board Member Townsend asked how the oversight or management of the Community Based Detention Shelter will look as the department shifts from the traditional juvenile detention model to the community based model.

Mr. Walker responded that the Board's role will not change and that they will continue to have full oversight of all aspects of the Juvenile Detention and Rehabilitation department. Mr. Walker additionally stated that the department will continue to operate under Regulation 3800 and be state-licensed.

Board Member Townsend asked if this Board's scope was amended, or if the scope needs to be amended as the juvenile detention model in this county shifts.

Chairman Madden responded that while the primary directive of the Board is to oversee the juvenile detention system within Delaware County which has historically occurred within a single facility. Mr. Madden stated that it is important to consider the wider picture of how detention works within other areas of human services and by making sure that there are opportunities for diversion through the wider scope of human services before youth reach a point of detention.

Board Member Townsend thank Mr. Madden and stated her pleasure in the continued focus on prevention.

Mr. Walker additionally stated the long term personal and societal benefit that collaboration with human service will provide.

Board Member Diaz asked for clarification regarding the community-based detention center and if that facility would house any youth that scores for detention.

Mr. Walker responded that it would not as the community-based detention center would berate as a staff secure facility with accessible egress rather than a secure detention facility that locks all doors.

Chairman Madden added that youth would not be able to leave the facility without procedures put in place to locate and transfer any youth who absconds to a secure detention facility.

Challenges and Growth Opportunities:

- Current Lima Facility
- Public Trust and Perception
- Internal System Processes

2025 Goals and Objectives:

- Continue to Foster and Develop Community Relationships
- Hire a Project Coordinator with OJJDP Grant Funds
- Implement Programming
- Collaborate with Other Departments Under Delaware County's Human Services

Board Member Turner asked if a detailed mapping process could be done to assess where and how all aspects of human services overlap and fit together.

Mr. Walker responded that portions of the OJJDP grant are going to be dedicated to mapping out how those services coincide.

Board Member Diaz asked if the County would be funding the hiring of a Project Coordinator.

Mr. Walker responded that the salary for that position would also be funded through the OJJDP Grant.

C. National Assessment Center Framework, Molli Cook, National Assessment Center— provided an update on the work that the National Assessment Center (NAC) has accomplished in Delaware County. Ms. Cook stated key points from the report made the following recommendations:

- Structural Recommendations

- Utilize an Assessment Center to focus on case management, referrals to services, and barrier removal.
- Policy Recommendations
 - Establish a County-wide policy regarding eligibility and expectations for direct diversion to community resources for certain referrals.
 - Establish Memoranda of Understanding with highest referring law enforcement agencies and school systems to promote direct diversion to community-based resources.
- Program Recommendations
 - Establish a mechanism to more quickly connect youth and families to services in their own communities
 - Track outcomes from jurisdictions to determine whether interventions are effective at preventing youth legal system involvement.

Ms. Cook highlighted the NAC's primary objective was to highlight areas of diversion and prevention from the juvenile justice system overall. Ms. Cook additionally presented the Board with a visual showing how the assessment center will help with navigating wrap around services and connecting youth with services and supports and can be contacted by teachers, schools, law enforcement, community members, parents, etc., and can be accessed without prior law enforcement involvement. The NAC works with these entities to ascertain how issues are being mitigated currently and what other human services related issues may be present and inching a youth toward contact/ involvement with law enforce and create a critical intervention map. Ms. Cook stated that the NAC is working closely with Empact Services, with Empact Services creates a dashboard for current data from the community and use the data to build ongoing structure and capacity for tools from that data.

Board Member Turner asked how specific resources and community members would be accessed in times of need for the youth.

Mr. Walker stated that community involvement and relationship build is important in setting up the assessment center as success of these programs relies on having trusted community members within the assessment center. Determination on who these trusted individuals are can be made by asking youth and the community directly regarding who trusted figures are and in what capacity they operate.

Ms. Cook additionally stated that an accessible location and trusted community figure running the center is pertinent to the success of the assessment center.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: No new business.

Public Comment: Nicole Palm, Middletown Township- Ms. Palm, on behalf of the Delco Coalition for Prison Reform (DCPR). Although DCPR's primary focus is on the adult system, Ms.

Palm stated that she is pleased conversations are shifting towards restorative justice, and community-based measures as she and her organization support trauma informed practices that truly focus on rehabilitation for youth, rather than punitive measures. Ms. Palm presented the Board with copies with detailed proposals of DCPR's vision for detention and sheltering of unhoused youth. Ms. Palm further commended the trajectory of the department and highlighted parallels between the DCPR's proposal and actions listed within Mr. Walker's presentation.

Tonita Austin, Upper Providence Township- Ms. Austin stated that she is pleased with the progress of the department over the last two years. Ms. Austin additionally stated that she would like to know if programming such as youth courts was being implemented across different school districts within Delaware County. Furthermore, Ms. Austin asked if more funding was to be expected as the continuing shift in detention models and practices will continue beyond a two-year period.

Mr. Walker responded that efforts to seek funding will continue.

Ms. Austin inquired about the status of the existing Lima Facility.

Mr. Walker responded that facility remains intact but that there are no current plans for demolition or renovation at this time and that the most cost effect solution at the current juncture is keep the facility vacant.

Ms. Austin additionally asked if the undefined timeline for the Lima Facility will be of any hinderance to the plans to move forward in another direction?

Board Member Comment: Board Member Turner thanked everybody from County Council, the Board, and the community for their continued interest and dedication to the work that is being done and wished everyone a safe and relaxing Holiday Season.

Adjourn: Board Member Turner moved to adjourn. Board Member Linehan seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:21pm.

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