

WOODBURY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM(S) REQUEST FORM

#15

Date: 3-21-2017

Weekly Agenda Date: 3-28-2017

ELECTED OFFICIAL / DEPARTMENT HEAD / CITIZEN: Jeremy Taylor / Rocky Dewitt

WORDING FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Informational Update with Liaisons in Juvenile Detention

ACTION REQUIRED:

Approve Ordinance

Approve Resolution

Approve Motion

Public Hearing

Other: Informational

Attachments

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In order to fulfill the county government role of managerial duties, the Board Chairman has asked us liaisons to inform himself and the full Board as to how things are going. This is a good government practice for proactivity, oversight, accountability, and support.

BACKGROUND:

Please see the attached update.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None but we have asked for some funding request for coverage of training/support as well as clarification on items included or not included in upgrades to Trosper Hoyt Juvenile Detention. We are also looking to see if there is merited a budget adjustment based on BIA placements (or the lack thereof). We look to 30-45 day updates regarding the latter matter.

IF THERE IS A CONTRACT INVOLVED IN THE AGENDA ITEM, HAS THE CONTRACT BEEN SUBMITTED AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR AND ANSWERED WITH A REVIEW BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE?

Yes No

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive the information for discussion.

ACTION REQUIRED / PROPOSED MOTION:

Receive the information for discussion.

Juvenile Detention Improvements & Goals

July 2016 – February 2017

The following summary is a list of improvements and goals that have been set and partially or fully achieved during the period July 2016 through February 2017.

1. **Door Replacements:** We have had a number of meetings with Kenny, Baker Group and Larry Goldberg regarding the forward movement for the replacement and installation of new cell and security doors. The plan will be to replace the entrance door from the fourth floor hallway into the secure hallway leading into the Receiving Unit. Replace the security door between the Receiving Hallway and the Receiving Unit; Replace the first security door from the Receiving Unit into the hallway leading into the detention center.

Replacement of the security door on the Westside of the Observation Room and replacement of several cell doors. Other door's that were discussed included the four Receiving Unit holding cells and the security door leading directly into detention.

Other security hardware that was discussed included: Computerized cell checks. This will allow staff to document cell checks with a fob. The checks will then automatically be transferred to my computer and I will be able to check it on daily basis.

New intercoms on two internal detention doors: 1) By the secure detention door leading from the detention day area into the hallway leading into the kitchen & receiving unit. The secure detention door leading from the detention floor to the east end detention secured hallway that leads to the

Fob Keys: Fobs that could be used to open internal doors only instead of having to carry keys.

2. **Master Control Boards:** Updating the two Master Control Boards. Early conversations at this point. Doors will be replaced first followed by the

Receiving & Detention Master Controls. Discussion on possibly moving youth worker station to the east side of the detention floor. Outside of the Director and Assistant Director's Office.

Prior to construction PREA paper work must be read and signed by all workers coming into detention.

3. **Space:** Larry Goldberg was also considering different use of detention space during his walk through.
4. **Painting:** Discussion on possibly painting areas of detention. Depends are budget.
5. **Medical Assistance:** Charles Tilly from Siouxland Mental Health recently committed that he will continue to provide on-call mental health services to detention. This will include; resident evaluations, writing scripts and follow-up. ***No past cost for service.***
6. **Access to Siouxland Mental Health Therapist:** Juvenile Court Services has agreed to allow us to use their therapist from Siouxland Mental Health. She will come up to evaluate youth that we place on suicide watch to determine their safety and supervision level. She will also come up to talk to youth that are experiencing behavior issues if requested. ***No cost for service***
7. **Access to CASA Volunteers (Court Appointed Special Advocates):** New referral program that will allow us to request CASA volunteers for Woodbury County youth in detention that we believe are in need of an advocate to work with parents, especially those experiencing little to no contact with outside family members. ***No cost for service.***
8. **Provider Committee:** Put together a provider group made up of Boys & Girls Home, Jackson Recovery/Stabilization Unit, Crittenton Center, Juvenile Court Services and DHS. Purpose was to discuss past difficulties when clients were

arrested at these group care type settings for aggressive, violent and destructive crimes and brought to the Receiving Unit but did not meet the level of detention. The goal is to develop an earlier crisis plan for youth that are habitual offenders to prevent the crisis at the Receiving Unit where these agencies were refusing to accept them back because of safety and security concerns.

This led to an invitation to sit on the Cross Over Committee that meets one time per month to review cases these arrests. Departments sitting in this meeting include; Juvenile Court Services, Juvenile Court Judge, DHS, County Attorney, Sioux City Police, SHIP, CASA , Juvenile Public Defenders Office, Court Administrators Office, Jackson, Crittenton and Boys & Girls Home.

Besides these monthly meetings to discuss high risk first time and repeat offenders, there will also be crisis meetings in which an agency can request a meeting to discuss a client with myself, Juvenile Probation and DHS.

9. **FY 2017 Goal to reduce the number of lock ups:** In comparison between July 2015-February 2016 and July 2016 to February 2017 there has been a reductions in the total number of children placed in lock-up for security or disciplinary reasons.

Between the period July 2015 through February 2016 at total of 77 children were placed in lock-up for control purposes. Between July 2016 through February 2017 55 were locked up. This is a reduction of 22 youths or twenty nine percent.

This is even though we have seen a substantial increase in aggressive and violent acts towards other residents and staff. Between the period July 2015 through February 2016 we experience zero physical restraints. Between July through February 2017 we experience ten physical restraints.

Between July 2015 through February 2016 we experienced zero mechanical restraints. Between July 2016 through February 2017 seven separate incidents of mechanical restraint use was reported. Each restraint was for the purpose to provide safety and security to the aggressive and violent youth, the other residents and staff.

During our recent state inspection the licensing agent approved each use due to violence and the attempts by the resident to self-harm themselves.

Updates:

10. **Mental Health:** Detention has seen an increase in the number of the lower functioning and more severe mental health residents. This has resulted in an increase in physical conflict between staff and residents which was directly correlated to the increase in the use of mechanical restraints.
11. **BIA:** New contract signed in August of 2016. Increase in referral since the price was reduced on February 2017. We have not seen the projected daily population that they committed too. All referrals are coming through the Winnebago Tribe. Zero referrals from the Omaha (Macy) Reservation.
12. **Roof leaks:** The areas that were repaired in the past are again leaking. The heavier snows resulted in a steady leak in the supplying room by the smoke alarm. I have kept Building Services aware of the on-going problem.

Future Goals:

13. **TACT -2 Train the Trainer:** Assistant Director Ryan Weber will be sent to TACT – 2 training at the Boys & Girls Home after the start of the new FY. This will allow us to provide certified training in the use of verbal de-escalation and safe physical restraint methods. We will be able immediately train new employees and provide regular training to existing employees.

14. **Supervisor Feedback:**

5 Contract/duplication, cost synergy with alternative Jail Coordinator

#11 Follow-up required and/or budget amendment

#13 Do training “right” with support