

MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY JUSTICE RESPONSE COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes
Monday, January 23, 2023, 5:30pm-7:00pm
Nat U. Hill Meeting Room, 3rd Floor Courthouse

These notes are not intended to be verbatim. For this purpose, a permanent recording of this meeting can be found [here](#).

Members Present (In Person):

April Wilson

Catherine Stafford

Darcie Fawcett

Jennifer Crossley

Julie Thomas

Kara Krothe

Karen Wrenbeck

Kate Wiltz

Kyle Gibbons

Lee Jones

MaryEllen Diekhoff

Michael Hunt

Penny Githens

Peter Iversen

Ruben Martí

Meeting called to order 5:31 pm.

Statement of Guiding Principles, goals & processes

Recognizing our commitment to public safety, we will work collaboratively and transparently to:

1. Prioritize treatment over incarceration, when appropriate.
 2. Build a justice facility that meets constitutional standards and treats inmates with dignity.
 3. Address inequities in race, economic status, disability, national origin, sexual orientation, and gender.
 4. Reduce the number of people entering the criminal justice system and reduce recidivism for those who are/ were in the system.
-

Reasons for changing the CJRC Committee membership

At the Commissioner's Work Session on 01/18/23, the CJRC ordinance was amended changing the membership of the group.

- The committee was expanded when the plan was to purchase the Fullerton Pike property, as the committee would need to be working on design. Now Commissioners are looking for a property again.
- The committee is being made smaller to even out the voices from each office and create consistency for which members are representing each office.

Membership will now be:

All three (3) County Commissioners, three (3) County Council members, two (2) representatives from the Board of Judges, one of which will be the presiding judge (or their designee) and one (1) representative from the following offices: Sheriff's Office, Public Defender's Office, and Prosecutor's Office.

This has not been ratified yet but is still valid. These changes should all be seen at the next meeting.

Subgroups

- Focus on Intercept zero and see what part each member plays
- Some things are left specifically to the Commissioners and the County Council to decide.
 - All parts of the system that have an interest should be able to discuss issues and bring them forward to advise in the final decision.
 - Different opinions will be needed at different times.

The CJRC is *not* a committee of the whole, it is an advisory committee.

Molly Turner- King (County Legal): The collective opinion of county attorneys is that Robert's Rules do not apply to the CJRC (unless they become specifically adopted).

- Would these need to be adopted by the committee or the authority that created the committee?

April Wilson reiterated the CJRC guiding principles, emphasizing collaboration. This should include committee members receiving agendas in advance, having the ability to request/ add items to the agenda, and having equal access to all documents and information that are referenced in meetings. This should also be applied to subgroups going forward.

Survey Updates

None today. Health department and Sheriff's office are coming.

Land Updates

None.

Request for Qualifications

- RFQ responses are not public record.
 - RFQ committee is currently conducting interviews and will present this information to the CJRC.
-

Monroe County Correctional Center Facility Condition Update

Sheriff Marté, Commander Gibbons, and Chief Deputy Parker gave a presentation on the current state of the jail. A copy of this presentation is available [here](#).

The presentation was intended to bring the reality of the jail to the committee, except for the sound and smell of the jail which cannot be shown through a presentation. It showed the need for immediate cleanings and repairs in the current jail.

Chief Deputy Parker gave a disclaimer about the content of the presentation.

Photos of the current jail were shown.

- Holding cell (people that have not been convicted of any crimes)
 - Inmates were shown laying on the concrete floor using dixie cups as pillows.
 - Inmates used wads of toilet paper as pads for relief from laying on concrete.
 - Inmates are *now* issued mats and blankets.
- Matt Demmings (Assistant Jail Commander) showed a video of water leaking in the laundry room- a potentially serious electrical hazard.

- Numerous unknown stains/ spillages are shown throughout the jail
- Decades of debris were cleaned out of a window screen and brought in for the committee to see and pass around.
 - The screens do not remove- they were not made to ever be cleaned.
- There is no working clock in the jail.
- The shower drain is so slow that inmates must plunge the shower as they use it.
- Prevalent mold in the corners of cells
- One toilet (out of two) in the trustee's restroom area has been out of order, it was used and left for a year.
- Drinking water left for inmates was visibly a yellow/ brownish color.
- Boats- removable beds that are moved throughout the facility
 - Many had holes in them
 - Covered in food, blood, and other unidentifiable matter
- Inmates were being locked in their cell as much as 22-23 hours a day.
- Photos were shown of graffiti depicting racism, anti- Semitism, and anarchy.

Sheriff Marté asked for support to continue cleaning and repairing the jail.

Chief Deputy Parker asked for the CJRC's confidence in that everything being asked for is a need, not a want. It is crucial to improve this jail now, rather than waiting until there is a new facility.

- Changes to sally ports were approved by Commissioner's the previous week.

Update on Commissioners' Trip to Arizona

Postponed until the next meeting.

Next Steps

- *Next meeting: TBD*
 - An upcoming meeting should include a discussion with Ken Falk (ACLU).
-

Public Comment

Following committee discussion, Commissioner Githens extended the meeting to 7:30 pm to allow for public comment.

Seth Muchler: Monroe County Resident

- Thanked the Sheriff's department for their presentation, and for their work to make the jail conditions better.
- Stated that incarceration is not the answer, and he would like to see a radical shift to treatment.
 - Believes many members of the committee share his goal, even if they differ on the specific path it may take to accomplish.
 - Placed blame on the County Commissioners for not working towards this goal and demanded different leadership for the CJRC.
 - Believes the commissioners are set on building a new jail despite recommendations of reports commissioned by the county, community input, and other CJRC members.

Kyle Dugger: Monroe County Resident

Applauded Sheriff Marté for showing the committee the immediacy of the problem in the jail.

- Stated that the jail has been mismanaged for years.
- Does not support building a new jail out in the county
- Simple things can be done now to make this jail more humane and habitable.
 - People should be given necessities when you come into the jail.
 - Soap, toothbrush, etc.
- Shared client complaints he has heard about the current jail.
 - Clients were booked and not given a bed or water
 - Inmates charged from their commissary account to be seen by the nurse in jail.

Kaisa Goodman, Public Engagement Director for the City of Bloomington and Monroe County Resident

- Urged the deployment of county resources to address mental health and substance use disorder crisis.
- Asked commissioners to change the membership of CJRC, it is crucial to keep the health department.

Dominic Thompson, Monroe County Resident

Thanked Councilor Crossley, April Wilson, and Sheriff Marté for their transparency and inclusivity.

- Believes the city should be included in this process.
- Believes meetings should not be moved to a time that would be less accessible for public comment.
- Asked for Commissioner Jones and Commissioner Thomas step off the CJRC.

Remarks were read by Ashley Pirani on behalf of David Henry, Monroe County Democratic Chair

- Added to the metaphor regarding lanes that has been discussed in recent meetings.
 - These lanes sit on highway that was provided by voters, and the ramp was the democratic party.
 - Gave a summary of the democratic criminal justice platform.

Pamela Davidson, Monroe County Resident

- Stated that she is glad the CJRC is addressing the horrific conditions of the current jail.
- Taxpayer money is being used to jail too many people.
- Commented on the importance on transportation.
 - The support of friends and family is so important to people in jail, and lack of transportation to and from the jail would isolate them from their support.
- Urged the committee to add a representative from the city to the table since that is the biggest source of the county's population.

Carol Wilson, Monroe County Resident

Thanked Sheriff Marté for his eye-opening presentation.

- Commented on lack of communication regarding this meeting.

Isabel Piedmont- Smith, Bloomington City Council Representative and Monroe County Resident

- Asked the Commissioners to share their road map
 - What subgroups will be made and when will their input be needed?
 - When will decisions be made?
- Shared frustration that there is no city representative on this committee.

Meeting is adjourned 7:31 pm.