

MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY JUSTICE RESPONSE COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes
Monday, March 20, 2023, 4:30pm
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):

Penny Githens
Lee Jones
Kate Wiltz
Kara Krothe
Catherine Stafford
Karen Wrenbeck
April Wilson
Ruben Marté

Members Present (Virtual):

Julie Thomas
Peter Iversen
Jennifer Crossley

Meeting called to order at 4:32 pm.

Statement of Guiding Principles- Councilor Wiltz

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.*

Public Comment

Maquebé Reese, NAACP President

Stated the mission of NAACP:

To achieve equity, political rights, and social inclusion by advancing policies and practices that expand human and civil rights, eliminate discrimination, and accelerate the well-being education, and economic security of black people and all persons of color.

- The reports and presentations given in previous meetings indicate urgency to improve facility conditions.
- Called for implementation of a system of checks and balances with no exemptions.
- Called for CJRC members as public servants to work with transparency and meet questions and constructive criticism with kindness and consideration rather than avoidance and insults.
- Expressed frustration and disgust by the treatment of Councilor Crossley and Sheriff Marté by Commissioner Githens and Commissioner Jones.
 - Called for other CJRC members to speak up rather than be complicit.
- Voiced gratitude to the County Council for approving funds for cleaning and maintenance of the current jail.

Audrey Williams, Monroe County resident, virtual attendee

- Discouraged by CJRC meetings.
 - Members need to learn how to compromise and work together.
- If the committee proceeds with subgroups, the entire committee needs to meet more than quarterly.
 - Suggested that CJRC meetings could continue their current schedule, and subgroups could meet on the remaining Mondays.
- Suggested that individuals that come speak to the committee serve on subcommittees.
- Instead of using funds to survey detained individuals about a new facility, put that money towards improvements to the current facility.
- What parameters are Commissioners using to reach the 25-acre estimate?

Mary Goetze, community member

- Feels shut out by the plan to break into subgroups because it will necessitate community members to keep up with multiple groups/meetings to stay up to date.
- If the CJRC moves forward with subgroups, they should continue to meet at least monthly or continue bimonthly.
- The CJRC already struggles with collaboration, and breaking into smaller groups could make that worse.

Isabel Piedmont Smith, Bloomington City Council member

- Eager to know when her input, as a city representative, will be needed in this process.
- Supported Maquebé Reese's comments.

Seth Mutchler, Monroe County resident

- Criticized the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process for its lack of transparency. Presentations were not open to the public, despite the original RFQ stating that they would be.
- Concerned by the chosen firm, DLZ.
 - This firm was responsible for previous renovations and improvements in the current jail. If they failed fixing the current jail, they should not design the new jail.
 - This firm designed the Elkhart County Correctional complex. A study done identified a need for 1,000 beds, the facility built holds 2,800.
 - Called for Commissioners to not vote on a design firm until the public and public officials have weighed in and come to a consensus.
 - Called for the rest of the CJRC to hold the Commissioners accountable to this demand.

Lisa Young, commented in zoom chat

Hello. I am a bit confused. We have urgent issues for the jail in Bloomington. What can be realistically done within this year? What is the strategic plan to support the current structure (resources, staff, equipment, etc.)? It seems like you are speaking of really long-term desires but not anything that can be in practice now.

Hello again. I understand you went on a tour of other facilities, but it makes more sense that the funds used for that trip could have been used to address immediate issues with the jail in Bloomington-outside if the cleanup that will be funded. What you are describing is not realistic for the urgent issues facing the county now.

Discussion on Arizona visit- Commissioners

Maricopa County, AZ- 4:50 pm

More info: [Find a Jail | Maricopa County Sheriff's Office \(mcsso.org\)](#)

Philosophy: Act like an adult and you will be treated like an adult.

Pros:

- Washable, comfortable furniture
- Physical set- up allows for use of a calming approach to de- escalate situations.

Intake, Transfer, and Release Center (ITR):

<https://www.mcsso.org/Home/Components/FacilityDirectory/FacilityDirectory/1020/136>

Intake

- Separate intake areas for voluntary and involuntary
 - Both have medical intake, search areas, finger printing, mugshots, etc.
- Snack and beverage are given upon intake
- Separate room and separate officers for inmate possessions

- Daily log is kept of possessions
 - This is the only area that has a second story.
- Someone is assigned to review each intake form.

Courts

- Two court rooms: One for City (Phoenix) misdemeanors and one for other offenses.
- Operate once every 3 hours 24/7
 - Includes nights and weekends
- Initial hearings
- Tablets can be used for hearings
- Space available for victims to watch proceedings safely
- Public viewing room
 - Now TV based due to Covid- 19.
- Attorney interview room
- Judges can conduct hearings in isolation cells or in the medical area when needed.

Release

- Any money an inmate has upon entry is put into an ATM and given back upon release on a debit card.
- Thumbprinting to release
- Slip on shoes and set of paper clothing given when needed.

512 Facility- Short Term stays (not yet open):

<https://www.mcso.org/Home/Components/FacilityDirectory/FacilityDirectory/1040/136>

Holding facility for short- term stays.

Watkins Jail:

<https://www.mcso.org/Home/Components/FacilityDirectory/FacilityDirectory/1038/136>

Typically used for sentences of 1 year or less.

- Single story
- Holds up to 1600 inmates- typical population of 1300-1400 inmates
 - Much bigger than anything that would be built in Monroe County
- Natural light and high ceilings
- Every unit has its own recreation area
 - Inmates can go to this area almost any time.
- Direct supervision
 - Officer is in the pod with inmates (in addition to cameras and a central observation post).
- Pods
 - The largest holds 80 inmates; others are smaller
 - In each pod:
 - Small storage space
 - Program room

- Medical exam room
 - Interview room
 - Attorney, chaplain, or others
- Least restrictive unit: Minimum security
 - Pods are a combined space; cells do not have doors.
 - Each inmate in this area has access to a tablet.
 - 800 educational opportunities
 - High cost- but could lead to a reduction in recidivism; also requires less staff
 - Can be used to interact with lawyers, families, and medical providers
 - Day room
 - Individual chairs- not bolted down, some are rocking chairs
 - 75-inch TV
- Noticeable effort is made to keep inmates busy
 - 4 classrooms
 - Assigned tasks
 - Books
 - Computer lab
 - Games
 - Recreation
 - Tablets
 - Television
- Core desk center
 - One officer staffed to handle the flow of the facility, better with two.
- Medical staff for Watkins, not part of the jail or ITR staff
 - 3-4 registered nurses
 - 1-2 medical providers
 - 2 mental health providers
- High reliance on cameras; less staff needed

Their states Cons:

- Wish they had more storage spaces
- More staff bathrooms
- Staff break room within the secure area

Notes:

Joe Arpaio ceased being the Sheriff of Maricopa County in 2017.

Once initial facility blueprints are created all parties interested should be involved and should have the opportunity to provide feedback.

Expressed the significance of making decisions about the flow of the facility. For instance, what order should things be conducted in the booking process? They recommended medical, search, everything else (fingerprinting, mugshot, etc.). This would allow for someone to immediately be moved to a medical facility if that is called for.

- Small vending area
- Waiting area
- Change out rooms
- Pre- release available 24/7.
- Release Coordinator
 - Funded by state dollars, federal dollars, and commissary profits.
 - Employed by the jail.
 - Two on staff during the day, one at night
 - Connect inmates with probation and/ or appropriate courts
- Mental Health Crisis Center in the back

Cons:

- Their detox cells did not have enough space for a bunk.
- Some intake cells had bump outs that made it impossible to view a person on the other side of the bump out.
- Not as much natural light (as was seen in Maricopa County).
- Low ceilings

Notes:

Recommended that we consider a separate processing area for juveniles and have a separate accommodation area.

Always ask for 3D designs of what will be built.

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Pima County, AZ- 5:43 pm

Population of 1.05 million.

Crisis Response Center: 12 min away from the jail

Run by a private company. They do not call law enforcement for assistance; they have the means to handle situations themselves.

Pros:

Aligns with Intercept 0 & Intercept 5

Stabilization facility with no wrong door. Open to adults and juveniles and can be voluntary or involuntary.

Cost effective; money is saved by incarcerating fewer people.

Facility

- Secure area
- Direct hall linking the crisis center to the medical center
- Mental health (inpatient facility)

- 72 hour stays
 - Therapy is not offered (due to how short the stays are).
- Detox center
- Mobile Crisis Unit
- Separate entrances for voluntary/ involuntary and adult/ juvenile.
 - Once you are in the facility you do not know which way a patient was brought in, they are all filtered through a hallway.
- Staff is distinguished by the color of their uniform

Intake

- People are often referred to the facility by family, friends, schools, etc.
- Law enforcement can take people here when the situation is appropriate.
- Quick assessment is done upon entry- a decision is made to admit or refer the individual elsewhere.
 - Full assessment will take place within the first 24 hours.

Treatment

- During de-escalation a person is in a room where everyone can observe them and work together.
 - Nursing, psychiatric, social workers, etc.
- Medical model rather than a correctional model
 - Staff wore scrubs

Law Enforcement

- Handcuffs are not used when taking people to Crisis Center
- Have their own dedicated entry way
- Officers are trained in trauma informed care.

Notes:

Suggested looking at Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Arizona has a regional health funding mechanism that allows for the first 24 hours of the stay to be covered.

To have a short-term crisis center, you also need a long- term residential treatment center somewhere.

Our current jail has two social workers and one nurse practitioner. Mental health treatment will always be needed in the jail.

Committee Discussion

Councilor Iversen encouraged the community to contact their legislatures in support of Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 1006.

Commissioners have not yet decided on the number of beds for a new jail.

Sheriff Marté will be allotted time on the next CJRC agenda (April 3rd) to give a presentation on updates of the current jail.

A Policy Brief written by numerous County Councilors was handed out. Page 1 includes a recommendation for bed size of a new facility. Page 3 includes the timeline given by DLZ for their process. See the full document [here](#).

Meeting is adjourned at 6:11 pm.

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