

MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY JUSTICE RESPONSE COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes
Monday, April 17th, 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):

Julie Thomas

Peter Iversen

Jennifer Crossley

Lee Jones

Darcie Fawcett

Kara Krothe

April Wilson

Karen Wrenbeck

Sheriff Marté

Members Present (Virtual):

Penny Githens

Meeting is called to order 4:31pm.

Guiding Principles- 4:33pm

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.*
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Public Comment- 4:33pm

Unknown Speaker

- Handed out a letter to Committee members: [Link](#)
- Stated that the Commissioners' office has taken an illegal and anti-transparent approach to the jail expansion proposal.
- A formal complaint has been filed with the Public Access Counselor regarding the closed-door nature of the RFQ process.
- Read an excerpt of a letter sent out by Sheriff Marté.

Mark Hagerty [?], Monroe County Resident

- Was previously on the Board of Directors of a jail recovery program for 15 years. (Program was discontinued).
- Believes that the obvious site for a new jail is the location of the old hospital (Hopewell).
- Stated that it is remarkable that there is no city representation on the CJRC.
- Stated that there were multiple deaths while in jail custody during the last administration.

Kaisa Goodman, Public Engagement Director for the City of Bloomington

- Updated that a tour has been scheduled for the property south of Catalent.
- Stated that the city is frustrated with the very slow pace of progress of the CJRC.
- Stated that the CJRC seems to spend too much time discussing the structure of the committee, rather than justice reform.
- Asked Commissioners, and the other members of the CJRC to reassess how the group and the community can accelerate progress on the issues of justice, reform, and public health investments.
- Stated that our community needs to do two things:
 - Determine location and scale of a potential new jail
 - Address the crisis of mental health and substance use disorders

Natalia Galvan, Monroe County Resident

- Reiterated her statement at the last CJRC meeting condemning the disrespectful treatment of Councilor Crossley, Sheriff Marte, and Prosecutor Wilson at meetings.
- Expressed that the Commissioners' Work Session on April 5th was the worst government meeting recently.
 - Stated that the behavior by Commissioners' Administrator Purdie and Commissioner Githens towards Chief Deputy Parker was unacceptable.

Seth Muchler, Monroe County Resident

- Passed out a pamphlet to the committee: [What is Prison Abolition?](#)
- Asked that the committee work towards things that could be done today outside of the jail relating to substance use treatment, mental health treatment, and recommendations given in the Eve Hill report.

Isabel Piedmont Smith, City Council Member

- Echoed comments made by Seth Muchler and Kaisa Goodman regarding the priority of mental health care and substance use disorder care.
- Reiterated that the Guiding Principles of the committee prioritize treatment over incarceration, when appropriate. Urged the committee to work harder on the treatment aspect.
- Addressed another aspect of the Guiding Principles that state the committee will work collaboratively and transparently. Expressed that she does not think that has occurred.
- Expressed dismay that no city representative from the city has been consulted in any public meeting.
- Urged Commissioners to make good on the promises of their Guiding Principles.

Presentation by DLZ- 4:50pm [Link.](#)

Scott Carnegie: Project Manager

Eric Ratts: Architect of Record

Presenters shared project examples their firm has worked on that have components that are relevant to needs of Monroe County.

Franklin County Corrections Center

- Holistic approach to design
- Addresses mental health behavior management
- Maintenance
- Natural light
- Rapid Resource Center
 - Social service organizations
 - Hoteling space
 - Pamphlets/ brochures

Jefferson County Criminal Justice Center

- Will be completed July 2023
- 300 bed facility
- Dedicated mental health program area
- Separate court facility
- Dedicated training room- open to public

Starke County Justice Center

- 148 beds
- 911 Dispatch Center
- F.A.R.M.: Fostering a Recovery Mentality
 - Gardening activities
 - Greenhouse
 - Aquaponics
- Inmates participate in woodworking
- Commissary

Vigo County Security Center

- 504 beds
- Significant amount of natural light
- Dedicated special housing- male and female
- Visitation
 - Contact visitation
 - Non- contact visitation
 - Electronic visitation
- Conference rooms
- Video arraignment spaces

Other Notes

- Design Philosophy- The way jails have been designed/ operated is not yielding the desired results. A different approach is necessary. A more holistic approach should be taken to treat the whole person.
- Biophilic design
- Bring services to inmates, rather than bringing inmates to services.
- Staff amenities to aid in retention
 - Dining area/ kitchen
 - Wellness center
- Project Approach- An outline was shown of the policies and procedures pertaining to the Project Approach. (Page 13 of presentation). [Link](#).
- DLZ will need to know the number of beds at the offset of the design.
- Multiple counties in the past decade have bought more ground than is needed to use for expansion opportunities in the future.

Questions from Public

Isabel Piedmont Smith, City Council Member

Will DLZ be the entity that engages the public and other members of the community?

DLZ can lead and give presentation updates to the public at the Commissioners' discretion.

Kaisa Goodman, Public Engagement Director for the City of Bloomington

Do you think the size of jail can be decided before studying the impact of prevention work and knowing the budget?

There will be more information on this after initial meetings.

Committee Comments- 6:13 pm

County Councilor Kate Wiltz

Thanked Ms. Goodman and the city for their efforts to get city and county representatives together to look at a potential jail property later this week.

County Councilor Jennifer Crossley

Expressed that what the County builds will not necessarily reduce recidivism, but rather the efforts of the Council and Commissioners and the programs and services provided. Expressed appreciation for city representatives and members of the public that attend meetings and give public comment.

Public Defender Karen Wrenbeck

Thanked Commander Gibbons for meeting with the Public Defender's Office regarding their current issues with the jail. The Public Defender's Office believes that there are things that can be implemented now to improve justice in our community.

Judge Darcie Fawcett

Expressed that she would like more guidance on how to share her perspectives. Asked the Commissioners and the County Council how they envision a new justice facility.

Prosecutor April Wilson

Expressed gratitude to Councilor Iversen for the course of the conversation at this meeting. Suggested that New Leaf New Life attend a CJRC meeting to tell the committee about programming. Requested that an agenda include a conversation on how to better support individuals within the first 72 hours of release from the jail.

Judge Kara Krothe

Asked for more transparency as the committee moves forward. Asked the Commissioners if a new jail is built, would the Courts remain at the Justice Building? Expressed concern with this because of the condition of the facility.

Jail Commander Kyle Gibbons

Shared that multiple programs have been implemented in the current jail facility. Previously, maximum security inmates were not allowed to participate in programming; this has since been lifted.

Sheriff Ruben Marté

Stated that he wants to move quickly to improve the jail. The current process of cleaning and sanitizing the jail slows this down tremendously.

Commissioner Julie Thomas

Thanked Commander Gibbons for the update and for his hard work in the jail. Thanked DLZ for their presentation and for their consistent attendance at CJRC meetings. Stated that the CJRC was intended to focus on Intercepts 0-6, rather than specifically focusing on building a jail. Expressed that she plans to discuss the next CJRC meeting and the tasks that need to be addressed at the Commissioners' next Work Session on April 19th.

Commissioner Penny Githens

Thanked Sheriff Marté and Commander Gibbons for their work to improve conditions in the current jail.

County Councilor Peter Iversen

Stated that it is important to remain curious, sit in discomfort, and not rush understanding. Thanked DLZ for their presentation.

Meeting is adjourned at 6:31pm.