

UPDATES ON JFAC RECOMMENDATIONS AS OF 1-17-2024

Preamble

In early 2023, the Monroe County Council established the Justice Fiscal Advisory Commission (JFAC). The purpose of this body was to make fiscal recommendations to the Council pertaining to justice reform.

The JFAC membership met multiple times throughout the year, seeking testimony through broad community-level fiscal policy advice based on the Sequential Intercept Model. Data was preserved through CATS TV and the final report, adopted in late 2023 by the Monroe County Council. The Council created a webpage including the final recommendations. This adopted version is at <http://co.monroe.in.us/council>.

Furthermore, if you have questions or comments about this update or the underlying report, please use the email at the above website or jfac@co.monroe.in.us.

The structure of the update will follow the timely aspect of the recommendations. There were 34 recommendations, and each was assigned a time allocation labeled as immediate, short, medium, or long-term. While many of the recommendations do not have information currently, 18 do. Each recommendation will be referred to by the number which corresponds to the JFAC report found at <http://co.monroe.in.us/council>.

Recommendations with an Immediate Time Allocation:

5. Fund new supportive, transitional, and affordable housing as there is agreement that too few beds exist.

- [Monroe County is currently working with Centerstone on Supportive Housing.](#)
- [The MC Health Department conducted a small survey of Recovery Residential units to determine need.](#)
- [Monroe County continues to experience a housing crisis, where there is simply not enough inventory. We continue to see the need for a wide variety of housing types including, but not limited to affordable housing, and the missing middle such as workforce housing.](#)

7. Engage in formal mapping process of Sequential Intercept Model through National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI).

- [Melanie Vehslage, in the Health Department, the Purdue Extension office, and the National Association of Mental Illness are currently working/ collaborating on this recommendation.](#)

22. Locate the justice complex as close to downtown services and bus lines as possible.

- The Jail Transition Team is being created, and a Jail Transition Director has been hired. The Functional Program Team is also working. While their work continues, no site has been officially selected.

25. Work with the Monroe County Commissioners to pass a Stepping Up Resolution, to work with other leaders (e.g., the sheriff, judges, district attorney, treatment providers, and state and local policymakers), people with mental illnesses and their advocates and other stakeholders to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails. (See draft resolution at <https://www.naco.org/resources/signature-projects/stepping-initiative>)

- This non-binding resolution has been passed by many other counties across the nation. It is recommended that the Board of Commissioners consider this adoption at a forthcoming meeting.

Recommendations with a Short-Term Time Allocation:

1. Moving from Needs Assessment to the pre-Architectural phases, the Council should not renew the JFAC. In its place, JFAC voting members should work with the Commissioners, Judges, Sheriff, Architect, and others to form the Functional Program Team (PONI, Phase 03). These meetings should be open to the public.

- On 1/23/24 Council will vote on extending the JFAC through the end of 2024 to allow for quarterly updates from JFAC to full Council.
- As stated above a Transition Team is in the process of being created.
- The Functional Team is in place, led by the architectural firm DLZ. No updates are known, at this point.

2. To not lose progress on non-architectural recommendations from this report, former JFAC voting members should bring quarterly updates to public meetings of the Monroe County Council, until such time as the President of that body considers the updates to be superfluous. In the future, this work could be taken on by the Office of Justice Policy and Programs (OJPP), see recommendation 16.

- JFAC will provide its first update to Council at the Council meeting on February 13, 2024.
- The next update will be Spring 2024.

3. Council should establish a working group that should identify what data is needed for an interdepartmental Justice Dashboard by working with Monroe County Technical Services Department and user groups to address the Key Critical Issue #1 in the Ken Ray Study (https://www.co.monroe.in.us/egov/documents/1644610443_05163.pdf, p. 13).

- Individual meetings have been held, but questions remain regarding helpful data that is not sensitive data.

- A meeting with stakeholders of a possible dashboard (e.g., Prosecutor's office, PD office, Sheriff's office, Board of Judges, Probation) could be held to gauge support and to ensure no duplication of data would be gathered.

8. Fund the promotion of and ensure funding continues for local crisis services including but not limited to the Stride Center, Mobile Crisis Teams, HealthNet, and promoting 9-8-8, by engaging County, City, and existing local partners.

- This recommendation is currently being done, and opportunities to continue funding should be taken.

9. Fulfill the Sheriff Department's request to create the Re-Entry Case Manager position in the Jail's Medical contract. Ensure this position collaborates with the Courts. (Sheriff Marté's Seven Point Plan of Actionable Items)

- Council will/should consider funding these positions if included in an ACH contract if requested by the Sheriff's Office

10. Add a third Qualified Mental Health Professional in the Jail (Sheriff Marté's Seven Point Plan of Actionable Items).

- Council will/should consider funding these positions if included in an ACH contract if requested by the Sheriff's Office

11. Add a Substance Use Disorder Counselor in the Jail, where preference is given to hire those in recovery as peer support is shown to have positive benefits. (Sheriff Marté's Seven Point Plan of Actionable Items).

- Council will/should consider funding these positions if included in an ACH contract if requested by the Sheriff's Office.

12. Implement the Integrated Reentry and Correctional Support (IRACS) program in Monroe County, /including establishing a certified Recovery Community Organization (RCO). Ensure this position collaborates with the Courts.

- The continued conversation about IRACS occurs in both monthly SUDAC meetings and the Opioid Settlement Working Group meetings.
- In conjunction, these bodies continue to pursue multiple certified Recovery Community Organization (RCO) and
- In addition, Monroe County is taking steps in increase the number of certified Peer Recovery coaches that can do this work.

13. Work with Centerstone to identify needs and ensure funding continues to exist for a Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) team.

- This recommendation is currently being done through the Centerstone FACT team.

- Information pertaining to this point in addition to others was distributed to Council as a part of the Centerstone annual report.

21. Create a fund to reimburse or subsidize non-statutory fees to zero in coordination with the Board of Judges. (Reducing Revocations Challenge Strategies).

- The Opioid Settlement Working Group is working with the Specialty Courts and the Board of Judges to identify ways that Opioid Settlement Funds or others could be used towards this recommendation.

32. Continue to work toward establishing Departmental Gross Square Feet (DGSF) and Building Gross Square Feet (GSF) calculations for the Justice Campus, which will give the Council the ability to accurately appropriate funds.

- Encourage updates from the Sheriff's office and/ or Transition team.

Conclusion

In conclusion, JFAC set three recommendations made during the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion session. None of the following three have been acted upon, and I want to use this platform to urge action on the following:

22. (also listed above) Locate the justice complex as close to downtown services and bus lines as possible.

- The Jail Transition Team is being created, and a Jail Transition Director has been hired. The Functional Program Team is also working. While their work continues, no site has been officially selected.

23. Provide periodic training for all Monroe County staff in racial equity and implicit bias and continue to measure progress in workplace climate competency (Reducing Revocations Challenge Strategies).

24. Hire an Anti-Racism consultant to create a Monroe County Anti-Racism Strategic Plan and create the Monroe County Anti-Racism Taskforce to have community-wide stakeholders assist with the creation and implementation of an anti-racism strategic plan.