**CLARK COUNTY CORRECTION FACILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**Clark County Council Chambers Public Service Center**

**1300 Franklin Street**

**May 8th, 2018**

**3:00pm – 6:00pm**

**Attendance**

Commission: Commission Chair Craig Pridemore (At-Large), Commission Vice Chair James McElvain (City of Vancouver),Tony Golik (Clark County DA), Vanessa Gaston (Clark County DCS), Louis Byrd (Byrd Legal Services), Steve Stuart (City of Ridgefield), Greg Thornton (City of La Center), Judge Kelli Osler (Clark County District Court), Eric Holmes (City of Vancouver), Carmen Carabello (Ester Short Neighborhood), Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle (City of Vancouver), John Moren (Community Services NW), Judge Scott Collier (Clark County Superior Court), Councilor Melissa Smith (City of Camas), Roger Entrekin (Meadow Glade Neighborhood Association), David Scott (City of Washougal), Bob Carroll (IBEW 48), Bob Richardson (City of Battleground), Scott Weber (Clark County), Dr. Alan Melnick (Clark County Public Health)

Officials/Staff/Interested Parties: County Chair Boldt (Clark County), Marlia Jenkins (Clark County), Erik Jensen (Jensen Strategies), Alice Cannon (Jensen Strategies), Sean Philbrook (Identity Clark County), Alan Melnick (Clark County), Lindsey Shafar (Clark County)

**Welcome/Opening Remarks**

The meeting was opened at 3:05 pm by Chair Pridemore. Meeting minutes from the April 24, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously by the Commission. Chair Pridemore reminded the Commission of the upcoming jail tour on May 15th. Logistical details were covered later in the meeting. Clark County Corrections Chief Bishop mentioned that if Commissioners are unable to attend, he and his staff will arrange for another tour date.

**Agenda Review and Meeting Objectives**

Erik Jensen reviewed the agenda and meeting objectives. The first purpose of the May 8, 2018 Commission meeting is to prepare for the upcoming May 15th jail tour by sharing more about best practices for correctional facilities. Secondly, the Commission will have a discussion regarding information Commissioners wish to gather in order to be prepared to make recommendations about the future of the main Clark County jail.

**Presentation: Best Practices for Correction Facilities**

Presenter Ned Newlin, a jails expert with the Washington Association of Sheriff and Police Chiefs and most recently retired from Kitsap County Washington, shared information about the history and best practices of correctional facilities.

Mr. Newlin shared the various philosophical eras for jailing in the United States. In the 1980s, most new jails followed what is known as the “Warehouse Model.” This was followed by the “Just Desserts” era, whereby mandatory prison sentences were a popular concept throughout the United States. Since 2016, the philosophy has evolved to one that acknowledges the value of inmate social service diversion programs. Mr. Newell also covered Constitutional issues both inmates and corrections staff encounter in modern jails.

Current issues facing today’s jails include: increasing inmate health care needs (including mental health, substance abuse, acute and chronic illnesses); instances of suicide and self-harm; transgender inmates; aging population; aging facilities; advancing technologies and communication expectations; and design and operational reform requirements associated with new laws such as the Prisoner Mitigation Reform Act, Rape Elimination Act, Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act and Americans with Disabilities Act.

Jail Design has also followed historical trends. Alcatraz is an example of a linear-designed jail with long lines of cells. In the 1980s, “podular” jails became popular. In the 1990s and beyond, jails were designed to have more therapeutic design features, such as carpeted floors and more homey furnishings. Integration within the community is now an important focus, with diversion services available on-site.

Some of the goals of modern jail design are:

* Accommodation of smaller populations
* All jails need to comply with a variety of different standards
* Design should facilitate meaningful inmate re-entry into the community upon release.

Modern jails today commonly have these features:

* Open intake/reception area;
* Creating a harmonious design that will setting the tone for positive inmate behavior;
* Body scanners;
* Direct supervision (i.e. placing a corrections deputy within housing units);
* Reducing stainless steel fixtures and furniture that is bolted to the floor;
* Natural lighting;
* Modern food service area;
* High speed wired and Wi-Fi capabilities;
* High definition video;
* Inmate kiosks and tablets; and
* Mixed visitation options for both inmate visits

-- Phones, video visits, and other non-contact visits

Attributes of “Direct Supervision” inmate housing units are:

* Outdoor recreation adjacent and accessible;
* Adequate programming space;
* Wired and Wi-Fi technology;
* Medical examination rooms;
* Control of sound levels and elimination of visual conflicts;
* Provision of a positive environment (space, temperature, light, color, humidity) for inmates to live and for staff to work;
* Adequate capacity for the classification of the anticipated inmate population;
* Ample storage;
* Natural lighting;
* Provisions for efficient building maintenance; and
* Emergency evacuation spaces.

Medical units in jails typically have exam rooms; detox units; dental facilities; imaging services; labs; and behavioral health treatment space.

Some other features include providing adequate and efficient staffing, with case managers and social service staff proportionate to the needs of the inmate population. Programs and amenities are designed to influence inmate behavior and alleviate idleness. Incentive-based inmate rules and disciplinary procedures are common. Suicide mitigation is an important consideration through jail design, programs and services. Modern jail design and technology now allow for constant supervision of inmates, as opposed to intermittent observation. Designs with secure access to courtrooms are ideal. These passageways avoid mixing the inmate population with the public. Modern jails are increasingly offering facilities for video court appearances.

Staff amenities are also very important. These include adequate training space, sleeping rooms and exercise facilities.

**Question and Answer from the Commission after the Presentation:**

**Question: What is the proportion of direct supervision jails versus other designs?**

Answer: 75-80% of jails are designed to be direct supervision. These designs typically require more staffing.

**Question: Why not spend the money on the social service diversion programs instead of on a new jail?**

Answer: This is a question of County and community values that will be explored during the CFAC process.

**Question: What is the re-entry data for direct-supervision jails vs other designs?**

Answer: This data has not been collected.

**Question: Have other options been developed to offer alternative housing for inmates with lesser charges?**

Answer: Some models exist in Washington and the rest of the U.S.

**Question: Are jails available with co-located with social service agencies?**

Answer: It is not common to have social services incorporated into the jail itself. It is more common to have social services available on the same campus.

**Question: Are there examples out there where Counties engaged in a values discussion first, before building a jail? How do communities talk about values before moving into design?**

Answer: The CFAC process will engage in these discussions.

**Small Group Discussion**

The Commission was split into four groups (green, red, blue, yellow). The purpose was to gather information the highest priorities of information that the Commission will need to make a recommendation to the County Council about a new or expanded jail.

After completing small group discussions, each group reported their top four broad categories of information, along with any more specific information that they wished to gather as part of this process. Results of the group discussions included:

**Blue group -- Summary of information category priorities and more specific information requests:**

* **Values & Policies**

--What does the Clark County community want to accomplish?

--What are the goals for the jail?

--What do current policies deliver?

* **Inmate population profile and forecast**

--Attributes

--Needs, problems, issues

--Recidivism and causes

* **Inventory of social service network**

--Current system, attributes, capacity

--Forecasted demands

* **Comparative data on different incarceration models**

--Pod vs direct supervision vs alternatives to incarceration

--Diversion outcomes

* **Additional detailed information requested**

--Jail asset inventory

--Prior master planning results and conclusions

--Financing tools and options

--Integration with broader community

--Location options

--Population forecast

--Metropolitan dynamics

**Red Group -- Summary of information category priorities and more specific information requests:**

* **How does Clark County compare with other State of Washington counties for use of diversion programs?**

--Do more diversion programs mean fewer inmates?

* **What is the current jail’s population and their classifications?**

--Explain the classifications.

* **What are the future crime and jail trends? Some examples of interest are:**

--Housing and Homelessness

--Juvenile justice system

--Integrated and coordinated health care system

* **When discussing options, information should be available detailing:**

--Cost of building new facility vs. remodeling;

--Cost of bond and debt finance;

--What is the need for more corrections staffing;

--Impacts to city billing rates; and

--Unit costs per option

--Some possible non-jail options discussed were:

* Mental health programs;
* Diversion programs;
* Domestic Violence programs; and
* Mental health evaluations
* **Additional detailed information requested from Red Group:**

--From 1990-presentm what is the total of all case filings, broken down by type?

--Discuss success of youth diversion programs;

**Green Group -- Summary of information category priorities and more specific information requests:**

* **Jail population historical statistics trend**

--Demographic (gender, race, age).

--District Court inmate totals and Superior Court inmate totals

--Mental health status

--Length of stay (pre and post sentences)

--What is the recidivism trend?

--What percentage of the inmate population is homeless?

* **What existing programs are currently offered and what is needed?**

--Transitioning of inmates from jail programs from to community-based programs. How does the transition work today?

* **Courts and competing interests**

--How does the County support the court needs as it relates to jail services?

* **Operational costs**

--Will a new facility require more employees?

* **Review of data- Academic studies**

--Needs to be done more often to stay on trend and be more preventative rather than reactive.

--Pre-trial release: What is the cost difference between electronic monitoring vs housing pre-trial inmates in jail?

**Yellow Group -- Summary of information category priorities and more specific information requests:**

* **Composition**

-- Length of stay (break the data into sub-categories. Subcategories could include: inmates who can’t make bail, those who are awaiting trial, and those who are servicing a sentence)

-- Provide general demographic profile of jail inmate population

* **Financing**

-- Compare the option of one facility vs two facilities. Considerations for two facilities should include the longevity of the facilities; the possibility of a north County location or a facility in the Jail Work Center area.

-- What is the county debt capacity?

-- Is County Council willing to take a proposal to the voters?

-- A summary of the 2016 jail feasibility study could inform this financing information category.

* **Services**

-- Which existing services for inmates are overprescribed? If so, what are they?

-- Are additional services are needed? If so, what are they?

-- Are case managers assigned to inmates from booking through release and beyond?

-- How can jail recidivism be prevented?

* **Additional detailed information requested**

-- Is staff aware of facilities that mix all genders in common area during the day?

* **Guest speaker ideas**

-- Have inmates and social workers come to CFAC meetings to share their experiences. What service are needed to reduce recidivism?

**General comment after the Small Group exercise**

Values have shifted regarding juvenile incarceration, resulting in reduced juvenile inmate populations over the past ten years. Perhaps a similar value system can be applied to the adult population in the future.

**Roster with CFAC contact information**

Erik Jensen distributed a sheet with contact information for all CFAC members

**Jail Tour Logistics**

Chief Ric Bishop shared logistical information relating to the jail tour, scheduled for May 15. He stated that all the details he shared verbally would be included in an upcoming email to the CFAC.

**Adjournment**

Vice Chair McElvain adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.