

# Clark County Sheriff's Office Corrections Branch Annual Report 2019



# **Chief's Message**

The mission of the Corrections Branch of the Clark County Sheriff's Office is to promote and maintain public safety through effective correctional and reentry practices. To this end, we have continued our multi-pronged approach to improve safety within the main facility while aggressively pursuing outside resources and partnerships to improve community livability. These initiatives include:

• The overall jail population has continued to decline. This decline continues our overall approach of incarcerating those who continue to victimize our community, while providing educational and treatment tools to those who wish to break the cycle of recidivism

• Completed report to the Clark County Board of County Councilors (BOCC) from the Corrections Facility Advisory Commission (CFAC) recommending expansion and modernization of the current Main Jail facility

• Continued partnerships to divert or release individuals from jail who are low level non-violent offenders with mental health or chemical dependency challenges, to more suitable community programs

These initiatives reduce the overall jail population, and prioritizes the use of incarceration for those who threaten the livability and safety of our community. We are stretching every dollar of scarce taxpayers' resources.

In closing, words are never enough, but I am truly impressed, thankful and proud of the Corrections Deputies, Support Staff, Supervisors and Managers who have dedicated their time and lives to the public safety mission of the Clark County Sheriff's Office Corrections Branch.

> Ric Bishop, 3119 Chief Corrections Deputy



# Goals for 2020

Some of the indicators of success for the branch will be directly related to strategic goals while others will be operational or customary to the delivery of public safety services.

- Continued and expanded programs to break the cycle of recidivism
- Deliberate steps to modernizing the Clark County Main Jail
- Implementation of safety equipment (body and drug scanners)
- Expanding Data Collection and Review to provide evidence based support of inmate programming and short and long range criminal justice planning

## Some of the Projects Completed in 2019:

- CFAC final report August 2019
- Implemented lead worker positions for improved staff supervision
- Implemented leadership training for Corrections supervisors in support of succession planning
- Implementation of expanded grant fund Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT)

## **Ongoing Projects:**

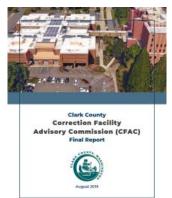
- Competency Restoration
- Viable diversion programs for jail
- Superior Court Video Arraignment
- Suicide resistant bunks in medium security areas
- Improved preventative maintenance
- New time sheet recording system and new telephone system
- Money kiosk in booking
- Professional Visitor ID cards and jail entry process
- JMS Scope of Work and feature request additions to the system

# **Corrections Branch Overview**

The Clark County Corrections Branch provides incarceration services to the Clark County courts and local law enforcement agencies. Corrections staff ensure the needs and rights of inmates are met; and that the jail environment is safe, secure and orderly. Additionally, we recognize the vital role of the jail in promoting public safety and strive to provide access to reentry resources and opportunities to all inmates returning to the local community.

Corrections Deputies are the heart of the organization, providing transportation, supervision and security services. As deputies are the primary contact for inmates, they also often find themselves in the role of problem solver and advocate. A variety of support personnel provide critical clerical, financial, janitorial and food services. The jail medical unit provides necessary physical and mental health services to the inmates. Together, these employees accomplish the corrections mission with pride and professionalism 24 hours of each and every day.

Public awareness of the continuing deterioration of the physical Main Jail building along with all of its security systems have made it evident that mere repairs are insufficient to deal with the severity of the delineated shortcomings. So much so that in 2018 the Board of County Councilors (BOCC) convened the Correctional Facility Advisory Committee (CFAC). This diverse group of panelists reviewed a voluminous amount of data and requested yet another study of correctional needs within the County. The resulting report was presented to the BOCC in August of 2019. While it concludes the current structure must undergo some type of change it is highly cognizant of the fiscal strictures upon Clark County resources.



# **Operations**

"Jail Operations" describes the main work of operating the correctional facilities. Operations functions include intake, release, and everything in between. 2019 saw an average daily population of 635 inmates, slightly up from the previous year. In 2019, the Corrections Branch:

- Processed 13,116 intakes and 13,101 releases
- Documented 2,751 incidents ranging from minor rule violations to serious emergencies such as fire or medical emergencies
- Provided approximately 700,000 inmate meals and 87,000 rolls of toilet paper

In an effort to improve the supervisory ratio of corrections staff, the Corrections Branch created a brand-new classification of lead workers in 2019. The new lead worker position is situated between the Corrections Sergeant and Corrections Deputy classifications. Incumbents carry out daily work assignments and oversee the work of assigned deputies on their shift. These positions are distinguished from sergeants by the absence of administrative authority or responsibility such as approval of official reports, employee performance evaluation, employee discipline, and payroll. Negotiations with the Corrections Deputy Guild regarding the new classification are ongoing.

The Jail Work Center combined all operations into only one building (Building #2) for Work Release and other inmates. This change was originally due to a redeployment of deputies to minimize overtime expenditures. Serendipitously this allowed the empty building to be repurposed by the County for the Crisis Wellness Triage, Stabilization and Diversion Center through Lifeline. This building, when remodel is complete should open in 2020. This center will allow persons in crisis a place to go rather than come to the jail.

The Sheriff's Office continues to make use of rented beds as a population management tool. Clark County Jail partnered with the Skamania County Jail to house 28 inmates throughout the year, for a total of 2521 inmate-days. Those inmates who qualify, by



classification measures, are housed to this location under a contract for professional services.

# **Jail Transport**

While some court proceedings necessitate individual, in-person appearances, the transport unit operates numerous technological and cooperative systems, which maximize efficiency, safety and minimize cost when possible. In 2019, the unit moved 9,731 inmates for in-person appearances in the various Clark County District and Superior Courts. This team also moved 59 inmates for trials using 879 deputy hours. 2,721 inmates appeared before the Clark County District Courts using video technology. Additionally, 267 video appearances were made for Battleground Municipal Court for the cities of Battle Ground, Ridgefield and La Center Washington and 25 to the Camas Courts.

The Northwest Cooperative Transport Shuttle provides another example of efficiency through cooperation. Participating jurisdictions agree to transport inmates from and to neighboring jurisdictions. During 2019, the transport unit moved 1,503 inmates on the shuttle system, avoiding costly extradition expenses and saving taxpayer resources. This is a large reduction from 2018, however, Washington State Department of Corrections took over the portion of persons moving from Multnomah to Benton County allowing the County's resources to be spent on local matters and medical transports.

Additionally, the transport unit transported 170 individuals to Western State Hospital, Eastern State Hospital, or other designated providers for competency or restoration services.

# **Jail Medical**

The Sheriff's Office contracts with an outside provider for inmate medical services. This partner for the past several years has been Correct Care Solutions, recently rebranded as Wellpath. Wellpath practices a multidisciplinary approach to care, the respectful and humane treatment of the inmate population, and provides medical, dental, mental and behavioral health services. Wellpath has been an invaluable partner as CCSO began moving in the direction of Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) and Opioid Treatment Program (OTP).

As with all County Contracts, they are of specific duration and Wellpath's is ending January 31, 2020. To encourage a competitive process, transparency, new ideas, and fiscal responsibility a Request for Proposal (RFP) was conducted for inmate medical services. Wellpath chose not to enter the process this time and after a varied panel reviewed the respondents; NaphCare, Inc. was selected as the Sheriff's next contract medical services provider beginning February 1, 2020.

# **Jail Projects**

Significant planning went into the modernization of jail systems and equipment. First and foremost, a major security upgrade project was awarded to Status Automation of Abbotsford, BC. The project will include a comprehensive technical upgrade to security, surveillance, and safety systems including

emergency call buttons in each cell. To improve safety through the interdiction of contraband at intake, an X-ray body scanner was approved and purchased from OD Security North America. One cell was reconfigured to house the scanner, which will be installed in 2020. In a continued effort to make the facility more resistant to inmate suicide, more plastic composite bunk beds were authorized for installation in 2020. The beds will replace the standard steel beds in the medium-security units, and are designed to reduce potential for injury to self and others. Similar beds were previously installed in all maximum security units, and have proven durable and effective.

# **Jail Reentry**

The Clark County Jail Reentry Program promotes public safety and reduces recidivism by facilitating access to community-based programs and organizations during incarceration.

Reentry focuses on in-custody classes, service referral, behavioral health treatment, peer mentoring

and recovery support services. This voluntary program targets individuals releasing to the Clark County area. The Reentry team is staffed by 4 specialized corrections deputies, a sergeant and 2 Jail Discharge Planners. The Reentry Program partners with over 70 community agencies.

In 2019, the Reentry Program provided over 3,568 hours of direct services to over 5,481 inmates. Programs run concurrently in multiple locations and inmates have opportunities to reengage in services if they return to jail. Additionally, in 2019, the Reentry team responded to 7,238 inmate requests for information and community resources. The Reentry program has multiple elements:

## Day Program

The Day Program classes are managed by the Reentry deputies and sergeant and taught by community partners at the Main Jail and Jail Work Center. Topics include housing assessments and referrals, peer mentoring, Medicaid sign up, free and reduced civil legal resources, driver's license restoration, goal setting, employment, education, library cards, sober support groups and more. The Day Program served over 3,718 inmates in 2019 with 1574 hours of classes.

## Substance Use Disorder Assessments

Substance Use Disorder assessments are provided at no charge to eligible inmates through Sea Mar/Community Services Northwest and funded through Clark County's Department of Community Services. Reentry facilitated 61 substance use disorder assessments in-custody.

## **Housing Assessments**

Housing assessments through the Council for the Homeless help inmates access the coordinated system of housing and homelessness services. Reentry sent 208 packets of information and coordinated 79 new phone assessments. Reentry facilitated referrals to Oxford Housing and local faith-based programs.

## **Employment Preparation Program**

The employment preparation program offers extended classes to teach resume writing, job searching, criminal history in job interviews, conflict management and other skills. The

program is a partnership between Goodwill and Work Source/Washington State Employment Security Division. Employment preparation served 155 inmates in 2019.







## **Grant Programs**

In 2019, Reentry partnered on several grants.

## 1) Reach Too Peer Mentoring Program

Funded by a SAMHSA grant, the Reach Too Program is a collaboration between Consumer Voices are Born (CVAB) and Clark County Jail to connect persons with substance use disorders with peer-based recovery support services during incarceration for post release support. - 587 Persons seen in-custody

#### 2) Pathfinders Peer mentoring Program

Funded by a SAMHSA grant, the Pathfinders Peer Mentoring Program is a collaboration between Sea Mar/ Community Services Northwest and Clark County Jail to connect persons with substance abuse disorders (focus on opioids) with peer-based recovery support services during incarceration for post release support. - 784 persons seen in-custody

## 3) Strategic Treatment Approach to Reentry (STAR) Program

Funded by a SAMHSA grant, the STAR program is a collaboration between Columbia River Mental Health Services, Clark County Jail and NPC Research to provide mediation-assisted treatment in Clark County Jail. Program started in February 2019 - 210 American Society of Addictions Medicine (ASAM) assessments

#### 4) Invictus Project

Funded by a BJA grant, the Invictus Project is a collaboration between Clark County Jail, Columbia River Mental Health Services, Pacific University and NPC Research to serve persons with co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse disorders. Program started in October 2019

#### 5) Overdose 2 Action Grant (OD2A).

Funded by the Center for Disease Control, the OD2A grant is a collaboration with Clark County Public Health to evaluate medication-assisted treatment in Clark County Jail.

## Community Engagement

Although Reentry's primary responsibilities are inside the jail, the Reentry Program relies on partnership with community agencies. The Reentry team facilitates a quarterly meeting averaging 75 attendees per meeting. The Reentry Provider Meeting provides education and networking for community service providers serving adult criminal justice involved populations in Clark County, WA.

## Trainings

The Reentry program supports a range of trainings for the Clark County Sheriff's Office. Reentry coordinates Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) for Corrections training, a 40-hour curriculum on responding to behavioral health crises in correctional facilities. In 2019 the Reentry Program trained 42 corrections deputies in the intensive program. Reentry also trains CCSO new hires and delivers specialized content for community agencies on effective engagement with incarcerated populations.

Additional trainings included presentations on "*Medication Assisted Treatment in Clark County Jail*" and "*Crisis Intervention Team Training for Corrections*" at the CIT International Conference and Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission CIT Regional Conference and SAMHSA's "*How Being Trauma Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Outcomes*" for criminal justice professionals in Thurston County, WA. Additionally, members of the Reentry team were selected to attend technical training on medication-assisted treatment in correctional facilities in Middlesex, MA and consulted on the development of Washington State Department of Social and Health Services Office of Forensic Mental Health Service's guide "*Best Practices for Behavioral Health Services in Jail Settings.*"

# **Jail Population**

| Average Daily Population (ADP) | 635  |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Average Length of Stay         | 18   |
| Average Monthly Bookings       | 1087 |
| Average Monthly Releases       | 1094 |
| Work Release ADP               | 14   |
| Jail Work Center ADP           | 54   |
| Skamania Rented Beds ADP       | 4    |
| Official Jail Bed Count        | 590  |

