

Justice Services Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2021

9:00 am

VIA WEBEX EVENT

I. Meeting Called to Order / Roll Call of Members

Rev. Phillip Duvall - present

Dr. Timothy D. McBride - present

Mr. Jeff Smith – present

Dr. Alexander Garza - present

Ms. Twyla Lee – absent

Ms. Spring Schmidt - absent

Ms. Mary Zabawa Taylor – present

Others present:

Doug Burris –Director of Justice Services

Valerie Nelson – Corrections Medicine, Chief Operating Officer

Beth Orwick – County Counselor’s Office

Penny Martin – Office Manager

Aaron Levin – DJS Research Statistician

Dr. Emily Doucette – Director of Public Health and Primary Care Integration

Ray Barnes – Security Electronics Coordinator

Anthony Weaver – Change Management Coordinator

II. Approval of December 18, 2021 meeting minutes

Jeff Smith motioned to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2021 meeting.

Dr. McBride seconded the motion.

Rev. Duvall made a motion to elect Jeff Smith as the new Advisory Board Chairperson effective beginning with this meeting. Dr. McBride seconded the motion.

All in favor.

III. Discussion of RFP for study of jail and prescription of best practices

Mr. Smith introduced this topic. Mr. Smith stated that this is something that the board has been discussing for months. He stated the board has talked about the need to do a deep dive into how we got here, what some of the challenges have been along the way, where we need to go and how we can get there. Mr. Smith stated that he feels like there needs to be an entity come in, perhaps a national organization that can come in and take a deep dive into our facility and then offer an analysis of best practices around the country in operating a facility that is as humane and effective and safe and does everything possible to reduce the likelihood that people will ever return to the justice system. Mr. Smith stated that he would like to go on the record once again in recommending that the county open up an RFP process to do this.

Dr. Garza stated that he is in favor of this. He stated that the board has been asking for this for a while. He questioned, what is the strategy of the jail, what are we trying to do other than just house inmates?

Dr. McBride stated that he supports this as well. Dr. McBride stated that the board is requesting a timely response to this ask.

Ms. Taylor stated that she does not think this is a different resolution than the one the board passed in August. She stated that we have already put a lot of work into the scope document.

Mr. Smith motioned to request a response from the County to a recommendation that the County open an RFP for a study of the jail and a prescription of the strategy going forward to implement best practices nationally at our facility.

Rev. Duvall seconded the motion.

All in favor.

Ms. Taylor requested when the document is sent with the resolution it also be sent to the County Executive and the County Council.

Mr. Smith responded that he will send it.

IV. DJS Dashboard

Aaron Levin presented the DJS Dashboard

V. Corrections Medicine Dashboard, COVID Status

Ms. Taylor requested that the sentinel events be presented in raw numbers as opposed to percentages. Dr. Garza seconded this request. Ms. Nelson responded that she would update December's date to reflect this.

Dr. Doucette informed the board that Valerie Nelson has accepted a promotion with the Department of Public Health as the Director of Clinical Services. Dr. Doucette

assured the board that Ms. Nelson will stay heavily engaged with the work of corrections medicine. She stated that Ms. Nelson will remain at the jail until her position is filled.

Dr. McBride congratulated Ms. Nelson on her promotion. Dr. McBride questioned what the vaccination take up rate is, what the policy is and what we can do to improve the take up rate.

Dr. Doucette shared the numbers are a bit lower that they had hoped. The uptake rate on the initial offering of the vaccination was about 65 to 70%. She stated that she will have additional data next week.

Dr. Garza stated that the St. Louis County jail should hold itself out to be a best practice for how they have addressed COVID and the prevention of any spread of COVID and should be celebrated. Dr. Garza requested that some of the board members be involved in the interview process to replace Ms. Nelson.

VI. New Business

Mr. Smith shared that he has had a chance over the last several weeks to walk and get to know a lot of folks and see some of the changes that are being made. He stated that he noticed a huge difference in moral from what he witnessed before the pandemic when he walked the floors previously. Mr. Smith shared some of the positive interactions he had with inmates and staff. Some of the comments included that there have been 1,700 video visits, staff are pleased with the PPE they have been provided, they like the new ice machine and Mr. Burris is sending notes to inmate's judges letting them know of their volunteer work and good behavior. He shared that the one consistent comment was that people seem to appreciate the food.

Mr. Smith shared some details of the Second Chance Job Fair through St. Louis University. Mr. Burris has agreed to have every case manager institutionalize a policy where every person leaving would get information about connecting with second chance employers.

VII. Hear Visitors

There were no submissions for this month's meeting.

VIII. Mr. Smith made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to RSMo Sec. 610.21 (1) (3) (5) (13) and (14) and SLCRO Sec. 114.020.1 (1), (3), (13) and (14).

Rev. Duvall seconded the motion.

All in favor.

IX. Closed Session

X. Board returned to Open Session

XI. Set Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting was set for February 26, 2021.

XII. Adjournment