

Justice Services Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2020

8:30 am

VIA WEBEX EVENT

I. Roll call

Rev. Phillip Duvall - present

Dr. Timothy D. McBride - present

Mr. Jeff Smith - present

Dr. Alexander Garza – not present

Ms. Twyla Lee – not present

Ms. Spring Schmidt - present

Ms. Mary Zabawa Taylor – present

Others present:

Darby Howard –Interim Director of Justice Services

Penny Martin – Office Manager

Ray Barnes – Security Electronics Administrator

Valerie Nelson – Corrections Medicine, Chief Operating Officer

Beth Orwick – County Counselor

II. Approval of July 2020 meeting minutes

Rev. Duvall made a motion to approve the July 24, 2020 minutes. Ms. Mary Taylor seconded the motion.

All in favor.

Introduction of visitors. All those present were introduced.

III. Review of language from August 28, 2020 meeting regarding the outside independent investigation of the Department of Justice Services

Rev. Duvall asked Jeff Smith to review the language from the August 28, 2020 meeting. Mr. Smith urged the County Executive to appoint a 3<sup>rd</sup> party with no relationship to St. Louis County government or to the Department of Justice Services. Mr. Smith stated the Advisory Board is urging the County Executive not to limit the investigation to the actions leading to the investigation of former director, Mr.

Banasco, but to investigate a broader scope of incidents that have been relayed both privately to Advisory Board members and in some cases publicly.

IV. Introduction of scope of audit

Ms. Taylor read a letter from the Advisory Board to Dr. Sam Page, St. Louis County Executive. In the letter to Dr. Page dated September 4, 2020 the Advisory Board recommended that the investigation should include:

- 1) Toxic Culture Allegations
- 2) Internal Process for Concerns/Complaints
- 3) External Process for Concerns/Complaints
- 4) Internal Affairs
- 5) Inmate Deaths last 5 years
- 6) Most Recent Director – Allegations and Reforms
- 7) Financial Operations
- 8) Health Care
- 9) Personnel
- 10) Integrity of Reports
- 11) County Counselor’s Office and Justice Services

Rev. Duvall stated that the investigation was not a witch hunt, not personal, and the Advisory Board does not have agenda.

V. Safety concerns of DJS staff and personnel

Rev. Duvall stated it was still being reported by individuals that they feel threatened, harassed and not safe.

Ms. Taylor stated she wanted to encourage people to follow not only the internal reporting mechanism but, also if they feel their personal safety is in jeopardy they should call the police.

Rev. Duvall stated the Advisory Board will continue to work with the County Counselor’s office and encouraged the Board to stay vigilant and focused.

Mr. Darby Howard informed the Advisory Board that he would be stepping down as Justice Services’ Interim Director. He stated that he was truly grateful for the opportunity to serve even for a short time. Mr. Howard stated he would fully support whomever is selected to hold the permanent position of DJS Director as he has all previous Directors.

VI. The Board will consider a vote to meet in closed session pursuant to RSMo Sec. 610.21

(1) (3) (13) and (14) and SLCRO Sec. 114.020.1 1, 3, 13 and 14

The Advisory Board decided not to go into closed session.

VII. Hear visitors.

One letter was read signed by 103 members of the Justice Services' staff.

VIII. Next Board Meeting September 25, 2020

IX. Adjournment