

Justice Services Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2020

9:00 am

VIA WEBEX EVENT

I. Meeting Called to Order / Roll Call of Members

Rev. Phillip Duvall - present

Dr. Timothy D. McBride - absent

Mr. Jeff Smith – present

Dr. Alexander Garza - absent

Ms. Twyla Lee – present (left meeting at 10:15)

Ms. Spring Schmidt - absent

Ms. Mary Zabawa Taylor – present

Others present:

Doug Burris –Director of Justice Services

Darby Howard –Deputy Director of Justice Services

Penny Martin – Office Manager

Ray Barnes – Security Electronics Administrator

Valerie Nelson – Corrections Medicine, Chief Operating Officer

Beth Orwick and Steve Capizzi– County Counselor’s Office

Anthony Weaver – Change Management Coordinator

Aaron Levin – DJS Research Statistician

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

Major Paul Jett – Special Operations for Justice Services

Major Charles McKnight – Support Services for Justice Services

Introductions of all present.

II. Election of New Advisory Board Chairperson

Due to low attendance the election of a new Advisory Board Chairperson was postponed.

III. Approval of October 23, 2020 meeting minutes

Rev. Duvall motioned to approve the minutes from the October 23, 2020 meeting. Ms. Taylor seconded the motion.

All in favor.

IV. Update on Investigations

Ms. Taylor shared that she wanted this on the agenda because she wanted a placeholder for this item. She did not want it to be forgotten that the board unanimously voted on an outside independent investigation. Ms. Taylor stated that even after last month's resolution the board still has not heard anything from the County Executive's office.

Ms. Orwick responded by thanking Ms. Taylor for her comments and always for her concern and for keeping the placeholder. Ms. Orwick stated the personnel legal investigation is still ongoing. She stated the investigation is not finished and they are in the process of wrapping that up. Ms. Orwick shared that Dr. Page asked her to speak on his behalf. She also stated that she has been working with Director Burriss to keep him updated as she can and to keep that line of communication flowing and he has been a great help in furthering our investigation and getting us the information we need to make that happen. She stated that Dr. Page wanted her to convey to the board that it is important to consider the information that we have gleaned from this first personnel legal investigation. Some items it will be important to implement immediately and to not put off and then it will be important to see if Mr. Burriss was able to implement those changes as appropriate and then review that. Ms. Orwick stated that as we are moving forward she believes the take away is that we need to look at the lessons learned from what we have already gathered, see where we are at with that and then in 2021 look over that scope and see what we have already been able to implement and what we have learned and what we can do better. She stated she will do everything she can to continue to share information as it is appropriate ethically and legally.

Ms. Lee stated her position is the same as it has been since day one. She said the information that we get is often from the news, the St. Louis Post Dispatch. She feels that we are just here to sit and listen to what is being told and there is no way to know if this is factual or if this actually happened. She stated she is not sure if what we are doing is actually the reason why the board was formed.

Mr. Smith stated that he is pleased with the initiatives that the board is hearing about from the Justice Services' new leadership but, he believes the board all agree that there are systemic issues that have been going on for years and years and the departure of one, or two, or three individuals that may result from the personnel investigation are probably insufficient to address those issues. He stated he echoes the continued broader concern and an interest in not allowing the short term personnel

investigation to interfere with a larger external assessment as to how we got here and how some of the specific personnel issues that he is sure will be eliminated, how those were allowed to persist as long as they did.

Rev. Duvall asked if there were any timelines as to the investigation being completed and how the information will be given to the public. Ms. Orwick replied that information would be inappropriate to discuss in a public forum. She stated she would not want to compromise what they are working towards from a legal point of view.

#### V. Review of Standard Board Communications

Ms. Taylor shared that she has been working with Ms. Schmidt in an effort to streamline and make it easier to understand and get input from the board about standard board communications. She stated the intent is to set expectations for all of us. Ms. Taylor shared that this is something they will be working on for the next month.

Ms. Taylor shared an email from board member Dr. McBride where he states that although the board receives immediate notification of an inmate's death he does not believe there has been follow up board sessions as protocol dictates.

Mr. Smith wondered how the board knows when to close an investigation. He questioned whether there would be a resolution made at the board meeting. Ms. Smith shared one of the concerns he has heard is that there is inadequate communication to the families after an inmate death or a sentinel event. He believes there may be a chart showing a timeline of communication and if so he would like to see that. Mr. Smith stated that he would love to see a development of a family communication policy.

Rev. Duvall stated that he is looking forward to a robust conversation with Director Burris about this. Ms. Taylor stated that she would share her document on Standard Board Communications with markups to Director Burris for review.

#### VI. Update on Most Recent Inmate Death

Rev. Duvall spoke about a recent article in the St Louis Post Dispatch and was troubled by one of the public comments about medical concerns and this raised some additional questions and concerns.

Dr. Doucette shared that the autopsy report has been completed on the death that occurred in the jail on May 15, 2020. She stated that the autopsy report is a public document as autopsy reports do not fall under the protection of HIPPA laws although medical records do.

Dr. Doucette shared that the pathologist determined the cause of death of Mr. Williams to be cardio myopathy exacerbated by opioid use. Dr. Doucette stated that no breaches in protocol or policies were found in their assessment or any gaps in care decisions that were made.

VII. DJS Dashboard

Aaron Levin presented the DJS Dashboard

VIII. Jail Census Status – 945 total inmates, 881 Male, 64 Female

Federal Inmate Count – 132

IX. Use of Force Policy

Twyla Lee left the meeting and the meeting continued without a quorum.

Mr. Burris asked for the board’s advice concerning the Use of Force Policy update. He shared that the “Responding to Subject Behavior” program that two of our Majors attended last month has volunteered to come and provide the training for us. Justice Services would only have to pay for mileage, food and lodging.

Rev. Duvall stated that he would like to have a meeting with Major McKnight who attended the training in Nashville and Mr. Burris to discuss Major McKnight’s experience at the training so that he has a clearer understanding of what the approach is going to be and more importantly the roll out of the training, etc. Rev. Duvall stated in essence if this is something that can be scheduled and is within the budget then please go ahead.

Ms. Taylor inquired whether incident reports would still be required. Mr. Burris responded that absolutely that would be imperative. He cannot imagine us having a policy that does not include incident reports.

Mr. Smith stated that he is thrilled, he thought it was going to be expensive.

Mr. Burris stated that he would be working with Valerie Nelson because a lot of this training is to identify behavior issues instead of being controlled. Mr. Burris stated that he imagined our psych visits would go up so, Ms. Nelson would be included in any implementation.

X. Employee and Volunteer Surveys

Director Burris stated that the number of current inactive volunteers that were shared with him by the previous administration is 329. The active volunteers listed are 283. Mr. Burris stated that he would like to reach out to those on the inactive list to see if they would like to return.

Ms. Taylor stated that she would not assume that those on the inactive list know that they are on the inactive list. She shared that previously there were letters sent out that not everyone received. Ms. Taylor stated that she would be happy to help make phone calls to reach out to the inactive volunteers to see if they would be willing to continue volunteering.

XI. Phone Contract

Mr. Burris stated that the RFP for the phone contract should be posted in December or early January.

Ray Barnes shared an update on the camera installation. Mr. Barnes and members of Unique Security have been pulling cable for approximately three weeks. Four cameras have been put up on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor as that floor was empty. This was a test to see how the housing units looked and he shared that it is a game changer, the camera views are showing nearly every angle. He shared the work is continuing with a bigger crew after the holiday. Mr. Barnes stated that they are still on track for completion in February.

XII. New Business

Mr. Burris stated he was pleased to report that the Justice Services' coat drive was completely successful and we received hundreds of coats. This was spearheaded by the Clark Fox Family Foundation who adopted us in this project. Mr. Burris stated that we have enough coats to get through this winter with the exception of some 3X and 4X coats.

Mr. Burris shared that he has been monitoring the food provided by Trinity and he is impressed with the quality of food and he will start taking pictures and sending them to the board. He stated that the intent of Trinity to start providing training and a certificate program for those residents working in the kitchen is moving forward and Mr. Burris is meeting with a major employer who is interested in hiring people who are released with that certificate.

XIII. Hear Visitors

One emailed submission from the public was read.

XIV. The Board will consider a vote to meet in 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)

The Advisory Board decided not to go into closed session.

XV. Set Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting was tentatively set for December 18, 2020.

XVI. Adjournment

