

Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 30, 2007 1:00pm
Ahern Building, Unity NH

Attending: Ken Ricci & Laura Maiello – Ricci Greene Associates, Supt. Ross Cunningham, Capt. Milliken, Lt. Roberts, John Gramuglia, Lori Keefe, Ed Gil de Rubio – County Manager, Commissioners Nelson, Jarvis & Barrette, County Attorney Marc Hathaway, Sheriff Michael Prozzo, Butch Estey, Jim Peale, Sherrie Curtis, Cindy Vezina

1. Commissioner Nelson welcomed everyone and stated that this was a meeting to discuss the follow-up work that Ricci Greene was charged with providing at the CJCC meeting on August 29, 2007.
2. Mr. Gil de Rubio recapped the original proposal/design presented by RGA with a project cost of \$45 million. Mr. Gil de Rubio stated that the goal of today's meeting was to present the revised project to the CJCC along with the understanding of what it would "cost to do nothing". It is the hope of all involved that the CJCC would make the recommendation to move forward by presenting the new proposal to the delegation in January.
3. Supt. Cunningham stated that the redesign is more palatable, and more functional to the needs of the county. The new design calls for the community corrections center to be separate from the main jail facility yet still on grounds to save cost on site work. The redesign focuses on programs and rehabilitation as the main function of the jail system as a whole. It is based on a graduated system that allows offenders to move through a series of phases within the jail with an emphasis on programming and behavior modification. The system would allow for offenders to be rewarded for participation and good behavior or "set back" in the system to correct poor behavior/non-participation.
Ken Ricci said the new proposal is more than a redesign it is a rethinking on the part of the corrections management team and staff. It symbolizes that we heard the delegates and the CJCC members when they said to cut back on the dollars without compromising the integrity of the programming aspect and gender equality. The redesign leaves the door open for the renting of beds and for future expansion. The community corrections center would be a residential grade construction which saves on cost. Supt. Cunningham explained the cost reduction scenario slides. New proposal reduces project by \$7 million with a total project cost of \$38.4 million.
4. Commissioner Nelson asked if the operational cost were addressed with the redesign. Was there a decrease in staff costs? Supt. Cunningham stated that he would not be asking for a reduction in staff. With the combination of units to reduce the size of the facility, 2 staff members would be needed in that unit to effectively manage the population housed there.
Commissioner Barrette asked if there was an operational cost of the new facility per bed. Ms. Maiello said it could be figured out by taking 166 beds x 365 days divided by the operating costs.

Supt. Cunningham reviewed the operational cost offset strategies with a potential annual offset of \$809,015.

5. Laura Maiello reviewed the Human Cost of doing nothing. If we do not address socioeconomic issues faced by the inmate population, we will continue to recycle the same people and future generations through the jail. We need to institute programs to break the cycle. The new jail addresses these issues through a graduated system and aftercare of offenders released back to the community.
6. John Gramuglia, Programs Coordinator, addressed the treatment vision of the new jail. The figure of 77% of the current population having multiple entries into the Sullivan County DOC is a tremendous indicator of the need to change patterns. Currently there is one clinician (himself) and treatment focuses on male only programs. The female inmates have no real transition piece out of the main facility. The addition of the program trailer has helped to manage programs but is still off limits to females & pretrial as they can't be classified properly. We currently offer services to inmates. We want to offer programming which is vastly different. Programming is structured and runs 24 hours per day. Make jail hard work not a period of "rest" for the population.
7. Marc Hathaway addressed liability issues – read from Fire Marshall and State Electrical reports on life safety and overcrowding issues. No smoke detection or smoke evacuation systems in place. No sprinkler systems in place. Employees have to enter the area to manually open doors to evacuate inmates. Individually the issues may not seem overwhelming but taken in combination they propose deep concern. There is a real risk for liability and damages. A recent assault of an inmate resulted in plastic surgery with medical bills that could reach \$60,000. The possibility of a civil suit is very real. It is false comfort to bear the thinking that just because it hasn't happened yet it won't. The inability to classify to ensure that like inmates are housed appropriately is a huge liability and is not defensible in civil court. The gender equality issues for females housed in Sullivan County are a concern for a class action suit. This would result in Federal mandates being issued and the county loses control over the cost. There is an incentive for attorneys to file class action suits as they can recoup actual costs for representation not a percentage of the overall suit. Despite best intentions and practices we are heading toward litigation. The Fire Marshall and State Electrical Inspections were not solicited by the DOC; rather they were a result of an inmate via his mother sending a letter outlining deficiencies. Corrections management has done a good job to date managing against civil liability but now that the jail study, meeting minutes, fire/electrical reports, etc are on file the County is on notice to correct issues. Continued failure to act will be potential suit for liability under deliberate indifference.
8. Mr. Gil de Rubio asked if there were any questions by those present prior to having a recap. The Sheriff asked to make a statement – he applauds the Superintendent and DOC staff for the redesign and making the project a feasible number. He was asked to sit on the CJCC due to his experience and expertise in law enforcement. He understands that the jail project is not something that is welcomed with open arms but it is necessary and needs to be done now. It is up to the CJCC and the Board of Commissioners to promote, endorse the project at this

critical point to the community as they want to see something positive. The project has been steadied as far as it can be. We need to move forward to the Delegation. We are at the Y in the road. Nothing will change with inaction except the cost to build will increase. Tell elected officials it is their responsibility to forward and fund the jail project. Sheriff Prozzo also stated that he was a member of the statewide committee that studied how efficient NH Government is. It was determined by the committee that overall local government practices are doing well. He stated the committee results had not been made official yet, but that he felt the climate in the community was positive toward change.

9. Marc Hathaway states that Human Services costs are sky high. Social and Economic issues need to be addressed on a greater scale. Promoting a jail system that addresses these issues through programming, life skills, etc will offset the cost on the human services side. We are all committed but need the tools to follow through.
10. Mr. Gil de Rubio provided a recap of the project and goals. Supt. Cunningham states that the Community Corrections Center is the hub of the project of which the rest will circle around. If programming and the jail are managed correctly, we should not reach the bed cap (addressed Comm. Barrette's concern). Discussion ensued on bed cap, population management, etc. Atty. Hathaway made the point that we may reach the bed cap of 166 in 10 years, but currently we are double plus over capacity. With the new build if we reached cap in 10 years we would still be ahead of the game.
11. Commissioner Jarvis mentioned the possibility of combining projects with Cheshire. This has been discussed and Cheshire has no interest in combining projects.
12. Mr. Gramuglia states that it is not a matter of if a jail is built but when. Cheshire hesitated and it has taken their project 10 years to move forward at a cost millions over the original proposal.
13. Atty. Hathaway moved to have the CJCC accept and recommend to the Commissioners and Delegation the need for a new Sullivan County Jail and to further recommend the plan as presented today by Ricci Greene Associates and Supt. Cunningham. Lt. Roberts seconded. Vote taken – all responded with aye. Motion so moved.
14. The above motion will be placed on the Commissioners agenda for the next meeting scheduled in November.
15. Commissioner Jarvis moved to adjourn. Seconded by Capt. Milliken. All ayes. Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm/.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Keefe, Corrections Secretary