

Justice Services Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

May 29, 2020

9:00 am

VIA WEBEX EVENT

I. Roll call

Rev. Phillip Duvall - present

Dr. Timothy D. McBride - present

Mr. Jeff Smith - present

Dr. Alexander Garza - present

Ms. Twyla Lee - arrived late

Ms. Spring Schmidt - arrived late

Ms. Mary Zabawa Taylor – not present

II. Opening remarks from Director Raul S. Banasco, Department of Justice Services

Mr. Banasco praised the collaborative efforts of the Justice Services staff, Corrections Medicine, the Prosecuting Attorneys' office, the Judges of St. Louis County and Law Enforcement Agencies during these challenging times due to COVID 19.

Mr. Banasco stated that there are no positive cases among inmates in the jail.

III. Mr. Banasco stated the Jail Census is 747 inmates today. 693 males and 54 females.

Mr. Banasco spoke about an update to our website, basically our version of the Dashboard. This will be updated daily for the public. More information will come next week.

Rev. Garza asked if all inmates had been tested for COVID 19. Mr. Banasco stated that Valerie Nelson, Chief Operating Officer of Corrections Medicine will speak to that.

Dr. McBride stated it was great news that there were no cases among the inmates. He applauds the idea of a new Justice Services Dashboard. He was also thankful for the periodic reports he receives from Mr. Banasco keeping him up to date.

Mr. Banasco spoke about how the Corrections staff are First Responders.

Dr. McBride agreed that Corrections staff are First Responders and spoke of a Washington University study on First Responders.

Dr. McBride said it looks like the Jail Census numbers are down. He wondered if this was due to an effort to release inmates.

Mr. Banasco said Dr. Page in his great wisdom was able to get ahead of the situation. He said that those inmates that were diverted were part of a strategic, methodical process. He said the Choices staff has stayed in contact with those released and we have not seen any reoccurrences among those released.

- IV. Dr. McBride spoke of the measures being taken to reduce the spread of COVID 19 such as decreased visitors and decreased outside contact and he wondered about the mental health of the inmates.

Mr. Banasco spoke to the mental health of inmates and staff. He stated the inmate population and staff are all going through this together. He stated we have implemented a new commissary service. The new commissary service will provide the service up to 3 or 4 days per week instead of just one day per week. The inmates have increased access to phone calls. He spoke about a program that we have requested funding for to provide tablets for the inmates. He stated, as always the inmates have accessibility to health and mental services.

Mr. Smith made the comment that these are vulnerable times and with a population that is already feeling isolated due to the restricted flow of visitors and communication he wants us to encourage the staff to be as attentive as possible to our population that is disproportionately affected by behavioral health challenges.

- V. Valerie Nelson gave an update of the Corrections Medicine Dashboard. She stated for the most part we are not seeing a difference in the kinds of medical conditions people are coming through with.

Dr. McBride asked if as we are seeing a reduction in the community of emergency visits, elective surgery and doctor visits he wondered if we are seeing that in the jail as well.

Valerie Nelson stated that is not the case inside our facility. She stated we are doing more visits to the inmates and we do have fewer patients in the waiting room. She stated our medical services to inmates has not stopped.

Dr. Garza stated that there is a tremendous decrease in people seeking medical care. He stated we have seen a 50% drop in Emergency Room visits. He asked if we are being a little more conservative in sending inmates out for care.

Valerie Nelson stated that our service are remaining the same. We are more aware but, when an inmate needs to go we send them.

Valerie Nelson stated we are currently short staffed and we are actively recruiting.

Dr. Garza inquired if we had any CARES dollars set aside for the jail.

Valerie Nelson responded that we are working with procurement and we have developed a wish list. We are waiting for funding to come through.

VI. COVID-19 Overview

We have no inmates who have tested positive for COVID19.

The first test for COVID 19 was conducted on April 7<sup>th</sup>. We conducted 146 tests. During intake if the inmate self- reported or had symptoms observed they were fast tracked to the Infirmary which has a negative pressure room.

Between May 22<sup>nd</sup> and May 27<sup>th</sup> we conducted a large scale testing of asymptomatic inmates. The results were all negative. Next week we will continue this testing floor by floor.

The new orientation pod have all been tested for COVID 19. New inmates are tested on the first day unless they come in on the weekend.

Dr. Garza asked Ms. Nelson when she expected to have all of the testing done.

Ms. Nelson stated the testing would be done within two weeks. She briefly explained our screening process.

Dr. McBride asked for our plan if we did have a positive case. Ms. Nelson explained this process.

Ms. Nelson stated we are still in discussions as to when we can open up to the public again.

Ms. Nelson discussed the testing process for Justice Service Center employees.

VII. Rev. Duvall thanked Ms. Nelson for her very thorough report.

Rev. Duvall thanked Ms. Nelson and Director Banasco for keeping the Board updated during this time.

Rev. Duvall reminded the Board to be patient and mindful when communicating.

VIII. Rev. Duvall made a request for a motion to approve the past minutes.

Mr. Smith had an objection to passing the minutes from the closed session in February.

Dr. McBride had an objection as well.

Mr. Capizzi said that open meeting minutes should be discussed in open session and closed meeting minutes should be discussed only in closed session. This would have to be addressed in a closed session.

Dr. Garza motioned for approval of the open minutes from January and February.

Dr. McBride seconded that motion.

Rev. Duvall – Yea

Mr. Smith – Yea

Spring Schmidt – Yea

Ms. Twyla Lee - Yea

After discussion with Mr. Capizzi it was decided to begin the June meeting and then a Board member could move and the Board could vote to go into a closed meeting session.

- IX.       Set next Board meeting.  
Next Board meeting will be June 26, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
- X.       Adjournment  
Rev. Duvall motioned to adjourn  
Seconded by Ms. Schmidt