

Jackson County Jail Task Force

Approved Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2018 at 1:30 PM
Gregg/Klice Community Center

Attendees:

John Fierro, Co-Chair
Dr. Gayle Holliday, Co-Chair
Alvin Brooks, Committee Member
Alissia Canady, Committee Member
Dr. Karen Curls, Committee Member
Niki Lee Donawa, Committee Member
Brandon Ellington, Committee Member
Brent Morris, Committee Member
Capt. Doug Niemeier, Committee Member
Lisa Pelofsky, Committee Member
Mike Schumacher, Committee Member
Mike Sharp, Committee Member
Ralph Monaco, Committee Member
Frank White, Jr., County Executive
Marshanna Hester, Public Information Officer
Angie Jeffries, Director of Communications
Gary Panethiere, Chief Operating Officer
Laci Beavers, Department of Communications
Brian Johnson, Department of Corrections
Diana Turner, Acting Director of the Department of Corrections
Brian Gaddie, Director of Public Works

Regrets:

Carol Coe, Committee Member
Judge John Torrence, Committee Member
Joseph Megerman, Committee Member
Scott Burnett, Committee Member

Meeting was called to order by Co-Chairs John Fierro and Dr. Gayle Holliday.

County Executive Frank White, Jr. opens the meeting with welcome.

Introductions by the committee members.

Approval of the agenda. Motion was made by Ralph Monaco. Motion was seconded by Dr. Karen Curls. All in favor for approval.

Approval of the minutes from the December 20 meeting. Motion was made by Alissia Canady. Motion was seconded by Brent Morris. All in favor for approval.

Jackson County Director of Public Works, Brian Gaddie, presents the status of current Request for Quote (RFQ) process for master planning services in regards to the corrections facility. Submission deadline has ended and four respondents turned in proposals.

Handouts were given to each member. Page 12 included a basic schedule of services; a master plan, analysis and approach on how to move forward. It is expected that Jackson County will initiate this service in early February, stretching through June of this year.

Pages 13-17 included the scope of work for the project.

Phase 1 – Justice Systemic Analysis. This will look at every phase of the correctional discipline from law enforcement, apprehension, incarceration and duration of stay as an inmate, legal services, sentencing, relocation, etc.

Phase 2 – Feasibility. Applying our knowledge into long term solution. This information includes the alternative analysis – no build with renovations to the existing facility or proposal of a new building.

Phase 3 – Long Term. Once a solution decision is made by the governing bodies, along with public education, we move forward with that type of decision.

Dr. Karen Curls ask how does this [awarded] consult compliment what [the task force] is doing or are they doing something totally separate and apart? Brian Gaddie responded that he envisioned the consultant would collaborate with the body. Consultant is considered a stakeholder.

Sheriff Mike Sharp asked if anyone has reached out to outside agencies, other than the Kansas City Police Department, to other law enforcement agencies in Jackson County to be a part of this process? Brian Gaddie explained that the local agency input would be a part of the scoping study that will be conducted. At this time, those agencies have not yet been notified, but will. Sheriff Sharp added that in his opinion, a regional jail facility would have to include every law enforcement agency in the county of Jackson. Thousands of dollars are spent annually with outsourcing prisoners and those are county dollars going outside the county and those are county jobs that aren't being kept here in the county.

Co-chairs Fierro and Holliday asked how many respondents did the RFQ have and their names? Brian Gaddie explained there were four respondents, but he did not have the names yet and hope to be able to provide that information by January 16.

Dr. Gayle Holliday reiterated that she was still unclear how the work of the task force will interface with the consultants work. She mentioned that it would be critical to this committee that whatever master plan would be recommended, by anyone that is selected, would automatically include some of the recommendations from this committee.

Dr. Karen Curls mentioned that she is still puzzled because a lot of the demographics information that the consultants will be researching are some of what the subcommittees are already assigned to do. It seems that there is some kind of duplication here of effort. Dr. Curls mentioned at the last meeting it may be a little premature to bring in consultants without our work being done. How we are delineating the consulting group's work versus what we are charged to do.

Brian Johnson addresses Dr. Curls' questions by stating that the consultant would best act as an extension of himself for administrative support and to curate data for use of the committee.

Dr. Gayle Holliday brings page 16 into discussion in regards to the list of items. Where would the committee's work fit within this list of items? In particular, Offender Population?

Brian Johnson states that is up to us as a body to work with consultant to determine that fit. There will be some fit and overlap at a higher level. As a group after the consultant is selected, then part of the responsibility will be to work with them to really iron out the details.

Co-chair John Fierro adds that the consultant should be viewed as an additional resource to us as a body.

Next agenda item is the Facility Condition Assessment, presented by HOK.

Reports and presentation were made available to the committee members and are online <http://www.jacksongov.org/938/Jail-Task-Force>

In conclusion, it was recommended by HOK that even if the appropriate improvements were made to the existing buildings, the buildings would still not meet the 2018 national standards, nor would the renovations solve the issue of overcrowding in the facility. See presentation online for full presentation <http://www.jacksongov.org/938/Jail-Task-Force>

Moving forward, members Brandon Ellington, Alissia Canady and Dr. Gayle Holliday want to be sure that goals are set for MBEs and WBEs standards for all future contracts involving the jail. Currently, Jackson County follows the same policy for MBE and WBE vendors as Kansas City. Co-chair Holliday asked, that moving forward, MBE and WBE inclusion language is included in future proposals. She offered that the committee would like to see goals set for each RFQ, to be evaluated based on the availability of MBE/WBEs.

County Executive stated that such goals are set by the county legislature and he would be happy to work on this request with them.

Co-chair John Fierro asked for reports of the Subcommittees.

Offender Housing

Dr. Karen Curls – Committee held a conference call on January 9. Niki Dowana, Brent Morris and Dr. Karen Curls attended the call. Determined the data needed for their evaluation. The subcommittee focused on some more specific concerns and looked at the ADA requirements of chronic medical need and diverse population within the facility. The committee requested the present population study of the Jackson County jail. It was the intent to look at like jails and populations nationwide and see what they programs and policies they are using.

Committee member Niki Dowana provided a few studies for discussion as it relates to a jail may be considered a 'hospital' for mental and behavioral health and there are some synergies. Committee will look at hospital processes and make recommendation for the processes at the jail for intake and screening.

Q&A to the committee – Brandon Ellington asked about the intake as it relates to transgender.

Dr. Curls added they are researching this topic – How are these persons screened? Are they self-identified? And what is the process?

Brian Johnson added the committee needs to look at the data and recommended or help suggest a process.

Intergovernmental Concerns

Alissia Canady presented the scope of work for their subcommittee and looking at capacity considerations. They are having conversations with the courts in regards to factors city offenses versus county offenses, creating transparency on how long offenders are in custody. They will look at bond considerations and other alternatives.

Population Control

Ralph Monaco stated the committee met and is researching and reviewing what peer communities are dealing with these issues? Moving forward, they will look at the input of all of the stakeholders, especially law enforcement agencies.

Co-chair Dr. Holliday made announcements. She asked that any major requests please bring those in writing and pass to Angie and Brian.

Please let the committee know if additional staffing is needed for subcommittee meetings.

Subcommittee Chairs – cross pollination of committees will be critical. Please entertain having a joint meeting, as necessary for areas that may overlap.

Reminder, Education for the public is critical for the County Executive. We are planning 2-3 public hearings for the various legislative districts. The co-chairs are working on a tentative schedule.

County Executive Frank White, Jr. thanked the committee for meeting and encouraged them to keep in touch outside of the regular scheduled meetings.

Angie Jeffries updated the committee on the schedule of upcoming meetings. Remaining meetings will be held at Mid America Regional Council building.

Co-chairs ask for motions to adjourn. Motion made by Alvin Brooks. A second motion was made by Dr. Karen Curls.