**CLARK COUNTY CORRECTION FACILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**Clark County Council Chambers Public Service Center**

**1300 Franklin Street**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**May 22, 2018**

**3:00pm – 6:00pm**

**Attendance**

Commission: Commission Chair Craig Pridemore (At-Large), Louis Byrd (Byrd Legal Services), Carmen Carabello (Esther Short Neighborhood Association), Bob Carroll (IBEW 48), Judge Scott Collier (Clark County Superior Court), Roger Entrekin (Meadow Glade Neighborhood Association), Vanessa Gaston (Clark County DCS), Tony Golik (Clark County Prosecuting Attorney), Eric Holmes (City of Vancouver), Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle (City of Vancouver), Dr. Alan Melnick (Clark County Public Health), David Scott (City of Washougal), Peter Seeley (Providence), Councilor Melissa Smith (City of Camas), Greg Thornton (City of La Center), Scott Weber (Clark County)

Officials/Staff/Interested Parties: County Chair Boldt (Clark County), Marlia Jenkins (Clark County), Erik Jensen (Jensen Strategies), Alice Cannon (Jensen Strategies), Lindsey Shafar (Clark County), Paul Doughes (Clark County Corrections), Mike Bomar (Port of Vancouver), Jake Thomas (The Columbian), Jim Rumpeltes, (Clark County)

**Welcome/Opening Remarks**

The meeting was opened at 3:02 p.m. by Chair Pridemore. Meeting minutes from the May 8, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously by the Commission. Chair Pridemore thanked everyone who participated in the jail tour on May 15th, especially the staff who helped organize the trip.

**Agenda Review and Meeting Objectives**

Erik Jensen reviewed the agenda and meeting objectives. At the May 8th meeting the Commission learned the history and best practices associated with correctional facilities. Later at the May 8th meeting the Commission broke into small groups, where each group identified additional categories of information that will be needed prior to making a recommendation on a correctional facility. The objective for the May 22 meeting is to:

1. Debrief the jail tour and discuss the overall need for an upgraded or new correctional facility.
2. Hear perspectives from two of the Commission’s members -- Prosecuting Attorney Tony

Golik and Defense Attorney Louis Byrd.

1. Have small group discussions to identify the Commission’s values for addressing the jail need.

**Jail Tour Debrief**

Erik Jensen called upon each Commission member who attended the tour to share their insights from the tour. The following observations and insights were shared by Commission members:

* One Commissioner noticed similar population trends between the two jails yet observed “night and day” differences with jail design and operations between Washington County and Clark County jails.
* The atmosphere was calmer and brighter in Washington County, while the design of the Clark County jail contributed to a darker, crowded and seemingly chaotic environment.
* Based on this tour, one Commissioner saw the need to “get it right” with future jail design – designing for 20-50 years into the future. This member observed a lack of civility between jail inmates in Clark County, while Washington County inmates behaved more calmly. Washington County’s pod-design uses space and staff resources more efficiently.
* One Commissioner was impressed with the quality of professional staff in both Clark County and Washington County. Clark County’s Jail Work Center appears to offer a positive environment for successful reentry into the community. The reentry programs at the main Clark County jail were also very impressive, given their limited space for operations.
* Another Commissioner noted huge improvements at the Clark County jail over the past four years, since his last tour of the facility. Staff at the Clark County jail are working hard to improve conditions for inmates. An improved design would make a tremendous difference for future jail operations.

The group unanimously saw the need for an updated or new jail facility but have questions that should be addressed prior to making a formal CFAC recommendation to the County Council. To inform design and capacity considerations, the Commission wishes to understand more about the inmate population demographic projections and service needs. The Commission also wants a chance to evaluate the information identified by small groups at the May 8 Commission meeting.

**Presentation: Prosecuting Attorney Perspective and Needs**

Presenter and CFAC member Tony Golik provided a PowerPoint presentation with background about the role of the prosecuting attorney. He also presented detailed information about sentencing guidelines and trends in court filings for various classifications of felonies and misdemeanors. Commission members directed questions about sentencing guidelines to Mr. Golik and Judge Scott Collier. Washington’s sentencing guidelines were created to build consistency statewide and reduce racial and other social disparities. Another Commission member asked if other counties in Washington are struggling with jail space needs. Mr. Golik stated that this is a common issue for counties statewide.

**Presentation: Defense Attorney Perspective and Needs**

Presenter and CFAC member Louis Byrd offered his perspectives about how the current jail and court system impact the work of his professional colleagues. Mr. Byrd said Washington’s rigid sentencing guidelines are burdensome for defense attorneys, especially when the sentence doesn’t match the crime. He stated Clark County has an “aged-out” jail that is beyond capacity.

He asked the Commission to identify the core value that the new jail will address. He asked which crimes can be diverted with a new or updated jail? The policy in Clark County requires incarceration until the first appearance. This policy is different than Oregon’s Washington County. This policy impacts the overall jail population.

Mr. Byrd listed several jail design features and enhancements that would be helpful to inmates and defense attorneys in an upgraded or new jail. They include:

* More direct contact visitation rooms, without plexiglass barriers;
* More visitation hours, especially in the middle of the day, between the morning and afternoon court sessions;
* Internet and phone access in visitation rooms;
* Provide video visit options for inmates; and
* Offer more efficient retrieval of clients. This issue can be a huge strain on time for defense attorneys.

Mr. Byrd offered programmatic questions and suggestions he believes could reduce lengths of stay for jail inmates. He asked how much discretion is available for setting bail. He also wondered how the length of stay in Clark County compares to other counties in Washington? Mr. Byrd and Mr. Golik indicated that Yakima and Spokane are experimenting with some alternative bail-setting programs to reduce lengths of stay. He wondered if more information can be gathered about these programs.

Mr. Byrd asked if the County would consider offering more “book and release” of inmates when the jail is at capacity. Mr. Golik stated that book and release is currently offered in circumstances when the jail is at capacity or other situations that require staff discretion.

**Small Group Discussion: Values for Addressing the Jail Need**

The Commission was split into three groups (green, red, yellow). Each group was asked to identify values that should be considered when forming a CFAC recommendation to the County Council toward the best outcome for:

1. Improved Facility Design
2. Jail Capacity
3. Services to support the jail – both inside the jail and in the community

**Red Group – a summary of values recorded from discussion**

* The jail should be designed to consider human health and safety;
* Incarceration should be a last resort;
* Services should be right-sized to meet current needs;
* The jail and its services should be connected to the community;
* Services should be designed to teach, guide and help;
* A trauma-informed approach to services could be responsive to many inmates who have experienced past trauma; and
* Discipline programs in the jail should be incentive-based.

**Green Group—a summary of values recorded from discussion**

A new jail design process should:

* Identify wants vs. needs;
* Be financially justifiable;
* Meet all user needs;
* Provide compassionate services to inmates;
* Address staff safety;
* Consider Public Safety;
* Create safe working/living conditions for staff;
* Provide coordinated services;
* Provide sufficient space and amenities to support service delivery;
* Offer flexibility in design for future needs;
* Use successful programs and design features from other communities;
* Focus on reducing recidivism;
* Be fiscally prudent;
* Offer a community-compatible design;
* Develop operating costs that are efficient and sustainable;
* Be compatible with all courts and all related facilities;
* Provide technology integration;
* Maximize use of alternative sentencing and diversion programs; and
* Be designed with external service providers in mind

**Yellow Group—a summary of values recorded from discussion**

**Improved facility design should address the following:**

* Community Design;
* Aesthetics
* Location
* Number of sites
* Efficiency
* Humane environments; and
* Community safety for both citizens and jail employees

**To address jail capacity:**

* Designs should be flexible and scalable; and
* The need for court space should also be a related consideration.

**Services – both inside the jail and in the community should be:**

* More plentiful than is currently offered;
* Proactive;
* Integrated with the community; and
* Congruent with jail capacity

**Category Added by the Group – The Community should:**

* Pursue a proposal that is supported by the voters;
* Seek an outcome/results-driven proposal;
* Expect sustainable and resilient capital and operating costs

Erik Jensen concluded the small group process, thanking everyone for participating. Jensen indicated that Jensen Strategies will compile all the value statements/phrases and assign them to categories. A summary will be shared at the June 12th meeting.

**Closing Remarks and adjournment**

Chair Pridemore adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m.