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RESEARCH DIVISION**

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**SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO REVIEW JSO PRIMARY FACILITIES:
WORKING GROUP ON INTAKE, ADJUDICATION AND REHABILITATION**

Meeting Minutes

**September 22, 2023
9:00 a.m.**

Location: Lynwood Roberts Room, 1st floor, City Hall

In attendance: Council Members Jimmy Peluso and Michael Boylan; Charlie Cofer, Public Defender; Chief Kina Paschal, JSO Programs & Transitional Services Division; Coral Messina, SAO; Reggie Fullwood, Operation New Hope; Claude Colvin, Chief Deputy Courthouse Security; David Kilcrease, MHOP and former JSO Assistant Chief; Judge Salem (Zoom); Mone Holder (Zoom)

Also: Carla Lopera, OGC; Colleen Hampsey, Council Research Division

Meeting Convened: 9:00 a.m.

Chairman Peluso convened the meeting and called for introductions. For the purposes of this working group, CM Peluso and Mr. Cofer are official members subject to the Sunshine Law restrictions on communication and all others are serving as subject matter experts. CM Peluso invited interested attendees to join a courthouse tour on September 26 at 7:00 am.

Charlie Cofer, Public Defender, gave a detailed description of a defendant's experience from arrest to intake at the jail. Mr. Cofer talked about different types of arrest warrants and probable cause arrests. For probable cause arrests, the arresting officer completes an arrest and booking report, approved by the zone sergeant, that includes a narrative of the incident, charges, identification, witnesses, and victims. The defendant is frisked, handcuffed and transported to jail. Upon arrival at the jail, the defendant is fingerprinted, given a wristband with an identifying number and personal items are confiscated. The docket is then sent to the identification section at JSO, that confirms the defendant's identity and checks for outstanding warrants.

Depending on the charges, the defendant may undergo testing for intoxication. They are all given medical evaluations and receive treatment if necessary at Shands Hospital. For those exhibiting risks of self-harm, there is a Baker Act assessment. The defendants receive jail clothing and are given an opportunity for a phone call. All defendants are scheduled for first appearance in court within 24 hours of their arrest, these are held twice daily even on holidays and during hurricanes. First appearances are frequently referred to as J-1, based on the number assigned to the room used for the proceedings. The JSO identification section shares the arrest report with the State Attorney's Office, the Clerk of Courts, Public Defender, and domestic violence shelters if applicable.

Defendants remain on the main floor of the jail awaiting their first appearance, which is done through video conferencing (began during Covid, remains the current practice) with judges and others who are located at the courthouse. During first appearance, probable cause is assessed, bond is set, and counsel is assigned if needed. CM Boylan asked about volume and capacity, specifically how many defendants are cycled through per day. Mr. Cofer said that in each first appearance session there may be between 25-110 defendants, with 2 sessions held per day. Some misdemeanors can be resolved at first appearance but not felonies. CM Peluso asked about the average time for case disposition, which varies. Mr. Cofer said he will provide data on the lengths of disposition time. CM Boylan asked about the space used for medical evaluations at the time of booking. Mr. Cofer said the space is small and that there are often backlogs due to space and staff deficits.

Coral Messina, SAO, noted that the process for juveniles is different. Juvenile defendants are primarily taken to the Duval Regional Juvenile Detention Center on 8th St for evaluation. Some are released to their parents, and some are sent to detention hearings. Depending on a set of criteria (prior charges and other risk factors), some are detained awaiting trial and some are released pre-trial. Direct files are juveniles who are being prosecuted as adults and they are housed in the adult facility separated from the adult inmate population. David Kilcrease, MHOP, said in a new jail there must be an area sufficient to process juveniles at the adult facility separately from the adults.

There was discussion about the first appearance court room facility and the lack of space for the public, family members and the media. Mr. Cofer said the size is an issue, as are the conditions due to repeated flooding and mold issues. There was discussion about first appearances remaining in a remote format or reverting back to the in-person format as used pre-Covid. Mr. Colvin noted security concerns associated with the in-person format. Judge Salem, via Zoom, said that to return to in-person first appearances the facility would need physical improvements. Judge Kite, via Zoom, commented on the inefficiency of transporting paper dockets from the jail to the courthouse. There was discussion about additional medical evaluation space, especially the DUI Intoxilyzer room.

There was discussion about overall logistic considerations for a new jail, including the distance between the jail and the courthouse, the jail and the juvenile facility, the jail and the hospital, the jail and the closest fire station, and the jail and the Community Transition Center (houses the city funded drug rehabilitation Matrix program). There was discussion about a medical need/mental health facility modeled after something similar in Miami and like MHOP scaled out. CM Peluso asked for data about trends in criminal charges during various times of day.

Mr. Kilcrease described the many layers of confinement separations for those being held inside the jail: minimum, medium and maximum security, those with wound injuries, those with contagious diseases, those in isolation due to self-harm risk (also given safety meals and specific safe clothing), those who are sentenced separate from the unsentenced, and those suffering from substance withdrawal (needs more capacity). He noted that the mental health medical evaluation staff is not there 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Mr. Kilcrease talked about the success of the Mental Health Offender Program (MHOP) program. MHOP is a jail diversion program for misdemeanor offenders with mental health issues, intended to break the cycle of repeated misdemeanor arrests and provide them the wrap-around support they need to successfully treat their illness and reintegrate back into the community. Wrap around services include: medical, dental, behavioral health, substance abuse, housing and intensive case management that connects them to stable income through either job counseling and training or SSI, SSDI, Medicare/Medicaid and other community services. MHOP is a partnership between COJ, JSO, SAO, Public Defender, Duval Courts, and the Sulzbacher Center.

Mr. Kilcrease suggested putting televisions back in the jail, as they were removed a few years back. He said that TV privileges could be used for behavior modification and to provide educational programming. Ms. Messina agreed, noting how it would be helpful for inmates with literacy issues and language barriers.

Mr. Colvin talked about immigration questions at booking and referrals to the ICE program, and the DNA collection area (specimens are maintained in the FDLE database). He spoke about having sufficient room in the courthouse sally port for transport buses. There was a discussion about inefficiencies due to not sharing record keeping systems among the SAO, Clerk of Courts and JSO. As it stands the system is antiquated and paper-based, with some duplicative redundancies. Example, JSO prints paper copies of the arrest and booking reports and then sends those to the courthouse to be re-entered into their system either scanned or by hand entry. The county is responsible for the costs of technological upgrades for the Clerk of Courts. Ms. Messina asked about internal security measures in the jail, cameras, emergency alert buttons. Mr. Kilcrease and Mr. Colvin spoke about how short-staffed Corrections is, due in part to the lack of pension, insufficient pay compared to other locations, and unpleasant working conditions (insufficient air conditioning as one factor).

Schedule updates for next meetings: October 13, 20, 27; November 17; December 8 and possibly the 15th. All will occur at 9:00 am in the Lynwood Roberts Room. Florida model jail standards, bail, other county jail designs, and Baker Act proceedings will be discussed at future meetings.

Public comment: Carnell Oliver talked about rehabilitation, labor unions, vocational training for those incarcerated, and the effect of substance abuse disorder. Marie McGrath Wood talked about recidivism and best practices for corrections officer training.

With no further business, CM Peluso adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 11:39 a.m.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research Division
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9.25.23 Posted 5:00 p.m.