



**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
RESEARCH DIVISION**

117 WEST DUVAL STREET, SUITE 425
4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202
904-255-5137

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO REVIEW JSO PRIMARY FACILITIES:
Holistic Facilities (Behavioral, Mental, Physical & Spiritual health) Working Group
Meeting Minutes**

**November 13, 2023
1:00 pm**

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

In attendance: Council President Ron Salem; Council Members Rahman Johnson and Michael Boylan; Dr. Davis and Dr. Welch, EWU via Zoom

Also: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research Division

Meeting Convened: 1:05 pm

Chairman Johnson welcomed the group and called for introductions. He reviewed the working group's charge and meeting schedule.

CM Boylan said that the full committee will be meeting next week to discuss the working groups' progress. He suggested that CM Johnson expedite his provided meeting schedule, with the goal to wrap up the work by February instead of March to align with the time needed for the NEFL Regional Council to draft the final report. CM Boylan encouraged CM Johnson to take a tour of the UF Health inmate infirmary area, as he recently did.

CP Salem said there will be a financial review of the City's contributions to UF Health in December to assess the costs for inmate and indigent care, and that the goal for the future facility will be to minimize transfers from the jail if possible. The attendees talked about the possibility of a trip to Miami to observe their new jail facility.

David Bostwick, HDR, gave a presentation about jail facility design. He talked about mental health issues for arrestees, which affects roughly 25-40% of the inmate population, with 60-80% having co-occurring substance use disorders. He talked about chronic arrests and high jail utilization for those who may be better served through diversion and treatment, and about a continuum of mental health care in jails for

acute and chronic issues. He spoke about the Restoration Center in Omaha that offers residential substance addiction treatment in the jail. There was a discussion about inmate medical care and therapeutic communities for inmates with similar mental health issues. Using therapeutic communities at the new facility in Franklin County Ohio as an example (they have one for veterans and one for those who committed violent crimes), Mr. Bostwick explained that these communities can address substance use disorders and behavior modification to reduce recidivism. The veteran community includes substance abuse treatment, cognitive behavioral therapies, social skills, and resume writing, and has shown a reduction in jail incidents and recidivism. Mr. Bostwick said that approximately 7% of jail populations are veterans.

CM Boylan asked if the therapeutic communities are staffed by sworn officers or by outside staff. Mr. Bostwick said that staffing is funded through grants. There was mention of the “Stepping Up Initiative”, which is a national program that supports local jurisdictions in establishing and reaching measurable goals to reduce the number of people with mental illness in jails. CP Salem talked about the City’s opioid settlement funds and whether some of that funding could go towards an opioid use disorder treatment program in our jail. He also requested to see a photo of the Franklin County infirmary area. The group requested to have a presentation related to jail medical care, including mental health, at a future meeting.

Mr. Bostwick talked about the Rapid Resource Center at the Franklin County facility, that assists with transportation, connecting with medications, and other transition services upon release and follow up assistance as needed. He talked about trauma informed interior design with colors, textures, murals, “Blue Rooms” (to self-isolate and deescalate stressful situations) and natural lighting to reduce anxiety. The group talked about vertical vs. horizontal facilities. Mr. Bostwick said that staff in jails with horizontal designs, one or two stories, can address emergencies faster and have fewer incidents when moving arrestees throughout the facility.

There was discussion about jail staff retention and how that can be impacted by design features like breakrooms, patios and gyms. The group talked about punitive vs therapeutic facilities and how design can convey expectations for inmate behavior. To address underlying issues and root causes for criminal behavior, a space that is conducive to treatment and not punishment can lead to better outcomes. The group briefly spoke about juvenile justice, and how to create a transformative environment and evidence-based programs for that population. CM Johnson requested data when it’s available to show health outcomes in Franklin County before and after the new facility.

Public comment: Carnell Oliver talked about the connection between fair and humane treatment for inmates and recidivism.

The next meeting for this group is scheduled for November 27th. With no further business, CM Johnson adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 2:53 pm

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research Division

CHampsey@coj.net 904-255-5151

11.16.23 Posted 5:00 p.m.