

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY JAIL DISTRICT PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2022**

A meeting of the Cochise County Jail District Public Outreach Committee was held on Friday, September 16, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: James Conlogue, Chair; Danya Acosta, Vice-Chair, telephonic; Frank Antenori, Committee Member; David DiPeso, Committee Member; Kay Gojkovich, Committee Member; Tony Isom, Committee Member; Jon Kosmider, Committee Member; Jennifer Lakosil, Committee Member; Katie Miller, Committee Member; Eric Petermann, Committee Member; John Pintek, Committee Member

Absent: Paul Sheats, Committee Member

Staff Present: Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator
Kris Carlson, Civil Deputy County Attorney
Tim Mattix, Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Kenneth Bradshaw, Commander
Ariel Monge, Lieutenant
Joe Casey, Chief Information Officer
Megan Kennedy, Detention Medical Services Manager
Paul Bentz, HighGround, Inc.

Chair Conlogue called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING

1. Action to approve the minutes of the Jail District Public Outreach Committee Meeting of September 2, 2022.

Committee Member Petermann made a motion to approve the minutes of the Jail District Public Outreach Committee Meeting of September 2, 2022. Committee Member Antenori seconded the motion and it was approved on a voice vote 9-0 (Committee Member Sheats absent; Vice-Chair Acosta and Committee Member DiPeso not yet arrived).

2. Presentation by Mr. Joe Casey, Chief Information Officer, Mr. Pablo Duarte, Microwave Engineer, Commander Kenneth Bradshaw, and Lieutenant Ariel Monge, and discussion: Changes in Technology and Modern Court Proceedings - Jail Technological Needs and Challenges.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(9), the Committee may vote to go into Executive

Session for discussions with designated representatives of the public body in order to discuss security plans, procedures, assessments, measures or systems relating to, or having an impact on, the security or safety of buildings, facilities, operations, critical infrastructure information and information technology maintained by the public body.

Lieutenant Monge presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. He reviewed a list of technological needs in Jail Facilities and noted the challenge of retrofitting technologies that were unavailable at the time of Jail construction. He listed technologies in modern jail facilities.

Vice-Chair Acosta arrived at 9:03 a.m.

Lieutenant Monge and Commander Bradshaw responded to questions from the Committee regarding the purpose, use, and cost of the various technologies. Daily challenges include radio communications, Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV), video conferencing, door controls, electronic doors, and Wi-Fi strength. Radio challenges include being unable to communicate directly from one end of the Jail to the other. Alternative solutions have the same problem. In response to Committee discussion, Mr. Casey stated that issues with radio communications and Wi-Fi are due to issues with the brick walls and steel, rather than the physical location.

Lieutenant Monge reviewed video conferencing capabilities at the Jail. Five additional Polycom systems have been installed; with higher demand, challenges are being experienced, including background noise that disrupts Court proceedings.

Lieutenant Monge requested the Committee consider moving into Executive Session for further discussions, due to security concerns.

Committee Member Gojkovich made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(9) for discussions regarding procedures and systems relating to, or having an impact on, the security or safety of the Jail facility, operation, critical infrastructure information and informational technology maintained by the Sheriff's Office. Committee Member Kosmider seconded the motion. Chair Conlogue called for the vote and it was approved on a voice vote 10-0 (Sheats absent; DiPeso not yet present).

The Committee recessed to convene into Executive Session at 9:19 a.m. Committee Member DiPeso arrived at 9:25 a.m. The Committee reconvened at 9:56 a.m. Committee Member Antenori left at 9:56 a.m. and Committee Member Sheats was absent. All other Committee Members were present.

3. Presentation by Ms. Megan Kennedy, Detention Medical Services Manager, and discussion: Jail Medical/Mental Health Briefing.

Ms. Kennedy presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. She reviewed the number of COVID-19 cases in the County and in Detention, and noted that a procedural outline for the safety and security of inmates was developed. The Willcox location was closed due to staffing and the Sierra Vista location is used as a quarantine facility, leaving the Bisbee Jail as the only functional facility. Discussions regarding monkeypox are ongoing.

Ms. Kennedy reviewed statistics for mental health and overdose/substance abuse cases. A Community Health Assessment resident survey revealed that mental health and substance and drug abuse are the most important health problem. She reviewed

statistics regarding medical and psychiatric needs of incarcerated individuals and discussed the standard of care for incarcerated individuals. Access to care is required for all inmates. She reviewed the various types of care in detail, which include: intake assessment completed within first 24 hours of incarceration; nurse sick call; provider sick call; chronic care; emergency care; mental health care; dental care; specialty care; medication services; Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) initiation and continuation; substance abuse and withdrawal monitoring; continuity and coordination of care; suicide prevention and awareness; clinical preventative services; infectious disease prevention and control; and, daily treatments.

In response to the Committee, Ms. Kennedy stated that mental healthcare is the only type provided by telemedicine. The Jail is able to keep stock medicines on site and uses a company specializing in correctional medicines. Care is provided in accordance with national standards, though certain things would be more easy if the facility allowed. She feels that staff is safe, though if the average daily population continues to grow there is a risk of not being able to meet standards and safety requirements.

Ms. Kennedy reviewed trends and statistics for medical intake assessments and medical needs compared to the Jail's average daily population. Data shows an increase of substance abuse/addiction. She discussed the process by which individuals suffering from substance abuse/addiction are assessed and placed on medical watch. The Committee and Ms. Kennedy discussed various aspects of substance abuse/addiction, including the use of fentanyl and withdrawal symptoms. Ms. Kennedy also discussed with the Committee the notion of individuals turning themselves in for access to the guaranteed medical care.

Ms. Kennedy reviewed the cost of long-term hospitalizations, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) transports, Emergency Room visits, and air ambulance. Negotiated costs reduce the amount paid for services except for EMS transports, which are paid at the full amount billed.

She reviewed trends regarding mental health and substance abuse needs. While needs are increasing, the number of resources is decreasing. It is faster for Law Enforcement to drop off individuals at a detention facility instead of a mental health diversion center; there are no psychiatric diversion sites in the County. She reviewed various statistics for mental health needs, compared to the Jail's average daily population.

Committee Member Antenori rejoined the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

Ms. Kennedy reviewed a list of challenges and displayed pictures showing the challenges. Challenges Ms. Kennedy highlighted include: lack of space for medical procedures/exams; lack of storage space for supplies; inadequate space for staff to complete their daily tasks; challenges regarding privacy of care; inadequate space/facilities for staff to take breaks/relief; and, inadequate space for staff. There was a general discussion regarding tools used to track threshold requirements for the Jail. Investments into items such as preliminary plans cannot be made at this stage of the Jail District process. Committee Member Antenori requested requirements information and information about getting this to voters. Discussion ensued regarding having the item as a future agenda item.

Ms. Kennedy displayed pictures of an adequately-sized detention medical facility and reviewed a list of requirements. She compared the current staffing levels, operating from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., with staffing levels needed for 24/7 medical coverage. The annual cost for current staffing levels is approximately \$990,000 and estimated at

\$1,310,000 annually for 24/7 coverage. Ms. Kennedy reviewed bed space, noting that three pods are strictly utilized for quarantine. She reviewed common misconceptions and displayed a list of various references utilized.

Committee Member DiPeso left at 11:21 a.m.

4. Presentation by Mr. Paul Bentz and Mr. Rex Bartlett, from HighGround, Inc., discussion and Committee feedback: Jail District Survey Instrument Review.

Mr. Bentz presented this item and distributed a copy of a draft survey instrument. The goal is for accurate and unbiased data; the survey will be approximately 15 minutes. He reviewed survey demographics and the questions included in the draft survey. He noted sections to ascertain why individuals are voting and various arguments that individuals may use in support of or in opposition to the Jail District. The goal is to take the survey into the field next week. The Committee and Mr. Bentz discussed the potential risk of biased opinions due to the current political climate.

The Committee noted that the County will need to continue to spend money even if the proposed excise tax is not implemented. Mr. Karwaczka requested feedback as soon as possible on the proposed survey questions.

5. Future Agenda Items - *members of the Jail District Public Outreach Committee may request that an item be added to a future Committee meeting agenda. The Committee may reach consensus to add requested items to Future Meeting Agendas.*

No Future Agenda Items were discussed. Chair Conlogue noted that earlier in the meeting, Committee Member Antenori requested preliminary documents regarding the minimum thresholds for the Jail.

Next Committee Meeting Date: September 23, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. - 205 N. Judd Drive, Bisbee, AZ 85603.

Note: Beginning at 8:00 a.m., members of the Committee will tour the Jail facility in groups of five or fewer.

Chair Conlogue noted that next week, the Committee will tour the Jail in groups of five or fewer, with a Committee meeting starting at or after 10:00 a.m.

Chair Conlogue adjourned the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

APPROVED:

Judge James Conlogue (Ret.), Chair

ATTEST:

Tim Mattix, Clerk of the Board

