

Criminal Justice Committee Meeting Douglas County, Nebraska

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

The meeting convened at 2:52 p.m. in Room 903 of the Omaha-Douglas Civic Center, 1819 Farnam Street, Omaha, NE 68183. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is located on the wall near the entrance of the room. A notice of the meeting was published in the January 23, 2014 issue of The Daily Record. County Commissioners present at the meeting were Mike Boyle, Mary Ann Borgeson, Clare Duda, Marc Kraft, Chris Rodgers, and Pam Tusa. Others present at the meeting were Patrick Bloomingdale, Diane Carlson, Joe Lorenz, Marcos San Martin, Catherine Hall, and Kaieva Williams of County Administration; Clerk of the District Court John Friend; Mark Foxall of Corrections; Paul Johnson of Emergency Management; Mark Conrey of 911/Communications; Dan Esch of the Clerk/Comptroller's office; and Cody Winchester and Roseann Moring of the Omaha World-Herald. Commissioner Boyle conducted the meeting.

1. Caring for mentally ill inmates

Ms. Williams left the meeting during this item. Sherry Glasnapp of the Community Mental Health Center arrived during this item. Speaking to the item were Commissioner Boyle, Dr. Foxall, Commissioner Duda, Commissioner Tusa, Commissioner Borgeson, Commissioner Rodgers, Ms. Glasnapp, and Commissioner Kraft. Highlights from the discussion included the following:

- Dr. Foxall said the number of mentally ill people entering the correctional facility has been on the rise over the last couple of years.
- Dr. Foxall said Corrections does the best it can to treat its mentally ill inmates, but it can't provide all of the services that a mental health facility can.
- Dr. Foxall talked about the mentally ill population at Corrections.
 - Dr. Foxall said Corrections needs to hold the mentally ill inmates who are dangerous or committed violent crimes.
 - Dr. Foxall said there are mentally ill inmates who can get into diversion services or can receive help from the VA.
 - Dr. Foxall said there's a population of mentally ill inmates who fall in between the above two mentioned populations, where the individuals aren't committing violent crimes but the individuals are also not getting into diversion.
 - Dr. Foxall said many times these mentally ill individuals end up coming back again to Corrections because they aren't receiving adequate treatment. Or sometimes an individual is getting treatment, but then a mental health facility will have that individual arrested for destruction of property, for example.
 - Dr. Foxall said there needs to be a place to treat these individuals.
- Commissioner Boyle said he, Commissioner Borgeson, Dr. Foxall, and Ms. Glasnapp have had conversations about turning 5 East at the Community Mental Health Center into a forensic mental health unit.
 - Commissioner Boyle said this unit would have Corrections staff stationed there 24 hours day, along with the appropriate nursing staff.

- Ms. Glasnapp said she's been working with Dr. Foxall in exploring ways to establish a unit such as this, as well as establishing a staffing pattern to be able to appropriately serve the potential symptoms of the individuals in Corrections who need treatment.
- Dr. Foxall said the County needs to do some research on existing forensic mental health facilities around the country.
- Commissioner Borgeson said the County needs to see if it can contain a waiver because IMD law won't allow more than 16 operational psychiatric beds at the Health Center. Commissioner Borgeson said she thinks the County may be able to obtain that waiver for a specialized unit.
 - Dr. Foxall said the IMD law is a national law and that he'll do some research to see how the existing forensic mental health units around the country overcame that issue.
- Commissioner Borgeson said she is very concerned that the State won't provide funding to the behavioral health system.
- Dr. Foxall said there will be a summit with Region VI sometime in March and the topic of forensic mental health units will be a focus of the summit.
- Commissioner Boyle said Dr. Foxall and Commissioner Borgeson will get back to the County Board with more information about the upcoming summit.
- Clerk of the District Friend, Mr. Winchester, and Ms. Moring left the meeting after this item.

2. Update on emergency notifications to the public (weather events, etc.)

Speaking during this item were Mr. Johnson, Commissioner Boyle, Commissioner Tusa, Commissioner Kraft, Mr. Lorenz, Commissioner Borgeson, and Mr. Bloomingdale. Highlights from the discussion included the following:

- Mr. Johnson said the State put out an RFP for a statewide public alerting system and a statewide internal alerting system.
 - Mr. Johnson said the bids for the RFP are supposed to come back on February 7th and the State would like County Emergency Management to be on the Review Committee.
 - Mr. Johnson said an internal alerting system would notify first team responders and others involved in emergency management.
 - Mr. Johnson said a public alerting system would be a mass notification that would go out to everyone.
- Sirens were discussed
 - Mr. Johnson said sirens still serve a purpose.
 - Mr. Johnson said there are around 118,119 sirens in Douglas County.
 - Mr. Johnson said the County spends \$11,000 - \$35,000 annually on siren maintenance.
 - Mr. Johnson said he has talked to the City about transferring the ownership of the sirens to them since the City has enforcement in the planning process.
 - Mr. Johnson said the County would still be in charge of the siren system, but the City would take over the maintenance of the sirens themselves.
 - Mr. Johnson said most sirens in Nebraska are owned by cities, not by counties.
 - Commissioner Tusa said she thinks the County should start slowly phasing out sirens and move to other means of notification.
 - Mr. Johnson said a total system approach of notifying the public is the professional position of the International Association of Emergency Managers.

- Mr. Johnson said there are multiple ways of notifying the public, but one way of notification is not meant to replace another way notification.
- Commissioner Boyle said he thought he was going to hear more about how the County is evolving away from the use of sirens.
- Commissioner Borgeson left the meeting during this item.

3. Update on Redundant 911 Center on C Level

- **A tour of the Redundant 911 Center on C Level will be held following the Criminal Justice Meeting.**

Kyle Kramer of 911/Communications joined the meeting once it was moved to C Level. Speaking during this item were Mr. Conrey, Commissioner Boyle, Mr. Kramer, Commissioner Kraft, Commissioner Duda, Commissioner Tusa, and Commissioner Rodgers. Highlights from the discussion included the following:

- Before going down to the C Level, Mr. Conrey said he testified in a neutral position to LB911, Adopt the 911 Act and create Next -Generation 911 Advisory Council.
 - Mr. Conrey said he and other testifiers suggested that the State wait for the results of a next-generation 911 report that is due in April, which can help the State develop a plan to implement next-generation 911.
 - Mr. Conrey said Senator Dubas said she plans to amend the bill.
- Commissioners Boyle, Duda, Kraft, Rodgers, and Tusa, as well as Mr. Coney and Mr. Esch, left Room 903 and went to the Redundant 911 Center on C Level.
- Mr. Kramer led a tour of the Redundant 911 Center on C Level and explained how the equipment worked.

The meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.