

Child and Youth Services Committee Meeting

Douglas County, Nebraska

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

The meeting convened at 1:00 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 May 29, 2018, issue of *The Daily Record*. County Commissioners Chris Rodgers, P.J. Morgan and Clare Duda were present at the meeting. Others present at the meeting included Patrick Bloomingdale, Joe Lorenz, Diane Carlson, Catherine Hall, A'Jamal Byndon, and Pam Murphy, County Administration; Mary Visek, Juvenile Probation; Shawne Coonfare, Juvenile Assessment Center; Jane Pannkuk and Amber Parker, Operation Youth Success; Brad Alexander, Mark LeFlore, and Shirley Nelson, Youth Center; and Constance Mierendorf, Douglas County Clerk/Comptroller's Office. Chris Rodgers chairs the Committee.

A video recording of the meeting is available on the Douglas County Website:

<http://commissioners.douglascounty-ne.gov/board-meetings/videos>.

Douglas County Youth Center

- Commissioner Rodgers said the purpose of today's meeting is to briefly review department budgets. Even though none are asking for an increase, it is important for the Board to be aware of these budgets and how money is being spent.
- Brad Alexander thanked Mark LeFlore, Shirley Nelson and Rony Woodard for their assistance on the budget. The proposed budget for F18/19 is \$8,819,629. This is \$27,426 under the target budget of \$8,847,055.
- The revenue projection for the Youth Center is \$5,524,599, so the total impact on the General Fund is \$3,295,033, which is \$184,109 less than forecasted.
- Mr. Alexander said the payroll budget was impacted by the PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) mandating 1 staff member to every 8 juveniles. This meant that the Youth Center had to add 10 additional juvenile detention specialists to the staff, and they have been accounted for in the current budget. The Center was able to add these positions because of the closing of the evening reporting center.
- Overtime will not have to be increased because of the addition of these staff members. The overtime budget is currently \$218,151 over budget.
- An additional \$10,000 was included in the budget to pay for the PREA audit.
- There are 56 line items in the budget apart from payroll that total \$789,367, which is down \$78,675 from the current fiscal year.
- Commissioner Rodgers asked about the expediter position at the Youth Center. Its purpose is to monitor youth who seem to be stuck in the system and help find ways to move them through it.
- Mr. Alexander said this position is in transition; it will begin in July and is also included in the budget.
- He did not include the increased per diem for youth because though the Youth Center has been billing Probation and HHS (Health and Human Services) since January at the adjusted rate of \$323/diem, they are only paying \$210/diem. The new rate is based on Joe Lorenz's research into costs and comparative payments to other institutions.
- Lancaster County receives a higher rate than Douglas County. It bills HHS a slightly higher rate than Probation. Probation pays approximately \$289 while HHS pays over \$300 to Lancaster County.

- Mr. Alexander said the County's option is to take the matter to State Claims. There will be a meeting about this today. Billing at the adjusted rate and not receiving it puts the Center in a position to make a claim.
- The budget report shows the Youth Center has billed \$700,000-\$800,000 more than it has received.
- Mary Visek said none of the providers received a rate increase. Probation officers received a 1% raise and a 6% increase in health insurance premiums this past year.
- Commissioner Rodgers said he has difficulty understanding how the State can pay a lower rate to the largest County.

Operation Youth Success(OYS)

- Janee Pannkuk said the OYS budget is 100% grant funded. No General Fund money is used for the program (See Attachment A). The total budget is \$493,313.
- The program is fully staffed and is currently \$11,000 over budget, but Ms. Pannkuk said she had encumbered funds to cover that amount. Grants cover \$355,000 of the budget and Community-based Aid is covering the balance in the amount of \$138,313.
- Patrick Bloomingdale asked if Kiewit, Lozier, and Scott had renewed for 3 years because he has not seen the Lozier and Scott confirmation letters.
- OYS meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 8:30 A.M. in room 903.

Probation

- Mary Visek presented the Probation budget (See Attachment B). Most of the costs in the budget go to DOT.Comm. Most of the computers in the Probation office are leased in an attempt to keep those costs down. Probation is asking for a little more money for furniture.
- Commissioner Morgan suggested that Ms. Visek contact some office supply companies to see if they might have extra furniture they could donate. He said he would be willing to contact some possible donors.
- He asked where juvenile probation officers need to be located.
- Ms. Visek said it is important for juvenile probation officers to be near the courthouse. They are currently housed in the Keeline Building right across the street from the courthouse.
- Adult probation officers are scattered out in the field.
- Patrick Bloomingdale said Juvenile Probation will be housed in the tower.
- Commissioner Morgan said we need to be sure the tower is going to be built.
- Ms. Visek said she does not anticipate any changes in staffing.
- Commissioner Rodgers asked if the addition of juvenile judges would affect the staffing in juvenile probation.
- Ms. Visek said that youth would simply be processed more quickly with any additional judges. The number of youth is not increasing. The numbers have been steady for the last 4 ½ years.

Juvenile Court

- Commissioner Rodgers said although the Court did not attend the meeting, he still expects to have an accounting of their budget.

The meeting adjourned at 1:24 P.M.