

Corrections Working Group Meeting

**Board of Corrections Conference Room
3rd Floor Marquardt Building
32 Blossom Lane Augusta**

Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, September 11, 2012
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Members Present: Commissioner Joseph Ponte; Col. Mark Westrum; Executive Director Michael Tausek; Jail Administrator David Allen; Sheriff Glenn Ross; Director Ralph Nichols; Commissioner Amy Fowler; Administrator John O’Connell; Scott Ferguson. **Members Absent:** Associate Commissioner Cynthia Brann

Meeting Topics

1. NAMI Grant:

- BJA has awarded NAMI a matching grant (\$250,000) to provide program services primarily to female offenders (male offenders are eligible) from Aroostook, Hancock, Piscataquis, Penobscot and Washington counties. Sheriff Ross and Penobscot County has delayed a commitment to accept the grant until BOC input and approval. There will not be an on-going match through the Investment Fund or an on-going commitment by the BOC. Services provided will include: reentry planning, housing and employment. NAMI would provide staffing. This grant is time sensitive and will be an agenda item at the next BOC meeting on the 18th. **CWG Concerns:** 1) maintaining services after expiration of grant; 2) Impact on the BOC Investment Fund; 3) provision of services in rural areas.

Motion: Administrator O’Connell motioned to advise BOC on the NAMI grant;

Seconded: Commissioner Fowler

Vote: Unanimous

2. BOC meeting with Commissioner Sawin Millet:

Col. Westrum, Commissioner David Bowles, MMA Rep. Stuart Ponte, Assoc. Comm. Breton and Exec. Dir. Tausek met with the Commissioner to discuss BOC finances and how to strategize funding requests in the supplemental and biennium budgets. The Commissioner is aware of the funding structure for the system and recognizes additional funding will be needed. The group also discussed inverse debt and high cost areas in the system.

3. Franklin County and Mission Change Request:

Franklin County submitted a letter to the BOC requesting a mission change from a

72-Hour hold to a full service facility. Discussion centered on the capital improvements needed at the jail (fire detection system, security panel, kitchen equipment) and increased personnel costs. A secondary discussion centered on the formal process of a mission change (e.g. submission of forms showing costs associated with staffing, equipment, transportation, programming, etc.) and APA requirements. Exec. Dir. Tausek will collaborate with legal counsel on this matter.

4. Supplemental and Biennium Budgets:

Exec. Dir. Tausek submitted two initiative worksheets through DAFS and MDOC. A

Supplemental budget was submitted that reflects a funding request for the following: Inverse Debt (\$4.3 million); Capital Improvement Projects (\$2.6 million); CARA (\$150,000); and staffing of a BOC Financial Analyst. A biennium budget was submitted that reflected a need for the State to fund the following in FY14/15: Inverse Debt (\$4.5/\$4.7 million); the incremental increase in operating the jail system at actual cost (\$5.9/\$8.9 million); and staffing of a BOC Financial Analyst. The following is a look at the totals for all the budgets submitted on CRAS:

FY 2013 - \$80,259,000

FY 2014 - \$85,968,419

FY 2015 - \$89,035,508

5. Budget Focus Group Update

This sub-group had an informal meeting on August 27th to discuss vision and objectives.

Attendees: Commissioner D. Bowles, Ric Hanley, MMA Representative S. Smith,

Attorney A. Black, Exec. Dir. Tausek, RHR Smith's C. Davis and D. Tilton.

6. Inmate management and bed space issues;

holds and information that high-custody inmates in Trial and obstacles presented:

The system is routinely faced with bed shortages on two levels (72-hour flagship facilities). Exec. Dir. Tausek provided inmate population highlighted the amount of community/minimum and medium/minimum the system and that increased community corrections (e.g. increased Pre-home monitoring programming) can reduce the population. Some

- Lack of involvement/support by the judiciary
- Lack of involvement/support by DA's
- Cash bail as a routine process vs. pre-trial program
- System culture
- BARS – inconsistent uploading of accurate info

Maine Pre-Trial Services E. Simoni and VOANNE D. Kane presented activity data. Their numbers reflect a need/opportunity exists to increase pre-trial and home monitoring Programs. Group discussion also centered on the need for the system to have a standardized risk assessment tool that will generally: (a) be evidence-based; (b) validated; (c) have 8-10 components to determine risk. MPS employs a VanNostrand assessment tool and VOANNE employs a tool developed in collaboration with Muskie Institute and used at TBRJ. Result of discussion: Exec. Dir. Tausek, VOANNE and MPS will collaborate and present an agreed upon assessment tool to the Board on the 18th. NAPSA will also be presenting to the BOC on the 18th and a follow-up meeting will be held at the Senators Inn on Wednesday, Sept. 19th. This presentation will be in partnership between MPS and NAPSA.

7. Capital Improvement Projects:

supplemental budget request. Some questions still exist regarding the priority/status/need of some of the information contained therein. Follow up work will be done immediately on this document (e.g. each county will be contacted for necessary information). A revised Capital Improvement Project list will be

presented to the CWG at the October meeting. At this time, there are no pending CIP funding requests through the BOC Investment Fund.

8. APPRISS Presentation:

APPRISS representative Richard Boone provided vendor information on his company's domestic violence reporting system. This reporting system is run in conjunction with VINE (an APPRISS electronic reporting system for victims of crime). The cost of the reporting system requires start-up costs (approx. \$100K) and then annual maintenance costs (approx. \$90K). System will be able to interface with each county's SPILLMAN system. Funding revenue opportunities must be explored (e.g. VOCA, Victim Compensation Fund surplus, etc.).

9. General Items:

- 1) Revive the Pre-Trial Sub-Group to examine our inmate management issues;
- 2) BOC needs to adopt a standardized assessment tool for pre-trial (see above);
- 3) BOC needs to adopt a standardized assessment tool for sentenced inmates (LSI-R);
- 4) Deferred disposition not being used properly throughout the state;
- 5) Need to put value behind data collection (cost savings, recidivism, etc.).

10. Adjourn