

CUMBERLAND COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE  
NEW COURTHOUSE, 117 DICK STREET, 5TH FLOOR, ROOM 564  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2010 – 9:30 AM  
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:       Commissioner Jimmy Keefe, Chair  
                                  Commissioner Jeannette Council  
                                  Commissioner Phillip Gilfus

OTHER COMMISSIONERS  
PRESENT:

Commissioner Kenneth Edge

OTHERS PRESENT:

James Martin, County Manager  
Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager  
Amy Cannon, Assistant County Manager  
James Lawson, Assistant County Manager  
Sally Shutt, Communications and Strategic Initiatives  
                  Manager  
Rick Moorefield, County Attorney  
Jane Stevens, Public Health Department Environmental  
                  Health Director  
Hank Debnam, Mental Health Director  
Robert N. Stanger, County Engineer  
Al Brunson, Facilities Maintenance Manager  
Major John McRainey, Detention Center Chief Jailer  
Candice H. White, Deputy Clerk to the Board  
Press

Commissioner Keefe called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Commissioner Keefe recognized Fayetteville City Manager Dale Iman and Commissioner Kenneth Edge. Congratulations were also extended to recently promoted Assistant County Manager James Lawson.

1.       APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 10, 2010 REGULAR MEETING

MOTION:       Commissioner Gilfus moved to approve the minutes.  
SECOND:       Commissioner Council  
VOTE:           UNANIMOUS

2.       INFORMATION REGARDING MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT FOR  
          DETENTION CENTER INMATES

Commissioner Keefe called on County Manager James Martin who advised Mental Health Authority Director Hank Debnam, Chief Detention Center Jailer Major McRainey

and Public Health Department Environmental Health Director Jane Stevens were in attendance to provide information regarding mental health services for detention center inmates. Mr. Martin noted the Public Health Department is responsible for jail health services. Commissioner Gilfus stated his interest is to determine what might be done to decrease jail overcrowding and whether there are alternatives that might be explored to deal with the mental health cycle in the criminal justice system. Commissioner Keefe stated the concern of the Facilities Committee is to understand the effect mental health patients have on the detention center so a realistic choice can be made when moving forward with the new construction.

Ms. Stevens stated the Public Health Department has a contract with a psychiatrist who works from 28-35 hours a week at the detention center and the Mental Health Authority provides a social worker who works four days a week at the detention center. Ms. Stevens explained individuals can be seen by the social worker during the first week and by the psychiatrist in two weeks; however, if an individual is detained less than two weeks, they may not be seen. Ms. Stevens further explained when inmates leave the jail, they can go to the Public Health Department for a seven-day supply of their medication, which gives them time to go to the Mental Health Authority for intake and continuation of their meds should they so choose.

Major McRainey explained the social worker spends half the time working at the jail and half the time providing follow up to keep individuals maintained so they do not return to jail. Major McRainey further explained there is nothing being done at the jail in an attempt to break the cycle of drug abuse and alcohol. Major McRainey stated during discussions with mental health staff, it was noted that there are individuals who will not respond to treatment and will be left on the streets because there are no residential programs for them and no place for them to go. Major McRainey advised that because of its current architecture and training, the detention center is not a mental institution.

Mr. Debnam stated one of the problems is Medicaid services are taken away when an individual is incarcerated. Mr. Debnam further stated another problem is that unless it is court ordered, adults can not be required to receive services once they are released from jail. Mr. Debnam explained attempts are made to take care of the needs of detainees while they are incarcerated, but following their release from jail, they could possibly be returned to jail because of their substance abuse or mental illness.

Commissioner Gilfus inquired where individuals with mental illness are sent and how long it takes to get them admitted. Mr. Debnam responded they are sent to Cherry Hospital and there is usually a delay for admitting adults or geriatric clients. Commissioner Keefe asked whether Cherry Hospital will accept clients pending criminal charges. Major McRainey responded there are three ways to place an individual in the state mental health system: 1) if the District Attorney requests a forensic exam; 2) if a Safe Keeping Order is issued; or 3) under HB 95 for the criminally insane.

At the request of Mr. Martin, Major McRainey explained that special housing units in the current jail are used for inmates who engage in behavior that is destructive to the

institution and for people with mental health issues that function well within the jail environment. Major McRainey stated from his perspective, there is a desperate need for a residential program because there are people who need a structured environment in which to function in order not to self-medicate with alcohol and street drugs.

Commissioner Keefe inquired whether there was a need for a facility for non-violent individuals that would not require as much supervision as the jail. Major McRainey stated there are individuals within the community who languish on the streets and within the jail who, with the proper treatment and counseling, could lead productive lives. Major McRainey also stated from his perspective, when these individuals are placed in jail, they are only made worse because his job is to lock up criminals and the jail is not a mental health facility. Mr. Debnam spoke to services provided by the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams and through the Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities (TASC) program.

Commissioner Keefe stated he did not want to rush to build a facility that does not address the needs and asked Mr. Martin for comments. Mr. Martin stated he agreed with the issue regarding the need for additional space and stated he may engage the assistance of Major McRainey to lead the effort with regard to special housing. Mr. Martin further stated there is already a comprehensive Jail Health Committee and stated the Facilities Committee could consider asking the Jail Health Committee to look at mental health issues of inmates and make suggestions as to how to track inmates once they are discharged from the jail or judicial system.

Commissioner Keefe stated he was not convinced that the jail expansion should not include a dormitory style pod for special housing for mental health patients. Mr. Martin opined that there is likely the need to provide a variety or combination of housing to manage the inmate population in any expansion that is undertaken; however, that decision has not yet been made because the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process has just begun. Mr. Martin further opined that he did not necessarily believe the needs fit a 250-bed dormitory style facility. Mr. Martin stated these are some of the issues that will need to be addressed before anything is brought back to the committee and the full board.

Major McRainey suggested that the architects be engaged in the programming so they are aware of exactly is needed and can update the board before the design process begins. Mr. Martin advised there is a provision in the RFQ that will task the architect selected with determining what kind of space is needed.

Additional comments and discussion followed. Commissioner Keefe requested that all discussion be taken into consideration before coming back to the committee.

James Lawson, Assistant County Manager, provided information on a Coastal Horizons' contract for the provision of TASC services and their request to rent space in a county facility. Mr. Martin stated they would like to occupy the space on October 1st so a proposed lease may be presented to the Board at their October 4, 2010 meeting.

### 3. UPDATES FROM COUNTY ENGINEER

#### Detention Center Expansion Project

Robert N. Stanger, County Engineer, reported an RFQ had been prepared and distributed to the Detention Center Project Committee for review and comments. Mr. Stanger advised there had been a recommendation by the county manager to add Al Brunson, Facilities Maintenance Manager, to the project committee. Mr. Stanger further advised appointment of the county commissioner representative was still pending. Mr. Stanger called attention to the RFQ as distributed and stated responses had been requested no later than September 21st. Mr. Stanger stated the RFQ provides a general description of the project as initially envisioned and the scope of services to be provided by the architectural team. Mr. Stanger further stated there is a programming phase to the scope of services which will identify what type of beds are needed based on the projected inmate population and types of inmates. Mr. Stanger reported the RFQ also provides information required in the written qualification statement from the architectural team. Mr. Stanger stated all RFQs will be distributed to members of the committee and based on the committee's evaluation of the written responses, the qualification statements will be ranked and a minimum of three firms will be invited to deliver oral presentations to the committee. Mr. Stanger further stated based on the oral presentations and written qualification statements, a firm will be selected and a fee for services will be negotiated, which will be brought back through the Facilities Committee to the full board.

Commissioner Gilfus requested that the update be provided to the city of Fayetteville. Commissioner Edge stated based on earlier discussion, he felt it was important to involve all stakeholders in the facility design. Commissioner Keefe expressed a sense of urgency regarding the appointment of a county commissioner to the Detention Center Project Committee and requested that the commissioners be notified of all project committee meeting dates in the event they want to attend.

Commissioner Keefe posed questions regarding capacity of the property. Mr. Stanger stated the information presented to date regarding the types of housing units had been based on needs expressed by the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Stanger further stated the types of housing units will be revisited during the programming phase of the project. Commissioner Keefe stated dormitory style housing should not be taken off the table because of the significant cost difference and additional capacity. Mr. Stanger responded to additional questions regarding the site. At the request of Mr. Martin, Major McRainey explained the capacity of the current facility. Mr. Stanger advised it will be three to four weeks following the RFQ submittal date before a recommendation can be brought forward. Commissioners Keefe and Edge concurred that the detention center expansion project should move forward as expeditiously as possible.

#### Public Health Department Renovation Project

Mr. Stanger reported at their August 16, 2010 meeting, the Board authorized management to proceed with the initial phase of renovations for the retired public health

building. Mr. Stanger briefly outlined some of the renovations that would be involved and stated with the impetus for the project being to get emergency services into the building with adequate space for a potential consolidated 911 call center. Mr. Stanger reported that the initial task is to develop a scope of services that would include upgrade designs and construction administration. Mr. Stanger stated in order to meet state building codes for an E-911 center, structural upgrades would be needed to meet seismic loads, which would add \$.5 million to the \$5 million budget. Mr. Stanger responded to questions and stated Emergency Services plans to retain their current space in the Law Enforcement Center for back up.

Mr. Martin advised from a management standpoint, the project was being driven by the potential to consolidate emergency dispatch services with the city of Fayetteville. Mr. Martin stated he has communicated with Fayetteville City Manager Dale Iman in attempt to set up a meeting, but no meeting has been scheduled to date. Mr. Martin further stated unless the city of Fayetteville has an interest in consolidating its communications center, there is not a need to renovate the third floor of the retired public health building for that purpose. Mr. Martin advised should the county not receive a commitment from the Fayetteville City Council within a relatively short timeframe, there should be no further movement on the third floor of the retired public health building. Mr. Martin responded to questions.

Commissioner Keefe suggested that Mr. Martin send a letter to Mr. Iman that renovations for a E-911 center have been placed on hold until a commitment is received from the city of Fayetteville and that consolidation of emergency dispatch services be added to the agenda for the joint meeting that is in the process of being scheduled. Rick Moorefield, County Attorney, advised terms of the commitment also need to be addressed and the city needs to be put on notice that the county needs to know the City's expectations. Mr. Stanger confirmed that he was to hold further discussions with the architect pending contact with the city of Fayetteville. Mr. Martin spoke to plans for the state VIPER system to go digital in 2014 and the fact that the city of Fayetteville does not plan to utilize the state VIPER system until that time.

Commissioner Council inquired whether the county should consider other alternatives for the retired public health building. Mr. Martin spoke briefly to the hospital's possible interest in using a portion of the first floor. Mr. Martin stated thought should be given to whether to proceed with demolition of the interior in order to rent or sell the building. Mr. Martin further stated the tax appraised value was \$8 million. Mr. Stanger stated monies from the E-911 surcharge have to be used by June 2012 and this could potentially add to the urgency in determining the city of Fayetteville's commitment.

#### 4. OTHER MATTERS OF BUSINESS

There were no additional matters of business.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:30 AM