

MINUTES
BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023 AT 9:00 A.M.
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, 555 S. 10TH STREET
ROOM 112 - CHAMBERS

Board Members Present: Christa Yoakum; Sean Flowerday; Roma Amundson; Rick Vest; and Matt Schulte

Others Present: Dave Derbin, Chief Administrative Officer; Kristy Bauer, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; Brad Johnson, County Corrections Director; and Courtney Lyons, Deputy County Clerk.

Advanced public notice of the meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board, and the Lancaster County, Nebraska, website and emailed to media on May 17, 2023, and published in the Lincoln Journal Star print edition and website on May 15, 2023.

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. A copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted on the wall at the back of the meeting room.

AGENDA ITEM

I. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 16, 2023

MOTION: Schulte moved and Vest seconded approval of the February 16, 2023 minutes. Schulte, Vest, Amundson, Flowerday and Yoakum voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

II. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

MOTION: Vest moved and Amundson seconded to designate Yoakum as Chair and Flowerday as Vice Chair and to continue these positions indefinitely. Vest, Amundson, Schulte, Flowerday and Yoakum voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.

III. POPULATION STATISTICS AND CHARTS

a. Population Comparisons

Brad Johnson, County Corrections Director, presented updated charts regarding the County Corrections Department (see agenda packet). The jail's average daily population is at 96.6 percent of operational capacity. Amundson asked if the operational capacity was 665. Johnson answered yes, and it is based on staffing levels and safety precautions, not on the number of beds. Vest noted all areas still need to be maintained even if the beds aren't being used. Johnson noted he is unable to use more restrictive open beds because it goes against jail standards to use more restrictive housing when it is not warranted.

Johnson summarized the jail population by type of arrest and sentence for the first quarter of 2023 and gave other current population statistics. At the time of the report, there were 655 inmates in custody with an average of 13 prior bookings. Johnson discussed the average daily population over

the last three years. The inmate population has increased over these years.

Vest asked at what point the County would begin sending detainees to other facilities because of capacity issues. Johnson answered the County is already at that point unless numbers start decreasing. Vest asked what the County should do to address this. Johnson answered the County needs to conduct a needs assessment study. Detainees with severe mental illness is also a major issue. Yoakum asked how comprehensive a needs assessment would be. Johnson answered it would be very comprehensive. Johnson said the Board needs to authorize a study so the Department could start the Request for Proposals (RFP) process. Board members discussed the benefits of a study. Amundson noted LB605 has had an impact on the jail population.

Johnson reviewed the average length of stay since 2019 and summarized the population status of all detainees compared to last year. The largest increase is for those pretrial charged with felonies.

b. Booking and Lodging Totals

Johnson reviewed booking and lodging totals compared to last year and said both have increased.

c. Custodial Sanctions/County Reinvestment Act

Johnson reviewed offenders incarcerated for custodial sanctions from both the county and state. There were 1,904 who served a total of 28,906 days from August 2015 through March 2023 and 48 who served a total of 984 days in the most recent quarter.

Flowerday asked about the number of revocations of post release supervision. Johnson answered that number has remained flat.

d. Regional Center Waiting Periods

Johnson reviewed the number of incarcerated individuals at the jail waiting for a bed at the Lincoln Regional Center (LRC) and the average waiting period. The current average waiting period is 31.25 days but he expects most to be moved closer to the 90-day mark.

e. Community Hospital Posts

Johnson reviewed inmates who have been admitted to a community hospital in the most recent quarter. In March, there were more admitted compared to previous months.

f. Felonies Sentenced to Lancaster County

Johnson reviewed inmates sentenced with felonies and the average number of days served.

g. Drug Court Remand

Johnson reviewed the number of drug court remands.

h. Violation of House Arrest

Johnson reviewed the number of violations of house arrest and the number of days served as a result. He said the number of violations has increased over time as a result of programs that use the jail as a deterrent.

i. FY22 Statistics Report

See agenda packet for information on Item i.

Flowerday thanked the County Attorney’s Civil Division for decreasing the waiting period for LRC beds. Johnson added the County is now reimbursed for those waiting.

- IV. PROGRAMMING**
- V. TRANSPORTATION**
- VI. WORK CREWS**
- VII. TRAINING**

See agenda packet for information on Items IV through VII.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Amundson moved and Flowerday seconded to adjourn at 9:33 a.m. Amundson, Schulte, Flowerday, Vest and Yoakum voted yes. Motion carried 5-0.


Matt Hansen
Lancaster County Clerk

