**Erie County Community Corrections Advisory Board**

**Agenda**

**June 4, 2013**

1. Call to Order - Rev. Pierce 1:11 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

**Present**

Amin

Ansari

Cercone

Covert

Culhane

Dickman

Haynes

Pierce

Ranney

Sacco

Schultz

**Absent**

Balys

Colon

Diina

**4. Budget - Jail Management Mission Statement (program and services objectives**)

**Rev. Pierce**

States the board should come up with a written letter to Supt. Diina asking him to respond to questions regarding the mission statement of Jail Management. Asking Diina to illustrate where they are in the process of improving the inmate educational/rehabilitation programming at the ECCF/ECHC.

Done by common consent.

**5. Tour - Monroe County Correctional Facility and Jail**

**6. Inmate Reentry Program**

**7. Conditional Release Program**

**8. Adult Educational Programs - Holding Center/Correctional**

**William Schultz** gives an outline of experience at the Monroe County Facilities.

Attended by Rev. Pierce, William Schultz, and Kenneth Colon.

300 individuals at correctional facility.

500 individuals at the holding center downtown.

GED prep at both facilities.

Youth (16-18) educational services funded through Rochester City school district.

Adult Monroe educational services are fronded through Monroe County BOCES.

80 year take the GED course. 30-40 pass per year.

General tour of correctional facility and forensic services unit at that location.

110 programs are offered per week. Examples include: bible study, NA/AA and GED.

Monroe County Community College offer basic math and writing courses, as well as college prep and orientation courses.

Vocational training program moved a greenhouse into the correctional facility in a 200x300 space.

Full time instructor from the Monroe County parks department offers certificate of completion in greenhouse operation landscaping basics.

Horticulture Course is 6 weeks. 2 hours a day; 2 days a week. Inmates are encouraged to apply.

Work release program seasonally employs approximately 50 individuals per year who complete the Horticultural certificate program.

Food service training offered. This program also awards participants with certificates on completion and assists them in finding employment opportunities.

There are also carpentry and plumbing programs. Did not get a lot of detail in regards to those.

There is an active reentry program. Especially for those individuals with special needs.

Special needs unit (addiction and mental health needs) houses approximately 110 people. 1/3 of population at the correctional facility. The average stay is 4 months.

Monroe County focuses on a “no disruption” policy with regards to self-help activities (i.e. AA/NA). The staff makes sure the inmates are engaged in programming within the facilities and then connect with people outside, once released.

Philosophy of reentry is to keep people engaged 40-70% of the time while they are confined at either facility, as opposed to copious amounts of idle time.

Special needs unit houses approximately 110 people. 1/3 of population at the correctional facility. The average stay is 4 months.

Staff pushed to have computers made available to do word processing; excel so people can work on their GED instruction and resume building.

Correction staff has bought into the policy of “if we can help improve them while they are in the facility, they will be less dangerous on the streets”.

All inmates are encouraged to get involved.

**Rev. Pierce**

States in Monroe County they are not concerned with the length of the stay of any one inmate. Their objective is to try and do whatever they can do in a period of time to make that inmate into a better person.

As a board we need to ask “How do we make recommendations to improve Erie County facilities?” That is our job as a board. We need to improve on that.

In Monroe county facilities they have an inmate population of which 2/3 have not completed high school. Similar to the 75% in Erie County.

Conditional Release Program saves the county money, because fewer inmates are committing crimes once they are released. In fact, the inmate population has decreased in Monroe County.

The conditional release program Monroe County provides one year supervision provided by the Monroe county probation department.

20-25 participants at any given time.

Telephone funds in Monroe County assist in funding these programs as well.

**William Schultz**

It was my impression that an outside vendor communicates with the correctional staff to develop the food service program.

Upon program completion and release, they now have something to put on their resume, and can use the food service company as a potential employment reference.

Aim is to not reoffend.

**Joe Cercone**

The staff that run programs - were they deputies or civilian?

**William Schultz**

The clinical staff, educational staff and correctional officers all assist in the programming.

**Barry Covert**

What is the one stop center?

**William Schultz**

Inmates upon release go there for employment opportunities similar to BETC and ECC. These centers house dept. of labor staff, as well as local employment counselors.

Monroe County provided a county worker to direct the horticulture program, after it was removed from the airport grounds to the correctional facilities. On those grounds is where they grow the flowers and bushes displayed thoughout Monroe County.

High rate of employment opportunity.

**Nan Haynes**

We should see what needs to be done to reestablish horticulture program at Alden.

That would be a good start.

**Barry Covert**

We are being told we don’t have the staff (at ECCF/ECHC) to provide basic programming, without sacrificing the security of the facilities. Yet it is money well spent if it decreases recidivism.

What is the excuse here? Can we have an analysis performed as to why there is such a disparity between Erie and Monroe counties in relation to the ability to provide programming?

Even when we have community volunteers who are willing to come in and teach the courses - at no cost to the county - we get the response that the facility can’t even sacrifice a staff member to supervise the instruction. That does not encourage community partnership.

**Rev. Pierce**

Monroe County uses trailers within the secured area of the facility, that allow for additional space for training.

Alden houses 500-600 adult inmates. Only 20 adults in adult education.

There needs to be at least 120 inmates in adult education, but we are being told there is not enough space for the programs.

Rochester makes the space. Why can’t we make space? What can we do?

**Joe Cercone**

There are a lot of different issues.

Last time I checked Monroe County had a property tax rate 20% higher than Erie County.

Phone revenue is something we can use, yet it is not enough to expand what we do in the Erie County correctional facility to replicate Monroe County.

Erie County is already extremely understaffed.

My opinion is if we are to institute additional programming, it will not replicate Monroe.

**Barry Covert**

Are they paying more per inmate per capita? If their taxes are higher, are they paying more per inmate? If we are paying a similar amount per inmate they are operating better than we are.

At the end of the day, if they are spending 20-30% more per inmate, I would understand the disparity.

If they are paying the same for security per ratio, how are they doing that?

**Joe Cercone**

Union contracts, medical benefits and jail design can dictate where the disparity lies between the ways the two county jails are budgeted and run.

Is Monroe County less labor-intensive? I don’t know.

The main priority is security we have to staff all of the posts within the two facilities.

**Deputy Supt. Michael Reardon**

It may also come down to the terminology. What they call a “program” in Monroe County may be a practice already in place here. An example being in the assessments and services rendered by the mental health department. There are several services that we provide that may not be under the umbrella of “Programming”.

Mental health employees also work with inmates outside of facilities

**Barry Covert**

No domestic violence and no GED courses on the level of Monroe County.

**Nan Haynes**

I just want to have real information from the Sheriff so we know what we are dealing with.

**Barry Covert**

Let’s figure out the reason why we are failing to establish programs other than financial? What are the other factors?

**Joe Cercone**

Monroe is fine example of programming. I don’t think they have different sources of funding. Basically all property tax and county dollars. But I go back to the point that there has to be an initial investment.

**Joe Sacco**

States he is willing to find out how much Monroe County spends on their inmates and programs so we can compare. I will contact Monroe County and get as much information as I can for the next meeting.

**Rev. Pierce**

Asks the group if we can go over ten minutes to continue the meeting.

Board consents.

Do we want to entertain a motion to review the costs of spending in Monroe vs. Erie County?

**Joe Cercone**

Just to be clear, the conversation the board wants to have about inmate programming should be had with Sheriff’s department, not with the budget office.

**Nan Haynes**

We need to focus our efforts on the comparisons between counties and utilizing what structures we already have in place in Erie County.

What is missing from GED program in Alden?

Let’s focus on the usage of telephone funds and asking the legislature to use this money on programs to reduce recidivism and actually save money. I will draw up resolutions we can submit to the legislature.

**Rev. Pierce**

Addresses letter in binders from LPNs at the ECCF/ECHC asking the board for support regarding job parity. How can we support them?

**Joe Cercone**

We are overstepping boundaries here. The nurses have a union and union representative they are to file grievances with.

Dr Ansari agrees to assist Rev. Pierce in addressing the concerns of the nurses outside of the board; this is not a board issue, per se.

**9. Other Business**

**Rev. Pierce**

After the last meeting, we sent a letter to the county attorney regarding dog searches. The county attorney said the questions regarding protocol need to be addressed to Supt. Diina.

So a letter will be sent to Supt. Diina asking if he will respond to the concerns regarding visitor searches.

**10. Adjournment Rev. Pierce 2:18 p.m.**