

**THE CONDITION AND MANAGEMENT  
OF  
CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES  
WITHIN  
JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON**

**By**

**2020 Special Corrections Grand Jury**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b> .....	1
<b>II. INTRODUCTION</b> .....	1
<b>III. ACKNOWLEDGMENT</b> .....	2
<b>VI. APPENDIX OF ATTACHED DOCUMENTS</b> .....	2

## **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The 2020 Special Corrections Grand Jury inspected the Jackson County Jail, Jackson County Juvenile Detention and Residential Facility, and the Community Justice Work Center. The Grand Jury's over all observation of the Jackson County Correctional Facilities, is that they are well run given the resources available. Recommendations will be addressed in the following report.

## **II. INTRODUCTION**

*Oregon Revised Statutes* requires that at least once yearly, a Grand Jury shall inquire into the condition and management of every correctional facility and youth correction facility in the county.

Friday, January 3, 2020 the Grand Jury attended their first meeting with Facilitator Allan Smith, Senior Deputy District Attorney to begin orientation of our duties and line up of interviewees.

Friday, January 10, 2020 the Grand Jury toured the County Jail and received testimony from the following:

1. Lt. Joshua Aldrich, Jail Commander
2. Megan Hawley, Nurse/Medical Provider
3. Robert Woodhouse, Mental Health Provider
4. Darren Turituri, Mental Health Provider

Friday January 17, 2020 the Grand Jury toured the Work Center Facility in Talent, Oregon and the Juvenile Detention Center. The following testimony was received:

### **Work/Transition Center**

1. Lisa McCurley, Transition Center Deputy Director
2. Michael Hescoock, Transition Center Program Manager
3. Melody Voskanian, Mental Health Provider

### **Juvenile Detention Center**

1. Joe Ferguson, Juvenile Center Deputy Director
2. Jean Nicholas, Juvenile Center Custody/Residential Manager
3. Lynn Green, Mental Health Provider
4. Tricia Hibner, Mental Health Provider
5. Holly Christian, Nurse/Medical Provider
6. Guy Tutland, Teacher (Medford School District)

Friday, January 24, 2020 the Grand Jury completed interviews with the following:

1. Danny Jordan, Jackson County Administrator
2. Nathan Sickler, Jackson County Sherriff
3. Beth Heckert, District Attorney

Friday, January 31, 2020, the Grand Jury reviewed previous testimony and formulated its recommendations, as follows:

1. The Grand Jury's number one recommendation is for a larger County Jail, in order to properly administer the correctional responsibilities of each facility.
2. The Grand Jury recommends creating a permanent and appropriate work space for all mental health providers/staff within the Jackson County Jail.
3. The Grand Jury recommends increasing Mental Health and Drug Counseling staff, as well as allowing more time with inmates.
4. The Grand Jury recommends the Jackson County Jail provide a well-being, stress reducing, staff lounge/space.
5. As with previous reports, this Grand Jury would recommend the repurposing of the Transition Center kitchen to a more usable space.
6. The Grand Jury feels the Juvenile Detention Center was fully satisfactory and well run. No recommendations for improvement at this time.

### **III. ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

The Grand Jury acknowledges the professional courtesy and cooperation we received from all agency managers, staff and witnesses we interviewed during this inquiry. We appreciate Senior Deputy District Attorney Allan Smith's help and guidance throughout this process.

### **IV. APPENDIX OF ATTACHED DOCUMENTS**

1. Jackson County Jail Statistics, provided by Lt. Josh Aldrich



**JACKSON  
COUNTY**  
Sheriff

**MEMO**  
INTER - OFFICE

**Jackson County Sheriff**  
Corrections Bureau

Lieutenant Joshua Aldrich  
Jail Commander

787 W. 8th Street  
Medford, Oregon 97501  
Phone: 541-774-6707  
Fax: 541-776-7060  
Aldricjm@jacksoncounty.org

**To:** Special Corrections Grand Jury  
**From:** Lieutenant Josh Aldrich  
**Subject:** Jail Statistics  
**Date:** January 07, 2020

The Jackson County jail provides services to all of the agencies within the county's 2801 square miles. The county has a total population of 213,765 (estimated) (Population Research Center, PSU). This includes 11 incorporated cities: Ashland, Butte Falls, Central Point, Eagle Point, Gold Hill, Jacksonville, Medford, Phoenix, Rogue River, Shady Cove and Talent. We also accept lodgings from the Oregon State Police (OSP), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), US Marshalls, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), National Forest Service, Parole and Probation (P&P), and Military Police.

The Jackson County Jail was built in 1981. There are 352 beds available within the facility. In 2017 the jail opened an additional 62 beds. This increase was a result of a remodel project which changed the basement of the building from administrative space in to additional secure jail housing. Although there are physically 352 beds, we currently have a self imposed inmate population cap of 300. The cap of 300 was imposed due to a number of factors including the jails design, staffing levels, staff and inmate safety. When the jail population reaches 300, inmates are then "forced released." In 2019 there were 4166 inmates forced released due to overcrowding. In 2018 the Jackson County Jail implemented an increased overnight capacity of 315. This allows the inmate population to grow slightly during the hours where a released inmate may not have a place to go and resources are limited.

Staffing at the Jackson County Jail looks like this:

1 Lieutenant  
5 Sergeants  
1 Records Supervisor  
2 Administrative Assistants  
52 Corrections deputies (1 Assigned to Court Support, 1 Assigned to Training)  
2 Transport deputies  
16 Records Clerks

In 2019 the jail lodged 13,109 people. This number is slightly down from 2018. This number includes all lodgings as well as process only's and court commitments. A process only is someone who has been charged with a crime but has not been lodged in jail and needs photographed and fingerprinted. A commitment is someone who is ordered to jail by the court. The Judge has ordered them to turn themselves in, to the custody of the Sheriff (Jail) on a specific date and time to serve their sentence.

(ATTACHMENT 1)

Sentenced inmates may serve their time in the jail or if they are eligible they can be transferred to the Community Justice Work Center (CJWC).

Our budget for the current year 2019-2020 budget year is \$13,194,957.

The Jail's kitchen is contracted out to Aramark Corporation which provides meals for the jail, Juvenile facility and the Community Justice Work Center (CJWC). The kitchen provides between 1200-1300 meals a day for the three facilities. The jail's laundry provides services for both the jail and Juvenile facility. The inmates in the jail receive a diet that is an average of 2800 calories per day. The Jail will pay approximately \$1.18 per meal in the coming year.

We currently contract for medical coverage with Wellpath (formerly Correct Care Solutions (CCS)). They provide onsite medical staff from 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. There is a doctor who oversees medical services and performs sick call once per week. A Nurse Practitioner also holds sick call once per week. Wellpath also provides an on call after hours service. A portion of our Wellpath contract also addresses Mental Health Care. In 2019 we were able to double our efforts in this area, adding a second full-time social worker.

Inmates with mental health issues also pose a huge risk for the jail. The risk of suicide is higher in jail and those with significant mental health issues can consume a lot of jail resources such as medical, Mental Health and Deputy time. As community resources for mental health dwindle, the jail has become a secondary mental health facility. With no available resources, the officer on the street is forced to lodge them in jail in an effort to keep the peace and the community safe.

Our highest areas of risk (liability) are inmates who require special observation (checks). These types of checks require a deputy to observe the inmate, assure they are ok and document their observations at a minimum of every 15 minutes. The most significant of these would be intoxicated inmates and those on suicide prevention checks. These checks can take a significant amount of the deputies' time depending on how many inmates are on these special checks.

#### 2019 Improvements:

- Significant security project involving strengthening of ceiling and wall security. This weakness was identified during an incident that occurred in the facility and prioritized to ensure future security.
- Increased relationships with community partners, specifically related to interest in the care of inmates with Behavioral Health and Addiction needs.
- Installation of Body Scanner, a device that scans for contraband inside the body.
- Addition of drug K-9 assigned to jail.

#### Future Issues:

- Planning for the possibility of a new jail facility in the future.
- Implementation of jail MAT program to address opioid affected inmates.
- Addition of a Captain in the Corrections Bureau.

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# MEMORANDUM

To: Allan Smith, Senior Deputy District Attorney  
From: Sheriff Nathan Sickler  
Subj: Corrections Grand Jury Response  
Date: March 31, 2020

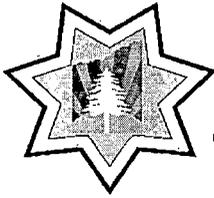
Written response to each 2020 Corrections Grand Jury recommendation:

- A. Agreed and Completed: The agency / department affected agrees with, and has implemented the recommendation.
- B. Partial Agreement and Completed: There is partial agreement, which has been completed, and partial rejection. Reasons for the rejection are solicited.
- C. Disagreed and Rejected: Reasons for rejection are solicited.
- D. Agreed but Unable to Implement at this time: Reasons for the inability to implement are solicited.
- E. Unanswered: The agency or department has not responded to the recommendation.
- F. Pending: Partial or full acceptance has occurred, but implementation is either incomplete or has yet to be initiated.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. "The Grand Jury's number one recommendation is for a larger County Jail, in order to properly administer the correctional responsibilities of each facility."
  - **Agree but Unable to Implement at this Time** – The Jackson County Sheriff's Office, along with support from Jackson County Administration, is currently working on a plan to move toward construction of a modern facility which would more than double the amount of inmate beds available.
2. "The Grand Jury recommends creating a permanent and appropriate work space for all mental health providers/staff within the Jackson County Jail."
  - **Agreed but Unable to Implement at this Time** – The Jackson County Sheriff's Office, supported in part by recommendations from previous Corrections Grand Juries, has been able to increase the number of Mental Health Professionals working at the Jackson County Jail. This increase has had the unintended result of reducing the amount of available work spaces for performance of mental health duties. The current facility does not have unused, secure, space available which could be converted for this purpose. The Jackson County Sheriff's Office, along with support from Jackson County Administration, is currently working on a plan to move toward construction of a modern facility which would include an increase in available professional work spaces.

3. "The Grand Jury recommends increasing Mental Health and Drug Counseling staff, as well as allowing more time with inmates."
  - **Agreed and Completed** – The Jackson County Sheriff's Office has successfully increased both the Mental Health and Drug Counseling services at the jail in the past few months. The Jackson County Jail recently added one additional full-time Mental Health Professional (bringing our total to two), and is currently in the hiring process for a Part-Time Mental Health Prescriber, which we expect to be filled soon. Additionally, the Jackson County Jail opened two housing units devoted to the treatment of opioid effected individuals. The Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) program combines medical treatment and daily visits from Drug Counseling Staff.
4. "The Grand Jury recommends the Jackson County Jail provide a well-being, stress reducing staff lounge / space."
  - **Agreed but Unable to Implement at this Time** – The Jackson County Sheriff's Office recognizes and agrees that the Corrections Staff works in an environment that requires constant vigilance, working conditions that would benefit greatly from the ability to occasionally relax in a staff lounge area. The current facility is limited in available spaces which could possibly be converted for this purpose. The Jackson County Sheriff's Office, along with support from Jackson County Administration, is currently working on a plan to move toward construction of a modern facility which would include an increase in available staff lounge areas.
5. Not Applicable
6. Not Applicable



**JACKSON COUNTY**  
*Community Justice*

*Lisa McCurley*  
*Deputy Director*  
*Community Justice Transition Center*  
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*5505 S. Pacific Hwy*  
*Phoenix, OR 97535*  
*Lisa.McCurley@jacksoncounty.org*

**TO:** Allan Smith, Senior Deputy District Attorney  
**FROM:** Lisa McCurley, Deputy Director  
**SUBJECT:** Grand Jury Inspection  
**DATE:** March 17, 2020

Please accept the Transition Center responses to the 2020 Grand Jury Inspection below:

- A. Agreed and completed. The agency/department affected agrees with and has implemented the recommendation.
- B. Partial Agreement and completed. There is partial agreement, which has been completed, and partial rejection. Reasons for and details of this action are solicited.
- C. Disagreed and rejected. Reasons for rejection are solicited.
- D. Agreed but unable to implement at this time. Reasons for unable to implement are solicited.
- E. Unanswered. The agency or department has not responded to the recommendation.
- F. Pending. Partial or full acceptance has occurred but implementation is either incomplete or has yet to be initiated.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1 - 4. Not Applicable

5. "As with previous reports, this Grand Jury would recommend the repurposing of the Transition Center kitchen to a more usable space."

Pending

Community Justice is currently exploring the possibility of repurposing the Transition Center kitchen to utilize the space more efficiently. As it is not cost effective to be used for meal preparation, it may be more practical if converted to usable meeting space and/or possible office space.

6. Not Applicable