

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

By

2022 Special Corrections Grand Jury

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2022 Special Corrections Grand Jury inspected the Jackson County Juvenile Detention and Residential Facility, the Community Justice Work Center and the Jackson County Jail. The Grand Jury's overall 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 07, 2022 the Grand Jury attended their first meeting with Senior Deputy District Attorney Allan Smith ("Mr. Smith") to begin orientation of their duties and line-up of interviewees. Based on the request made by the Grand Jury, Mr. Smith drafted a tentative schedule for the facilities' tours and interviewees and facilitated all subsequent tours and interviews.

The Grand Jury visited three correctional facilities which are operated within Jackson County:

- Jackson County Jail (JCJ)
- Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF)
- Community Justice Work Center (CJWC)

This report addresses the facilities and operations of each of these agencies and includes **25** recommendations. Even in the times of COVID-19, the Grand Jury were able to complete the task asked of them and found that there were few barriers to inspection and interviews in all three facilities, with the exception of the detention wing of the JDF because it was on COVID-19 quarantine.

III. SYNOPSIS OF GRAND JURY INTERIVEWS AND FACILITITY TOURS

Jackson County Jail

Friday, January 14, 2022, the Grand Jury toured the County Jail and received testimony from the following:

1. Capt. Joshua Aldrich, Jail Commander
2. Michelle Green, Nurse/Medical Provider
3. Robert Woodhouse, Mental Health Provider
4. Dep. Ethon Barrou, Corrections Deputy
5. K.J., Female Adult In Custody (AIC)

Juvenile Detention Center

Friday, January 21, 2022, the Grand Jury toured the Jackson County Juvenile Detention and Residential Facility, and received testimony from the following:

1. Joe Ferguson, Juvenile Center Deputy Director
2. Bobby Divine, Juvenile Center Center Manager
3. Melanie Harper, Juvenile Justice Specialist
4. Holly Christian, Nurse/ Medical Provider
5. Serena Hoke, Mental Health Provider
6. Greg Bryant, Teacher/ Medford School District
7. A.J., Juvenile Male In Placement
8. H.G., Juvenile Female In Placement

Work/Transition Center

Friday, January 28, 2022, the Grand Jury toured the Work Center Facility in Talent, Oregon and the Juvenile Detention Center. The following testimony was received:

1. Eric Guyer, Community Corrections Director
2. Ramona Driggers, Nurse/ Medical Provider
3. Melody Voskanian, Mental Health Provider
4. M.S.O, Male AIC
5. A.V., Female AIC

Additional Interviews

Friday, February 4, 2022, the Grand Jury completed interviews with the following:

1. Nathan Sickler, Jackson County Sheriff
2. Beth Heckert, Jackson County District Attorney
3. Danny Jordan, Jackson County Administrator
4. Hon. Laura Cromwell, Jackson County Circuit Court Judge
5. Scott Beauchamp, Community Justice Probation Officer
6. Lindsay Zamudio, Community Justice Probation Officer
7. Connor Shores, Defense Attorney, Southern Oregon Public Defenders

IV. GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

Friday, February 11, 2022, the Grand Jury reviewed previous testimony and formulated their recommendations, as follows:

Jackson County Jail Recommendations

- The Grand Jury found that Jackson County is experiencing a jail space crisis. The current facility that was constructed in 1981 is now outdated and fails to meet the growing county's need. The Grand Jury's number one recommendation is for a larger and more modern County Jail. A larger and more modern facility would help the county alleviate its chronic Failure To Appear (FTA) problem, facilitate delivery of services to AICs, and improve the public's perception of its criminal justice system.
- The Grand Jury recommend that Jackson County increase its effort in educating the public on the jail space crisis. We suggest stronger social media presence, public outreach and overall marketing effort.
- The Grand Jury recommend that the existing facility increase its staffing by hiring additional Corrections Deputies.
- The Grand Jury recommend that the Mental Health providers at the facility have a private office space for AIC interviews and counseling.
- The Grand Jury recommend that the Medical Health providers have space and adequate staffing for inpatient care (like an infirmary) for the purposes of stabilization and/or administering simple medical procedures.
- The Grand Jury recommend that the Medical Health providers have access to an EKG machine and IV hydration equipment at the facility to use as needed. Access to the above-mentioned equipment would reduce the number of AICs being transported to the hospital.
- The Grand Jury recommend that the Medical and Dental Health providers' hours be increased.
- The Grand Jury recommend that Mental, Medical, and Dental health providers establish an internship program to recruit students and professionals in training to intern at the facility in exchange for college/school credit. The creation of such a program would promote employment at the facility to the public and make it easier to staff these positions in the future.
- When COVID-19 restrictions begin to lift and as permitted by state law, the Grand Jury recommend that regular Narcotics and Alcoholics Anonymous meeting be brought back into the facility, in-person and/or via video conferencing.

- The Grand Jury recommend that the County Administrator and the County Sheriff hold a quarterly public meeting in-person and/or via video conferencing where all community stakeholders, county officials, and the public come together to discuss and problem solve the issue of the jail space crisis. We recommend that this meeting be heavily advertised to the public via social media and other media outlets.

Juvenile Detention Facility Recommendations

- The Grand Jury recommend that the facility re-evaluate its nutrition program and potentially step away from the National School Lunch standard to ensure that its persons in placement receive enough food and not feel hungry.
- The Grand Jury recommend that the Medical Health providers have access to an EKG machine and IV hydration equipment at the facility to use as needed. Access to the above-mentioned equipment would reduce the number of persons in placement being transported to the hospital for detox.
- The Grand Jury recommend that the facility continue to pursue its effort to become a GED testing site.
- The Grand Jury recommend that the county re-evaluate and increase the hourly pay for the employees to ensure continued recruitment and staffing of the facility.
- The Grand Jury recommend that Education, Mental, Medical, and Dental health providers establish an internship program to recruit students and professionals in training to intern at the facility in exchange for college/school credit. The creation of such a program would promote employment at the facility to the public and make it easier to staff these positions in the future.
- The Grand Jury recommend that the facility improve and strengthen its effort to advertise and communicate the availability of existing programs to persons in placement. The communication has to be continuous and repeated throughout the person in placement's detention.
- The Grand Jury recommend that the facility continue its efforts to convert the existing gym space into additional classroom and office space.
- The Grand Jury recommend that the facility update its educational technology and purchase and/or solicit donations for additional units, such as 3D printers, larger TVs, and a Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machine.

Work Transition Center Recommendations

- The Grand Jury recommend that the county increase the number of transitional housing units both, on site and in the community, available for persons leaving the facility and transitioning back into the community.
- The Grand Jury recommend that the facility move away from paper medical reporting and make electronic reporting software be available for its Medical Health provider.
- The Grand Jury recommend that the Mental Health provider at the facility be provided with a separate, private office to conduct patient interviews and counseling.
- The Grand Jury recommend that Mental, Medical, and Dental health providers establish an internship program to recruit students and professionals in training to intern at the facility in exchange for college/school credit. The creation of such a program would promote employment at the facility to the public and make it easier to staff these positions in the future.
- The Grand Jury recommend that the county re-evaluate and increase the hourly pay for the employees to ensure continued recruitment and staffing of the facility.
- The Grand Jury recommend that the facility improve and strengthen its effort to advertise and communicate the availability of existing programs to AICs. The communication has to be continuous and repeated throughout the AICs detention.
- When COVID-19 restrictions begin to lift and as permitted by state law, the Grand Jury recommend that regular Narcotics and Alcoholics Anonymous meeting be brought back into the facility, in-person and/or via video conferencing.

V. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Grand Jury acknowledges the professional courtesy and cooperation we received from all agency managers, staff and witnesses we interviewed during this inquiry.

The Grand Jury also acknowledges the District Attorney's office's attention to COVID safety protocols and procedures during this inquiry.

VI. APPENDIX OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Jackson County Jail Capacity Crisis video link https://youtu.be/WY0a_MNOGOQ

MEMORANDUM

To: Allan E. Smith, Senior Deputy District Attorney
From: Sheriff Nathan Sickler
Subj: Corrections Grand Jury Response
Date: March 16, 2022

Written response to each 2022 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.

Jackson County Jail Recommendations

- The Grand Jury found that Jackson County is experiencing a jail space crisis. The current facility that was constructed in 1981 is now outdated and fails to meet the growing county's need. The Grand Jury's number one recommendation is for a larger and more modern County Jail. A larger and more modern facility would help the county alleviate its chronic Failure To Appear (FTA) problem, facilitate delivery of services to AICs, and improve the public's perception of its criminal justice system.

Agreed but Unable to Implement at this time – See Comments Below

- The Grand Jury recommend that Jackson County increase its effort in educating the public on the jail space crisis. We suggest stronger social media presence, public outreach and overall marketing effort.

Agreed and Completed – In May 2021 the Jackson County Sheriff's Office hired a full-time Public Information Officer. This position continues to work to improve interaction and outreach with the community through a variety of platforms.

- The Grand Jury recommend that the existing facility increase its staffing by hiring additional Corrections Deputies.

Partial Agreement and Completed – We believe the Jackson County Sheriff's Office Corrections Bureau is allotted an amount of Full-Time Equivalent positions which is sufficient to adequately staff the Jackson County Jail. The effective staffing shortage comes when those positions are either unfilled or involved in the extensive training process required to become a Corrections Deputy. Jackson County constantly continues to recruit and hire new employees to fill vacant positions as they occur.

- The Grand Jury recommend that the Mental Health providers at the facility have a private office space for AIC interviews and counseling.

Agreed but Unable to Implement at this time – See Comments Below

- The Grand Jury recommend that the Medical Health providers have space and adequate staffing for inpatient care (like an infirmary) for the purposes of stabilization and/or administering simple medical procedures.

Agreed but Unable to Implement at this time – See Comments Below

- The Grand Jury recommend that the Medical Health providers have access to an EKG machine and IV hydration equipment at the facility to use as needed. Access to the above-mentioned equipment would reduce the number of AICs being transported to the hospital.

Unanswered – Medical processes, including specific equipment needed for medical care of Adults-In-Custody, are provided by a 3rd-party vendor as a result of a competitive proposal process. The Jackson County Sheriff's Office supports the use of the most modern and effective medical practices, and would be interested in assisting the contracted provider within the guidelines of the contracted agreement.

- The Grand Jury recommend that the Medical and Dental Health providers' hours be increased.

Pending – Jackson County is currently in the process of negotiating an updated contract with our medical vendor.

- The Grand Jury recommend that Mental, Medical, and Dental health providers establish an internship program to recruit students and professionals in training to intern at the facility in exchange for college/school credit. The creation of such a program would promote employment at the facility to the public and make it easier to staff these positions in the future.

Unanswered – The listed areas of responsibility are provided by a 3rd-party vendor as a result of a competitive proposal process. The Jackson County Sheriff's Office would be supportive of the suggested program.

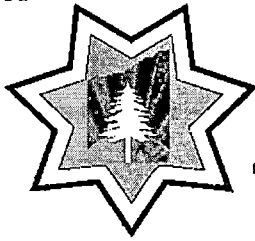
- When COVID-19 restrictions begin to lift and as permitted by state law, the Grand Jury recommend that regular Narcotics and Alcoholics Anonymous meeting be brought back into the facility, in-person and/or via video conferencing.

Agreed – The Jackson County Jail intends to offer all possible services to the Adult-In-Custody population as soon as we can safely return to normal operations.

- The Grand Jury recommend that the County Administrator and the County Sheriff hold a quarterly public meeting in-person and/or via video conferencing where all community stakeholders, county officials, and the public come together to discuss and problem solve the issue of the jail space crisis. We recommend that this meeting be heavily advertised to the public via social media and other media outlets.

Agreed in part/disagree in part – I held numerous public meetings during the efforts to state the need for a new correctional facility. While effective to those who attended, the community is very large and the majority of individuals will not attend such meetings. However, I do believe a well crafted public engagement plan would accomplish what the Grand Jury is intending through this recommendation and once a plan is developed for a new facility, if it is approved at the Board of Commissioner level, then public meetings to explain the plan in detail, gather community input, and ideas would be more appropriate.

Comments: In May 2020 the Jackson County Sheriff's Office proposed a new jail solution which was presented to the voters (Measure 15-190). This proposal was designed as a multi-faceted solution, specific to Corrections in Jackson County. The proposal not only increased the number of beds available to support the community, but additionally provided the physical and financial support needed to increase mental health, jail medical, and programming for Adults-In-Custody. Unfortunately, this proposal was rejected by the voters. The Jackson County Sheriff continues to work with community partners to look for a solution for expansion, including finding a method to meet the budgetary demands of a larger, and more supportive facility.



JACKSON COUNTY

Community Justice

COMMUNITY JUSTICE

Lisa McCurley
Transition Center Deputy Director

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To: Allan E. Smith, Senior Deputy District Attorney
From: Lisa McCurley, Deputy Director Transition Center
Subject: Grand Jury Inspection
Date: March 15, 2022

Please find Transition Center responses to the current Grand Jury recommendations below:

1. The Grand Jury recommend that the county increase the number of transitional housing units, both on site and in the community, available for persons leaving the facility and transitioning back into the community.

Partial Agreement and Completed: The Transition Center agrees that an increase in transitional housing beds at the facility would be beneficial for our justice involved individuals. We are currently exploring the financial cost of adding another transitional housing dorm within our facility to see if this can be accomplished during the current fiscal year. Transitional housing beds offsite are currently provided by partner agencies and not by Community Justice. This project would be cost prohibitive as Community Justice does not own property currently that could be utilized for this project.

2. The Grand Jury recommend that the facility move away from paper medical reporting and make electronic reporting software be available for its Medical Health provider.

Agreed but Unable to Implement at this time: This would require connecting to the jail's medical platform, ERMA through Wellpath (our contracted medical provider). This would allow records and Medication Administration Record's to be transferred back and forth from the jail to the Transition Center. This would be more efficient than handwritten documents and may be possible in the future, but Wellpath currently doesn't have enough staffing to train all of the staff at the Transition Center. There would also be additional costs for this training and for computers at each Medical Cart, that would need to be allocated in a future budget.

3. The Grand Jury recommend that the Mental Health provider at the facility be provided with a separate, private office to conduct patient interviews and counseling.

Agreed and completed: The Transition Center has limited individual office space but has multiple spaces that provide privacy for mental health providers. Additional WIFI access, lap tops with Cameras, as well as television monitors have been installed to facilitate telehealth appointments and Virtual Treatment meetings for residents at the Center. We are also currently planning to remodel unused kitchen space which will add additional private office space and meeting space.

4. The Grand Jury recommend that Mental, Medical, and Dental health providers establish an internship program to recruit students and professionals in training to intern at the facility in exchange for college/school credit. The creation of such a program would promote employment at the facility to the public and make it easier to staff these positions in the future.

Disagreed and Rejected: An internship would require our contracted Medical Provider to provide oversight from a practitioner in each discipline. We have a relatively small medical budget that tags on to the Jail and Juvenile Services to provide a nurse 20 hours per week. The nurse addresses immediate medical concerns and determines if clients need to go outside the facility during their short stay at the Center, or if they can wait until release. Our Medical Provider provides a doctor at the jail (available by phone) for approximately 5 hours per week and a dentist for 4 hours every 2 weeks. There is not enough time allotted for an internship to be established and the number of hours required to supervise internships would be cost prohibitive.

5. The Grand Jury recommend that the county re-evaluate and increase the hourly pay for the employees to ensure continued recruitment and staffing of the facility.

Disagreed and Rejected: Jackson County regularly reviews its compensation plan for all employee groups to ensure pay is equitable and market competitive so the County may continue to attract and retain highly qualified employees. Such reviews of the compensation plan use standard methodological approaches in order to comply with the County ordinance to establish a personnel system that is based on equitable principles governing all considerations of County employment, which includes compensation. For represented employees, the final pay determinations includes the information derived from the above review process and the outcome of the union bargaining process that is codified in the collective bargaining agreements.

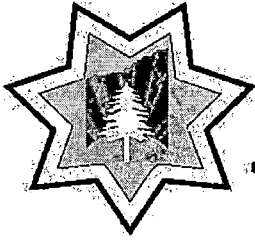
6. The Grand Jury recommend that the facility improve and strengthen its effort to advertise and communicate the availability of existing programs to AICs. The communication has to be continuous and repeated throughout the AICs detention.

Pending: We are currently in the process of preparing current resource information that will be posted in each dorm and updated on a regular basis by designated staff.

Staff with the Pathfinders Network will also be incorporated into our daily intake process with incoming clients so they can share information about the groups they provide and the one-on-one peer support services they offer.

7. When COVID-19 restrictions begin to lift and as permitted by state law, the Grand Jury recommend that regular Narcotics and Alcoholics Anonymous meeting be brought back into the facility, in-person and/or via video conferencing.

Agreed but Unable to Implement at this Time: The Transition Center plans to bring regular NA and AA Meetings back into the facility and will do so as soon as it is permitted by the Oregon Health Authority.



JACKSON COUNTY

Community Justice

COMMUNITY JUSTICE

Joe Ferguson
Juvenile Division Deputy Director

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To: Allan Smith
From: Joe Ferguson, Deputy Director Juvenile Division
Subject: Grand Jury Inspection
Date: February 18, 2022

Please find juvenile services responses to the current Grand Jury recommendations below:

1. The Grand Jury recommend that the facility re-evaluate its nutrition program and potentially step away from the National School Lunch standard to ensure that its persons in placement receive enough food and not feel hungry.

Agreed and Completed: The juvenile division is actively working with Aramark on the implementation of a new menu that will move away from the National School Lunch Program and provide more food daily to youth in placement.

2. The Grand Jury recommend that the Medical Health providers have access to an EKG machine and IV hydration equipment at the facility to use as needed. Access to the above-mentioned equipment would reduce the number of persons in placement being transported to the hospital for detox.

Pending: The juvenile division will work with our medical provider, Wellpath, regarding the purchase and on-site placement of an EKG and IV hydration equipment.

3. The Grand Jury recommend that the facility continue to pursue its effort to become a GED testing site.

Agreed and Completed: The juvenile division has completed all documentation regarding contract requirements and is awaiting signatures so implementation can begin.

4. The Grand Jury recommend that the county re-evaluate and increase the hourly pay for the employees to ensure continued recruitment and staffing of the facility.

Agreed but Unable to Implement at this time: The juvenile division does not set the hourly pay for employees as this is a function of the County Human Resources Department. There was a recent compensation study that was conducted through the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the employees Union and current negotiations are occurring.

5. The Grand Jury recommend that Education, Mental, Medical, and Dental health providers establish an internship program to recruit students and professionals in training to intern at the facility in exchange for college/school credit. The creation of such a program would promote employment at the facility to the public and make it easier to staff these positions in the future.

Pending: The juvenile division currently has College Intern and Volunteer opportunities for individuals wanting to learn more about working in the juvenile justice system. Efforts are currently underway to increase Internships to mental health students through Southern Oregon University. Discussions will occur with the Medford School District and WellPath on the potential of Education, Medical and Dental Internships through those organizations.

6. The Grand Jury recommend that the facility improve and strengthen its effort to advertise and communicate the availability of existing programs to persons in placement. The communication has to be continuous and repeated throughout the person in placement's detention.

Unanswered: The juvenile division is unsure what is being recommended in this question. Juvenile detention is a short-term placement based on new law violations, probation violations, warrants, violations of conditional release agreements and court orders. The Juvenile Residential Program is for youth on probation and failing to comply with probation conditions, committing new crimes and struggling with behavioral issues in the community. All other residential placements are managed by the Oregon Youth Authority throughout the State.

7. The Grand Jury recommend that the facility continue its efforts to convert the existing gym space into additional classroom and office space.

Pending: The Juvenile Division is awaiting cost estimates through the County Facility Maintenance Department. Efforts will be made to complete this project by the end of June 2022 if not cost prohibited.

8. The Grand Jury recommend that the facility update its educational technology and purchase and/or solicit donations for additional units, such as 3D printers, larger TVs, and a Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machine.

Agreed and Completed: The Medford School District has purchased 3D printers and pens, a CNC machine, screen printing machine and laser engraver for use in the educational program.