



DETENTION CENTER AD HOC COMMITTEE
February 18, 2020 – 1:00PM
Administration Conference Room
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Dalhi Myers, Chair, Yvonne McBride and Allison Terracio

OTHERS PRESENT: John Thompson, Michelle Onley, Ronaldo Myers, Hayden Davis, Shane Kitchen, Randy Pruitt, and Fielding Pringle

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Ms. Myers called the meeting to order at approximately 1:04 p.m.
2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Ms. Terracio moved, seconded by Ms. Myers, to adopt the agenda as published. The vote in favor was unanimous.
3. **ELECTION OF THE CHAIR** – Ms. Terracio moved, seconded by Ms. Myers, to nominate Ms. Myers for the position of Chair. The vote in favor was unanimous.
4. **ALVIN S. GLENN DETENTION CENTER EXPANSION**
 - a. **Introduction**
 - b. **Background** – Mr. Myers stated they are a direct-supervision facility, which basically means the officers are in the housing units’ day-in/day-out. The officers control the activities of the inmates.
 - In FY11-12 Council approved a \$12.5M bond to build additional jail space.
 - The project was previously was bid out; the 2 companies that were to be negotiated with were Carter Goble Lee and Moseley Architects.
 - The project was put on hold and the County brought in a management consultant in 2014. The consultant was to determine if the jail was doing everything that needed to be done. At that time, there had been a couple of jail deaths, and they wanted to insure the jail was being managed properly.
 - The management consultant determined the jail was being managed properly, but they recommended additional medical and mental health beds be constructed.
 - In 2016, SCDC was sued, and lost, because they were not providing the proper services for mental health patients and not meeting the medical needs of the inmates.
 - Carter Goble Lee recommended to construct medical and mental health beds, and to renovate 3 open bay dormitories. The reason for renovating the open bay dormitories is because of the population changing over the years. There has been an increase in inmates charged with violent crimes, which necessitates the need for more single cells to accommodate those individuals who do not want to follow the “rules.”

- The 2014 and 2016 needs assessment studies each took approximately 3 months.
- Mr. Hayden Davis has a copy of the 2016 Needs Assessment.
- It was recommended to construct 36 medical unit beds. They will not be building an infirmary because that would increase the medical contract, and would require specialized equipment. In addition, an infirmary has to be certified through DHEC.
- Currently there are no true mental health beds. Their “Special Housing Unit” is a hodgepodge of disciplinary, administrative separation, medical and mental health detainees. At last count, there are 56 cells with approximately 25 – 26 detainees suffering with mental health issues.
- They are attempting to build something more therapeutic. Currently, there are 3 – 4 mental health counselors on contract with their medical provider, Wellpath. This would place the counselor(s) in the unit with the detainees so they can do group and individual therapy.
- There are currently no suicide cells. When they have an inmate that is at risk, an officer is assigned to that cell. The officer sits and monitors the inmate one-on-one.

Ms. Terracio inquired as to what would make a cell a “suicide cell”.

Mr. Myers responded it is basically a padded room where the inmate cannot hang themselves. There is no ligature points, the walls are smooth, and the ceilings are higher to prevent hanging.

Mr. Davis stated there are also no bathroom fixtures or corners, which could be used to self-harm.

Mr. Myers stated the Dept. of Mental Health does not have that many forensic beds; therefore, they have to find a way to accommodate. They currently have an inmate that self-mutilates to gain attention. The inmate had to have a blood transfusion because he has lost so much blood. They have tried to get him committed, but because of a space issue he has not been.

Ms. Terracio inquired about the difference between a medical unit and an infirmary.

Mr. Myers stated an infirmary would have “hot” oxygen coming off the walls, which is similar to a hospital setting.

Mr. Davis stated it would be more expensive than a hospital room because all of the equipment would have to be secured. The medical unit would more closely resemble a jail cell, but there would only be one inmate per cell.

Mr. Myers stated in addition, the medical unit would have electrical outlets coming out of the wall. Currently they do not electrical outlets and they have been cited by SCDC, and the Fire Marshal’s Office, because they have cords running across the floor for the medical equipment. There is no cost for the fines, but it is noted in case something does happen.

Ms. Myers inquired if a cost has been determined for the construction/renovations.

Mr. Myers stated the main priorities is building the medical and mental health units, which could utilize most of the \$12.5M set aside.

Ms. Myers inquired if the \$12.5M was segregated.

Dr. Thompson stated to his knowledge it was not. He will confirm with James if the funds are in the Detention Center budget.

Mr. Myers stated they need to update security and electronics. They would like to put additional cameras in. Currently there is one camera in each housing unit, which is a pan and tilt camera.

c. Scope of Service

- 2019 – Procurement issued a RFP for the design of the expansion
- Most responsive vendor was Moseley Architect, which has previously completed jobs at the Detention Center
- Nationally, approximately 30% of the inmates in the jail population have mental health issues
- There are currently 236 inmates at the Detention Center that receive medication for mental health issues
- By removing inmates from the Special Housing Unit and putting them in a medical unit, and then, removing the inmates with mental health issues and placing them in a mental health unit, it will free up additional cell space.
- There is also an increase in the number of gang-related issues.
- Inmates with violent offenses remain in jail longer, and restrictive housing should not be used to house inmates with minor violations or inmates with mental health issues.

Mr. Myers stated he is a supporter of the National Alliance of Mentally Ill, and has worked with them in the past.

Ms. Myers inquired if the Detention Center is currently delineating where inmates are housed.

Mr. Myers responded there is a classification process to place the inmates, but because they cannot place inmates with severe mental health issues in the general population, those inmates have to be placed where no one can take advantage of them. The only place to house these inmates is in a single-cell in the Special Housing Unit.

Ms. Myers requested additional feedback on inmates with violent offenses, which have a higher bond and are not able to meet the bond, and if the County should continue to with cash bonds. She inquired about what would be different if Mr. Myers had all of the money he has requested, and where inmates would be housed.

Mr. Myers stated, to be honest, it would not be different, unless the criminal justice system itself is fixed because the jail is a catchall for everybody. He stated the Detention Center, along with the Public Defender's Office and the Courts, try to research the background information on the detainees in order to set a better bond. The inmates that need to be released are being

released, but the inmates that have been charged with violent offenses typically have committed murder or some other egregious crime.

Ms. Myers stated these individuals have only been charged with the offense, so she is concerned with how we are classifying these individuals.

Mr. Myers stated they do an objective jail classification study, which is basically a decision tree of the charges, criminal history, educational level, etc.

Mr. Davis stated the County is looking at doing a design-bid-build process, which would bring in an architectural firm to design, and then have them put it out to bid. He stated the proposal from Moseley was, knowing there was a \$10M budget, with an option to do some other things with the remaining funds, to focus on the mental health and medical facility portion. The design process is typically divided into four (4) sections: schematic design, design development, construction documents, and bid oversight. The schematic design is what this proposal is for, which will evaluate the process, do a site study, space utilization, and how it fits on the site. It will also review the assessment needs recommendation and go through the Detention Center's daily processes.

At this point, Moseley is willing to honor their proposal to the February 2019 solicitation.

Ms. Myers stated, with a year old process, there could be other companies that may be able to provide a viable bid.

The information will be presented for Council's approval through the D&S and/or A&F Committees. Once Moseley is put under contract, they would anticipate a 4 - 6 month design time for the schematic design.

Ms. Myers inquired if there are any internal restrictions regarding bid solicitations.

Mr. Myers responded that he had spoken with Procurement, and the County could process with the award of the contract, if the vendor wishes to honor their bid.

Ms. Myers stated her question is related to other potential bidders, who were not successful, since we are beginning the process a year after the bid solicitation. There could be local companies who have an interest in this work, as well. She was curious if there was anything we need to look at from that perspective.

Mr. Myers stated there is only one local company that is qualified, which is Carter Goble Lee, and they did not bid. Of the five (5) bidders, there was one local "firm" that submitted a bid. The "firm" consisted of 2 -4 companies cobbled together to submit the bid. Each of the companies had experience, but a lot of their work would have been contracted out to other companies.

Ms. Myers inquired as to who reviewed the bid.

Mr. Myers responded that Mr. Kitchens, Mr. Niermeier and himself reviewed the bid.

Ms. Myers inquired if they were blind bids.

Mr. Myers stated they were provided their qualifications, and the names of the companies. The reviewers then contacted the companies' references to determine how responsive they were, and how the designs worked out for their previous clients. The reviewers were not provided the funding portion of the proposal.

Ms. Terracio stated she believes these companies would need to have a high level of expertise because these are very specific requests.

Mr. Davis stated he previously worked for an architectural firm that specialized in jails, and Moseley was their main competitor. Moseley is known internationally for their work on jails.

Ms. Myers stated there are three (3) local companies that she has represented that have constructed federal jails, and they build reputable jails.

Ms. McBride stated that not having a blind bid troubles her. In terms of companies that specialize in building facilities, certain companies monopolize and do not give other companies that have the same experience an opportunity. She inquired if there is a "pre-bid" process where companies are certified for eligibility.

Mr. Myers responded there is not a pre-bid process.

Mr. Davis stated this was a publicly advertised RFQ, which was open to anyone.

Mr. Myers stated they would like to move forward, so they can begin the design-build process within the next six (6) months.

Ms. Myers stated the committee needs to be able to review the numbers and the solicitation information before they can make a recommendation to full Council.

Mr. Davis asked for clarification on what the committee specifically is looking for in the briefing document.

Ms. Myers stated she would like to see the following:

- The bidders;
- The scores;
- The bid prices; and
- The members of the review committee

The requested information will give the ad hoc committee an understanding of the process, and if the process was fair and followed the procurement guidelines.

Ms. Terracio inquired if the proposal increases the number of beds at the Detention Center, or does it help to rearrange where detainees are housed.

Mr. Myers stated it will increase the total number of beds.

Ms. Terracio inquired if the Detention Center has an overcrowding problem.

Mr. Myers stated they have a classification issue. The jail was built in phases. Phase I was 336 open-bay beds, which is the part they are requesting to renovate. The facility has a total of 1,100 beds, which was reduced when they closed down the "Inmate Working Unit" because of plumbing issues.

Ms. Terracio stated, for clarification, we are not looking to jail more people.

Mr. Myers stated he is attempting to separate detainees better, and house them humanely.

Ms. McBride inquired if there is a limited amount of inmates that should be safely housed at the Detention Center.

Mr. Myers responded in the affirmative, but for clarification, it is not the population, but how they are classified.

Ms. McBride inquired which classification the expansion is for.

Mr. Myers stated they are requesting to construct medical and mental health units, which will free up additional beds to assist with "problem" inmate housing.

Ms. McBride stated her main concern is the mental health component, and making sure the detainees get the appropriate treatment.

Mr. Myers stated that is one of the things the architects will take into consideration. Even though we have a feasibility study, they are going to do an additional assessment.

Mr. Davis stated there were four (4) items identified in the solicitation (i.e. mental health facility, medical facility, camera system, and the renovation of Housing I from a bunk area to individual cells).

Ms. Myers stated, for clarification, the RFQ was a direct outgrowth of the feasibility study.

Mr. Myers responded in the affirmative.

Ms. Myers thanked Ms. Pringle for attending the meeting, and requested her comments on the proposed project.

Ms. Pringle stated she supports Mr. Myers, and reiterated the mental health unit is desperately needed. It has caused concern for a long time, and she looks forward to movement on the matter.

Ms. Myers requested a standard meeting time, so we can be kept up to date on Detention Center issues. In addition, she requested the daily cost of housing a detainee is, and how much each municipality is paying.

Mr. Myers stated the cost to house each detainee is fluid. The average cost is \$72/day.

Ms. Myers stated the number to house someone at the Detention Center could potentially be different than the "budgeted" amount. She is requesting the cost to run the Detention Center.

Mr. Myers stated if included all the ancillary costs it would likely cost upward to \$90/day.

Ms. Myers stated the taxpayers of Richland County are housing Lexington County's detainees, as well, in some instances. If the "real" cost is "X" and we are charging them "Y", we are subsidizing the cost to some places, and overcharging in others.

Ms. McBride inquired if we legally have to accept detainees from other jurisdictions.

Mr. Myers responded the only thing they are legally required to do is house detainees with General Sessions' charges.

Ms. McBride stated she believes it is time the County looks at the process and start focusing on Richland County because things are almost out of hand. We are currently shortchanging the Richland County residents.

Ms. Myers inquired if it was possible for the Public Defender's Office to provide information on county's that have gone to a "no cash bail system".

Ms. Pringle stated she will bring back information at the next ad hoc meeting.

Ms. Myers inquired about the staff retention at the Detention Center.

Mr. Myers stated it is a national crisis in law enforcement; however, they are doing better now.

Ms. Myers inquired if it is still a revolving door.

Mr. Myers responded in the affirmative. A part of it is that employees do not know what they are getting into until they get on the job. The other part is hiring the right people. He noted that some of those that left in the past have begun returning.

Indirective supervision facilities, which Mr. Myers does not care for, seem to keep their employees much longer.

Ms. Myers inquired about the education and training programs available.

Mr. Myers stated they have a GED program, as well as other programs; however, because of the staff shortage some have been put on hold. He is looking at hiring a Retention Specialist to assist with retaining employees, which in turn will open these programs back up. A lot of time we concentrate on the inmates and not what the staff needs. Another issue they face with retention is that there is no real progression.

Ms. Myers stated there are some really creative programs which allows the detainees to do knowledge economy work (i.e. coding). There are real salaries banked for the detainees, so when they have money and a job skill.

Mr. Myers stated he will do some further research on the coding job skills.

Ms. McBride expressed her concern with the mental health and substance abuse issues of the detainees.

Mr. Myers stated they have a lot of community-based programs that deal with substance abuse, as well as a professional relationship with LRADAC.

Ms. McBride inquired about how many youth detainees ASGDC has.

Mr. Myers stated they average about 6 -8 juvenile detainees, but there is room to house 24.

5. **Questions & Answers**

6. **ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:14 p.m.