



Work Session Summary Minutes

OREGON

Guaranteed Detention Beds for Washington County

December 19, 2024. 9:30 AM

Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem

5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Board Room

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: Kevin Cameron, Danielle Bethell, and Colm Willis.

Board's Office: Chris Eppley, Toni Whitler, Alvin Klausen, Shawnnell Fuentes and Trevor Lane.

Legal Counsel: Steve Elzinga.

Juvenile Department: Troy Gregg

Kevin Cameron called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

Summary

The Marion County Board of Commissioners discussed a proposal to provide 20 guaranteed detention beds for Washington County, funded jointly by Washington and Clackamas Counties. The proposal involves reopening the Alpha unit, which would generate \$400,000 annually for Marion County, covering costs and adding to the general fund. Concerns were raised about the ethical implications, liability, and the fairness of the \$650 per bed per day rate compared to Multnomah County's rate. The board emphasized the need for strong indemnification and insurance clauses in the contract and suggested a legal analysis to ensure fair pricing and liability protection.

Discussion

- Proposal to provide guaranteed detention beds for Washington County by reopening the Alpha unit, funded jointly by Washington and Clackamas Counties.
- Financial and operational benefits, including \$400,000 annual revenue for Marion County and freeing up three beds currently given to Clackamas County.
- The proposal includes a 5% increase in bed rates for Clackamas County, covering all costs and providing a surplus.
- Concerns with Multnomah County's high bed rates, currently \$450 per kid per day, increasing to \$650 in July:
 - Concerns with poor conditions including freezing night incident.
- Liability and risk management considerations, including likelihood of beds being consistently filled.
- Pricing and subsidy concerns, with suggestions to conduct deeper cost analysis and ensure fair pricing.
- State and regional responsibilities in managing juvenile detention, ongoing efforts to address issues.
- Concerns about liability and previous lawsuits in the juvenile department.
- Beds will not be filled consistently.

- Guarantee ensures placement for 20 kids, but the actual numbers may vary.

Other

- Lack of state and regional funding for juvenile detention facilities.
- Challenges faced by smaller counties like Marion County in providing services.
- Importance of transparency and accountability through annual site visits by partner counties.

Next Steps

- Review contract language to ensure proper indemnification and liability protection for Marion County.
- Obtain copy of existing contract between Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas Counties for reference.
- Analyze actual cost for Marion County to operate the detention center and determine fair pricing structure.
- Explore options to require annual site visits and oversight by partner counties.
- Determine if revenue from additional beds should be earmarked for juvenile programs and facility improvements.

Adjourned – time: 10:12 a.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Minutes by: Gary White

Reviewed by:

Reviewed by:

Reviewed by: