



COUNTY OF NEVADA COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: June 25, 2019
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: County Executive Office
SUBJECT: Review analysis and recommendation for the future use of Juvenile Hall and provide staff direction.

RECOMMENDATION: Provide direction to staff to pursue an Expanded Youth Facility at the Juvenile Hall for the next five years and to explore moving Dispatch to the Juvenile Hall administration area in order to expand medical services in the Wayne Brown Correctional Facility.

FUNDING: Funding for Juvenile Hall is a combination of special Probation revenue funds and General Fund. In recent years, Probation has successfully reduced the operating cost of the facility from \$3.1M in FY17/18 to a proposed budget of \$2.36M in FY 19/20. Of this total budget, \$1.3M is proposed to be funded by the General Fund. Leasing part of the facility to the Superintendent of Schools or other organizations could potentially offset these expenses further, should the Board decide to direct staff to implement the Expanded Youth Facility option.

BACKGROUND: Juvenile Hall was built in 2003 and sized according to anticipated growth in juvenile detainees. The Hall cost \$5.4M with 80% funded by a Department of Justice grant and 20% County General Fund. Since its opening, the Hall has never been at capacity and over the last few years the average daily population has been less than 10 inmates. This is in a facility designed to hold sixty youths. Over several years, Probation leased juvenile hall beds to other counties to offset costs however these contracts have dried up as other counties have built their own juvenile hall facilities.

The Grand Jury has reported on the low census at Juvenile Hall twice – first in 2013 and again in 2016. Both reports recommend closing the hall and instead contracting with a neighboring county to house our juvenile offenders. Both of these reports site financial savings and repurposing the facility to serve the community in a greater way as their reasons for the recommendation.

In 2018, an interdepartmental County staff workgroup was formed to identify and analyze the opportunities to repurpose the Juvenile Hall facility. The workgroup identified the needs for facilities for County programs, the limitations of changing the use per the DOJ funding attached to it, the costs of potential new uses and the pros and cons of keeping it as a juvenile facility. The stakeholder group met seven times over fourteen months to discuss options and have time to research and gather additional information between meetings. The workgroup considered using the facility for homeless services, mental health services, as a group home, an adult reentry program



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and as an expanded youth facility. After analyzing each option, Expanded Youth Facility (EYF) is the recommendation before your board today.

An EYF would keep part of the facility as a locked detention center and open up part of the facility for other youth programming. For example, the Superintendent of Schools has expressed interest in leasing part of the facility for the Earl Jamison School program. In addition, other youth groups could use other parts of the facility for their programming such as 4H. The Transition Age Youth (TAY) program could remain in the third pod. Revenue from a SOS lease could offset operating costs to reduce the General Fund allocation for operations. Probation continues to explore leasing beds to other counties and tribes.

All the other options identified and explored by the workgroup were assessed to be either unfeasible due to Department of Justice and Bureau of State and Community Corrections restrictions or higher costs.

Finally, the Sheriff's Dispatch office is currently located in the Wayne Brown Correctional Facility near the medical unit. The space Dispatch occupies was originally intended for medical services expansion. The space is needed for mental health medical services expansion and the underutilized administrative area of the Juvenile Hall has been determined to be an appropriate location for Dispatch to move to in order to expand medical services at Wayne Brown.

Item Initiated by: Mali Dyck, Assistant County Executive Officer

Approved by: Alison Lehman, County Executive Officer

Submittal Date:

Revision Date: