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Boulder County Jail Presentation

August 14th, 2015

History

Jail was built in 1988 (27 years old), with a capacity of 287 beds.

Jail capacity has been increased over 7 times through double bunking selected areas, and eventually most of the jail.

In 2005 we converted a recreation yard into an additional 32 rooms that added 64 additional beds.

Our present capacity is around 535; however this is a floating number.

Philosophy

Along with providing a safe and secure environment for staff and inmates;

We have always adhered to a philosophy where offenders do not leave the jail worse off than when they arrived, and to provide opportunities for positive growth and change.

Focus on Direct Supervision (although facility design is remote): Positive Deputy Relationships with inmates greatly enhances supervision. We manage inmates with a high degree of compassion, self-control, tolerance, and discernment.

Internal Jail Programs

Education

Transition (partnered with CJS)

Male and Female

Food Service Certification (Inmate Workers)

JBBS (Grant Funded)

Volunteers: AA, NA, Religious

Alternative Sentence Programs

Community Workers

Work Release, Day Reporting, Home Detention, Work Crew

Current Issues and Trends

Criminal Justice: Front End Assessments/Strategies

Arrest Standards

Bond Commissioners: CPAT assessment tool

Pre-Trial Release Programs

ITC Court Programs

Jail Overcrowding

We have done extensive analysis in regards to who is in our jail. We have not seen a significant increase in number of new arrests, in fact a decrease over previous years. We are seeing a longer length of stay, more court and transport activity, an increase in Axis 1 offenders, and a substantial increase in female offenders.

Bring up Jail Snap Shot report for discussion.

Bring up Mental Health Stats for discussion.

Show Jail Diagram to illustrate changes in population demographics.

Discuss NIC TA and Michael Bennet recommendations:

Early Case Resolution was developed.

Looked for "low hanging fruit": Found 8 defendants who were in custody who could not make bond. This is after reducing our Pre-Trial numbers from those who had holds, or other sentences.

New Alternative Sentence Facility (300 bed)

Move about 108 beds out to new facility; add 50+ contract WR beds and the WR backlog 40+

Remodel of old Alternative Sentence building to accommodate about 80 new beds.

Trends

Who is in our Jail?

We are seeing more defendants in custody with mental health issues, extensive criminal histories, and more female offenders.

Mental Health issues have been more dysfunctional and a higher level of volatility.

Our ability to house inmates with mental health issues have been challenging. Efforts to avoid isolation and lockdown are countered with the need for safety and security.

Weekly review panel with the Jail Commanders, Classification and Mental Health to assess the status of any inmate in a long term lockdown status and find creative ways to address this.

Medical Issues

Colorado statute states that jails are not responsible for Pre-existing medical cost, however jails are responsible for the inmates care and well-being. Most of our litigation exists in this area.

We have seen a significant increase in offenders with more chronic medical issues. This creates daily challenges on the level of medical care we can provide.

My standard questions for our Jail Physician and Jail Medical Supervisors is: Are the health issue life threatening? If we fail to treat, will the condition get worse or cause permanent impairment? Unfortunately we have to weigh the cost against the need and do a liability triage of each case.

Programs

History of Boulder County Jail Programs

Where we were and where we are going