

**Jail Study Committee**  
Regular Meeting Minutes (same as Notes) – Approved 1-19-17  
Thursday, November 17, 2016 5:00 PM  
Legislature Chambers

**Attendance**

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>
Rich John	Chair	Present
Martha Robertson	Member	Present
David McKenna	Member	Present
Anna Kelles	Member	Present
James Dennis	Member	Present
Catherine Covert	Legislature Clerk	Present
Joe Mareane	County Administrator	Present
Ray Bunce	Jail Administrator	Present
Patricia Buechel	Probation & Community Justice Director	Present
Marcia Lynch	Public Info. Officer, County Administration	Present
Susan Cook	Chair, CJA/ATI	Present
Lance Salisbury	Supervising Attorney, Assigned Counsel Program	Present

**Call to Order**

Mr. John, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Changes to Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**Public Comment**

There was no member of the public present.

**Discussion: Criminal Justice/Jail Population Trend Needs Assessment - OGR (Center for Governmental Research)**

**Videoconference with CGR (Don Pryor, Paul Bishop, and Pete Nabozny)**

Mr. John explained the purpose of this meeting is to kick-off the conversation and to get input from Committee members and County staff involved in the process. It is also an opportunity for CGR representatives to asked questions.

Ms. Buechel commented that ATI (Alternatives-to-Incarceration) programs are now referred to as Enhanced Sentencing and Supervision Options (ESSO).

Mr. John also commented that Tompkins County is different from its neighboring counties and is much further ahead with its ATI programs and the institutional support for them. It is not Tompkins County's central focus to have a jail expansion that would allow boarding in of inmates as a revenue source. The focus will be on the efficiencies with the programs in place and to think "outside the box" for new and innovative ways to improve existing ATI programs or expanding them to make the Jail a better place overall.

Mr. Pryor said they are very comfortable with that direction and noted that clearly Tompkins County is among the leaders in the State in terms of dealing with alternatives. He said they look forward to working with Tompkins County in that context.

Ms. Robertson said there is a lot of community interest in this area and believes there is an interest in knowing who would be involved in the study at the local level. Mr. Pryor said they understand there are key people they will need to meet with including appropriate people in law enforcement and the judicial system. They will meet with staff from Probation, District Attorney, public defense, Judges, and community-based programs such as people involved with substance abuse, OAR (Opportunities, Alternatives, and Resources), and other key representatives in not-for-profit agencies involved with alternatives and mental health community.

Mr. Bishop further commented that they would create a list and work with the Committee to refine that list. Mr. Pryor anticipates after the initial meeting with the Committee, that a detailed work plan would be developed with expectations. A list of anticipated people to meet with would be included.

At this time, Committee members provided a number of organizations and people that could be contacted for this study.

Ms. Kelles also spoke of the County not having a detox center or treatment center and said she would like to hear more about that and what works and what does not. She also believes more support for mental health is needed in the Jail. In reference to Jail expansion and that the size and quality are important to accommodate programs that maybe helpful such as a medical facility.

Mr. Dennis said there is a local residential treatment facility called CARS (Cayuga Addiction Recovery Services) that recently received a grant to begin looking at a detox center for the County and recommended they be contacted.

Ms. Robertson asked if a public meeting was being considered. Mr. Pryor said those are some of the details that need to be worked out and he would like to know the Committee's interest in that area. Mr. John said it might be useful and that is an area that can be discussed later. He also said it is the consensus of the Committee that this process be very open and public so that people understand the issues being discussed.

Mr. Pryor said often with studies like this they use a website that can be used to make information available and could also allow members of the community to submit comments. Committee members supported the idea and asked that the details be worked out with the County's Public Information Officer.

Mr. Pryor expressed interest in meeting with the Criminal Justice Advisory/Alternatives to Incarceration Board (CJAATI) and asked if they could attend an upcoming meeting. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting would be appropriate.

Mr. John spoke of the information sent to the Commission of Correction relating to the variance for the Jail. Mr. Bunce extended an invitation for CGR representatives to visit the Jail. Mr. Pryor said he appreciates the offer and would like to have that happen in their first visit to the County. Mr. Bunce also agreed to send the most recent information submitted for the variance to Mr. Pryor.

Discussion followed concerning CGR's first visit that would involve a face-to-face meeting with available Committee members, discuss work plan, formalize who to talk to, visit the Jail, and possibly

Minutes  
Jail Study Committee  
Thursday, November 17, 2016

schedule a couple of interviews with the County Administrator, Pat Buechel, or the District Attorney. It was agreed that November 29<sup>th</sup> was the best date and Mr. Pryor was directed to work with the County Administrator to finalize details for that day.

Mr. Mareane asked that bail levels and lengths of stay be looked at. Mr. Pryor said that is an area they will be looking into that and will also be looking at the relationship between bail and other types of releases. Ms. Buechel encouraged Mr. Pryor and others to review the Department of Probation and Community Justice's Annual Report and said it is available on their website.

Ms. Robertson asked Mr. Pryor take time to visit the Day Reporting program and meet with the Supervising Attorney of the Assigned Counsel program.

Mr. Pryor asked that Committee members and staff let them know of any other things they may not be aware of as this study goes forward.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.