

Memorandum

To: Rich John, Chair, Tompkins County Jail Study Committee

From: Don Pryor
dpryor@cgr.org

Date: April 20, 2017

Re: Status of Jail Assessment Study

Rich, as we enter the last few weeks of our jail assessment study, Paul, Pete and I wanted to update you and the Jail Study Committee on the current status of our efforts, and give you a sense of what is to come as we embark on the final stages of our analyses. We will be happy to elaborate on what follows in our discussion with the JSC later this afternoon.

- We have completed nine on-site visits involving 10 days of meetings – in November, December, January (4 visits), February (2 days), March (2 visits)
- While our proposal promised that we would conduct up to 30 meetings with key stakeholders, CGR has actually more than doubled that total:
 - 52 individual or small group interviews (involving 62 different individuals)
 - 8 additional follow-up interviews involving 12 individuals
 - Additional email exchanges with about half a dozen individuals
 - 3 meetings with Jail Study Committee, including town meeting with 20+ speakers
 - Criminal Justice ATI committee meeting, with 15-20 attending
 - Two meetings with people with experience in the local criminal justice system and jail, plus family members (total of 15-18 individuals)
 - Meeting with 4 officials of NYS Commission of Correction
 - For more detail on the nature of those interviewed, see final section of this email*
- Created project website to share information regarding the study, including any reports accepted by the committee, with recent updates including minutes of Tompkins County Jail Study Committee.
- Collected extensive data from jail and Alternative to Incarceration programs, plus other community-based initiatives. In process of analyzing these data.
- Court data in process and expected from DCJS, probably in first two weeks of May.

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- Review of relevant previous reports including the 2002 jail report, 2016 CJATI Reentry Program, 2014 Jail Alternatives Task Force and 2016 Municipal Courts Task Force. Have also talked with people involved in those efforts to get their direct perspectives and clarification of issues.
 - Also reviewing various state and local data from other communities relevant to jail and criminal justice practices.
 - Work to be completed/next steps:
 - Follow-up as needed by phone and email to pin down remaining data and to clarify issues prior to completing analyses and drawing final conclusions
 - Analyze historic arrest patterns and compare with jail population trends
 - Analyze county population trends and future population projections and relate to jail trends and future projections
 - Complete data analyses
 - Complete review of legislation, regulations and experiences in other communities and best practices
 - Develop future jail population projections under various scenarios and assumptions
 - Develop and explore potential options for future consideration
 - Develop draft report for review with Jail Study Committee, including outline of various options and their potential implications (e.g., staff implications, costs, regulatory feasibility, alignment with COC demands and expectations, practical and political implications, potential timelines, etc.)
 - Finalize report and Executive Summary
 - Present findings to County Legislature and public

*The individual interviews and group discussions conducted to date fall roughly within the following categories and numbers of stakeholders:

- Judges – 8
- Law enforcement officials – 4 interviews involving 6 individuals
- Alternative to Incarceration representatives – 11
- Community-based program representatives – 6
- Criminal justice and court representatives other than judges – 7
- Corrections and related jail service staff - 8
- County administrative and key agency officials – 9
- Representatives of re-entry related programs – 6
- Community activists/professors not covered in other groups – 6
- Commission of Correction – 1 involving 4 individuals

- CJATI meeting – about 15-20 individuals, including some listed in above categories
- Town meeting, with about 20 speakers
- People with experience in the local criminal justice system and the local jail – 15 to 18