Criminal Justice/Jail Population Needs Assessment Project Overview

Prepared for Tompkins County, NY

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About CGR

• Independent nonprofit based in Rochester, NY
• Experienced and knowledgeable about Tompkins County, Finger Lakes and Southern Tier regions
• Easily accessible to Tompkins for on-site, hands-on interviews and consultation throughout project
• Deep understanding of relevant NYS legislation, regulations, practices and systems, and how systems can work together more effectively within counties
Our Project Team

• Dr. Donald Pryor, Principal in charge of human services and criminal justice analyses.

• Paul Bishop, MPA and Associate Principal, Government Management and Public Safety

• Pete Nabozny, MPA and Associate Principal, Management and Evaluation Assessments
Tompkins a Leader Among Comparable Counties in Limiting Jail Population

2015 County Jail Census
Tompkins, Neighboring and Similarly Sized Counties

Population per 10,000 Residents

- Cayuga
- Chemung
- Cortland
- Ontario
- Putnam
- Schuyler
- Seneca
- St. Lawrence
- Steuben
- Tioga
- Tompkins
- Yates
Given Low Jail Census, What’s the Project Goal?

• Primary goal is to reduce average daily census in Tompkins County jail

• Eliminate boarded-out placements to other jails. Thereby, avoiding need for expanding jail or building new jail

• If expanded or new jail is needed, develop cost-effective recommendations that limit the size and costs of any new or expanded jail facility.
Overall Approach

• Anticipate being on-site frequently
  • Four visits since 12/1/16, with more to come
• Extensive interviews with key stakeholders at state and local levels
• Detailed review of previous studies
• Integrate CGR experience with local knowledge and perspectives
Start with Criminal Justice System Review

• Thorough overview of broad criminal justice system policies, practices and programs currently in place
• Review of relevant state legislation, regulations, policies.
• Assess the interactions and decisions between the different criminal justice programs and components.
Analyze Jail Population

• Historical analysis of trends in jail census, focusing on any changes in characteristics of inmates over time -
  • Gender, Age, Race/Ethnicity
  • Types of charges
  • Sentenced vs. unsentenced
  • Length of stay
  • Bail amounts
  • Release status
  • ATI involvement
  • Mental health and substance abuse issues

• Particular focus on boarded-out inmates -
  • Characteristics
  • Cost
  • Social impact
  • Implications of related jail classification requirements
  • Goal of reducing boarding out in future
Assess Demographic and Crime Pattern Trends and Impact on Future Jail Census

- Examine trends in arrest charges and conviction data, including -
  - Changing patterns of criminal and anti-social behavior
  - Compare with jail inmate numbers and characteristics
- Incorporate analysis of Tompkins County population trends and future projections
  - Focus on trends within particular historically crime-prone ages
  - Add further perspective of future jail inmate population under current patterns of practice
- Project what jail population of future likely to look like
Analyze ATI Programs

• For all ATI programs, analysis of days spent in jail even for those in the programs prior to being released.

• Analyze extent of use of existing ATI programs

• Explore potential for expanding their use

• Identify possible changes in program criteria and ATI admission practices

• Assess probability of such changes being implemented including potential barriers
Analyze ATI Programs (cont’d)

• Analyze realistic impact on jail population of new ATI programs and alternative practices such as re-entry program, substance abuse and mental health initiatives

• Explore staffing, space and cost implications of maximizing program impact and reducing jail census
Analyze Prosecutor and Court Data

• Analyze trends in numbers and types of cases prosecuted by DA
  • Charge and court
  • Jail booking and release status,
  • Case dispositions and sentences
  • Time spent in jail, presentedenced and sentenced

• Examine opportunities for processing efficiencies, to reduce time at various stages of cases

• Examine system efficiencies, changes in practices, and possible new or expanded use of sentencing alternatives.
Recommendations and Implications

• Focus on how to limit future number of jail cells needed to meet realistic future needs of County, considering average and peak demands, factoring in classification requirements and relevant regulations.

• Project trends of jail census and needed jail beds in five-year intervals under current programs and practices vs. projected bed needs if recommended changes are in effect.
Recommendations and Implications

- For all options considered, CGR will examine -
  - Potential value
  - Public safety implications
  - Staffing and space considerations
  - Costs
  - Implementation timeline
  - Practical and political implications of implementing, or not implementing, specific recommendations

- Assess impact of potential initiatives such as substance abuse rehab beds, detox facility, re-entry program, limited use of bail, and other community-based options.
Report and Presentations

• Report will focus on findings and specific recommendations and their implications for the County, the current jail, and only if necessary any new or expanded jail facility
• Draft report and implications to be reviewed with project’s Jail Study Committee and Sheriff
• Final report and in-person presentations to full Legislature and public planned for June 2017
• Publicly oriented Executive Summary of key findings and recommendations
• Project Website: www.cgr.org/TompkinsCrimJust
Questions and Answers