

Justice and Public Safety Committee

February 1, 2022 | 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
Riverside Hotel | North Star Room | Boise, ID

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order | *Chair Len Humphries*

Bannock County Commissioner Ernie Moser made motion to approve the minutes from September 2021, Bannock County Commissioner Jeff Hough seconded. Motion carried.

Idaho Department of Juvenile Correction | *Monty Prow, executive director*

SRO discussion: What does the data say about SROs value? For every \$1, a minimum of \$11.13 of social and economic value was created. What age group benefits most from SROs? Need to think about the age/crime curve. 5th/6th and 7th/8th are the best time. If they have diversion at this age, they are less likely to end up in a correctional facility.

The Behavioral Health Council put resources behind youth programs to include youth crisis centers and to implement assessment centers. Waiting on the legislature to appropriate \$65M over three years. There will be a tiered system. These children will start with a screener to determine whether or not they need an assessment. Health and Welfare will be a referral provider.

What will be the county involvement? If there is funding, the IDJC will be creating grants and counties could apply for those funds for this purpose. How do we access the funds? Not quite sure yet as the funds aren't yet available. You can partner with many different entities. Entities will need to have a sustainability plan.

Idaho Department of Correction | *Josh Tewalt, executive director*

The National Guard was activated to help corrections for staffing. Staff has been hit with covid. 201 staff were out in one day. Transport has stopped for now because there isn't enough staffing and there are staff that are being moved to other areas. Thought to have hit the peak and hopefully staff will be coming back soon.

Legislative: The budget is pretty aggressive. IDOC is requesting 20 new staff. We need these resources to be successful. We are trying to focus on what POs are supposed to do instead of how many people they are supervising. We have added value to supervision positions. Reentry specialists have been

added. Also, implemented a reentry center in Ada County. There has been a good reduction in recidivism with this model. The specialists are leveraging community resources for successful reentry. We need input on where the reentry facilities should be.

In regards to capacity, covid gave the system a relief for a minute. IDOC is still working on capacity issues. The Governor recommended a female facility. There is a need for more minimum-security beds. By moving the females to the new facility, the current beds can be repurposed to male beds. There are units that need to be removed from the system all together so it can be remodeled.

Bannock County is doing a pre-trial project. Are others doing this? \$2.5M may come in the form of grants from the legislature for pre-prosecution diversion programs. It is a recommendation from the Idaho Behavioral Health Council and the Opioid Taskforce.

Death penalty allegations. IDOC is aware of the allegations. They have not been validated in court. Sourcing is very difficult. There isn't a duty assigned that is more solemn than this. It is taken very seriously.

Idaho Sheriffs Association | *Jeff Lavey, executive director*

As of December, there is a new board. ISA has been working close with legislators and the discussions have been really good. The sheriffs will be in town on Thursday. Two bills: one is the rule of 80 for dispatch. The other is the ability to hire security officers to watch individuals in hospitals. These will be minimum security. ISA will be monitoring the firearms bill from Senator Lakey. There is a bill to add strangulation to the suffocation law. Sheriffs oppose this as it may create more problems than solve. HB490 would add penalties for locals to create or enforce gun laws. The legislative committee will be updating the sheriffs on Thursday and they will be taking a formal position at that time.

There needs to be more communication between counties for those that want more state inmates and for those that don't want more. Sheriffs don't need to go to IDOC first. Idaho Parks and Rec. rules may move to law.

Legislative Update | *Seth Grigg, IAC; Kelli D Brassfield, IAC*

There is a proposal from Rep. Mathias to increase felony theft from \$1,000 to \$2,500 in value.

ISA is currently in negotiation with a legislator that wants to prohibit the publishing mugshots for those that commit a misdemeanor. Logistically the bill will be hard and cost a bit of money. The reason is by seeing your published mugshot, those with mental health issues, may be more suicidal.

Certain crimes would make sure that children are sent to detention instead of jail.

Rep. Christensen - There was a bill introduced to implement mandatory minimums for sex crimes.

Opioid Settlement Update

Thank you to all the locals for participating and getting all required documentation to the AG's office.
The funds should start being delivered in April of May.

The meeting was adjourned.

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