

Justice and Public Safety Committee

September 24, 2024 | 8:00 am – 9:00 am

Boise Centre | Room 120AB | Boise, ID

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order | *Chair Matt Clifford*

Madison County Commissioner Brent Mendenhall made a motion to approve the minutes from January 2024, Minidoka County Commissioner Wayne Schenk seconded. Motion carried.

IDJC Update and Introduction | Ashely Dowell, executive director

Census/juvenile population has increased a little bit to 167. We are not releasing kids as quickly as they are coming in.

IACJJA – The legislature passed SB1329. IDJC met with the administrators to talk about these impacts. We have had some issues when we have a hard time getting parental consent. This prevents initial screening and delays treatment. Keep talking about legislators to see if there are any fixes coming. It appears there are a few legislators that didn't intend for adverse consequences.

The human trafficking legislation goes into place in 2025. IDJC has had a working group to make sure this is implemented properly. It would require screening of kids when they come into the system.

IDJC is using a new curriculum. Moving to ARCON. POST will not be teaching or supporting the current curriculum. We may combine academies, and this would allow for more opportunities.

What is the vacancy rate at IDJC? Last year it was 16% compared to 30% across the state.

We are seeing more mental health issues, especially in the female population. After moving away from committing status offenders, the population has gotten tougher. The status offenders are usually the “easier” population which just leaves the more egregious offenders

Overall population and inmate population update | Josh Tewalt, executive director

Community supervision – IDOC has seen about 7% reduction. There were just over 17,000 and now we are about 15,000 in supervision. There has been heavy invest in this area, especially in interventions and treatment. We are seeing a lot of good things in this area. The 13% we had on felony supervision has decreased to 8%. Although the violations are down, the new offenses are up. We are trying to get people out of the community before they commit more crime.

Our population is up to 9650 right now. We were higher last year but we are seeing a reset. The average number of days that state inmates are in county jails is 67 (from arrest to the state picking them up). This is down to 45. The female population is a little tougher as we don't have the housing. IDOC is working on more housing to help decrease the time the female population is in the county jail.

Crime overall is down 17% in the state although it doesn't seem that way with the various factors going on such as fentanyl.

How long to build the new female facility? About 2 years. We anticipate the next few months to finish the design, and we will begin the site in the spring. It will be out at Pleasant Valley. It will add about 800 beds.

We have been approved to increase our capacity about 25%. There has been space added to each of the facilities.

There are 587 inmates in out of state facilities.

There is an office that was closed up north. Is there a plan to reopen or open an office? We are trying to change how POs are viewing their work. We need to make the most out of their work. Trying to get them out in the field versus spending time in the office. Not sure if we will reopen this office. We want our interactions to happen in the field/community instead of the office.

Resolutions | Kelli D Brassfield, LAC

- JPS-01 911 Grant Fee – Andy Creech
The increase was established by doing an estimate on what it would cost to move to NG911. The project manager from the ISPCC did the research on what that cost might be.
Minidoka County Commissioner Wayne Schenk made a motion to approve JPS-01, Jennifer Reibe seconded. Motion carried.

- JPS-02 Coroner Education – Torey Danner

There was a question about why the standards were being placed in state law. Kelli clarified that the law doesn't actually place the standard in law but give the ISACC the ability to approve courses that are tied to national standards.

Mike Whitfield made a motion to approve JPS-02, Rich Riffle seconded. Motion carried.

- JPS-03 Coroner First Responder Status – Sam Butikofer/Lucky Bourn

There might not be an appetite for this after seeing what has occurred over the last few years.

Ada County Coroner Rich Riffle made a motion to approve JPS-03, Jennifer Reibe seconded. Motion carried.

- JPS-04 EMS – Blaire Dance

What are we doing different this year? We have a new director of IDHW and he wants to do something on EMS. We can work together. There is more positive momentum.

Madison County Commissioner Brent Mendenhall made a motion to approve JPS-04, Minidoka County Commissioner Wayne Schenk seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 am.

Justice and Public Safety Committee

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