

Jail Needs Validation - Key Points – 7.13.20

The Steering Committee has been extensively involved in the planning and modeling process of the Validation of Need analysis and report, as well as the initial stages of the Programming phase. On June 16th, all five members of the Steering Committee unanimously approved the Validation Report and the forecast numbers for the jail.

- The previous studies reported on the Jackson County Detention Center shared common findings with the report issued today:
 - The design of the current jail is not consistent with current standards and impairs safe and secure operations.
 - The condition of the jail is poor due to aging of key systems and years of deferred maintenance.
 - The current jail is crowded beyond the functional capacity level.
- The report issued today provides a detailed analysis of the jail's detainee population over multiple time frames as directed by the Steering Committee. The detainee profile identifies specific characteristics including offense charge, length of stay, special needs, and medical and mental health requirements.
 - This analysis provides you and County staff with an accurate understanding of who is in jail.
 - By knowing your population, you can institute policies that better match the needs of the population, allowing for improved outcomes.
 - You can plan and program more efficiently to address the characteristics of the detainees.
 - With the understanding of the make-up of the population, a better connection can be made to social services within the county that will address the specific needs of the detainees.
- To be better able to adapt to future needs, the new detention center should be located on a large open site with sufficient land to allow for growth and to accommodate additional programs.
- A forecast of the future County detainee population has been made utilizing data from the jail detainee population analysis and in combination with overall population trends and crime statistics.
 - The forecast models indicate that 1,204 detainee beds will be required by the year 2035.
 - The forecast models indicate that 1,366 detainee beds could be required by the year 2050.

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MARY JO SPIND
COUNTY CLERK

