

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

STATE INSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM BOARD

July 10, 2019 / 12:30 p.m.

**Mansfield Juvenile Treatment Center
Mansfield, Arkansas**

Members Present: Nelson Driver, Chair
Micheal Burden, Vice-Chair
Rafael Figueroa, Jr., Secretary
Mike Russell, Board Representative on the ASH Advisory Council, and
James Luker

DHS Staff Present: Kara Benca, Assistant Director, Services, Division of Youth Services
Michael Crump, Director, Division of Youth Services
Marq Golden, Assistant Director of Diversion, Division of Youth Services
Jay Hill, Director, Division of Aging, Adult, & Behavioral Health Services
Mark Hooten, Physical Plant Manager, Division of Youth Services
David Sterling, Attorney
Alicia Davis, Division of Youth Services
Scottie Leslie, Division of Aging Adult and Behavioral Health Services

NOTE:

Board Members and DHS staff arrived at 11:00 a.m. to tour the Mansfield Juvenile Treatment Center (MJTC) and observe renovations and anticipated changes following MJTCs transitions to an all-male facility. They toured the “long building” noting the conversion to office space and a visitor reception and visitation space.

Agenda Item 1: **CALL TO ORDER**

Having a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 12:41 p.m.

Agenda Item 2: **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board Chairman Nelson Driver directed members to review the minutes from the April 12 tele-conference meeting.

Mr. Micheal Burden made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2019, teleconference meeting; Dr. Mike Russell seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 3: **DIVISION OF AGING, ADULT, AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES (DAABHS) REPORT**

Arkansas State Hospital (ASH)

The Arkansas State Hospital roof project authorized in September 2018, has been reviewed by the DF&A Division of Building Authority and the Rex Morris Company was awarded the bid. Phase 1 is scheduled to

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begin August 1, 2019, and will include re-roofing the Forensic Building (#5), the forensic dining hall, and the forensic hallway, at a cost of \$452,536. The total to complete the entire project exceeds \$1,175,000.

Triple S Alarm Company has completed the corrective action plan upgrading fire controls at the hospital.

The room-by-room project is continuing with an anticipated completion date of December 2019. This project includes the hospital has slopes on door edges, bed frames, addressing bathroom fixtures so that all potential ligature hazards are eliminated.

Director Hill informed the Board that the sink-hole that developed on campus near Palm Street has been addressed. The street was temporarily closed, the hole was dug out, refilled, and final repairs have been made. Hospital staff did have to move some patients' room assignments during the repairs but the project is completed and the facility has returned to normal operations.

Arkansas Health Center (AHC)

The air conditioning replacement project for the administration building (building 7) and the dietary building (building 10) came in under budget.

Mr. James Luker inquired as to the long-term plan for the old dormitories. DAABH's Director Jay Hill responded that requests have been made over several years for the removal of these vacant buildings and, to date, five (5) have been removed. However, the project is very costly due to the requirements for asbestos and lead paint abatement prior to demolition. Maintenance staff at the Health Center maintains the facades and replaces broken windows as necessary to keep up the appearance of the campus. Five of the building on campus are leased to the Arkansas Department of Correction for a work-release program and they have requested funds to expand operations on the campus, which will be a win/win for both agencies.

Mr. Luker asked about Rogers Hall located on the State Hospital campus. It is currently occupied by Arkansas Community Correction, which maintains a good relationship with ASH, and assists with grounds keeping and other maintenance tasks.

Agenda Item 4: **DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES (DYS)**

Mr. Marq Golden reported on projects by facility.

- At the Alexander Juvenile Assessment and Treatment Center, the approved lock replacement project is underway and is approximately 40% complete changing latch locks to bolt locks.
- At the Dermott Juvenile Treatment Center, the sewer pump has been replaced and raised, as it was discovered that ground water was seeping into the system causing the pumps to burnout. In addition, gutters were added to the dining hall and the area was re-landscaped to divert water away from the exterior of the dining hall. Windows at the dining hall were resealed for increased energy efficiency, an air-conditioning system was re-balanced, one roof has been re-sealed, and the roof replacement at the dining hall is 65% complete.

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- At the Lewisville Juvenile Treatment Center, a new generator has been purchased and installation is underway.
- Here at Mansfield, the sewer project is on hold as other projects have taken priority. DYS continues to engage with the city concerning the project but has yet to reach an agreement. Chairman Driver asked about the current status of the plant. Mr. Golden reported that the field was drained and sand was added for filtering. The Long Building, which we toured earlier today, should be ready to open by September. ADA modifications have been made, including widening doorways, all the flooring will be replaced, and a shower facility is being re-opened to the building is useful should overflow occur. Asbestos abatement was not necessary for this facility, so there was some savings.

Work on the anti-climb fence could begin as early as this week. Brush will be cleared away and then height and an anti-climb section will be added to existing fencing to increase security. The approved new gate and sally port are currently in the bid process and that portion of the project will be underway soon. Director Crump's main concern is security. If the fence company ascertains that the anti-climb fence is as effective as razor wire, DYS will use the anti-climb. But if it doesn't prove as effective, DYS will return to using razor wire for securing residential facilities.

Work at the water tower should be completed now. It was drained and the interior was cleaned, scraped, and re-painted.

Mr. Micheal Burden asked if Mr. Golden was aware of any discussion about road repair on the route to the Treatment Center. Mr. Golden replied that it was recently graded, but that the expense for paving it would fall to DYS. Mr. Burden asked Mr. Golden to look into repairing and/or paving the road, improving the drive into the facility and the overall appearance of the entrance.

Mr. Rafael Figueroa, Jr., remarked about the lack of signage at the front gate, instructing visitors on procedures for entering the facility. This will be addressed.

Dr. Michael Russell asked how many residents were located at Mansfield JTC and Mr. Golden responded that there are around forty (40). Mr. James Luker asked how many were re-located from the Colt JTC and Mr. Golden explained those residents were either transitioned to the Harrisburg JTC or discharge, depending on their status. Then, about a dozen girls were re-located from Mansfield to Harrisburg, which has become the new DYS girls' residential facility. The lease on the Colt JTC will revert back to the University of Arkansas.

Mr. Micheal Burden brought up that since the new provider, Youth Opportunity Investments, took over July 1, there have already been three (3) residents AWOL from the Mansfield JTC and this causes him concern. DYS Director Michael Crump addressed the Board and discussed the on-going problems with AWOLs at this location and explained that was part of the reason for the emphasis on the fence project.

Dr. Mike Russell asked about the malfunctioning locking system and the opportunity for youth to walk out. Mr. Golden replied that this was investigated by DYS staff and it was discovered the locks were programmed to lock and unlock at certain times. The locking systems is under repair and push bars on doors will be replaced with standard, key-lock, panic bars to further deter youth from exiting through doorways.

Mr. Micheal Burden made a motion to approve the reports from both Divisions. Dr. Mike Russell seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 5: **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Marq Golden, Assistant Director for Diversion, introduced Kara Benca, the new Assistant Director for Service Delivery, Quality Assurance, and Compliance, who will replace him as liaison to the Board. Kara was formerly the DYS attorney assigned through the DHS Office of the Chief Counsel. Mr. Golden's role over the new Diversion Section for DYS will include the Civilian Student Training Program (C.S.T.P.), which was moved to DYS by 2019 legislation and became effective July 1, 2019.

Mr. Golden explained the damage suffered at building 7 at the Alexander Juvenile Assessment and Treatment Center (AJATC). Building 7 serves as offices for DYS staff on the AJATC campus. During the storm June 23, 2019, a large tree fell on the building, causing roof, water, wall, and window damage in three (3) offices. Much of the work will be covered by insurance. Chairman Driver asked if we had an idea when the work would begin and Physical Plant Manager Mr. Mark Hooten relayed that he planned to meet with engineers next week. Mr. Micheal Burden asked about insurance coverage. Mr. Hooten replied that DYS had not received an estimate from them at this time. Chairman Driver asked if the facility was currently protected against further damage and staff replied that a tarp is currently in place and the offices have been vacated.

Mr. Golden informed Board members that DYS had not received FY20 leases from the Department of Building Authority for the four (4) residential facilities (Dermott, Harrisburg, Lewisville, and Mansfield), but that copies would be sent to the Board for review after they are received.

Dr. Mike Russell asked how DYS was engaging with the community of Mansfield concerning the JTC. DYS Director Michael Crump stated new DYS staff has met with the city of Mansfield and that prior to July 1, representatives from Youth Opportunity Investments (YOI) came to Mansfield and met with community officials, including the Mayor and Senator Rice. Mr. Crump has spoken with the Sheriff, as has DHS Legislative Affairs Director Kelly Linck. Director Crump stated that, as new DYS officials, the team realizes the need to be able to react more quickly. He also stated that Director Hill had allowed DYS the use of experienced maintenance staff to make some of the necessary repairs and improvements at Mansfield. Chairman Driver stated that Board members are willing to help in any way they can to help to improve the relationship with the city of Mansfield, DYS, and the Mansfield JTC.

Chairman Driver asked if the Mansfield JTC is moving to a higher risk facility due the closure of two (2) other DYS residential facilities. Director Crump responded that AJATC is the most secure facility, along with Dermott, which houses male youth ages 18 – 21 and of course Harrisburg JTC only houses girls. Mansfield JTC would be considered a medium security and Lewisville, the lowest risk JTC. As governed by the new law, the new DYS treatment team is not to look at charges so much, but at risk assessment.

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With the exception of EJJ (extended jurisdiction juveniles) and sex offenders, the team has already begun establishing length-of-stay goals for youth as they are received into DYS custody and having case coordinators maintain monthly contact with youth. Chairman Driver asked if all the youth will be reassessed. Mr. Crump stated that the treatment team began assessing youth placed in DYS custody on May 1, 2019. Cases for youth who have been in DYS custody for an extended period will also be reviewed with the assistance of a DHS psychiatrist, to help determine what is preventing these youths from being discharged.

Some very important changes we're experiencing with the new treatment team are suggesting a course of treatment and approximate discharge dates at assessment; training in the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY) assessment tool, as are local judicial districts; and requiring case coordinators to have monthly face-to-face visits with youth at least once per month. Using the SAVRY tool will help determine whether or not residential treatment is the most beneficial option and if so, where they should be placed, *and* it will eventually become the tool used by all juvenile judicial districts in Arkansas, so everyone is assessed using the same resource.

Kara's new team will focus on monitoring and compliance, and will insure to an even greater extent than in the past, that providers are offering the expected individualized services and programs to all youth. This new focus affords DYS the opportunity to have more hands and eyes on providers than in the past.

There was more general discussion concerning the facilities and community interactions at Mansfield and the new DYS contract with residential services provider YOI, which began July 1, 2019. Rite of Passage (ROP) still operates the AJATC facility, with four (4) years remaining on the contract.

Agenda Item 6: **OLD BUSINESS**

DAABA Director Jay Hill discussed the proposal to the Board at the January meeting by DHS Attorney Jim Brader, to pursue amending the voting delegates for a committee overseeing the on-site power source on the ASH, UAMS, and ADH (Arkansas Department of Health) campus. DHS and ADH attended the meeting with three (3) objectives in mind. One, to amend the proposed voting delegates to the committee. The initial proposal was for UAMS to have six (6) votes while the Health Department and ASH combined only have five (5). Two, to dispute the transfer of the title of the property to UAMS, and three, to oppose diverting all excess energy production to UAMS.

The oversight committee was made aware that ASH would bring this back to the Board while awaiting a revised proposal from them. Discussion ensued regarding the power plant, its location, and function.

At the April meeting, concerns were raised about the current Board structure with two members resigning and Mr. Luker, whose term expired June 30, 2019. DHS Attorney David Sterling recently contacted the Appointments Officer on Governor Hutchinson's staff about these matters and learned that Mr. Luker's position on the Board is active until a replacement is named. Mr. Sterling believes the Board will be fully staffed within a few months.

Agenda Item 7: **ADJOURN**

The next meeting was scheduled to be held at the Alexander Juvenile Assessment and Treatment Center in Pulaski County on Wednesday, October 9, 2019.

Mr. Marq Golden will send copies of the leases to Board Members once they are received.

Dr. Mike Russell made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Micheal Burden seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Rafael Figueroa, Jr., Secretary
State Institutional Systems Board