

DELAWARE COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION BOARD OF MANAGERS
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2025
4:30PM
HYBRID: DELAWARE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING ROOM AND VIRTUAL

Board Members Present:

Kevin Madden, Chair/Council Member	Chris Eiserman
Marie N. Williams, Chair	Candice L. Linehan
Dr. Monica Taylor, Council Chair	Hon. Nathaniel Nichols
Elaine Schaefer, Council Member	Rev. James Turner
Joanne Phillips, Controller	

Call Meeting to Order: Chairman Madden called the meeting to order at 4:34PM.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment (Agenda Items Only): No public comment.

Approval of Minutes: Board Member Turner motioned to approve the July Meeting Minutes. Chairwoman Williams seconded the motion. The Meeting Minutes from July 15th were approved.

Reports:

- A. Monthly Detained Youth Report, Danielle DiMatteo- There are currently seven (7) youths in detention. There are one (1) male currently housed at Abraxas Morgantown, one (1) male currently housed at Adelphoi. The remaining five (5) youths are direct file cases with one (1) male being housed at Abraxas Morgantown, two (2) males being housed at George Junior Republic, and two (2) males being housed at George Hill.
- B. Interim Director of Juvenile Justice Services, Nelson Walker- Mr. Walker stated that the coordinator role for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has been filled by Dr. Sam Williams. Dr. Sam Williams is a professor at Lincoln University and has lived experience within the juvenile justice system. Once a participant of the Be Proud Foundation, Dr. Williams is now on the Board of the same foundation. Dr. Williams has created programming through a \$1.5 million grant and started the Lincubator, which provides Lincoln University students with resources to strengthen their entrepreneurial pursuits. Dr. Williams also created an after-school music program. Dr. Williams would also like to build a website to funnel community concerns and feedback to. Additionally, Mr. Walker stated that he will be working to help create a sustainable Assessment Center, to be named to reflect evidence-based practices that will allow for greater reimbursement.
- Regarding the community-based shelter at Clocktower, Mr. Walker stated that a proposal had been received from Clocktower for services including medical,

housekeeping, laundry recreation, etc., and that the proposal has been sent to the Solicitor's Office. Mr. Walker additionally stated that Delaware County is working to implement standards that will supplement the Department of Human Services' Placement Care Delinquent Standards that are consistent with Title 55 Pa Code Chapter 3800 regulations and the Prison Rape Elimination Act. Mr. Walker additionally stated that there will be thoughtful discussion and input into naming the facility in a way that reflects positivity and hope.

Mr. Walker additionally shared photos of the facility and addressed areas of concerns in common areas and the bathroom that he would like to see renovated to create a safer environment for the youth. Mr. Walker also stated that while bedrooms have the capacity to hold up to 4-6 residents, rooms will begin in singular use, with paired roommates being a possibility later on.

Mr. Walker also stated that over the next few months, the department will be working to gather all necessary permits and licenses applications to operate. Mr. Walker stated that these applications usually take between three and six months for processing.

Board Member Phillips asked if she could have a list of the permits that need to be sought.

Mr. Walker stated he would get her that information.

Chairman Madden asked for clarity regarding the difference in service between the community-based shelter and Clocktower's existing program.

Mr. Walker stated that Delaware County's employees would be the only staff working hands on with youth in our care and that the extension of Clocktower's services refers to use of their facilities and maintenance.

Board Member Turner asked if there were any options in place to replace the fixtures that Mr. Walker stated was a safety concern.

Mr. Walker stated that there were several alternative options available, particularly in the bathroom to maintain privacy in certain areas while removing safety concerns.

Board Member Linehan asked what programming and interventions would be in place to deter a youth from absconding the facility.

Mr. Walker stated that while shelter care can only be allowed for delayed egress, staff will be trained in trauma informed care, the facility will adopt cognitive behavioral therapy techniques to engage with youth during their time there, so they feel more comfortable in that environment and feel less anxious to leave said environment.

Chairman Madden asked for clarity regarding shelter care and secure detention.

Mr. Walker stated that the services are the same, however the shelter model will allow for youth who may be experiencing homelessness to have somewhere to go to also be admitted as well as youth who may be in detention for less serious offenses. The difference between secure detention is that those facilities have locks on the doors rather than delayed egress.

Board Member Turner asked how staff would be trained for community-based shelter rather than secure detention.

Mr. Walker stated that staff will receive the same initial six weeks of training and subsequent trainings that a secure detention officer would, however, they must be more cognizant of how and when to intervene since doors have delayed egress and they cannot stop a youth from leaving. If a youth were to abscond, protocol would be to alert local authorities, as well as the other appropriate agencies for response. Mr. Walker additionally emphasized that staff will need to work as a team and be aware of individual strengths, and the wisdom seek out their fellow colleagues when necessary.

Board Member Nichols asked if any other count in Pennsylvania had adopted a similar model for youths regarding community-based detention.

Mr. Walker responded that shelter care is available regionally in Berks, Montgomery, and Chester counties as well as other counties statewide. Mr. Walker additionally stated that shelter care is short term (30 days) and the goal is to prepare youths for their next steps, whatever that may be.

Chairman Madden asked for further clarification between shelter care and community-based detention.

Mr. Walker stated that the only difference is the child who is there. Some children may be there for relatively low-level offenses while others may not have adequate housing.

Board Member Linehan for clarity regarding secure detention and community-based detention.

Mr. Walker stated that secure detention refers to a locked facility while community-based detention has delayed egress and different rules of engagement between staff and youth.

Board Member Nichols asked if there would be conflict between youth with nowhere to go and youth who were adjudicated delinquent.

Mr. Walker responded that there should not be a difference in the way that youth are treated by staff, however staff will be trained to identify youth who may need more support and coaching.

Board Member Linehan asked who the referral source for youth who were not adjudicated delinquent would be.

Mr. Walker responded that Children and Youth Services (CYS) would be the referring agency.

Councilwoman Schaefer asked if there has been an official community announcement of what is happening in reference to shelter care.

Mr. Walker responded that there have been no specific community announcements, but that the progress of this project has been public record for months.

Councilwoman Schaefer asked if this Board would have the authority approve contracting with Clocktower and retrofitting their facilities.

Chairman Madden stated that that would be the purview of the County Council and that this Board would oversee the project's progress before the contract would proceed to the County Council.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: No new business.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Board Member Comment: No Board Member comment.

Adjourn: Board Member Turner moved to adjourn. Board Member Townsend seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.