

## AGENDA

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Tuesday, February 3, 2009, 9:30 A.M.



County Board Room, Second Floor  
St. Louis County Courthouse  
100 N. 5th Avenue West  
Duluth, Minnesota

**DENNIS FINK, Chair**  
**First District**

**STEVE O'NEIL**  
**Second District**

**CHRIS DAHLBERG**  
**Third District**

**MIKE FORSMAN**  
**Fourth District**

**PEG SWEENEY**  
**Fifth District**

**KEITH NELSON**  
**Sixth District**

**STEVE RAUKAR, Vice-Chair**  
**Seventh District**

County Auditor  
Don Dicklich

County Administrator  
Alan Mitchell

County Attorney  
Melanie Ford

Clerk of the Board  
Paul Tynjala

The St. Louis County Board of Commissioners welcomes you to this meeting. This agenda contains a brief description of each item to be considered. The Board encourages your participation. If you wish to speak on an item contained in the agenda, you will be allowed to address the Board when a motion is on the floor. If you wish to speak on a matter which does not appear on the agenda, you may do so during the public comment period at the beginning of the meeting. Except as otherwise provided by the Standing Rules of the County Board, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing in the agenda.

When addressing the Board, please sign in at the podium and state your name and address for the record. Please address the Board as a whole through the Chair. Comments to individual Commissioners or staff are not permitted. The St. Louis County Board promotes adherence to civility in conducting the business of the County. Civility will provide increased opportunities for civil discourse in order to find positive resolutions to the issue before the Board. Tools of civility include: pay attention, listen, be inclusive, do not gossip, show respect, be agreeable, apologize, give constructive criticism and take responsibility. [County Board Resolution No. 560, adopted on September 9, 2003] Speakers will be limited to five (5) minutes.

**\*\*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for this meeting should notify the Administrator's Office 72 hours prior to the meeting at (218)726-2450\*\***

All supporting documentation is available for public review in the County Auditor's Office, 100 North 5th Avenue West - Room No. 214, St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, MN, during regular business hours 8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. Agenda is also available on our website at <http://www.co.st-louis.mn/us/slcportal>

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9:30 A.M. Pledge of Allegiance  
Roll Call  
*County Reflections*

AT THIS TIME CITIZENS WILL BE ALLOWED TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA. [Speakers will be limited to 5 minutes each]

FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA, CITIZENS WILL BE ALLOWED TO ADDRESS THE BOARD AT THE TIME A MOTION IS ON THE FLOOR.

CONSENT AGENDA: Approval of business submitted on the Consent Agenda.

**REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

**Public Safety & Corrections Committee – Commissioner Sweeney, Chair**

1. Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative Funds Grant. [**County Attorney requests that rules be suspended – has not been to committee**] {09-27}

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS, SPECIAL COMMITTEES, AND OTHERS**

# BOARD LETTER NO. 09 - 27

PUBLIC SAFETY & CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE NO.

FEBRUARY 3, 2009 BOARD AGENDA NO. 1

**DATE:** February 3, 2009                      **RE:** Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative Funds Grant

**FROM:** Alan L. Mitchell  
County Administrator

Melanie Ford  
County Attorney

Tom Roy, Executive Director  
Arrowhead Regional Corrections

## **RELATED DEPARTMENT GOALS:**

To reduce crime by addressing the factors that attribute to criminal behavior and working with other government and community agencies.

## **ACTION REQUESTED:**

The St. Louis County Board is requested to accept grant funds from the Minnesota Office of Justice Programs for the purpose of exploring juvenile detention reform.

## **BACKGROUND:**

In March, 2008, the W. Haywood Burns Institute completed a *Readiness Assessment Consultation Report* of the Arrowhead Juvenile Center through a grant received by Arrowhead Regional Corrections (ARC). The purpose of the report was to look at the need, commitment and capacity of ARC to effectively confront and successfully challenge disproportionate minority confinement (DMC) in juvenile detention.

The W. Hayward Burns Institute concluded "that there is great potential for the Arrowhead Region to engage in work to reduce racial and ethnic disparities. Stakeholders recognize that racial and ethnic disparities exist, and there is a will among system and community stakeholders to address the problem." The report generated interest from the Office of Justice and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, which have been funding initiatives across the country to address both juvenile detention alternatives and DMC.

The work of these agencies is premised upon the following tenets:

1. Collaboration is necessary between governmental entities, community organizations, and agencies that work with youth in order to address detention and racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system; and

2. Accurate data is needed both to diagnose the system's problems and proclivities and to assess the impact of various reforms; and
3. Objective admissions criteria and instruments must be developed to replace subjective decision making at all points where choices to place children in secure custody are made; and
4. New or enhanced non-secure alternatives to detention must be implemented in order to increase the options available for arrested youth. These programs must be careful to target only youth who would otherwise be locked up. Whenever possible, they should be based in those neighborhoods where detention cases are concentrated and operated by local organizations; and
5. Case processing reforms must be introduced to expedite the flow of cases through the system reducing lengths of stay in custody, expanding the availability of non-secure program slots, and ensuring that interventions with youth are timely and appropriate; and
6. The practice of holding youth in custody as a result of probation violations, writs and warrants, or while pending other placement must be re-examined and new practices implemented to minimize their presence in the secure facility; and
7. Reducing racial disparities requires specific strategies (in addition to those listed above) aimed at eliminating bias and ensuring a level playing field for youth of color; and
8. Improving conditions of confinement is most likely to occur when facilities are routinely inspected by knowledgeable individuals applying rigorous protocols and ambitious standards.

The County Attorney convened a meeting in October, 2008, with juvenile justice system stakeholders and representatives of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Office of Justice and the Association of Minnesota Counties. After a presentation from the Annie E. Casey Foundation about its work in juvenile justice reform, there was unanimous support among these stakeholders that this was an endeavor that would serve the County well. The Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Office of Justice Programs are willing to fund the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI).

The proposed funding includes money for 1.0 FTE project coordinator, expenses for travel for the funders' advisors to the County and travel of stakeholders to other JDAI sites across the country, as well as overhead expenses and data processing (through an independent contract). The grant will come from the Office of Justice Programs, which will accept \$40,000 from the Annie E. Casey Foundation as matching funds for its grant of \$50,000, for a total of \$90,000 for the period March through December 2009.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the St. Louis County Board accept a grant from the Office of Justice Programs for FY 2009 in the amount of \$90,000 to undertake the *Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative*. It is further recommended that an additional 1.0 FTE investigator position be added to the County Attorney's personnel complement, subject to funding from this or other outside sources. At the conclusion of the grant, any positions funded by the grant shall be terminated.

**BY COMMISSIONER** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHEREAS**, a study commissioned by Arrowhead Regional Corrections concluded that there is a disproportionate representation of minority children confined in juvenile detention; and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Louis County Attorney convened a meeting with stakeholders from across the County to discuss the report and hear about the work of the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Minnesota Office of Justice Programs regarding juvenile detention alternatives; and

**WHEREAS**, that group of stakeholders wish to move forward with a Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative with the goal of reducing unwarranted confinement of juveniles and reducing disproportionate minority confinement; and

**WHEREAS**, collaboration is necessary between the County, other governmental entities, and community organizations that work with youth in St. Louis County; and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners desires to support juvenile detention reform in order to more effectively rehabilitate youth and to maintain a fair and equitable justice system for juveniles.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the St. Louis County Board authorizes acceptance of a grant from the Minnesota Office of Justice Programs for FY 2009 in the amount of \$90,000 to undertake a *Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative*, with funds receipted into Fund 100, Agency 113999, Grant 11304, Grant Year 2009, and expended from Fund 100, Agency 113999, Grant 11304, Grant Year 2009.

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that upon receipt of the grant, an additional 1.0 FTE investigator position shall be added to the County Attorney's personnel complement.

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that at the conclusion of the grant, any positions funded by the grant shall be terminated.