

IOWA VERTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 13th, 2008
Meeting Minutes

-DRAFT-

Call to Order, Introductions and Roll Call

Committee Members Present:

Les Holland, Chair
Eve Palmer
Terry Slinde
Mary Krier
Dennis Bennett
Gary Benshoof

Committee Members Absent:

Dan Prymek

Others in attendance for all or a portion of the meeting included:

Christine Suckow, Dept. of Administrative Services, General Services Enterprise
Dan Lane, Dept. of Natural Resources
Dean Ibsen, Dept. of Administrative Services, General Services Enterprise
Annette Sweeney, New legislator
Steve Soddors, New legislator
Mark Probst, Iowa State Patrol
John Dostart, Department of Human Services
Mark Day, Department of Human Services, State Training School
Kip Knutson, Department of Human Services, State Training School

Via conference phone:

Randy Bengard, Department of Human Services
Max Cupp, Department of Human Services
Steve Hauser, Department of Human Services
Kris Macy, Iowa Workforce Development
Kelly Glassgow, Department of Human Services
Paul Carlson, Department of Administrative Services, A/E Services

Call to Order and Introductions

Mark Day, Interim Superintendent, gave a brief introduction. He said that the construction for the State Training School began in 1868, 3 years after the end of the civil war. It was finished in 1873. There were 450 students and 62 staff members in the late 1940's. In 1945 a student beaten for disciplinary measures died and 350 of the 450 students ran away. After this the school became more clinical. In the 1990's there was a turning point and there were brick and mortar changes to the institution. A chapel, auditorium and sports complex was added and a new school in 2001 with a gym.

There are 3 levels of education – remedial, GED, and college classes. The clinical programs are 4 level drug and alcohol programs. There is also a gang diversion program with 12 -15 kids going through this 8 week program. 90% of kids come from domestic violence backgrounds. 24% of the kids come from sexual abuse situations.

There is a new program called the cognitive dissertation which breaks down mental thought of justifying actions. There is also an honor core where the top 10% of the kids get to go off campus to help other kids

not do the same things they did. There is a 30% recidivism rate with the main population and only 5% with the honor core.

They have built almost 100 Habitat for Humanity homes in the past 9 years. They build components on site and then transfer them to other locations.

Capacity at the institution is 189 and the current population is 165 kids. They have approximately 3 runaways a year (12 years ago it was 30/a year). The average stay is 8 ½ months.

There are 10 vocational programs with great success and a full time teacher.

Questions and Comments from Committee Members

Steve Soddors said that his brother works here.

Annette Sweeney said that the community has noticed a great improvement at the institution.

A committee member asked how many gang members there were at the institution and the answer is about 5-10% of the population.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

Eve Palmer moved to accept the September minutes. Dennis Bennett seconded. Motion carried.

Mary Krier moved to accept the October minutes. Gary Benshoof seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business

There was no old business.

Ongoing Issues/Staff Reports

Major Maintenance Progress: Paul Carlson was on the phone to discuss the progress of projects. He said that numerous roofing projects would be closing out in December. He said that several projects were also at 99% and that they just needed lien waivers to close them. Terry Slinde asked how much this close-out process costs and Paul said that there was no cost, and retainage was being held and earnings were being made off interest.

There were no questions on completed projects.

Les Holland said that Dean Ibsen and staff were getting a better handle on projects over the last 2 years and that this tool is helpful. He said projects are moving along well and that staff is trying to be more efficient by bundling projects to save money and stretch the dollar.

Routine Maintenance Update: Dean Ibsen said that the MOU's will be sent out in the next few days. Dean Ibsen explained routine maintenance for the benefit of the new legislators. Les Holland said we need more money. Dean Ibsen explained the major maintenance process and Les Holland reiterated that we need more money.

Alternative Delivery Systems: No update.

Other Initiatives: No update.

Staffing, Database, Training

There was no update besides that code-required elevator improvement planning is beginning. Tony Schmitz is working on finding a possible vendor to bundle the projects together.

Consent Calendar

Terry Slinde made a motion to accept the consent calendar. Eve Palmer seconded. Motion passed.

Review of 2008 Plan of Action

Terry Slinde asked if we should reflect the committee's interest in reducing total square footages in the State. Terry Slinde and Les Holland commented on Mental Health Institution buildings that are no longer being used or that have limited use and they said that there is no incentive for agency to demolish these buildings because it reduces their square footage and amount of Routine Maintenance money they receive.

Discussion of FY2010 Capital Requests (Offers), FY2010-FY2011 Five Year Plans and Recommendations to Governor (Action Requested)

Dean Ibsen discussed the review process that took place with A&E staff and outlined the top ten projects that have been ranked. Some projects have been identified as outside the scope of the advisory committee's work and other projects are included on the list but not ranked in recognition of the expectation of very limited funds for infrastructure projects in the next year. He recommended one change: Moving the Cherokee CCUSO planning project into the list of ranked projects, and ranking it as #11, as a suggestion that planning work should proceed in anticipation of construction funding in the following year. Mary Krier moved to accept the staff's recommendations for ranking. Eve Palmer seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion of 2008 Annual Report to Governor, Review Draft Outline (Due December 15)

A draft outline of the report (based on last year's) was provided to the committee for review and discussion. Terry Slinde wants the report to be straightforward. He said that truth always wins out. He wants to delete last year's information about past members and hit hard on facts of what the needs are and the unmet needs are. He wants to address how far behind the state is and what has been done plus what needs to be done.

Terry Slinde suggested bonding because costs are escalating. Dennis Bennett suggested that new building appropriations include a requirement for a maintenance fund along with the construction allocation.

Other Business

Questions and Comments: Les Holland said that he had been thinking about the fact that the 12 agencies don't have dedicated funding and he thinks a percent of each agency's budget should be designated for major and routine maintenance. Legislators would need to mandate this. Les Holland asked that this be included as an item on next month's agenda.

Upcoming Meetings: Starting at the Cherokee State Patrol Post, District 5, and then meeting at Cherokee Mental Health Institute - Dec 11, 2008.

Adjourn

Prepared by Nick Smith and Dean Ibsen

12/4/2008