

**Lee County Board Of County Commissioners
Agenda Item Summary**

Blue Sheet No. 20040606

1. REQUESTED MOTION:

ACTION REQUESTED: Presentation by David Bennett, Court and Corrections Planning Consultant, regarding ongoing efforts to effectively manage jail population.

WHY ACTION IS NECESSARY: Mr. Bennett reports periodically to the Board of County Commissioners.

WHAT ACTION ACCOMPLISHES: Provides Board of County Commissioners with status update and ideas for increases in effectiveness and efficiency.

2. DEPARTMENTAL CATEGORY:
COMMISSION DISTRICT #

10:00

3. MEETING DATE:

05-25-2004

4. AGENDA: 10:00 A.M.

5. REQUIREMENT/PURPOSE:
(Specify)

6. REQUESTOR OF INFORMATION:

CONSENT
 ADMINISTRATIVE
 APPEALS

STATUTE
 ORDINANCE
 ADMIN.
CODE
 OTHER

A. COMMISSIONER
B. DEPARTMENT County Administration
C. DIVISION

PUBLIC 10 A.M.
 WALK ON
TIME REQUIRED:

BY: William H. Hammond
Deputy County Manager

7. BACKGROUND:

Beginning in February, Lee County's jail system experienced a significant jump in average daily population. Mr. Bennett will discuss the causes, current trend, and ongoing efforts to more effectively manage the jail population.

8. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

9. RECOMMENDED APPROVAL:

A Department Director	B Purchasing or Contracts	C Human Resources	D Other	E County Attorney	F Budget Services				G County Manager
					OA	OM	Risk	GC	
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>[Signature]</i> <i>5/25/04</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>

10. COMMISSION ACTION:

APPROVED
 DENIED
 DEFERRED
 OTHER

Memorandum

TO: Pete Winton, Assistant to the County Manager

FROM: David M. Bennett, Consultant

DATE: 3 May 2003

RE: Board Presentation

There are several efforts underway to impact the jail population. There are reasons that are delaying the implementation of each of these previously made recommendations; however, in light of the serious problem of jail overcrowding, it is critical that attempts be made to concentrate all available resources on the implementation of the following recommendations:

Expansion of Pre-Trial Services

Court Administration is interviewing applicants for the director position. It is *very* important that a person with previous national experience in the field be hired. This will require a starting salary significantly above the minimum salary for this position. Concurrently, Court Administration is issuing a Request for Proposals to validate the release criteria used by the program. The next step, as discussed above, is for the program to be staffed as a 24/7 operation with separate screening and supervision units. The complete implementation of this recommendation will significantly increase the number of persons released pre-trial and lower the jail population. On an average day in February, there were 580 persons held in the county jail awaiting trial.

Early Intervention Docket

The framework for this program has been put in place. The SAO needs to expand the numbers and type of offers provided to the Public Defender. The Public Defender needs to assign a dedicated staff person to receive and evaluate the offers from the SAO. An early decision from the SAO and prompt evaluation and communication of the offer to the defendant by the Public Defender is critical. Emphasis needs to be placed on jailed defendants. The court needs to continue to provide enough docket time to receive the pleas.

Work Program

The Sheriff needs to establish a two-tiered Work Program. The first tier is a traditional Work Release program that allows prisoners to leave the facility during the day and return at night. The second phase is to start a program that the court can use as an alternative to a jail sentence. On an average day in February, there were 82 sentenced misdemeanants and 180 sentenced felons in jail. All of these individuals are going to be released back into the community in Lee County. Many of these offenders can be more effectively punished by requiring them to complete a Work Program under supervision of a Sheriff's Deputy while residing at home. The offenders would report in and go to work on a supervised work crew. This program has been tried in the past in Lee County without much success; however, there are a number of successful programs using this model throughout the United States. Chief Levens is currently considering hiring a deputy who has retired from another department and has experience in operating a Work Program.

Simply endlessly constructing jail beds is not the answer. Prompt implementation of the above recommendations will go a long way towards managing the jail population.

The presentation to the Board will review current jail statistics and discuss progress being made on the implementation of the above recommendations. Representatives from the Sheriff, State Attorney, Public Defender, and Court Administration will be in attendance.