

MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

PRESENT: Lindsey Allen
Shawn Linder
Kelly Dumas
Julianna Everdyke
Michelle K. Flynn
Bishop Kim Moses

Kenneth Leverite
Sarah E. Ryan
Erin A. Tresmond
Michael June
Daniel Castle

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ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Olivia M. Owens, Clerk of Legislature
Community members were present for this meeting; names were not provided.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lindsey Allen. There was a moment of silence for the woman who passed away on 9/20/25.

Item 1 – Approval of 8/26/25 meeting minutes

- Motion to approve the August meeting minutes was made and seconded.

Item 2 – Review of resident concerns

- Discussion on the letter sent by The No New Jail Erie County Campaign. Board members read and reviewed the letter and did not have any specific comments. The Chair noted that this was sent to the Board from the Legislators, which is what the Board would have done (sent to Legislators). No further action from the advisory board regarding this letter at this time. It should be noted that the data points in the letter are not cited and their accuracy is unknown, specifically the number of deaths. Per the Superintendent, the death of the woman on 9/20/25 was the first death since June 2024. Superintendent also included that he is not aware of any open human rights investigations.

Item 3 – Public comment period

- There were no comments submitted from the public prior to the start of the meeting. Time was offered for speakers, but none were raised.

Item 4 – Vote on Bylaws

- Legislative Clerk included that there was no need for financial statements
- Bylaws were approved, with the understanding that these will need to be voted on again as the State recently passed a local law that will impact some of the bylaws.

Item 5 – Subcommittee for addressing resident concerns

- Drafted documents were discussed, and it was decided that for individuals who are incarcerated, they can continue to submit concerns the way they have been. The form

that was created is for internal tracking purposes to support the Board progress when receiving concerns. Erin is going to edit and have another draft ready to present for the October meeting. Chair will ensure that the two previous concerns that were submitted to the Board have received responses and next steps.

Item 6 – Majority Caucus Recommendations progress

- Most of the recommendations have been addressed so far, the attorney access is the last one to discuss. Sarah and Erin will pose the question to other attorneys they work with for any feedback as well. The following week's meetings will be reserved for that topic. Once all recommendations have been discussed they will be compiled into one document and presented to the Board for review and any further additions.

Item 7 – ECSO Superintendent Feedback

- The jail count on 9/30/25 was 886 individuals in custody. The Superintendent included that the Sheriff's Office cannot "turn anyone away", the local police departments are the one who determine who is arrested and who they bring to the Holding Center. The number of state ready individuals is 117. The County is responsible for housing because the State facilities do not have enough employees to support the transfer and then the supervision of the individuals who are slated to be transferred to State facilities. The State reimburses the County \$100/day once an individual has 10 days past the day they were supposed to be transferred. This is approximately a quarter of what the actual cost to the County is to house an individual per day. The transportation from the County to State facilities is conducted by the ECSO, which typically is to Elmira Correctional, about 3 hours one way. The ECSO has tried to provide the transport post to officers who have seniority as that results in having weekends off (transportation to State doesn't happen on weekends).
- There are currently 36 vacancies between the two facilities. There is a new Sheriff's Academy class starting on 11/3/25. There has been a change to the process for the civil service exam for Corrections Officers to speed up the time from completion of the test to being enrolled in the academy. The typical time of this process is exam results usually back in 6 months, hiring process, 10 weeks of academy, and 5 weeks of on-the-job training before they are on their own. This expedited exam differs from the typical civil service exam as there is not a fee to apply, it is a questionnaire related to experience, and is not held at a static location, it can be completed anywhere 24/7. The hope is that by the end of October there will be additional people on the reachable list to move to the next step of the interview/hiring process.
- There is a study that was approved by the Legislature for a data analysis team to look at the Sheriff's shift schedule. Currently the shifts are 8 hours long, and the data team will be looking at the benefits of a 10- or 12-hour shift. This would hopefully result in drastic decreases in sick call ins and FMLA use, which relates to increases in mandated shifts. This is an evaluative study, not a pilot, of both facilities so there would not be any changes, but the Sheriff's do have a plan for the Holding Center schedule change to a 12-hour shift if the unions agree. There is a concern with the

unions and the shift changes, one of them agreed for it to occur (Teamsters, the union representing the staff at ECHC) and the other did not (CSEA, the union representing the staff at ECCF). Superintendent noted that there is incorrect information being floated around the staff about this topic and is open to having a forum to address these misconceptions.

- Superintendent Phillips offered some details about individual who died while in the ECHC. He noted that the Sheriff's, Commission on Corrections, and the Attorney General's office are all conducting independent investigations. Currently the investigation is waiting for the medical examiner to declare a cause of death. Superintendent noted that there was a Mortality and Morbidity (M&M), an interdisciplinary meeting, was held by the Sheriff's Office on 9/30/25. Superintendent Phillips included that the forensic mental health counselors provided support to the individuals incarcerated and staff regarding this incident.
- Superintendent Phillips mentioned that the Capital Projects Committee denied the request for the updated camera system at ECCF. Years ago, the Legislature approved the upgrade for ECHC and paid for as it was not in the Sheriff's budget. Now with the recent denial for the funding to upgrade the camera system at ECCF, there is confusion from the Sheriff's Office because this wasn't something new, it was basically the second phase that started with the ECHC. The upgrade at the ECHC has done a good job at holding all parties accountable and helped reduce blind spots, this would also be the case for ECCF. There have been occasions that concerns have been mitigated due to being able to look at the camera footage. If down the road, the new jail proposal comes to fruition, the upgraded camera system would be able to carry over to that build as well. Lindsey stated she would reach out to the Capital Projects committee to inquire why the request was denied (no reasoning was provided to the Sheriff's Office).
- Board members noted that when there are problems present to the Sheriff's office, there are layers to how and what they can do to provide a solution.

Item 8 – Board communication, website, social media

- A Google Doc that all members can access was created to house Board documents and tracking forms.

Item 9 – Additional issues/topics to address

- Dan Castle brought up that there is a RFP out for a consultant to complete a correctional facility masterplan which would include information about how a new build would 'fit' at the Alden site, validate the recommendations in the previously developed plan, and how the transition would be phased during construction/renovation. The timeframe for the masterplan is approximately 9 months. The applications are due 10/8/25 and should have a decision of an awardee to bring to the Legislature before the end of 2025. This will be the intermediary project

before the \$20 million put into the Capital Projects budget request for 2026 to being the actual design of the facility.

Item 10 – Adjournment

- With all business addressed, the Chair adjourned the meeting and confirmed that the next meeting will be held Tuesday, October 28th, 2025, at 5:00 PM in the Chambers of the Legislature.