

MDC REPURPOSING COMMITTEE
June 28, 2016
JEFFERSON COUNTY COURT ROOM

ATTENDANCE

Drew Dawson, Chair
Christina Binkowski
Jim Heikes
Dee Anna
Dan Villa (by phone)
Doug Scolt
Janie Lewis
Rhandi Rachlis
Tony Zufelt
Jan Anderson
Representative Ryan Lynch

NOTE: The conference call was recorded and may be accessed at: <https://fccdl.in/h0MuQzJCp>

Following self-introductions, the minutes of the May 31, 2016, meeting were approved.

State Actions to Date – Dan Villa

Drew indicated that he and Dan had discussed group homes in Boulder including the need for a community engagement strategy. There are currently a lot of unknowns about this so we will defer this discussion today, but Dan will agree to revisit this strategy when the timing is more appropriate.

Dan – getting decent numbers of scalability of fixed costs such as serving a meal and other overhead costs. These assumptions will be passed off to agencies potentially interested in utilizing the facility. Dan has been contacted by several different folks potentially interested in partnering with the state to use the facility, but they quickly lose interest when they learn that this is not available for free. From a repurposing standpoint, am in a survival mode in staffing – trying to get the clients out by July consistent with the agreements with the providers while simultaneously trying to prevent people from leaving the facility prior to scaling down on staffing. No layoff notices in the near term. Bargaining with the employees as we speak. It is focused on retention rather than getting employees out.

Planning for staffing of the Secure Transition Facility is ongoing...about 70 FTE. On hold with group homes in Boulder until next fiscal year which begins on July 1. Have looked at several group homes, but unfortunately don't meet the criteria.

Human Resources is trying to meet with employees as soon as possible.

REVIEW OF PURPOSES OF THE COMMITTEE

No further discussion of the purposes of the committee.

COMMUNITY CRITERION FOR REPURPOSED CAMPUS – SECOND DRAFT

Dee was concerned that the first community criteria was not clearly stated. After some discussion and wordsmanship, the following re-wording was approved by the committee:

- a. ~~A repurposed MDC facility should not house violent offenders who could potentially harm the community in some way and should be a low safety risk;~~ A repurposed MDC campus should not exceed the level of security appropriate to the population housed in the Secure Transition Facility which should remain open;
- b. A repurposed MDC facility should be consistent with the VISION STATEMENT adopted through the *Making Boulder's Future Bright* Project
- c. A repurposed MDC facility should not be a "huge" facility, but a small facility similar in size and scope to the existing MDC campus.
- d. Ideally, the functions of a repurposed MDC facilities would complement and utilize the skill sets of existing MDC employees, would utilize the skills and capabilities of Boulder residents and provide a solid foundation of jobs for future Boulder generations
- e. Ideally, a repurposed MDC would provide employment for existing MDC employees including opportunities for re-training, as needed.
- f. A repurposed MDC might build upon the long-term experience and capabilities of the Boulder community with the developmentally disabled and provide employment opportunities for them.
- g. The salaries and payroll of the repurposed facility should be comparable to or greater than those of the current MDC

Jan Anderson suggested it is time to get additional community feedback on the proposed community criterion and offered to do this through the ***Boulder Monitor***. The committee agreed.

Treasure State Treatment and Reformation Center - a discussion

At the request of commissioner Wortman, the committee discussed the proposal by Sabastian Alsip Canon for the establishment of a Treasure State Treatment and Reformation Center at the MDC Campus. After a thorough discussion, the committee agreed on the basics of an e-mail that was subsequently sent to Commissioner Wortman:

Leonard,

Thank you for sending the proposal of Mr. Sebastian Canon for the establishment of a Treasure State Treatment and Reformation Center at the Montana Developmental Center. Today, this proposal was on the agenda for the MDC Repurposing Committee of the Boulder Transition Advisory Committee

(BTAC). After a thorough discussion by the committee, we recommend to you that the proposal is not logistically or practically feasible given the parameters of MDC Repurposing. As the state moves toward closure of the MDC campus, it will be looking for another state agency that can locate on the MDC campus which, of course, includes having sufficient funding immediately available to locate and operate there. Or, the property will be sold at fair market value for a private use. Neither of these scenarios aligns with Mr. Canon's proposal.

Please feel free to share this e-mail with Mr. Canon.

Drew

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – HOW AND WHEN

No additional discussion.

PARKING LOT OF POTENTIAL PRIVATE/LOCAL USES FOR THE MDC CAMPUS

Additions to the “parking lot” are underlined from the last meeting. There were no additional suggestions at this meeting.

- Health Care for people who are aging.
- [Look at the information in the Boulder Study Circles]
- Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy Training – need skills behavioral management also
- Education, especially vo-tech, that may also take advantage of the high-speed internet capability that is expanding in Boulder area.
- Business that hires developmentally disabled as employees (still comply with deed restrictions)
- Department of Corrections – Day work facilities – low risk
- Veterans services – potential contracted services such as behavioral health – chemical dependency.
- Training facility for those working with persons with developmental disabilities
- Veterinary technician programs
- Training facilities

NEXT STEPS

The state cannot provide information about what state activities will be located on the MDC campus at this point in the state budget cycle. However, the committee is concerned that, at the last minute, there might not be a state function and it will be too late for a private facility to be located there.

The committee would like to be more proactive in helping to attract non-state functions to the MDC campus. For the next several meetings, the committee would like to do its “due diligence” in better understanding exactly what is necessary for non-state utilization of the

MDC campus such as, for instance: deed restrictions, leasing vs. selling, property appraisal, etc. There was some discussion of putting together a developer's packet, perhaps with the assistance of the Department of Commerce, to attract persons to purchase or lease the property.

At their July 26 meeting, the committee agreed to explore what steps are necessary for the MDC campus to be converted to private purposes and to what extent the community could be involved. Dan Villa will be invited to attend the meeting and committee members are encouraged to submit questions to Drew in advance of the next meeting (for forwarding to Dan).

NEXT MEETING

July 26, 3:30 pm. Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder's Commissioners room.

A conference line will be provided for out-of-town guests.