

# 1. Background and Mission

## Background

**Purpose of the Needs Assessment.** McLean County hired the firm of Dewberry Architects with Mark Goldman & Associates, Justice Planners, to conduct a comprehensive jail needs assessment study and provide pre-architectural consulting services. The purpose of this study is to:

- Provide appropriate accommodations and programs for male and female inmates who are mentally ill, geriatric, need protective custody, and for all security levels;
- Analyze current Jail population and facility-related needs and project future needs;
- Determine which Jail components, such as Health Services, are inadequate and need to be expanded, renovated, and/or relocated to larger and more suitable space;
- Develop and consider the concept of a Joint Use Community Crisis Stabilization Center being built as part of or connected to the Jail or elsewhere, for mentally ill alleged and convicted offenders and for those outside of the justice system.
- Develop and analyze expansion, renovation, and new construction options for meeting needs over the next 20 plus years;
- Estimate the costs of renovation/expansion/new construction, staffing, and other major operational expenses; and
- Develop a master plan that can be implemented over time.

**The McLean County Detention Facility (MCDF)** (MCDF, also referred to as the McLean County Jail). Much of the McLean County Detention Facility is approaching 40 years old – an age when many county jails are often replaced. However, McLean’s jail is a “keeper” due to its location as part of the Law and Justice Center, because of its exemplary operations, and due to its well-designed 24 year old addition – with direct supervision housing units that are as state-of-the-art as in many brand new jails.



Typical mid-1970's Cell



One of two 1990 Direct Supervision Pods

The MCDF building has many shortcomings that need to be addressed by the needs assessment and master plan. Chief among these shortcomings are:

- All of the original cells are linear, have potentially dangerous bar grade fronts, receive little natural light, and are staff-intensive to supervise and manage.

- There are no appropriate housing units for the ever increasing number of Mentally Ill inmates; consequently many of them are housed in Booking and throughout the Jail, which negatively impacts the operations of both Booking and Mental Health, exacerbating safety, supervision, and security challenges.



A particular concern for the study and master plan is the rising population of mentally ill inmates. Similar to most other counties, the number and percentages of mentally ill inmates has been rising drastically. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that there are too few non-custody and post-release options for the mentally ill, and consequently many mentally ill inmates are frequent recidivists.

- Housing for Females, the increasing number of geriatric and physically ill inmates, and for those who need to be in Protective Custody and Segregation is in linear cells and is insufficient and inappropriate.
- Physical limitations and conditions of the older portions of the MCDJ are significant. Housing Mentally Ill inmates in Booking cells and accommodating the Mentally Ill, Females, those who need Protective Custody, and others in the linear cells is counter to the “Protection from Harm” mandate.
- As noted in chapter 5 of this report, “existing building systems are stretched to their max.”
- Most components were designed for fewer inmates and need more space -- and this space needs to better supports functions, security, safety, staff, and inmates. These components include Health Services, Mental Health, Food Services, Booking, Inmate Services, Programs, Administration, and Staff Support.

## **Mission, Assumptions & Criteria for Expanded Jail**

### **Mission Statement for the Expanded & Renovated McLean County Jail**

The mission of the McLean County Jail Needs Assessment is to plan for a facility that provides for the security and safety of the community, Jail staff and detainees, appropriate housing and constitutional care for all categories of alleged and convicted offenders, including those with special needs, that is cost and staff efficient, and that aims for successful reintegration of detainees upon release.

### **Operational Objectives for the Expanded & Renovated McLean County Jail**

#### Operational Objectives Regarding Safety & Security

- Provide for the safety and security of inmates, staff, visitors, and the public.

Operational Objectives Regarding Detainee Management

- Support best practices including the direct supervision of detainees, proactive inmate management, and staff-inmate communications.
- Improve the ability to classify inmates – including the mentally ill, females, and other populations -- and place them in appropriate housing units.
- Improve cross-gender inmate management.

Operational Objectives Regarding Detainees

- Address the special needs of detainees.
- Limit placement in the Jail to those who need to be there.

Operational Objectives Regarding Programs & Services

- Support educational, vocational, self-help and other programs that are designed to enhance the skills of offenders in order to reduce recidivism, promote rehabilitation, and encourage successful community reintegration.
- Accommodate gender specific programming.
- Promote positive family and community support for detainees.
- Accommodate other programs that may be added in the future.
- Improve Mental Health Services in the Jail.
- Centralize certain services including Mental Health, Physical Health, and Food Services.

Operational Objectives Regarding Staff

- Facilitate the training and well-being of staff.
- Optimize staffing (efficient without compromising functions or safety and security).

Operational Objectives Regarding Costs

- Facilitate operational cost efficiencies in staffing, maintenance, energy, and utilities.

Operational Objectives Regarding the Public & Other Entities

- Promote interagency cooperation and communications, and positive working relationships (including with Mental Health providers).
- Communicate with the public to promote awareness and support.

Operational Objectives Regarding Other Operational Requirements

- Meet all American Correctional Association, National Commission of Correctional Health Care, and Illinois Department of Corrections operational standards for jails.

## **Design Objectives for the Expanded & Renovated McLean County Jail**

### Design Objectives Regarding Capacity, Detainees, & Housing

- Provide adequate capacity to house all detainees, including those with special needs, by classification category and have enough beds for most peak populations.
- Provide appropriate housing for each population and sub-population; include “hard” and “soft” cells for the gamut of mentally ill detainees.
- Provide for the physically ill and inmates with infectious diseases; include negative pressure isolation cells.

### Design Objectives Regarding a Safe & Secure Environment

- Improve the physical environment.
- Provide for the safe and secure incarceration of alleged and convicted offenders.
- Facilitate the movement of users and logistical support in inclement weather.
- Facilitate inmate supervision and management through excellent sightlines and the layout of housing units and inmate program and work areas.
- Provide state-of-the-art security.
- Enhance the preparedness of emergency management for preventing, managing and planning for disasters.

### Design Objectives Regarding an Environment that Supports Staff

- Provide appropriate and adequate spaces for staff to do their jobs, spaces to receive training, and spaces that promote a healthy and positive environment.
- Facilitate inter- and intra-department staff interaction.

### Design Objectives Regarding the Site, Proximities, Other Entities & the More Distant Future

- Consider keeping the Coroner in its current location, with access from Law Enforcement. Should the Coroner relocate in the future, consider opportunities for Staff Support and Booking to expand into portions of the existing space.
- Provide for the optimal safety and security in the movement of users (detainees, jail and justice system staff, law enforcement, interagency staff, official visitors, jurors, vendors and the public), including emergency services and management.
- Provide user-friendly signage and way-finding.
- Support downtown planning and development through community-friendly architecture and aesthetics.
- Integrate expansion with the existing Jail, fostering excellent zoning, appropriate proximities and layouts, and physical relationships.
- Provide a design that facilitates flexibility for possible future expansion and changing populations.

- Provide a physical setting that provides opportunities for collaboration and efficient use of resources.
- Provides for easy and welcoming access to the facility by citizens.

Design Objectives Regarding Support for Services, Programs, & Operations

- Appropriately and adequately accommodate services and programs.
- Facilitate communication between detainees and their attorneys, jail staff, and other justice system staff and program providers.

Design Objectives Regarding Maintenance, Building Systems, & Technologies

- Provide for the efficient and effective use of equipment and technology.
- Plan for computerized medical and other records.
- Improve the capability for video appearances (could be in one or more spaces used for other functions).
- Address the communications, equipment and technological needs of jail custody, program, services, and medical personnel.
- Address the needs for logistical support and maintenance of the facility, while protecting the security perimeter of the Detention Facility and facilitating secure operations.
- Promote efficient and responsible use of utilities, and low maintenance costs.
- Keep maintenance outside the secure perimeter to the extent possible, and employ well tested building systems that require minimal maintenance.

Design Objectives Regarding Codes & Standards

- Adhere to all applicable standards and codes (ACA, AOIC, NCCHC, IL DOC).

Environment & Behavior, & Other Design Objectives

- Provide appropriate environments for each population, including the mentally ill.
- Promote positive and appropriate interactions and other behaviors, including respect, through interior design, furnishings, natural light, color, acoustical treatments, and finishes.
- Develop a design and configuration that:
  - Promotes a sense of dignity, self-worth and integrity;
  - Minimizes victimization and protects the privacy of victims;
  - Inspires self-sufficiency and accountability;
  - Signifies professionalism;
- Provide for flexibility and changes in the use of housing units, support areas, and program areas to accommodate changes in the inmate population, in inmate programs, and in services.

- Create an environment that fosters the collaborative development and delivery of programs that offer opportunities for protecting victims, improving personal behaviors and making better life choices.

## **Directives**

These are the assumptions on which planning proceeded.

- Build enough capacity based on projections for 2035 assuming an average annual increase of 1%.
- Maintain single cells, but design cells and housing units so that a limited number of single cells could be double-bunked in the future if necessary.
- Repurpose much of the existing linear jail for other functions such as expanded Health Services and Inmate Services.
- Utilize Direct Supervision for most populations, with the optimum capacity of approximately 48.
- Decentralize programs/services, providing most programs in multipurpose rooms adjacent to housing units. Locate some Multipurpose rooms and Exercise areas so that they can be used by inmates from other units without them walking through units.
- Best utilize existing Direct Supervision pods.
- Provide for Mentally Ill inmates, other Special Needs populations including Protective Custody and Physically Ill – both Females and Males.
- Enable flexibility/future expansion strategies.
- Promote efficiencies in:
  - Energy use, and
  - Staffing.
- Maintain and improve operational logistics of the Justice Center site for the expanded Detention Facility in such a way that conflicts are minimized for:
  - Law Enforcement vehicular access for Booking;
  - Truck access for Food Services;
  - Vehicular access for the Coroner;
  - Staff access; and
  - Pedestrians, including Visitors, the Public, and Inmates (with separate secure circulation systems for the latter).