

The New Wayne County Consolidated Jail Newsletter



Greetings from Sheriff Benny N. Napoleon

In the spirit of information sharing and openness, Sheriff Benny N. Napoleon wants the Transition Team to keep everyone informed of the progress of the New Jail Project. Going forward until the project is completed, all staff will receive regular updates on the project and relevant activities that will affect the officers and civilian staff.

There will be several changes that will take place before the New Jail is slated to open and a lot of work is being done to facilitate a smooth transition into the new facility. A fulltime transition team has been formed to coordinate the move. The team includes Patrick Owen, Team Coordinator; Robert Dunlap, Staffing Coordinator; Director Ursula Henry, Policy and Procedure Coordinator; Lieutenant Karmen White, Training Coordinator; Corporal Jeannaka Starks, FF&E (furniture, fixtures, and equipment) Coordinator, and Corporal Michelle Boehmer, Project Coordinator.

The team is in need of additional assistance, and in the near future will have postings for officers to perform various functions, such as jail training officer (JTO), IMS (the new computer system) training officers, technology training officers and simulation and jail training officers.

Our goal is to make the transition into the new jail a success for everyone, and towards that end we will be forthcoming with information on a regular basis. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to email them to the NJTT.co.wayne.mi.us. We will do our very best to address questions or concerns in an upcoming newsletter. In the spirit of keeping our fellow employees informed, we will work diligently to get the information to you.

Included in this packet are a newsletter, FAQs sheet and information about the new jail facility. Please take the time to review this information.



Overview

- The facility will be completed in September 2014
- The foundation and sub-basement are in place
- Staff will have a separate entrance than the public
- The New Jail will have 4 levels and will consolidate Division 1 and Division 2
- The new facility will feature video visitation and video hearings
- The officers will utilize new technology such as the use of tablets and body alarms for both officers and civilian staff
- There will be an indoor and an outdoor break area for staff
- The facility will be a direct supervision facility. Some areas of the jail will feature in-direct supervision such as acute mental health, high security levels and administrative discipline.
- We are currently using direct supervision at Division 3. The new facility will have open pod-like setting with 8 inmates per module but enclosed in clear security glass for enhanced security and visibility of each inmate. There are also closed cell units with a maximum of 8 individual cells per module, also with security glass to enhance the security and visibility of each inmate.
- Training will include direct supervision, JMS (the new inmate management), jail orientation, post orientation, and specialized job training (lobby desk, registry, bonds, classification and master control)
- Training in Direct Supervision will be offered to all officers prior to the opening of the new jail. The Transition Team is working on a plan to put this training in place.
- POAM and AFSCME Local 3317 are involved in the development of staffing and training in the new facility

For more information and pictures, go to sheriffconnect.com

FAQs for the New Wayne County Consolidated Jail



When will the jail be completed?

The jail is slated to be completed September 2014. The project is 5-7% complete as of August 2012. The new facility will sit on seven (7) acres of land on Gratiot and St. Antoine. Once the jail is completed, the move will be coordinated over a period of time. All staff will be trained to work within the new facility, including: jail orientation training, simulation training, and technology training.

How many floors will the jail have?

The jail will have four floors not including a basement and a sub-basement. The first floor will house registry, master control, the kitchen, laundry, phone bank, tether, lobby desk, video arraignment, and video visitation. Staff areas are also on this floor, including staff locker rooms, staff gym, staff training room, roll call room. The infirmary and medical will be located on the second floor. The 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors will be for inmate housing.

What type of jail is the new facility?

The new facility is a Direct Supervision facility. Wayne County currently has three different types of jails. Division One is a podular indirect supervision facility or "remote surveillance." Division Two is a linear indirect or "intermittent surveillance" facility and Division Three is a direct supervision facility. The current jails will combine into one direct supervision facility with cutting edge security and technology.

Will there be employee parking?

No; as of now, parking has not been identified for all the staff that will be working at the New Jail Facility. This issue is currently under discussion in an attempt to resolve it in the best fashion possible.

Will the new jail be safe for the officers and civilian staff?

Yes. The jail will have state of the art technology designed to enhance safety and security, including body alarms and enhanced cameras. Each housing unit floor will have designated "utility officers" to support the officers working the housing units, much like the model currently used at Dickerson. Additional support officers are also planned. Personal safety is an important determinant of the quality of our work environment. As a general rule, Direct Supervision jails report fewer incidents of

violence. For example, Bucks County in Pennsylvania reported that fights dropped by at least 50% and their use of disciplinary segregation dropped by 30%. Given the track record of direct supervision facilities, the training that everyone will receive, and building design, all indications are that the New Wayne County Consolidated Jail Facility should be very safe. An additional safety consideration is the fact that inmate movement will decrease; e.g. Each gym will be located on the unit and so will many of the programs that will be offered. Inmate programs and recreation will be conducted from their assigned housing units.

How many beds are in the new jail?

As proposed, the facility is designed to have 2,192 beds, but that number is currently under discussion and could increase.

What kind of training will the officers receive?

All officers, including lieutenants and sergeants, will be required to attend a 24 hour course for direct supervision called "Making Direct Supervision Work: The Housing Officer's Role." Lieutenants and Sergeants will be required to attend an additional 16 hour course called, "Making Direct Supervision Work: The Supervisors Role." All civilian staff that has contact with inmates will be required to attend direct supervision training. Division 3 personnel will be trained in the new direct supervision model first.

What kind of technology will the jail have?

The jail will have all new technology. Electronic Security systems will be provided by Sierra Detention Systems of Brighton, Colorado. The technology will include touch screen tablets that will allow the officers to lock and unlock cell doors, open doors, turn on and off lights, shut off the water, and access the inmate's information. Central Control will also be state of the art. The Central Control (Master Control) officers will be able to control elevators, the garage door, control every door within the facility, and even take over control of the housing unit controls if the need arises. All staff will have a personal body alarm (duress alarm) that will communicate with the video surveillance system in case assistance is needed. There will be video visitation, and kiosks on each unit for the inmates to order commissary and fill out forms. The simple addition of the kiosk on the unit will free the officer from being the primary source of frequently asked questions, or providing these forms so they can more closely monitor the inmate's activity on the unit.

How many inmates will one officer be responsible for?

The officer to inmate ratio is planned for 1 officer per 64 inmates (64:1). On the acute mental health, administrative segregation, and maximum security units there will be two officers, who will be able to control which inmates are allowed out of their cells.

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If an officer needs assistance will backup be readily available?

Yes. Each floor will have two (2) additional utility officers whose primary responsibility will be to provide added support.

The utility officer also provides relief for the officers located on the floor, and renders any assistance when needed.

Will some jobs within the current jail divisions be eliminated?

Yes. There will be no “RDC,” “Front Gate,” or “Back Gate,” along with some other posts to be determined. Although these positions will be eliminated, new positions within the jail will be created such as: “video visitation officer,” two extra Master Control officers, and two additional floor utility officers per floor.

Are there plans to lay off any currently employed officers when the new facility opens?

No. It is hoped that any needed reductions in staff can be accomplished through normal attrition (e.g. retirements, resignations, etc.)

Will any of the current jails remain open when the new jail is opened?

No. The plan is to consolidate Division 1, Division 2, and Division 3 into one facility

Are any Union Representatives participating on the Transition Team?

Yes. At the Sheriff’s direction, representatives from both Local 3317 and POAM are included on the Transition Team to help ensure that a true “team concept” is used to develop and operate the new jail.

Thank You

Your Transition Team

If you have any questions, comments, concerns or ideas please email the Transition Team at NJTT@co.wayne.mi.us so that we can review your comments.

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