

NO NEW JAIL TALKING POINTS

These are demands from the No Dane County Jail Working Group. Please sign up to testify and read these.

1) We demand that the "Master Plan" for an expanded jail, built piece-by-piece for \$160 million is taken off the table. We demand community-based capital alternatives, such as mental health centers (lines 255-258).

2) We demand that community leaders from Young Gifted and Black and other African American led groups have decision making powers in each working group, and that they are adequately compensated for participating in the working groups. Further, we demand that the County commits to implementing the recommendations that come out of the working groups (lines 245-253).

3) We demand a plan that explicitly includes: (1) increasing racial equity in access to and participation in all services and programs addressed by the resolution, and (2) decreasing racial disparities in those same services and programs, through policy and practice change (lines 184-186).

4) We demand that any work by Mead and Hunt for short- and long-term jail planning incorporate the working groups' recommended policy changes to reduce the number of people in jail (lines 236-245).

5) We demand an end to solitary confinement. Further, we demand that the County ensure that people of color, including those without mental health diagnoses, have equitable access to mental health services (lines 129-135).

6) We demand that the public receives a copy of the "detailed scope of services" in the "addendum to Agreement No. 11333" with Mead and Hunt. Mead and Hunt are not policy experts. The public needs to see the addendum and add in our input before the Board makes a decision (lines 225-230).

7) We demand expanding access to work/study release (Huber) for people in jail who have been convicted, with a special focus on ensuring racially equitable access. Further, we demand expanding existing diversion programs to more people (lines 151-175).

8) We demand expanded access to existing home detention programs (electronic monitoring) for people in jail with a special focus on ensuring racially equitable participation (line 160).

Big picture concerns:

- 1200+ individuals have already signed a petition saying no new jail
- New proposal allows for building a new jail, just in phases
- We should be investing in community treatment and sentencing, not jail facilities
- Resolution admits there's a lack of data on who's in jail and why; we can start to fix this now with an improved data system

Racial equity:

- Use more consistent language emphasizing racial equity (not just equity), and specifically include language clarifying the the need for racial equity in access to diversion programs--an issue from what we know at present, for example with home monitoring

Mead and Hunt concerns:

- They don't have to honor working group recommendations
- They should have to consider policy changes that would decrease the jail population
- Earlier study had issues with numbers, perhaps overestimating jail population by up to 7%
- They're an architectural firm, and should not be so involved with policy issues (they're not experts in racial equity analysis or criminal justice policy)

Working group concerns:

- County board and Mead and Hunt don't have to honor working group recommendations
- Providing monetary support for working groups would make them more effective/valued
- Change the length-of-stay work group to include examining the expansion of existing jail diversion programs

Another point, is simply to expand existing diversion programs (home monitoring, e.g.); things like abolishing cash bail or creating a revolving bail loan program could also fit in here.