

# PRELIMINARY DRAFT

## AUTHORIZING STUDY OF OPTIONS REGARDING MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS AND PLACEMENT RAMIFICATIONS OF PRISONERS IN THE JAIL

The June 2014 Final Report titled "Dane County Jail and Sheriff's Office Needs Assessment and Master Plan", prepared by Mead & Hunt, Inc. in association with Pulitzer/Bogard & Associates, LLC, found a high level of mental health needs among jail inmates. A review of 2012 jail data noted that there were 954 suicide watch events, an average of 10.3 inmates per day on suicide watch 2,549 inmate days of suicide watch, 1,407 inmates who were on medications for a psychiatric condition, 1,567 inmates on the mental health special needs list and 6,109 special needs contacts. The report also noted that segregation cells could be redesigned to improve supervision and inmate health.

The Department of Human Services has two mental health Alternative Sanctions programs. Journey Mental Health Center's Community Treatment Alternatives community support program has a capacity of 69 individuals, and SOAR's case management program has a capacity of 40 individuals. These programs do not address needs while individuals are in the jail, and are not sufficient to address the needs of the large number of individuals leaving jail. There is no community based program available to law enforcement that is specifically designed to divert people with mental health needs from the jail.

The 2015 Adopted Budget includes an amendment directing that a consultant be engaged "to analyze all options regarding mental health needs and placement ramifications of prisoners in the jail. The study shall include recommendations regarding a plan to develop secure special needs health care beds. The study shall evaluate all options, including developing a stand alone location that jointly serves individuals with mental health needs not incarcerated by the sheriff as well as those in jail; and a facility that can serve as an alternative to jail placement for individuals with mental health needs that are in police custody. The study shall also include consideration and costs of retrofitting current jail facilities as well as current county office spaces that could be made available and stand-alone facilities."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that using funds budgeted in 2014 and carried forward to 2015 for jail space needs analysis and planning, the County Board Office shall engage a consultant to lead a work group to study and recommend cost effective options for improving the conditions and services for people with mental health needs who are involved with law enforcement and the Dane County Jail.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sheriff's Office, Department of Human Services and Department of Administration shall designate representatives to serve on the work group.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group shall consider best practice models from other parts of the country including, but not limited to, models cited in the Mead & Hunt report.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the consultant and work group shall deliver their report to \_\_\_\_ no later than \_\_\_\_\_.