



**COUNTY OF DANE**  
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GREG BROCKMEYER  
Director of Administration

Date: July 10, 2018

To: Personnel and Finance Committee

From: Greg Brockmeyer  
Director of Administration

Subject: Granting an Exception to DCO 20.15 Prohibiting Travel to States that discriminate to allow staff to research benchmark facilities for the Dane County Jail Project

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As provided by DCO 20.20 and DCO 20.15, this memo requests the Personnel and Finance committee grant an exception to DCO 20.15. This request would allow Dane County staff to research national model facilities in Texas, a state that has laws that meet the criteria established in DCO 20.15. This research is necessary in order to appropriately plan out the Dane County Jail project. This trip would tour two benchmark facilities: the Dallas County Jail and the Tarrant County Jail in Fort Worth. These facilities are approximately 40 minutes apart.

The Dallas County Jail is considered a national model for correctional health care, according to the National Institute of Corrections. The Dallas County Jail is a newer facility designed by HDR (a firm that is on the A/E design team for Dane County's project). Additionally, the medical and mental health areas recently underwent a renovation project that required these areas to be continuously operated during construction.

The Tarrant County Jail has many aspects that Dane County is trying to replicate. The Tarrant County Jail is also designed by HDR and features an open dorm-style medical and mental health areas. These areas allow for programming that excels at reintegrating inmates into society. Further, the facility has mechanical, electrical, and plumbing areas laid out so that operations staff are always separated from inmate areas. The Tarrant County Jail uses mezzanine levels to conserve space and support facility operations, this kind of design has been identified as a potential consideration for Dane County.

The staff that would be participating on this facility benchmarking trip are: Director of Public Works and Highway and Transportation Commissioner, Jerry Mandli; Dane County Jail project manager, Scott Carlson; Director of Administration, Greg Brockmeyer; and County Board Supervisor Paul Rusk.

Please contact me if there are any issues with this request.

Thank you