

50 courthouse, or if other needs in youth justice arise. This is an approach that could also be used
51 for the jail.

52
53 To provide the incentive and confidence needed to realize successful reform, Dane County could
54 remove the bed capacity provided by Housing Unit 3A in the 3rd floor of the Public Safety Building.
55 Leaving available space sets the expectation that the system-wide cooperation and innovation
56 prompted by COVID-19 and criminal justice reform can lead to much needed long lasting change
57 in our criminal justice systems.

58
59 Some might say that this space should be built out for programming, however programming in jail
60 is challenging given the relatively short length of stay. The average amount of time in the Dane
61 County Jail is approximately 24 days, making it difficult to deliver effective programs. With Dane
62 County working to reduce average length of stay, programming space and dollars are better
63 invested in existing and proposed deflection and diversion programs.

64
65 In order to have proper space for housing people in the appropriate setting according to their
66 classification and accounting for peaking population times a 20 percent bed buffer is needed. An
67 under roof average daily population of 687 or fewer allows for the closing of Housing Unit 3A.
68 Additionally, the consolidated jail will include medical and mental health beds, which are occupied
69 temporarily until an individual is ready to move to a more permanent housing unit. Conversely
70 medical or mental health housing is not available for those without those needs.

71
72 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors
73 recommends that the jail consolidation project shall, upon completion of the South Tower
74 construction, close Housing Unit 3A reducing the number of beds in the consolidated jail to 872.