

IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

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STRYKER –Creating a five-year vision for the regional jail will be the focus of a special subcommittee following Wednesday’s meeting of the Corrections Commission of Northwest Ohio.

At the recommendation of the Financial Overview Committee, members voted in favor of creating a Strategic Planning Subcommittee that will be comprised of one board member from each of the five participating jurisdictions.

Williams County Commissioner Brian Davis, who also serves as the Vice Chairman, said the subcommittee will discuss the direction to fulfill the mission, as well as fill the beds, for the next five years at the regional jail. Earlier Lucas County announced they intended to build a 650 bed jail and leave CCNO.

The action came after Lucas County announced plans to decrease its bed usage from 323 in 2017 to 275 in 2018. But officials were told that Lucas County Common Pleas judges had not yet finalized the number of beds it may use at CCNO thru state funding made available under the T-CAP program (Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison).

Lucas County was reminded that now was the time to bid for beds to be used at CCNO in advance so that an operating budget could be created. The commitment for beds was supposed to happen in July. Otherwise, those unoccupied beds could be contracted out to other agencies and jurisdictions to utilize the maximum 658-bed capacity at CCNO. The board voted to reserve 25 beds to house federal inmates; which is an increase from the 10 beds originally reserved in April of this year.

The remaining four counties kept their 2017 bed allocations the same for 2018 with 60 for Defiance County; 58 for Williams County; 55 for Fulton County; and 37 for Henry County.

The fiscal manager was authorized to use the reserve fund to cover operating expense, if necessary, due to unfunded beds and to maintain financial viability through the remainder of 2017. Members were informed that shortage would amount to \$580,000 by the end of the year.

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Board members also adjusted the administrative release policy to incorporate the bed declarations by each member jurisdiction which is necessary in the event of overcrowding caused by jurisdictions over utilizing their bed limits. As a result, an overcrowding emergency was declared yesterday afternoon with doors shut to Defiance County with 122 percent capacity; Henry County with 100 percent capacity; and Lucas County with 109 percent capacity. Those three counties must reduce their inmate populations before doors are reopened. This morning CCNO remains closed to Defiance County at 123% capacity and Lucas County at 105% capacity.

The CCNO Board also voted to reserve 25 beds to house federal inmates; which is an increase from the 10 beds originally reserved in April of this year.

In other business, members authorized the purchase of ballistic vests at an estimated cost of \$10,000 with a \$4,000 rebate to be received.

Jim Dennis, CCNO Executive Director, said a new hiring and training program has been developed and is doing well in an effort to streamline new staff with on-the-job training. He also noted that about 75 people attended the open house giving them an opportunity to view the cost effective, clean and well run jail.