

King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention  
Integrated Security Project and Operational Master Plan

**PROGRESS REPORT TO THE OMP ADVISORY GROUP - June 26, 2003**

**INTEGRATED SECURITY PROJECT (ISP)**

General Observations/Recommendations Regarding the ISP

- The proposed system is appropriate for the King County Correctional Facility (KCCF) and, with relatively minor modifications, should meet the facility's security and operational requirements under every conceivable mode of operation.
- The age and condition of existing elevators and communication and control systems make significant system failure a certainty. The only question is when. The county should take all possible steps - including the declaration of an emergency if necessary - to accelerate upgrading and replacing these systems.
- The Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention's contingency plan to address partial or complete failure of the current system should be reviewed and updated. The county should take steps to be financially prepared for this contingency.
- The County, the Development Manger, the Architect, and selected members of the OMP consultant team should confer to develop an accelerated schedule for the ISP.

Major Recommendations Regarding Changes to the ISP Scope of Work

- Remove the Jail Health Services remodel and work associated with the West Wing from the current ISP scope of work and add it back after further review.
- Replace the current plan for hard-panel controls in the KCCF floor control rooms with touch-screen, software-based units. Add cameras (which can be monitored by Central Control) to view all doors operated by Floor Control. This will increase flexibility in operations at a small net additional cost.
- Replace the current plan for hard-wired card readers for suicide watch with a portable system using barcodes and battery-operated readers. This is lower cost but superior system with greater flexibility and utility.
- Expand and extend network infrastructure within the building to serve possible future uses such as video visiting, video court, electronic medical records, digitized x-ray, and telemedicine.

**OPERATIONAL MASTER PLAN (OMP)**

Preliminary Observations Regarding Jail Health

- The current KCCF clinic area is congested and has an inefficient flow. Exam rooms present unnecessary security risks to staff due to their configuration. There is insufficient space for private and confidential medical interviews.
- Current staffing levels at the KCCF are very high. Facilities with far lower staffing ratios are able to deliver quality services and meet accreditation standards. Despite high staffing levels and recent NCCHC accreditation, in the opinion of the OMP team, there appear to be areas where changes should be made in order to be prepared for the next accreditation review.
- The number of transports to Harborview seem excessive (11.5 per day in January 2003). Tasks and procedures routinely done by on-site medical staff in other jails are often referred to Harborview.

- Jail Health Service prescribers are seeing 1.2 to 1.4 patients per hour. Prescribers in the community see 2 to 4 patients per hour.
- Medication expenses seem to be very high compared to many other jails.
- Jail Health estimates that 16 to 29 percent of inmates have DSHS benefits. There is currently no mechanism in place to obtain DSHS verification at booking and to effectively communicate this information with the billing department.
- Much of the observed inefficiency of Jail Health operations can be attributed to the state and organization of medical records. KCCF has medical information on paper records for the same individual located in multiple areas of the jail. Much time is wasted in gathering the chart together.
- The health services database at KCCF is inadequate to provide the data necessary for efficient operation.
- Some transports of inmates from the RJC to the KCCF for medical reasons may be unnecessary. For example, many inmates experiencing alcohol withdrawal could probably be well managed at the RJC.

#### Preliminary Recommendations Regarding Jail Health

- The current plan for remodel of jail health contained in the ISP drawings should not go forward. Major changes to the current design are needed. Options for expansion or redesign of the current space should be explored.
- The county should implement a system of Electronic Medical Records.
- Consideration should be given to increasing health services in the living units.
- A cost and operations analysis should be conducted of the pharmacy.
- Policies and procedures should be reviewed annually and updated as appropriate.
- The capability to provide more services on-site should be increased through training, certification, and the addition of appropriate equipment and technology.
- A system should be in place for utilization review of outside transports.
- A system should be developed to maximize cost recovery for inmates who have DSHS benefits.
- A full-time person should be assigned to monitor and document a Continuous Quality Improvement program.

#### Current Status of Other OMP Work

- Documentation of current practices, policies and procedures is approaching completing.
- Identification and analysis of constraints on operations is underway. Preliminary review of the Hammer Settlement Agreement has been completed.
- Sites for benchmarking jail health services have been selected and information has been requested.
- Review of documents and cost models is continuing.