

CJCC UPDATE

June 4, 2010

The person gathering statistics at the jail continues to refine and improve the process. The data is still too recent to start developing trends, but that is the near-term goal.

The DM Register reported that nationally, the number of people in jail/prison is down. In Polk County, summer is the peak time for jail numbers, and average daily counts are beginning to climb.

There are known alternatives - electronic bracelets, mental health and drug abuse treatment tracks - but those systems need to be in place before they can be used to eliminate people in the jail who don't really belong there.

Therefore, for a short time, we need to pay double (it seems) 1) to incarcerate those that may qualify for alternatives, and 2) prepare the alternatives (staff, facilities, etc.). For example, 20 people are on electronic bracelets.

There are more who qualify, but currently there is not the money to hire and train the supervisors and buy the equipment because the funds are being used to pay for jail space.

Scheduling and processes are very slow and need to be much more efficient, but also probably need more workers in the system. Records are still mostly paper, and the same data is often written down numerous times. Instead of having a computer do a data search, people must go through individual paper files looking for information (some people sit in jail for days AFTER they were to be released, often resulting in paying out a settlement). Inmates are still grouped into large categories (one-size fits all) slowing down the possibility of various interventions (remember the differing activities that are all classified as "sex offender cases"?). In short, the entire criminal justice system needs to get out of the 19th century and into the 21st century. We spend a lot of money to do it wrong/poorly, but we can't afford to do it right?

Awaiting "out of state" - 1

Awaiting Oakdale - 13

Awaiting sentencing - 36

Awaiting State facility - 70

Federal detain - 163

ICE Hold/ICE Temp. - 51

Pending - 532

Sentenced to PCJ - 117

TOTAL – 983 (as of 01 June, 2010)