

July 17, 2024

Preliminary and Outstanding Questions Regarding House Bill 4002 Deflection from Commissioner Brim-Edwards

In addition to the details of the facility specs and detailed budget, the Board should be presented with a complete plan that includes what the requirements are to have met the definition of deflection prior to voting on the FAC-1. Please provide responses to the following questions to inform decision-making before bringing the FAC-1 to the Board:

- Who is the provider and their scope of work?
- Which services (all) will be provided in total on Sept. 1? Will harm reduction resources be distributed?
- The draft sobering center plan details the need for in-house security who are trained in de-escalation and that keep staff and defleetees safe. Who is the provider for security services and what is their scope of work and the plan to manage the outside of the facility?
- In a June 27 email the Chair describes a sobering oversight team. Who and what is that? Does it include alcohol?
- Will a Good Neighbor Agreement be in place by Sept. 1? If not, what is the plan and on what timeline to get a Good Neighbor Agreement in place?
- What is the transportation plan for individuals leaving the center?
- What constitutes successful deflection?
- What is required of the individual choosing deflection?
- What is the criteria specifically regarding a treatment referral? Is a treatment bed attached to a referral? What happens if there is not a treatment bed available?
- How many times can an individual be deflected and what is that informed by?
- The lease agreement is for 2 years: 4 6-month extensions? Could it be just a 4 year lease agreement?
- If someone is intoxicated are they eligible to choose deflection over arrest? The LPSCC Q & A and the Health Department have clarified that those experiencing “acute intoxication” will not be eligible - where will those people be deflected?
 - What is the definition of “acute intoxication” for who may not qualify for the deflection center and how is that determined? How will law enforcement be expected to triage in the field for that criteria?
- Are detox and treatment services lined up for those who choose deflection? How many slots are available?

I stated on the record my expectation that the Board ultimately decides the criteria of the House Bill 4002 (HB 4002) Deflection Program.

- When will the Board vote to approve the HB 4002 Deflection Program?
- What are the roles and responsibilities of those involved in HB 4002, including (but not limited to) the Chair, Chief Operating Officer, other County leadership, and the Leadership Team? Who is accountable for the Program?
- Why aren't the Leadership Team meetings public?