

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE
HAMILTON COUNTY CORRECTIONS REVIEW TASK FORCE**

BY THE BOARD

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the need to increase jail capacity and is currently considering various plans and working to create consensus around a plan to increase jail capacity in Hamilton County; and

WHEREAS, a report prepared by the Board by Voorhis Associates projected that based upon current practices incarceration rates in Hamilton County would increase from 248 per 100,000 population in 2004 to 338 per 100,000 population in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Voorhis report noted that the number of mentally ill inmates has increased from 11% in 1999 to 20% in 2004 and it is recognized that additional work needs to be done in addressing the growing numbers of the mentally ill in confinement;

WHEREAS, the Voorhis report specifically noted that the County had done little in the area of efforts directed to reduce recidivism through planning for release and that "it would be wise as major facility changes are being developed" that the County undertake "thoughtful evaluation of alternative programs" in this area;

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that in an effort to create consensus around a plan for jail capacity expansion there is a need to establish the Hamilton County Corrections Review Task Force to conduct a time limited review of Hamilton County's jail capacity needs and the treatment of offenders who enter the system; and

WHEREAS, the task force will advise the Board as to recommendations by July 31, 2006 in order that consideration may be given to placing any appropriate measures on the November, 2006 ballot; and

WHEREAS, the task force's members will include individuals with a broad range of corrections expertise; and

WHEREAS, the task force will be assisted in information gathering by the Vera Institute, a nationally recognized criminal justice organization; and

WHEREAS, the task force will call upon specific experts throughout their review on an as needed basis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio, that the Hamilton County Corrections Review Task Force is hereby established in accordance with Attachment A of this document and may be changed/added to as expertise is needed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of this Board be and she is hereby authorized and directed to certify copies of this resolution to the Hamilton County Administrator;

ADOPTED at a regularly adjourned meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio, this 26th Day of June, 2006.

Mr. DeWine

Mr. Heimlich

Mr. Portune

CERTIFICATE OF CLERK

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of a resolution adopted by this Board of County Commissioners in session this 26th day of June, 2006.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Official Seal of the Office of the Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio, this 26th day of June, 2006.

Jacqueline Panioto, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Hamilton County, Ohio

HAMILTON COUNTY CORRECTIONS REVIEW TASK FORCE

Mission:

To conduct a diagnostic review and develop recommendations relating to Hamilton County's future jail capacity needs and the treatment of offenders who enter the criminal justice system.

Areas for review and recommendation by the task force include:

- The County's existing Correction Masters Plan and the underlying assumptions and recommendations included in the plan;
- Future jail capacity needs of the County;
- The County's use of alternatives to jail and the appropriate treatment of various categories of offenders including the mentally ill; and
- Options to create additional capacity in light of the County's limited budget constraints.

Task Force Members:

The County Administrator shall appoint Task Force Members at the direction of a majority of the Commissioners.

Those invited to serve as members may include:

A Judge representing each the Court of Common Pleas, General Division and Juvenile Division and from the Municipal Court;

A representative from the office of the Sheriff, the Prosecutor and City of Cincinnati Solicitors Office;

A representative of the business community;

A representative of the NAACP;

A representative of the Ohio Justice & Policy Center;

An individual with expertise in the treatment of the mentally ill;

An individual with expertise in the treatment of substance abuse issues;

A taxpayer representative;

A crime victim representative; and

An architect or structural engineer.

Information Gathering and Outside Expertise:

The Committee will be staffed by the County Administration. The Vera Institute of Justice, a nationally recognized criminal justice organization that has done groundbreaking work in assisting local communities in examining jail population issues, will help assist the Committee in its efforts. Other outside experts may be utilized on an as needed basis.

Timeline:

The Committee is expected to complete its work by July 31, 2006.