

Hamilton County, Ohio

COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY PLAN



Prevention



Enforcement



Detention, Treatment, & Rehabilitation

“If current processes and practices are not modified, it can be expected that jail crowding in Hamilton County will not be alleviated.”

Vera Institute of Justice

“Each part of the entire criminal justice system, such as police departments and social service agencies, work diligently to solve the problems they are presented. These problems can be mitigated, or even avoided by proactive coordination across the entire system. Building a new jail is not the only immediate need.”

Corrections Review Task Force

“The issues have been thoroughly studied, discussed and debated. It is now time for the Board to accept and fund their consultant’s recommendations.”

Law Enforcement Committee for Corrections Solutions

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The Shared Responsibility

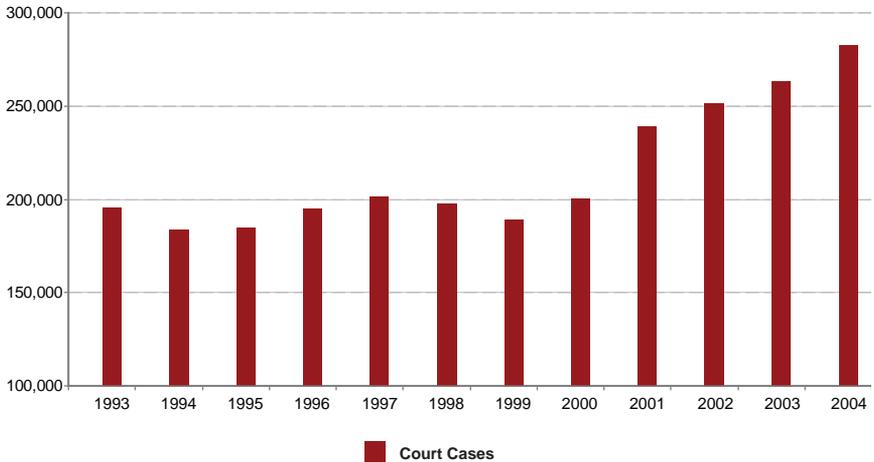
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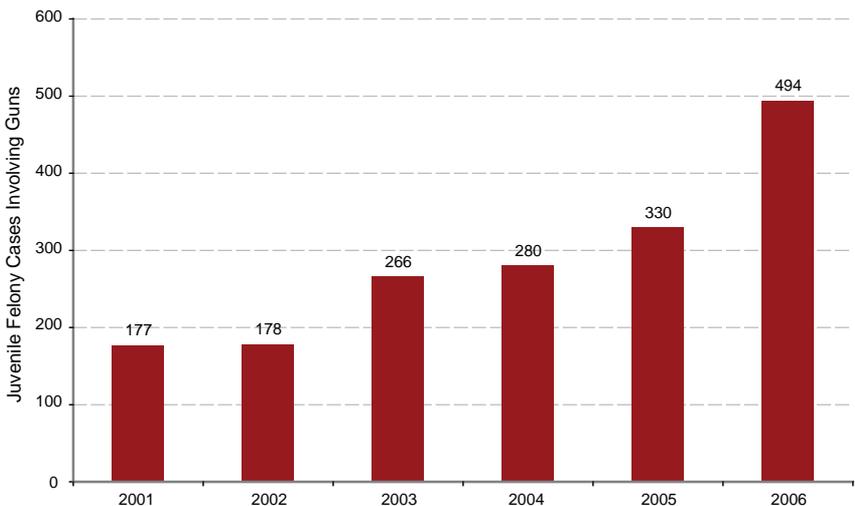
Problems:

Rising Crime

Rising crime and increasing arrests have overburdened the entire justice system. Court cases have increased nearly 40% since 2000.



Serious crime among juveniles is dramatically increasing.



Problems: A Revolving Door System

Too Little Space to House Offenders

Hamilton County Detention Facilities do not have enough space for current or future demand. Because of too little space, more than 14,000 prisoners have been released early, or processed only (released after booking), since 2004.

Too Many Arrestees are Reoffending

Recidivism is the key measurement in determining whether or not criminal justice interventions, including incarceration, diversion, and treatment, are making a difference in keeping offenders from committing more crimes. It is the percentage of offenders who commit another crime after they are released from the justice system.

In Hamilton County:

Recidivism for adults is over 70% (Voorhis & Associates)

Recidivism for juveniles is over 50% (Hamilton County Juvenile Court)

The average Hamilton County inmate has been in jail seven times before.

“As long as recidivism rates are greater than 50% there will never be enough police officers or jail space.”

For more information on recidivism: *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006 National Report*. National Center for Juvenile Justice. (NCJ 212 906). March 2006.

Problems:

Obsolete and Sub-Standard Facilities

In addition to having too little capacity, Hamilton County Detention Facilities are obsolete - making them unsafe for inmates, employees, and visitors.



107 year old
converted
warehouse
(822 Males)



77 year old
converted car
dealership
(100 Males)
(50 Females)

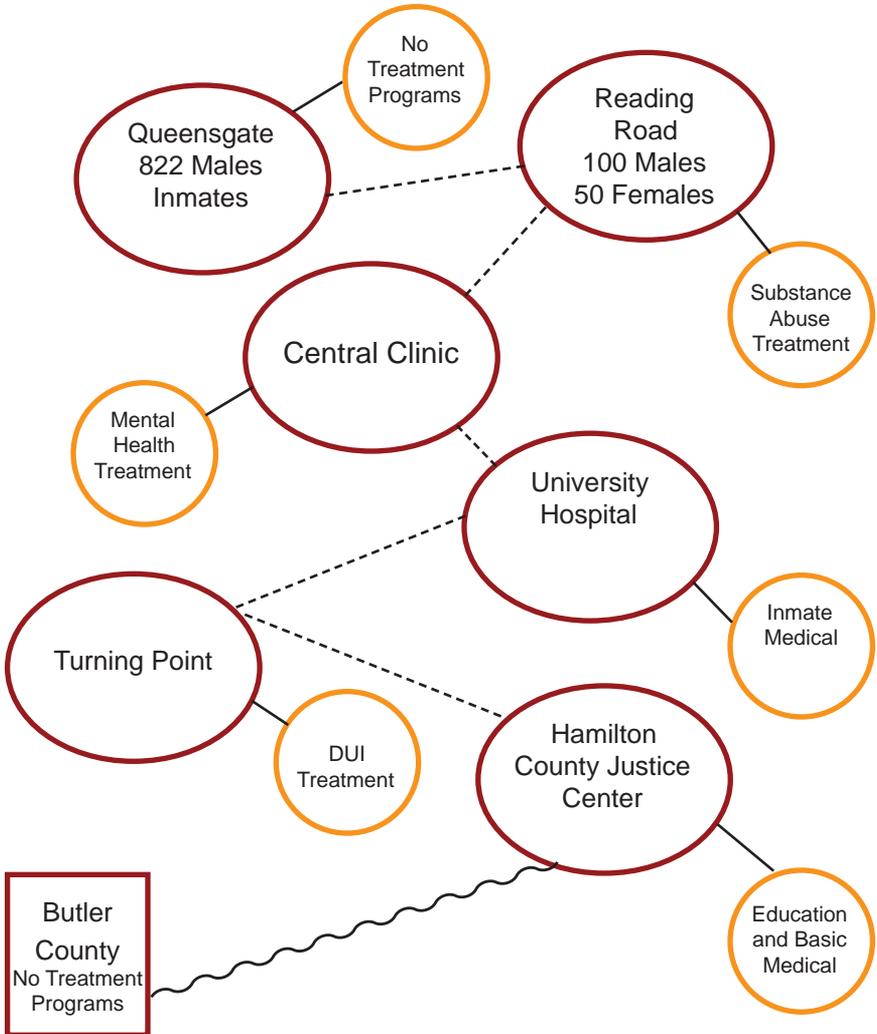


77 year old
converted residence
(60 Males)

These facilities do not meet state of Ohio detention facility standards or current building codes. Only the Hamilton County Justice Center was designed as a detention facility. Old warehouses do not allow for the types of approaches and treatment that can reduce recidivism and crime.

Problems: Disjointed Treatment Programs

Inmate treatment programs are uncoordinated, with many inmates not able to access any treatment programs. At the same time, there is not enough oversight and accountability to ensure that programs are effective and leading to the desired results.



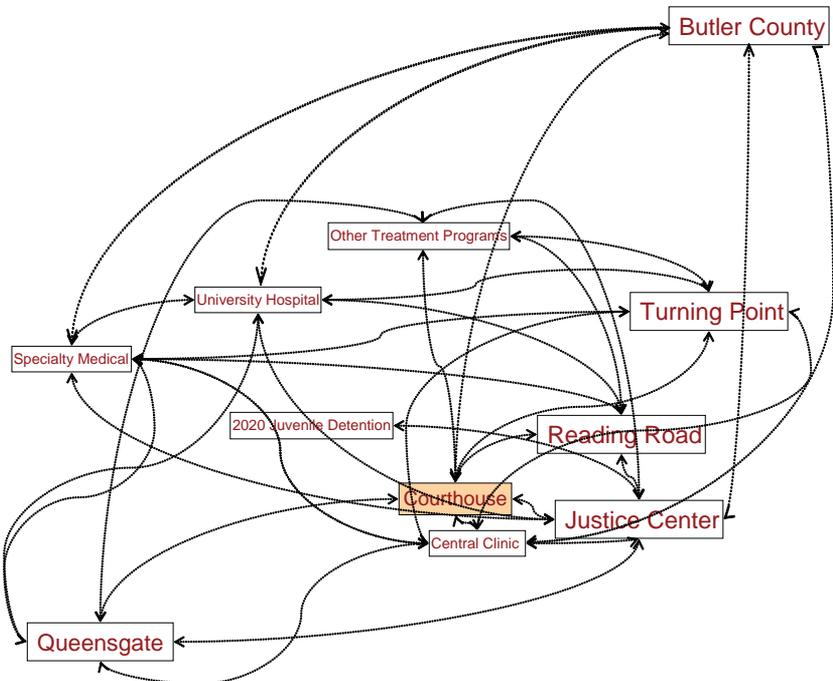
Problems:

Wasteful Operations

Operating multiple, obsolete facilities wastes taxpayer resources. Since 1992, the county has paid over \$30 million in rent and property taxes for the privately owned 100 year-old Queensgate facility... a converted warehouse. Movement of inmates, staff, and supplies between multiple locations results in significant inefficiencies and safety risks. Consolidating existing facilities will save \$4.3 million annually.

In addition, renting space at Butler County for 300 prisoners is costing taxpayers up to \$7 million per year, money that is being spent from the County's limited reserve funds. This money will run out.

Inmate Movement



Solutions: Enforcement Enhancements

Expanded Sheriff Patrols Countywide

The Plan will provide full funding to continue and expand the directed Sheriff patrols, already successful in Over-the-Rhine, to crime hotspots throughout Hamilton County.

Getting Violent Criminals Off the Street

The Plan, working with the County Prosecutor and United States Attorney, will triple the number of County prosecutors bringing federal gun charges against the County's most violent offenders. Directing these offenders into the federal penal system provides longer, guaranteed sentences, and frees up County jail space.

More Police on the Street Countywide

The County will support a far greater portion of township and municipality public safety dispatch costs. This will free up local budgets to hire more police officers, and put more police on the street through overtime and other expenditures.

Solutions:

Reducing Recidivism, Reducing Crime

The Plan makes significant investments to address crime’s “root causes,” and to reduce the percentage of offenders who commit new crimes after release.

Reentry Planning

The Plan supports an innovative approach to develop reentry plans for non-violent offenders as they prepare to rejoin the community. Case management teams from several disciplines (i.e. substance abuse, mental health, etc.) will assess inmates initially, and take the necessary steps to reduce the likelihood that they will reoffend upon release.

Enhanced Treatment

Substance Abuse Treatment Programs will be assessed and expanded for adult and juvenile inmates.

Mental Health Evaluation and Treatment Programs will be developed and implemented for adult and juvenile inmates.

Life Skills (i.e. anger management and basic parenting) and Education (i.e. GED and literacy) Programs will be made available to all eligible inmates.

All treatment programs will be designed to be offered in the community for eligible offenders.

“Rehabilitation is an essential ingredient to protecting public safety.”

Frank Cullen

Distinguished Research Professor of Criminal Justice, University of Cincinnati

Solutions: A Commitment to At Risk Youth

Youth violence is on the rise; with more and more crimes involving guns.

Result: Greater numbers of juvenile offenders are being sent to state facilities...separating them from family and other positive influences.

Result: The County is losing state funding for juvenile treatment programs because greater numbers of children are entering the state system...then returning to the County at the age of 18 with little hope for a better life.

Our Commitment to Youth:

Expand local juvenile treatment facilities to house and treat youth offenders without separating their family and community ties.

Continue to implement the Fast Forward Initiative to target high school drop-outs to encourage completion of high school, obtaining a GED, or completing vocational training.

Identify all available programs and funding opportunities to ensure youth initiatives are effective, coordinated, and accountable. This will include summer youth employment, mental health services, juvenile probation, group homes, etc.

Expand the already successful Hillcrest treatment programs that are proven to reduce recidivism. Target causes of aberrant adolescent behavior for treatment with known effective preventative measures.

Hillcrest Training School's proven results allow Hamilton County taxpayers to benefit by a reduction in both the rate of occurrence and the severity of juvenile crimes.

Source: Hamilton County Juvenile Court

Solutions:

Criminal Justice Coordination & Accountability

Millions of dollars are currently spent on treatment and diversion programs, but too little focus is placed on measuring their results.

To add accountability to the system, the Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved the creation of the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) to bring together every part of the justice system to assess processes and programs. Funded for the life of the program the CJC will continuously introduce state-of-the-art and best practices to Hamilton County. The Commission will measure the results of taxpayer-funded treatment and diversion programs. Successful programs will be expanded, unsuccessful programs will be defunded.

“Under this plan, we have a great opportunity to implement true and lasting criminal justice reform in Hamilton County, through both prevention and enforcement. Working together, we can improve safety and our quality of life for generations to come.”

Judge Nathaniel Jones

Retired, U.S. Court of Appeals

Solutions: New Detention Facility

The County will construct a new consolidated 1,800 bed adult detention facility. The facility will provide coordinated inmate services and consolidate the obsolete Queensgate, Turning Point, and Reading Road facilities. The facility will be located in Camp Washington on Spring Grove Avenue. Welcomed by the people of Camp Washington the facility will also serve as a catalyst for positive economic development bringing jobs into the community.

Conceptual Design



The County, in conjunction with the Juvenile Court, will expand the 2020 Juvenile Detention Center in Mt. Auburn by 50 beds. This will reduce the number of juveniles committed to the State Department of Youth Services and improve the chances that juvenile offenders will not return to a life of crime by keeping these children close to their support networks.

Solutions:

A Modern Jail Facility

The proposed facility will meet Ohio Bureau of Adult Detention Standards.

The facility will take advantage of latest cost saving technologies including video arraignment and visitation. These technologies reduce operating costs and improve inmate and employee safety.

The new facility will take advantage of energy efficient systems and environmentally friendly materials.

The facility will be designed in collaboration with the Camp Washington community.

The proposed facility is not a “luxury” standard or “Taj Mahal” - it will only meet state required detention facility standards.

The proposed facility will have the space needed to meet the near- and long-term anticipated capacity for the County’s criminal justice system.

The proposed facility will discard the costly and failed “warehouse model,” and enable the type of infrastructure, including assessment, treatment, and speciality beds, that will enhance rehabilitation and reduce recidivism.

Shared Responsibility: Capital Costs

New 1,800 Bed Adult Detention Facility \$198 million

Juvenile Detention Facility
50 bed expansion \$11 million

Hamilton County Justice Center
Remodeling \$2 million

- The project will not include any long term debt financing costs. This will avoid over \$200 million in debt service payments compared to the previous (November 2006) jail proposal.
- Built on donated land saving about \$7 million.
- Capable of renting beds, generating \$15 million.
- Operational efficiencies will save over \$200 million.

Shared Responsibility: Operating Costs

The Comprehensive Safety Plan will recognize and fund all associated operating costs.

Operating costs included in the first full year of operation include:

- Enhanced Treatment Programs within the new jail (\$546,000)
- Enhanced Community-based Treatment Programs (\$1.4 million)
- Reentry Planning (\$952,000)
- Additional Sheriff community patrols (\$2.3 million)
- Project DisArm to federally prosecute gun crimes (\$280,000)
- Assume a portion of township and municipality dispatch costs allowing for more police on the streets (\$2.0 million)
- Net new additional costs of expanded juvenile detention facility (\$730,000)
- Net additional cost of new detention facility (\$13.7 million)
- Criminal Justice Committee Program Evaluation costs (\$219,000)

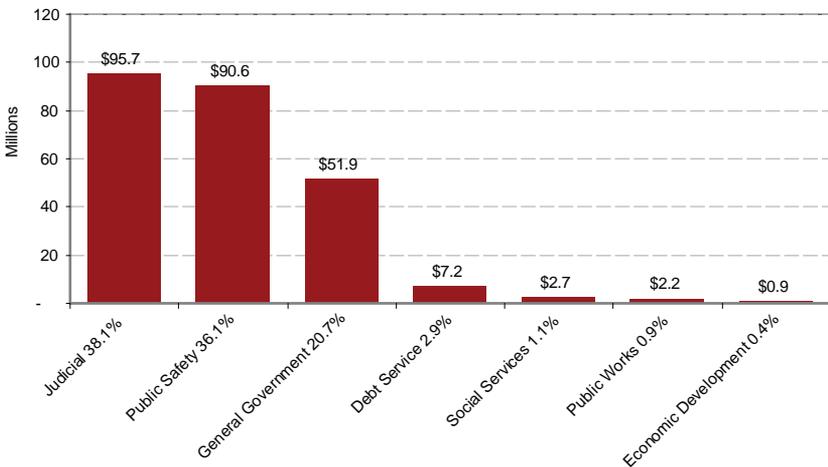
TOTAL: \$22.1 million

Shared Responsibility: Current Budget

A new revenue source must be defined. The existing general fund budget cannot support the construction and operation of the Comprehensive Safety Plan without cutting core county services.

Currently, a majority of the County general fund budget supports judicial administration and public safety. Reducing the current budget will impact existing justice and public safety services...the very services that need to be coordinated and enhanced.

2007 General Fund Expenditures by Use



Shared Responsibility:

How to Pay for the Plan

Increase the County sales tax from 6.5% to 7.0% for eight (8) years (2008-2015).

Decrease the County sales tax rate from 7% to 6.75% for seven (7) years (2016-2022).

Reduce County sales tax from 6.75% to 6.5% beginning in 2023.

Increase the number of jail beds rented to the U.S. Marshal Service.

This funding mechanism totals 15 years, but provides resources for the safety program in full for 30 years.

Additionally, the County is in active communication with City, State, and Federal leaders for support on both capital and operational elements.

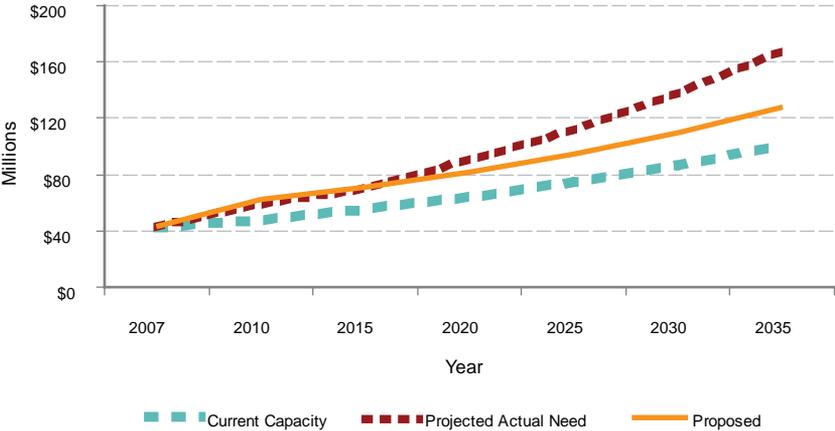
At the same time, this plan brings long-term efficiencies and savings for the taxpayer versus the status quo or previously proposed approaches:

- \$200 million - no finance charges
- \$200 million - reduced operating expenses through consolidation and efficiency
- \$15 million - rental of beds by the federal government
- \$7 million - donated site

Shared Responsibility: A Modest Investment Today to Avoid Major Future Costs

If Hamilton County does not proactively address recidivism, a 4,000 bed jail will be required by the year 2035. The proposed 1,800 bed facility with accompanying programs will avoid the need for a far larger and more expensive jail in the future. This will avoid approximately \$370 million in operating costs from 2015 to 2035.

Annual Corrections and Rehabilitation Operating Costs



How Does the Comprehensive Safety Plan Differ From Other Proposals

Includes Operating Costs for a New Facility
Includes Revenue from U.S. Marshall Service for Federal Inmates
Supports Federal Prosecution of Most Violent Offenders
Provides Oversight/Accountability for Program/Treatment Spending
Proposed Facilities Account for Future Inmate Population Projections
Addresses Juvenile Treatment and Facility Needs
Supports Reentry Planning and Expanded Treatment
Coordinates with the Criminal Justice Commission
Relies on Long Term Debt – with Associated Debt Service Costs
Enhances Local Police Strength
Expands Successful Targeted Sheriff Patrols
Facility Cost Estimates Verified by Professional Jail Design Firms
Detention Facilities Comply with Ohio Bureau of Adult Detention Standards
Location Identified & Secured
Realizes \$4.3M in Annual Efficiencies of Consolidated Facilities (\$200M over 30 years)
Facility Based on Detailed Space Planning
Facility Will Be Constructed Without Impacting Current Operations (i.e., not requiring the temporary relocation of inmates)
Provides a Facility Configuration to Efficiently Coordinate Inmate Treatment Programs
Sales Tax Proposal

Comprehensive Safety Plan	County Administrator Proposal	November 2006 Proposal
Yes	Yes	No
Yes	No	No
Yes	No	No
Yes	Yes	No
Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	No	No
Yes	No	No
Yes	Yes	No
No	No	Yes (\$200M)
Yes	No	No
Yes	Yes	No
Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	No
Yes	Yes	Yes
½% for 8 years followed by ¼% for 7 years	½% for 5 years followed by ¼% permanent	¼% for 10 years

Notes

The criminal justice system is a complex and integral government function. The efforts of the Criminal Justice Commission will be posted on the County web site at:

www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov

Also available on the County website are detailed studies and reports supporting the recommendations in this document.

For additional information, please call:

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