

Visit Notes: Dakota County, Nebraska August 27th 2015

The Codington County Justice Advisory Committee's (CCJAC) basic task is to recommend solutions to the county's court and jail facility problems. To do this better, the CCJAC visits other recently constructed jails and courts facilities. This helps the CCJAC to understand the different options and variables to consider for modern court and jail facilities. On August 27th, 2015, the CCJAC visited the facilities in Dakota County, Nebraska.

Project Delivery

To construct a new jail, Dakota County, Nebraska attempted to pass a ballot measure to issue a property tax funded bond. The ballot measure failed three times. As a result, the county formed a citizens' committee with representatives from the business community and made a concerted effort to dialogue with the community. This included speaking to service groups. Also, the county agreed with South Sioux City to use the city's authority to impose an additional sales tax (which the city was not using at the time). In return, the county agreed to help the city with library funding and some street projects. A sales tax-funded bond passed a public vote. This imposed an additional half-penny sales tax. The bond, which was originally amortized for 10 years, was paid off in seven years. Once the bond was paid, the county saved remaining sales tax revenue for upgrades and maintenance that were not originally affordable based on projected sales tax revenue. HMN (Steve Davis) was the architect for both the jail and court addition/remodel. The construction manager was G.A. Johnson from Sioux Falls, SD. Pre-fab concrete cells saved much construction time.

New Jail

The jail includes 33500 square feet with 134 beds. Adjacent to the jail there is space to construct an addition that would expand the capacity to 254 beds. The jail employs an indirect supervision model, with a centralized control station (located outside the secure portion of the building), booking-intake control, and a satellite housing control station. Central control can double as an access point for visitors. Booking-intake control supervises work release areas and intake. The centralized satellite control station consists of a raised platform and 6-foot tall curvilinear solid surface face to discourage inmate incursion, while remaining open to circulation corridors, encourages communication between the staff and inmate population. The jail has a direct, secure connection to one courtroom of the courthouse.

Architect: HMN (Steve Davis)

Construction Manager: G.A. Johnson, Sioux Falls, SD

The Nebraska Department of Corrections was involved in the approval of the design and in how some of the spaces in the jail were arranged and furnished.

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Basic Evaluative Criteria

Construction Costs

Component	Cost in Millions	Rough Cost Per SF	Rough Cost Per Bed
Jail (with connection to courthouse)	\$7.39	\$221	\$55,149
Total	\$7.39		

Operating Costs/Issues

- Direct connection to the courthouse saves on transport costs
- Staffing: 15 deputies in sheriff's office. 19 to 20 corrections staff. Jail shifts have a minimum of 4 (1 at central control, 3 at satellite), but usually 5-6.
- Two FTE nurses (day/night).
- Inmate commissary generates notable revenue. In Nebraska, this money must be used toward inmate-related expenses.
- Federal prisoners require two certified officers for transport/escort.
- Initial kitchen contract was for five years. Under the terms of the contract, the vendor provided all kitchen appliances and equipment to remain in the jail permanently.

Design Efficiency

Overall Layout

- The satellite control desk is positioned to directly view all inmate spaces except work-release.
- The jail's central control desk is placed to view the connection corridors to the current and future inmate house areas, the visitation area, and the public lobby. The central control desk controls the electronic locks throughout the building.
- Sally port to intake/booking connections are logical.
- Work release housing has no direct view and is not part of main housing area (relies on video surveillance).
- Most utilities throughout the jail are accessible by chase. However, the chases are tight spaces to work in.
- Having the jail connected to the courthouse provides a direct and secure connection to one of two courtrooms (the "county" courtroom). The courthouse is WPA-era.
- There is one holding cell just outside of the county courtroom. It is seldom used since the jail is connected.
- To get to the far ("district") courtroom, inmates must be escorted outside or through unsecure spaces.

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Specific Features:

- Concrete benches throughout jail are shallow. These benches should be at least 24" deep in detox so that a person can sleep on them.
- "Muffin monster" sewage grinder for entire jail is very useful.
- Infirmary seemed undersized (30'x14') due to freestanding storage.
- Supply and file storage didn't appear to be planned in places.
- Booking counter height makes it hard to "eyeball" (assess) those being booked.
- Did not appear to have a segregation area for discipline issues.
- Satellite (housing) control station lacked natural light for jailers (A skylight would be nice, but it might affect visibility into inmate spaces).
- Side window material in some inmate housing areas is too transparent.
- Visitation area with 10 windows requires more supervision (video visitation was too expensive at the time of construction).
- No elevator to courtroom (only stairs). Elevator was too expensive, but elevator shaft is in place.
- Book area has padded cell and flushable drains.
- Would like better skylight material.
- Upper tier showers seem to drain inefficiently causing pooling and rust in lower showers.
- No tamper resistant sprinklers.

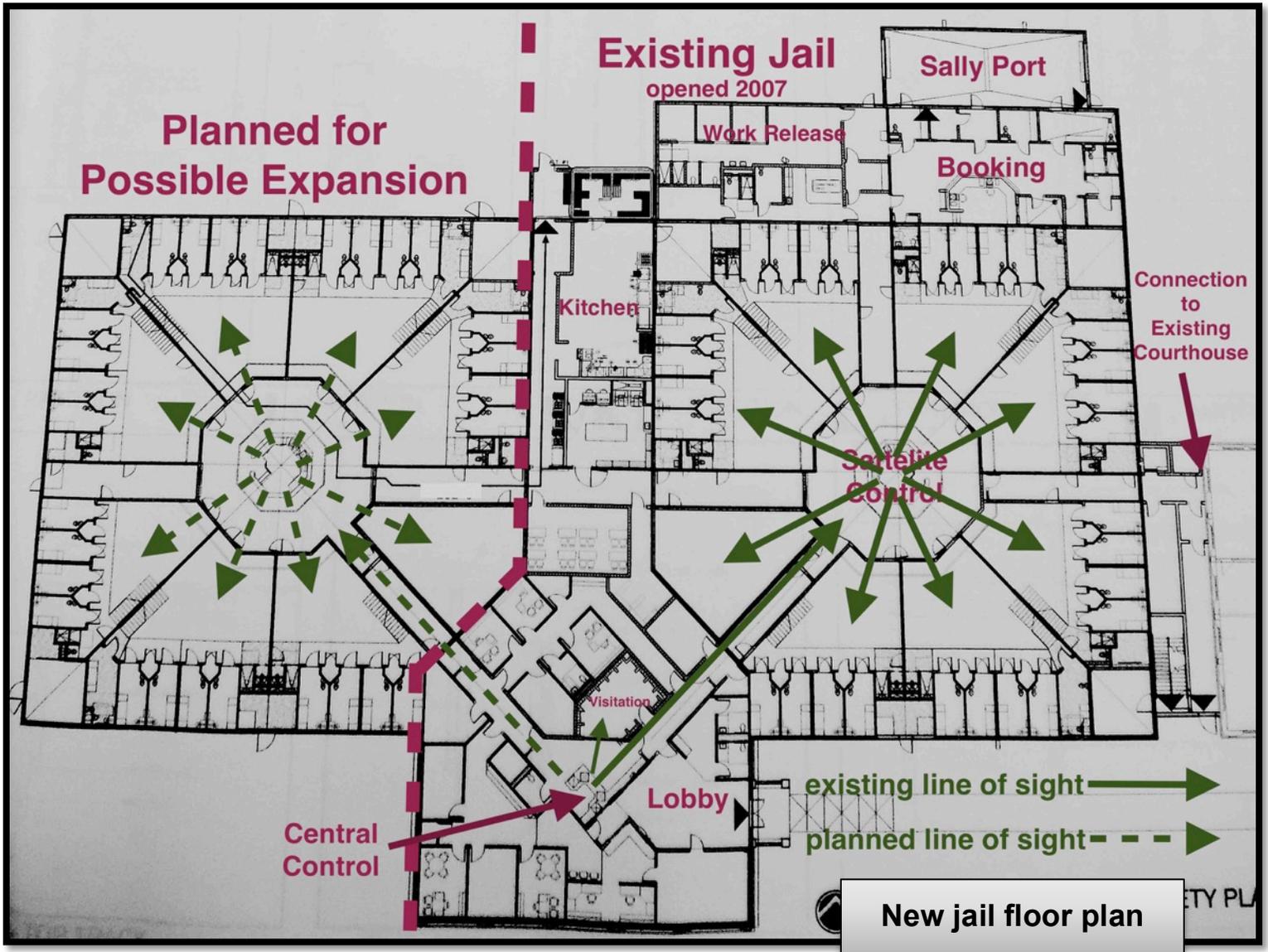
Right-Sizing

- Satisfied with projections from consultant/architect. ADP tends to be 100+. (County population about 21,000, impact from tri-state nexus and Sioux City, IA).
- Eight years after opening, jail is within 25-35 of the total bed count.
- Federal inmates add to the ADP.
- Only 10 work release beds. In one space (no gender segregation). Apparently adequate for the local needs.

Expandability

- Phase II would build an additional set of pods to add 120 beds.
- The main control room is positioned to view the corridor leading to where the phase II building would be.
- Kitchen (27'x 42') sized for additional capacity.

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Connection between jail & old courthouse

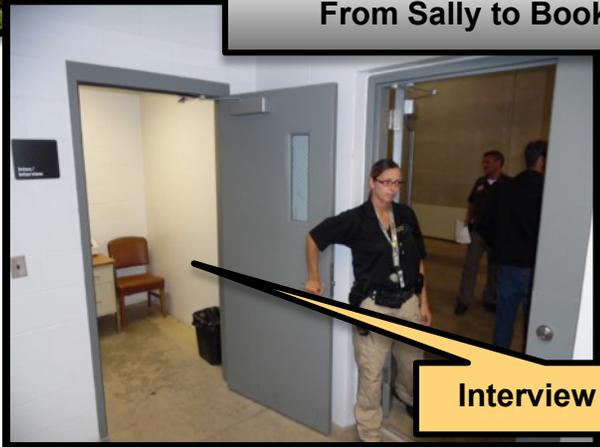


Sally port and work release

From Sally to Booking



Sally Port



Interview room



Intake Booking

Booking counter too high at processing desk.



Padded holding cell

Flushable drain

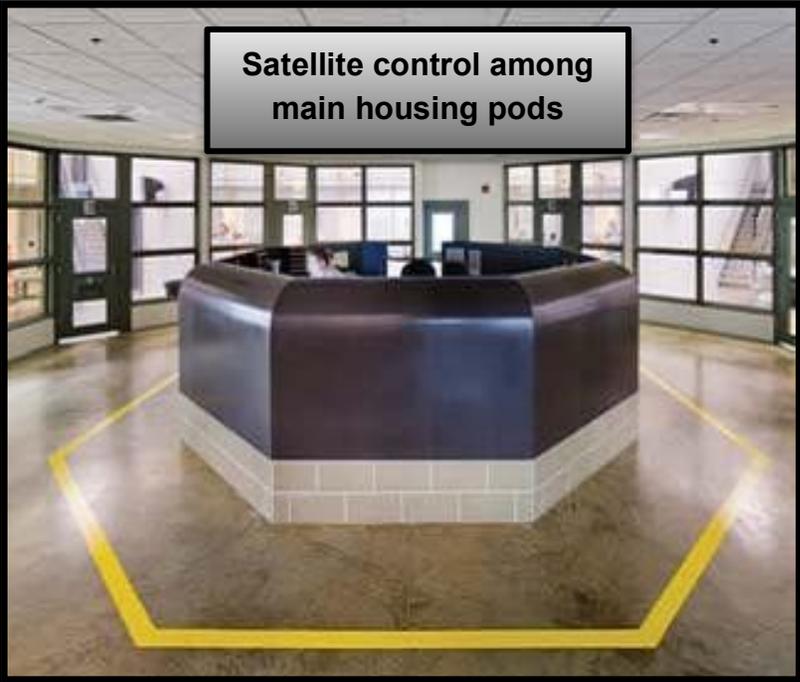
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View from Central Control toward possible future addition.



Central Control



Satellite control among main housing pods



View from Satellite Control Desk

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Door to Courtroom

Holding cell

Door to Jail

Connecting Room between Jail and Courthouse

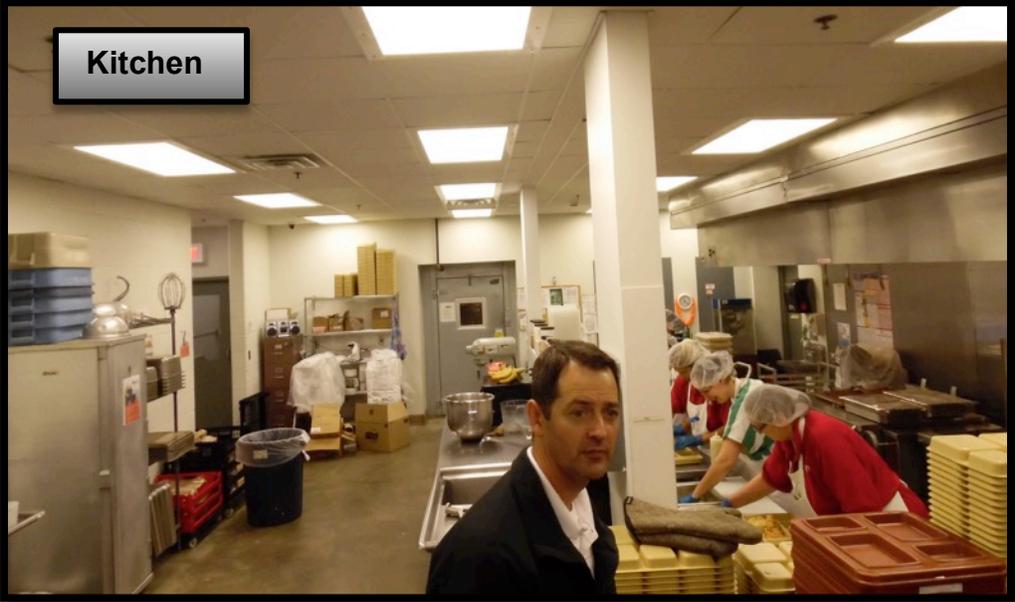


Door to Courtroom



Visitation - Inmate side

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Access Chase behind cells