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September 2, 2025

Franklin County Board Members,

Today, administrators with the Sheriff's Office had our third planning meeting with the Illinois Department of Human Services concerning the potential implementation of a pilot program at the Franklin County Jail Facility.

Currently there are two programs in Illinois that are in place and operating. They include the Kankakee County Jail and the McHenry County Jail. We were previously contacted by IDHS as a potential site for a southern region program. The premise of the pilot is a three way contract between our jail facility, IDHS, and a mental health provider. IDHS would, in cooperation with mental health providers, initiate treatment for offenders in our jail who have been found to be "unfit" and are awaiting IDHS placement.

Currently, we continuously house individuals for months on end who are waiting for bed space to open. These individuals receive no treatment, and while they wait their mental health continues to decline often to the point that they are impossible to manage. These issues have led to staff assaults, continued self harm incidents, and the inability for jail staff to provide basic care.

The pilot would make 10 beds available within our jail facility for the temporary placement of forensic patients who have been deemed by the court to be unfit for trial. As a result, IDHS would coordinate start-up treatment within our facility to include different types of therapy and / or the administering of medication. This treatment would not come at any expense to the Sheriff's Office. Our responsibility would lie in meeting basic needs such as housing, dietary, and minimal physical health issues that may arise.

Although a per diem rate has not been thoroughly discussed, both Kankakee and McHenry County Jails are receiving \$150.00 per day, per individual. This rate is designed to cover the basic care that would normally be provided to any inmate.

Sheriff Kyle Bacon

