

★ **Kyle S. Bacon** ★  
**SHERIFF OF FRANKLIN COUNTY**

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County Board Members,

For approximately one year I have been working in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Human Services to develop a pilot program for the temporary housing of forensic patients who are awaiting bed space within IDHS facilities. McHenry County and Kankakee County currently serve as pilot locations in Northern Illinois. Forensic patients refers to individuals who have been found unfit for trial and ordered by the court to IDHS care for return to fitness. This has been an enormous issue for county jails across the state, as some individuals have remained in the county jail for months on end, with no treatment, while awaiting placement. Due to the delays in transfer, correctional officers have significantly struggled to provide basic care while still trying to maintain safety for both the jail resident and staff.

Several months ago IDHS officials from Springfield and Chicago conducted a site visit at the Franklin County Jail. As a result, all were in strong support of moving forward with the project. Currently, IDHS is working with Centerstone who will serve as the mental health treatment provider. All treatment and mental health staff expenses within our facility, as it relates to the mental health care of the inmate, will be covered within the contract between IDHS and the mental health provider (Centerstone). The involvement of the Franklin County Jail would be to house the individuals and cover basic in-house medical expenses. Any outside treatment or specialized medications would be the responsibility of the originating county.

Current discussions involve the Franklin County Sheriff's Office providing 10-12 beds for the program. We have historically held 3-5 inmates from Franklin County who have been ordered to IDHS. The program would open up additional bed space for surrounding counties to transfer their IDHS holds to us for treatment. Those additional holds would result in a daily per diem (\$150.00) paid to us by IDHS. The Franklin County Jail is an aging facility with repairs, maintenance, and upgrades that are never ending. The Safe-T Act reduced our daily population from 90-100 inmates to 50-60 inmates. That reduction has significantly reduced commissary revenue that is statutorily regulated to be used specifically for updates and repairs within the jail facility.

Should this pilot program launch as I expect, I am requesting that the County Board allow the Franklin County Sheriff's Office to retain this IDHS program revenue to establish and maintain a capital reserve fund to be used for jail repairs and upgrades. With the ARPA fund exhausted, and commissary significantly reduced, I see this as a pathway of funding to help maintain the Franklin County Jail Facility for years to come.

I am happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have about this program. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Kyle Bacon

