



NEWS RELEASE – Allen County Board of Commissioners – November 1 jail update

November 1, 2022, FORT WAYNE, Ind.—The Allen County Commissioners release the following information regarding a new county confinement center for Allen County:

On October 21, 2022, representatives from 92 Indiana Counties including lawmakers, mental health providers, judges, law enforcement agents, and others gathered in the state capital for the 2022 Indiana State Mental Health Summit. As a member of the local JRAC, or Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council, Allen County Commissioner Therese Brown attended the meeting.

“The current jail built in 1981, with its latest additions and updates in 2002, did not incorporate what we know today about mental health,” shared Commissioner Brown.

Conference material from the Mental Health Summit reinforced the fact that the space, layout, and conditions of the current jail are not able to address mental illness factors in recidivism. The Commissioners share a list of materials that are being used to educate and inform their decisions regarding jail layout and included components.

1. Indiana Behavioral Health Commission Final Report:
<https://www.in.gov/fssa/dmha/files/INBHC-Report.pdf>
2. PBS 75-minute Documentary “*The Definition of Insanity*” which aired nationally on April 14, 2020.
3. Leading Change Guide for State Court Leaders: Improving the Court and Community’s Response to Mental health and Co-Occurring Disorders:
https://www.ncsc.org/_data/assets/pdf_files/0025/78073/Leading-Change-Guide-for-State-Court-Leaders.pdf

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