



POST OFFICE BOX 68228 VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23471
757.499.9627

www.themilesagency.com

**Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail Community Based
Corrections Plan (CBCP) Planning Study
Stakeholder Interviews Summary Notes**

Interviewers: Delceno Miles, The Miles Agency
Colonel Martin Kumer, ACRJ Superintendent

Interview dates: August 24 – 26, 2021

Total Interviewees: 9

Interviewed Organizations: Charlottesville Democratic Socialists of America; Evergreen Ministries; Equipping Leaders International; Virginia Organizing; Lending Hands; Islamic Society of Central Virginia; Legal Aid Justice Center; Radical in Christ Ministries

Overview: Those individuals who were interviewed were very candid about their observations and ideas for the planning study. Their experience with ACRJ varied from inmate support services, former inmates to pen pals. Each was asked what they would improve, tweak or not address regarding architectural design. Most seemed hesitant about or out right against any expansion. A summary of their feedback is below by category.

Building Exterior

- No bike rack
- More visitor parking
- Improvement to the handicap ramp
- Outdoor recreational space/green space
- More ADA-compliant building access
- Community garden for the inmates to tend
- Better way-finding signage for building access
- Move Magistrate building elsewhere so it's not part of jail facility
- Space for dog-training program

Building Interior

- Improve maintenance
 - Mold
 - Insects (cockroaches)
 - Crumbling paint
 - Poor air quality/HVAC
 - HVAC too loud in the gym
 - Inconsistent water temperature and mold in the showers
 - Leaking toilets and ceilings
- Better usage of unused and current space
- Don't want more beds
- ADA-compliant housing, showers
- Larger classrooms with technology for virtual training
 - More technology in each classroom
 - Each inmate have an IPAD for coursework
 - TV/DVD player
 - Projector
 - Smartboard
 - Intercom button in each classroom
 - Space for artistic expression (dance, art)
- Better monitoring of areas where visitors offer programs/training so they can feel safe
- More space to place disruptive inmates so whole unit isn't locked down
- Improve public bathrooms – “5 points above gas station bathrooms”
- Larger units or fewer inmates in the cells
- Adequate space for counseling those with substance abuse/mental illness
- Use jail for more violent offenders
- Resource room/library
- More flexible space for multi-purpose uses (accordion walls for certain rooms)
- Privacy area for phone calls
- Room dedicated to multifaith prayers
- Exposed nails in older sections that caused injury
- Emergency buttons in cells or the units accessible to inmates
- Use lobby 2 area which is currently closed off
- More visitation areas
- More observation by staff of the inmates and other blind spots
- More humane environment (less noise, carpet, paint choices, etc.)
 - Less depressing
- More open space in social areas with natural lighting
- Remove glass partitions
- Improve medical care space
- Virtual receptionist
- Better visitor locker system
- Obscure classroom windows to minimize distractions – 2way mirror
- More indoor recreation

- Family visitation rooms

- Remove the bars – replace with plexiglass or other comparable material

Inmate Amenities

- Tablets for visitation good thing but return to in-person visits when possible
- More toiletries
- Programs to change life trajectory – re-entry support

- More time to go outside for fresh air and sun
- More bottom bunks for those with mobility challenges
- More telephones in areas that are separate by gender

Financial

- Spend money only on maintenance – not on expansion
- Spend as little money as possible on renovations
- Hire more staff to re-open closed sections

- Explain how funding process works
- Tablets for each inmate costs money – seems to be an excuse to not bring back in-person visits. In-person is only free option.

Process/Policy Matters

- Allow hugging when appropriate with release signed by inmates to remind them that they have value
- Sensitivity training for CO's (witnessed rudeness to inmates)
- Improve check-in to avoid long waits for those with appointments
- Recidivism reduction programs to help cycle inmate out of jail faster
- Partnerships with re-entry program service providers
- Male teachers for female inmates
- More support services all housed on site vs. in and out sporadically
 - Job training
 - Soft skills

- Explain funding process in laymen's terms and that it's a multi-year timeline
- Ensure students are ready to start classes on time
- Teaching materials on tablets
 - Multiple languages
 - Reading assignments