



KAIROS ADVISORY COUNCIL NORTHEAST CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX

JUNE MEETING MINUTES (June 17th, 2023)

Attending:

Randy Lantz, Scott Hale, Tom Egan, George Fulwider, Jim Hawley, , Brad Wilson, Jeff Fannon,

Excused:

Theresa Garland, Rob Roberts, Scott Stodola, Richard Beets, Jared Malone, Scott Combs

Meeting Opening:

Scott called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

Devotion and Prayer:

Randy combined the Devotion and Prayer with his Meditation. He provided excerpts from a book "Help is Here" by Max Lucado. One that Randy mentioned was a story about a New Orleans rescue center during the hurricanes which highlighted that there were many roles at the center done by many people but they were all driven by the Holy Spirit. He said that gifts from the Holy Spirit are given to us all but each are different and provide us with unique talents. Forty years of ministering to others is like one drop from heaven. We all need to apply our gifts, not for our personal goals but for building Christ's Church. Without the Spirit, it does not work. As always it was a meaningful prayer and reflection.

March Meeting Minutes:

Tom previously distributed email copies of the May 2023 minutes and posted them on our website. Tom asked for someone to make a motion to approve the minutes. Jim made the motion to accept, Brad seconded, all approved.

Financial Report – Brad / George:

Brad on June 6th distributed our financial balances and Profit and Loss through April from State. It did not include our reconciliation for the \$5,500 advance for K 41 and our \$500 check to Bethany Church for their support of K 41. George deposited \$250 in team fees yesterday. He also confirmed there were no additional outstanding expenses from the K 41 Instructional Reunion.

During the discussion, it was asked whether the Excellence Initiative report from ESRA was completed and filed for K 41. Everyone thought it was filed but neither Brad nor Scott Hall ever received a copy. Jim will follow up with Hugh Johnson to ensure it was completed and filed correctly. There were comments that the filing of this report can be a bit confusing.

Review of Action Items – Tom:

There are only two items noted as action items. They both continue to be listed as action items but were discussed as follows:

Providing separate Community Room and Chapel Space during the weekend and moving between both during our weekends.

Although improvements in this transfer from Community Room to Chapel were made during K41, further changes are recommended to make the process smoother. Brad would like to use the NECX Chapel, which would require a physical relocation between the two sites. He will check with Chaplin Resy on implementing this change but it was noted that there are other issues, if this being implemented. The Chapel is small and would be crowded. Chairs would need to be moved in and out each time and it could take up to 15 minutes for each move. In addition, the Chapel would not be available to other ministries during our weekend. Staying in the gym and either moving to a different location in the gym or staying at the tables, needs to be planned as we cannot block any cameras during and after any transfer. It also has to be a meaningful transfer so that everyone is mindful of whether they are in or not in the Chapel.

Provide Kairos Weekend in the Annex.

There are over 50 men in residence at the NECX Annex who have expressed a desire to do a Kairos Weekend. We have been discussing this for a couple of months as to how we can accommodate this request. Brad felt that the Council should ask Robert Fultz, who has been very active at the Annex with weekly prayer and share, to develop a strategy on providing the men in that facility a way to make their Kairos weekend. There are major logistic issues in meeting this request as we are not equipped to conduct 3 weekends a year since we don't currently have the volunteers needed to pull that off. We discussed the option to substitute one of our 2 annual weekends in the general prison environment with an Annex weekend and do that every few years to accommodate the smaller population of the Annex. We also thought of a smaller weekend in the Annex with only 2 or 3 tables that would require fewer volunteers and incorporate a timeframe where volunteers would only have to do 34 hours of preparation once. At the end of this discussion, we decided that Brad should talk to Robert and ask him to present his proposal to the Council for what he believes is the best way to provide Kairos weekends in the Annex in the future.

Ongoing Ministry (Journey) Report – Jeff Fannon / Jim Hawley:

Jeff informed the Council that the men inside are now able to play non-electrified instruments during our Tuesday Prayer and Share and Reunions. With this change, we need a microphone and speaker system to make it more effective for everyone to hear. He suggested that this is something the Council should consider providing for our weekly meetings. Jim noted that Warden Eller has mentioned that things are getting better at the facility and he may allow electrified music in the not too distant future. It was felt that we should push for this to happen and ask whether there is a possibility of electrified music for the inside team in the future. Jim indicated he would do that and talk with Bob Mansfield and Chaplin Resy about it.

The other issue discussed was the men inside are only being released to the VG room on Tuesday after 7PM which results in our meetings starting later, around 7:15 most weeks. To offset this shortened timeframe, on occasion we have been provided time after 8PM to give us the full hour with the men. This is a decision the sergeant in charge that evening would make. We definitely need to verify with the sergeant before the meeting whether we will be provided extra time or will we need to leave the prison by 8PM.

Scott Hale, in the interim, will also research the cost of a microphone and speakers, should they be needed.

Communications Coordinator – Scott Stodola:

Scott was doing work with youth and could not attend the meeting. No report was filed.

Kairos Outside / Emmaus Liaison Discussion:

Scott Hale had dinner with the next Kairos Outside Leader who would like to work with us on some combined events with the inside team. He is also working with the Walk to Emmaus team in Johnson

City to identify when their next meeting will be held. Scott feels strongly that we need to recruit our volunteers from the men making or working this walk, as they are basically of the same mind set and spirit as our volunteers, and we need to involve more of them in our ministry.

NECX Liaison Report – Team:

Jim reported that a Tennessee Department of Correction team from Nashville did a sweep of NECX recently. This is a regular event to ensure safety in all of the Tennessee facilities. During their “shake down” they found and confiscated over 50 knives and a few cell phones. Now, a number of gang members are in the hole and DC is the most dangerous area in the prison. Charley, who is a volunteer Chaplin at NECX, is spending most of his time in DC along with the men who are locked down 16 or more hours a day.

Jim heard that Warden Eller often spends quality time observing and talking with the men in the compound. The Warden has mentioned to others that Kairos is a ministry he truly supports and he feels it is valuable to the prison that our ministry is active. Sometimes, Correction Officers may not recognize the value of Kairos and feel we only create extra work for them when we are inside, but the Prison Administration is definitely aware of the positive impact we have on the men and the institution.

Storage in Mountain City for Kairos Weekends – Rob:

This discussion was combined with the Bethany Church relationship discussion below.

Bethany Church Relationship – Jim:

Jim brought us up to date on what he knows about Bethany Church. There is not totally unity in what the congregation wants to do with their hall and their kitchen. There is some disagreement on how much money should be dedicated to their upgrade effort. Fundraising for the church is very important with the upcoming spaghetti dinner fundraiser a big piece of that and is something we need to support. It will help dictate what will happen on their planned upgrades. Therefore, our storage solution using the Church grounds may not happen at this time. Supporting the spaghetti fundraiser next Friday, June 24th is important to our relationship with the Church and Jim will send out more reminders to our community for their contribution and support.

Scott Stodola also provided an excellent witness talk at the Church which truly enhances our relationship with Bethany.

We also need to ensure that the \$500 we contribute to Bethany after every weekend does not go unnoticed. We need to do what we did in the past and personally give a check with a card to Pastor Gale or David South, thanking them for their support. The congregation needs to know we are contributors to their Church to make our donations effective.

Kairos 42 Status – Brad:

Brad, who has taken the initiative to apply for a \$2,500 Walmart Grant said he was really just responding to something the State Board sent to Rob. Of course, we all know who made this happen and we applaud Brad for his pro-active action in filing the application. We obviously have not heard if we won the grant but in any case we are now on Walmart’s registry which gives us access some new items in their store that will help our weekend purchases. The grant program is by store and Brad applied at the Bristol store. Our name will be posted at that location which may also give us the opportunity for new volunteers and donations. We can reapply for grants for future weekends and to facilitate that Brad has shared instructions on how to do apply with our future leaders, Scott Stodola and Jared.

One activity during team formation for K 42 is a tour of the facility before the weekend for new volunteers. Chaplin Resy does this but it does take some time. Since it is planned for a Tuesday evening, Brad would like to do it early so everyone can get home at a reasonable time.

Brad has 16 confirmed team members and is in the process of screening our ESRA database for more volunteer opportunities. He continues to also look for first-time volunteers as it will help build our base of volunteers for future weekends. Brad has also planned that team formation meetings will be at multiple church locations. He has 4 confirmed at this time. This may provide an opportunity to those volunteers who do not currently have a specific church affiliation to become familiar with these churches.

Brad informed us he has confirmed two head kitchen leaders for K 42, Pam, who works in hospitality and Hilga who knows how the kitchen works. Everyone thought these were good choices.

During team meetings, Brad will emphasize that our ministry at the Prison is not just to work weekends but it is an ongoing ministry where volunteers, between weekends, meet with the men inside to do Christ's work.

Robert Fultz has accepted the role of coordinating the "take down" of the weekend materials on Sunday for K 42. Robert will observe the setup on Thursday and utilize some new control sheets that Brad developed to assist in allowing the take down to be a lot smoother and faster. To enhance inventory control, Brad has developed individual packing lists per "crate". This will allow the team to know where inventory is located and what each "crate" contains at the end of the weekend.

Tom brought up that he and Brad are planning to add a new component to the Agape for K 42. It is a poster which has a pictorial outline for our weekend. Our Church Communities will be asked to color in the poster and add a short comment directed to the men. The posters will then be displayed in the gym along with the prayer chain on the weekend. This was something Tom witnessed at San Quentin Prison that had a positive impact on the weekend and the men making the weekend. To facilitate this, the weekend will have a theme: "I called for help and You healed me." Psalm 30:2.

Brad is planning to order crosses, bibles and freedom guides for the weekend on July 1st. Mike Austin cannot work the weekend because he is committed to an Emmaus Walk the prior weekend but will help during the weekend where needed. We will, as directed by KPMI use Pensky for truck rental for the weekend. All cabin and hotel accommodations have already been reserved. Bethany Church facilities have also been confirmed for the weekend.

Brad asked us to send him our favorite Bible verses. He is building a PowerPoint presentation that he plans to show during breaks and meals on the weekend. He will use our first name and last name initial to highlight our favorite verses.

Finally Brad showed us a new spreadsheet he developed for his weekend. It breaks down each team role and what tasks are required as part of that role. This will assist future leaders in not letting items slip through the cracks. Brad said on K 41, they forgot the check to Bethany Church, which this new tool would have caught.

Old Business

1-day Retreat:

Jeff, who has accepted the responsibility to coordinate this event, has been working on organizing it. Thank you Jeff!

How we support Kairos at the Annex:

This update was provided during the review of the Action Items and is included above.

New Business

Kairos Walkathon. Rob:

Tom again solicited interest from anyone who wants to participate and / or coordinate in this fundraising activity and requested feedback.

Prayer Requests:

Scott Hall asked for prayers for his work life and for his father, Jim in accepting his assisted living situation.

Prayers for Mike Austin's wife Melony and her upcoming serious medical procedure

Prays for Mike Hawn's wife Laura and her ongoing medical situation

Brad asked for guidance in improving family communications.

Closing Prayer:

Jim closed our meeting with a prayer that incorporated all of our prayer requests

Meeting ended at 10:31 AM.

Respectively submitted,

Tom

KAIROS ADVISORY COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS FROM FEBRUARY MEETING (February 18, 2023)

| ACTION ITEM | RESPONSIBILITY | STATUS |
|---|-------------------|---|
| <p><u>K40</u> – After glow. Items discussed from K40 weekend for K41</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separate chapel from meeting room –separate gym into thirds with one portion for the Chapel or utilize the bleachers. Bring the pews from the Chapel to the gym? (Inside team and Council for March discussion) <i>Kairos Outside has changed they weekend setup so do not need the PVC piping they have. We can use this and put walls on wheels to make a new Chapel room in the Gym during the weekend. Jared thought this would work well and give us more flexibility. Consensus was that the people would need to physically move from the rollo room to the Chapel for this to work. Final design will need to be done but there is a good process for making this work in place.</i> | <p>Scott Hale</p> | <p>Scott has the material to build the movable partitions and just needs to inventory the parts and build. Scott and Jared are working on the re-design of the community room and chapel in the gym and have ideas on how to easily and effectively make this work and minimize the impact of moving between rooms but ensure it is meaningful. Their idea is to move podium to under the basketball hoop and use the bleachers for the chapel setup. Also table leaders were urged to tell table family members to remain in their chair during talks. Although the new design will minimize the disruption of people going to the bathroom, it is still a disruption. More formal bathroom breaks were recommended. Scott will let Resy and Inside Server team know how this will work on K41. Scott also mentioned there may be extra PVC and curtains which could be used for the prayer rooms.</p> <p>Scott is on top of this and it will be ready for K41.</p> <p>Scott and Jared would now like to use the Kairos Outside dividers as they are currently built. Not bring in pews from the chapel and think</p> |

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| | | they have a solution. They will meet this week to discuss. |
| | | The transition can be improved so this is still an open itm. |
| Discuss what we need to do at the Annex for Kairos | Rob | Schedule after K41 |

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