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Arapahoe County hires two Justice Planners *Planners will help County to address efficiencies in courts and jail*

LITTLETON, Colo. --- Arapahoe County has hired Jessica Marchese and Jack Reed as Criminal Justice Planners in an effort to continue to address the jail overcrowding and space needs and efficiencies in the County's courts and jail.

Marchese and Reed will be responsible for collecting, analyzing and interpreting criminal justice data to identify and evaluate policy and programmatic changes that will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the County's criminal justice system.

"Jessica Marchese has the unique combination of education and experience in criminal justice administration coupled with a number of years of experience working for the County," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Jim Dyer. "Jack Reed has extensive education and experience in criminal justice statistical analysis – a quality that will provide necessary management information to decision makers."

Faced with the addition of four new judges, a shortage of courtrooms and an overcrowded jail, the Board of County Commissioners in 2005 appointed the Judicial Facilities Review Committee – a 30 member group of citizens and community leaders to research and address the short and long-term needs for both the courts and jail.

The committee wrapped up its work in 2007, and the Board of County Commissioners created a permanent Justice Coordinating Committee to continue working on providing the most efficient use of Arapahoe County Court and Jail space, as well as to address the short and long-term space needs for both the courts and jail.

The courts will receive four new judges this year and plans are currently underway to remodel space at the Arapahoe County Justice Center, 7325 S. Potomac St., Centennial, to accommodate the addition of the new judges and staff.

Both criminal justice planners will work closely with the Justice Coordinating Committee and various agencies in developing long-range, strategic, operational and special project plans for the improvement of criminal justice system functions.

In addition, Marchese and Reed will monitor the daily jail population, identify trends and provide other management information that will promote effective/efficient jail management and provide decision makers with information that can be used for designing and funding jail alternative programs.

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