



The following report details findings from two unannounced inspections of Allegheny County Jail that were conducted by Allegheny County Controller Corey O'Connor and Terri Klein, members of the Jail Oversight Board, on Monday, December 11 and Thursday, December 14, 2023. This report shall be published for public inspection pursuant to 61 Pa. C.S. § 1724.

Controller O'Connor and Ms. Klein conducted the first unannounced inspection on December 11 from approximately 9:00-10:30 a.m. During this inspection, Controller O'Connor and Ms. Klein were escorted by Warden Dady, Deputy Warden Clark, and a Jail spokesperson. Controller O'Connor conducted a second unannounced inspection from approximately 10:45-11:30 a.m. on December 14, during which he was escorted by a corrections officer. The information below is based on these inspections, a review of ACJ records and documents, and interviews with residents and staff. Over the course of both dates, JOB members inspected intake and central booking, medical and mental health services, a female housing pod, and other facility operations. JOB members also requested, and were provided with, open access to ACJ facilities and opportunities to speak with staff and residents privately. We thank everyone for their time and cooperation in connection with generating this report.

Date/Time	Monday, December 11 (9-10:30 a.m.)		Thursday, December 14 (10:45-11:30 a.m.)
JOB Member	Corey O'Connor	Terri Klein	Corey O'Connor
Area			
Intake and booking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Viewed intake/booking and spoke with onsite staff to review changes and renovations, gauge staffing constraints, and better understand issues resulting in processing delays. · Based on multiple conversations, intake staff are anticipating further wait times in processing/moving individuals into housing pods because of external 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Staff noted wait time in intake was 16-24 hours. · Observed access to personal hygiene packets and water. · Spoke with substance use programmer supervising detox process. · On detox, there are two nurses for each 12-hour shift, with a plan to hire two more. However, there is still no private space for detox nurses or mental 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Did not visit during this inspection. · Based on the December 11 inspection of the area and prior discussions with health services staff, privacy remains an issue for substance use screenings/mental health interviews and should be prioritized in ongoing Intake area reviews and upgrades. · As with medical and mental health services and administration, adherence to federal standards in these areas of the Jail is paramount. A proactive health approach should be employed to better screen and



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	<p>warrant processing delays and external department/staff constraints, specifically outside typical business hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Observed previously documented issues regarding short staffing, but staff anticipate improvements based on certain new amenities being offered and future infrastructural improvements being made. · Discussed NCCHC intake review with onsite staff and steps being taken to mitigate current issues and implement improvements. 	<p>health staff to conduct interviews.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Detox nurses follow a decision tree depending on COWS or CIWA score determinations. · COWS (Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scores) and CIWA (Clinical Institute Withdrawal for Alcohol) are both validated tools, and while there is no automatic CIWA or COWS score that triggers hospitalization, it depends on numerous symptoms and the decision of the provider. · Folks who are given Narcan, however, will go the hospital for follow up. · Unity to be leading the induction of MOUD and arranging for follow up upon release. · Fentanyl and Xylazine test strips are provided at Discharge and Release. 	<p>assess health needs of individuals being processed on one end, and on the other, provide adequate medical and/or mental health services for people both in custody and being released.</p>



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Contact visitation room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Viewed the recently renovated space dedicated to contact visits. · Observed new flooring and furniture, along with a play area for young children visiting loved ones. · Discussed proposed accommodations for youth residents conducting visits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Visited the space for contact visits. There is new carpet and furniture and a play area child (with games available). · During the holiday season, food is to be offered onsite. · Youth who do not have a contact visit scheduled will be able to visit area for snacks prior to start of visitation hours. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Did not visit during this inspection. · The Controller's Office previously identified visitation policies as an area ACJ staff should focus on improving. · The practice of allowing family or emergency contacts to visit multiple residents already exists but codifying such a process would benefit both community and resident wellbeing and administrative operations.
School and classrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Conducted discussion with school principal, discussed curriculum access and delivery of educational services to male and female youths. · Discussed delivery of diagnostic and other services for female youth resident being housed on medical services pod. · Discussed delivery of educational instruction/classwork, teaching, and therapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Conducted discussion with school principal (employed since May). · Discussed how IEPs are applied from home schools, parent-teacher conferences, class scheduling, student down time, and individual and group therapy services. · Discussed therapy services administered by clinical students at Duquesne University. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Did not visit during this inspection. · Requested interviewing female youth resident housed on medical services pod again, but ACJ staff reported they were already released.



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	<p>services based on lengths of stay between youth residents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · I hoped to visit the female youth housed on the medical services pod but was told she was in court. · School staff, in agreeance with policy, segregate male and female students. · Was briefed that the female youth student receives at least two visits/day from teachers and/or therapists. · Principal spoke about employing a restorative philosophy where student removal is not used as punishment. · Residents up to age 22 can continue to get supports through their IEPs but are encouraged to enroll in GED classes. 	
Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Renovations were taking place; library components are coming together since last year's inspections. · Currently, books are being circulated via 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Observed ongoing renovations and the development of shelving units. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Did not visit during this inspection.



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	tablets and on carts by residents.		
Medical services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Did not visit during this inspection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Did not visit during this inspection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Met with staff present, attending doctor, and onsite agency staff. · Discussed employee issues, capacity and staffing issues, retention and morale, and changes given new ACJ administration. · Agency staff were reluctant to be interviewed given contractual relationship.
Facility operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Observed talent show for female residents. · Understaffing remains to be a complex issue that leads to predictable and unpredictable operational deficiencies. · Notably, based on conversations with intake staff, understaffing and lack of collaboration can heavily impact functions, with the goal of booking/processing individuals within 24 hours unattainable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · We were able to watch part of the talent show put on by women residents in the Hope program pod. We were treated to jokes and singing, which many residents were enjoying. · Recommendations based on 2023 inspection: (1) construct private interview space in intake for mental health and/or detox interviews (personal health information should be attained in private); (2) promote use of person- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Service evaluations in intake and Discharge and Release Center should be prioritized and further strengthened to ensure faster processing, quicker delivery of medical and mental health care, and smoother reentry and reintegration of individuals. · Changes may include, for instance, streamlining court and jail release and warrant processing and meaningfully increasing language access of municipal services. · Other implementable recommendations include: (1) notification policies and procedures in the event of a resident injury or



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff reported positive, gradual changes in employee morale and treatment, with increased interactions with the acting warden, and increased presence on cell blocks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> first and non-stigmatizing language; (3) recognize people are not their crimes or criminal history; (4) remove references to inmate (like over the elevator) and replace with non-prejudicial language; and (5), insure ACJ is following standards of care for detox for individuals who are pregnant or with high COWS/CIWA scores. Lastly, I provided the substance use provider with the <i>2023 Guidelines for Managing Substance Withdrawal in Jails</i>. This report was published by the U.S. DOJ's Bureau of Justice Assistance and endorsed by the ACA, AJA, and NCCHC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> death; (2) tablet availability and access; (3) discharge and release services, release time, and capacity; and (4), lockdown and segregation reporting.

We invite County and Jail officials to use this information to better support our community, reduce recidivism, and provide for Jail residents and staff. The issues around resident conditions and staffing are serious, yet fixable, and we are hopeful our government will take this opportunity to implement positive recommendations in areas such as medical and mental health treatment and workplace culture.