

The monthly meeting of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board was held on Thursday, July 7, 2016, in the Gold Room of the Courthouse in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at 4:00 p.m.

Members present:

The Honorable Judge Joseph Williams
The Honorable Judge David Cashman
County Controller Chelsa Wagner
Austin Davis representing Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald
County Council President John DeFazio
Sheriff William Mullen
Ms. Terri Klein

Also present were Warden Harper, Chief Deputy Warden Latoya Warren, President Judge Jeffrey Manning and other interested parties.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

A motion to approve the minutes of June 2, 2016 by Mr. Davis and seconded by Sheriff Mullen and unanimously approved by the board.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Judge Williams suggested to the board that a county proclamation be awarded to Ms. Damick to commemorate her dedication to social justice and human dignity. A motion to request a proclamation to be presented at the September Board meeting was unanimously approved by the board.

Judge Williams explained to the board that he has been sending out literature to the board to try to rebrand the way of thinking when it comes to re-entry. We can assist with developing skills and dealing with addiction for those in the ACJ but if business owners, unions, universities, etc. are not on board then what is it all for? Is it worth the time, money and effort if these organizations and society are not engaged? We need to prepare the community for how to deal with these individuals once they are released. Incarceration in itself is punishment but one never loses their citizenship. The privileges that come with being a citizen should be jump started upon release. We need to be progressive as a nation.

WARDEN'S REPORT:

Warden Harper addressed the following:

- As everyone knows there is a serious issue with mentally ill individuals being incarcerated. Since these individuals need more time out of their cell the ACJ is developing a program for the inmates on 5C so that they receive more recreational time to help cope with their illness.
- Juvenile POD to open approximately on August 1, 2016. The current juvenile count in the ACJ is 14 males and 2 females. The 14 juvenile males will be moved to juvenile POD upon its completion.
- There are currently 43 Correctional Officers in the Correctional Academy who are halfway through their training. We are looking forward to having them on board.

Ms. Klein stated that she was enlightened to see the Virtual Visitation taking place at the ACJ. She stated that she would like to eventually see this program available to all family members with loved ones in the ACJ. She asked the Warden if he could provide more information regarding this. The Warden stated he would call Ms. Klein to give her a

briefing on the details. Amy Kroll reported that they will be running a test run of the program next week with the Children's Institute. The virtual conversation will take place in the building beside the Children's Institute over a huge television which will involve books and/or toys on either side and will last approximately 30 minutes. Family Services and Mercy Behavioral Health are being partnered with on this program so that children who not able to visit ACJ will be able to benefit. Dr. Pat is running the program called Project Star through the Children's Institute.

DEPUTY WARDEN'S REPORT:

Judge Manning spoke to the board in support of Allegheny County Jail Collaborative funds being requested in the amount of \$650,000.00. The Jail Collaborative has had enormous success and has been nationally recognized for its re-entry programs and its ability to reduce recidivism by 50%. Funding for this program goes to assist with:

- Employment/Training
- Service Coordination
- Education
- Transportation
- Drug/Alcohol Testing
- Cognitive Behavioral Treatment
- Housing Assistance
- Information and Referral Services
- Retaining Service Coordinators

The motion to approve \$650,990.00 for the funding of the Allegheny County Jail Collaborative for the period of July 1, 2016-June 30,2017 was motioned by Mr. Davis and seconded by Sheriff Mullen and approved by the board.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Controller Wagner brought to the attention of the board the Governing Magazine Blog from June 22, 2016 titled, The Billions We're Wasting in Our Jails. Mesa County, CO and Allegheny County, PA were mentioned in the article as having achieved significant savings from reduced jail populations due to data-driven release of low-risk defendants. Controller Wagner stated that it was encouraging to read that Allegheny County was being recognized but that it would be helpful to understand exactly to what they are referring to in the article. Maybe have a presentation where we could see the specific data which is being referred to. Janice Dean, Director of Pre-Trial Services, replied that this all started with the White House Initiative back in October 2015 where she represented Allegheny County. Chief Deputy Warden Warren was there recently learning about Data Driven Justice in regards to pretrial and re-entry. Ms. Deam communicated to Controller Wagner that she would gather up some information regarding this data for her. Judge Manning stated that statewide and nationally they started to reform pre-trial services to determine people who are arrested and what was done with them in past. In the past there were bail bondsmen all over the county, people would be arrested and would post bond with the bondsman. If they did not have enough money to post bond, they would end up languishing in jail. As a result, pre-trial services were created. Pre-trial services have used matrixes and ways of examining the way someone is arrested. Everyday a judge has a motion where they review the bails that are set by magistrates all over the county. They look at people who are in jail and have detainers and from that a determination is made on whether the individual is someone that can be let out of jail who really doesn't belong there. This is usually done within 72 hours. If you keep someone in jail for as little as a week there is a chance they could lose a job, be unable to pay bills or child support, etc. and this heads them in the wrong direction. Judge Cashman mentioned that last year they had a meeting with Tom McCaffery and Frank Scherer to looks at identifying why we have so many people in the ACJ. An aggressive program was initiated in November of 2015 to look at who was being detained and why. In November, there were 13,050 individuals were in the ACJ being detained mostly due to technical violations. As of July 6, 2016, the number of detainees in the ACJ dropped significantly to 939. Out of this, 750 individuals were detained on new charges. Thanks to the decrease in detainers, the number of individuals in the

ACJ has decreased. Judge Williams stated that we are looking at a cost reduction of \$74.00 a day per individual. Mr. Tom McCaffery, Allegheny County Criminal Court Administrator, and Mr. Frank Scherer, Director of Adult Probation gave a brief overview of how the ways data is currently tracked, how far it has come over the past couple of years and how determinations are made in regards to detainees in the Allegheny County Court System. Controller Wagner inquired whether juveniles are captured in this data. Judge Cashman replied that they are not currently a part of the data. Judge Manning stated that the juvenile system is significantly flawed in that it hard to capture data when some juveniles commit a serious crime and are tried as adults. Controller Wagner stated that this is why she is so interested in understanding the data and how it is captured.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES

A. ALLEGHENY HEALTH NETWORK:

Dr. Joseph stated that they are still aggressively hiring for staff. In the monthly report there was an error. The average length of stay should state 5 days instead of 48 days.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS REPORTS:

Program for Offenders- Ms. Carol Hertz, Director, mentioned that this meeting was extremely informative. Last month the PA Department of Drug and Alcohol had conducted their annual license inspection and did very well. Moving forward, the renovations are continuing in the warehouse in the West Homestead facility.

The Renewal Center- Frank DeClair reported that on July 13, 2016 there was a Detox Training scheduled to open a new unit at the 2nd Avenue facility which will contain twelve additional detox beds, twelve more inpatient beds and two flex beds to be used where needed.

Electronic Monitoring- Jacque Whittaker, Probation EM Unit Supervisor, highlighted the May 2016 report. There were 833 participants in the program. During this time, 116 participants successfully completed the program and 16 individuals were removed for violations. For the month, Electronic Monitoring has saved 30,070 jail days.

Goodwill- none

Judge Williams reminded the board that there will be no Jail Oversight Board meeting in August. The board will resume its regularly scheduled meetings beginning on September 1, 2016.

A motion to adjourn made by Judge Williams, duly seconded by Sheriff Mullen and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,


Chelsea Wagner
Secretary