

The monthly meeting of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board was held on Thursday September 5th, 2019 in The Gold Room of the Allegheny County Courthouse in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at 4:00 P.M.

Members Present

Honorable Judge Kim Clark
Honorable Judge Beth Lazzara
Kevin Kraus for Sheriff Mullen
Brad Korinski representing County Controller Chelsa Wagner
Barbara Pares representing County Executive Rich Fitzgerald
Councilman DeFazio
Terri Klein
Abass Kamara

Others in Attendance:

Marion Damick of the Pennsylvania Prison Society
Warden Harper

1. President's Report

Judge Clark: I'd asked everyone to take their seats, please. I'm going to call the meeting to order. And good afternoon, I'm judge Kim Clark and I am the sort of temporary chair of this oversight board. And so, we're going to begin the meeting, but before we begin the meeting, I would like to state from the outset the rules of the meeting so that we have an orderly and respectful proceeding. So, the first rule was that everyone in this room will be treated with dignity and respect. There is no exception to that. Everyone will be treated with dignity and respect. Keeping that in mind, everyone will have the opportunity to be heard. And I would say within reason, so and I'm going to explain that a little bit. One depends on the number of people that want to be heard and the time that we have to conduct a business meeting. That is really the primary goal of this board meeting is to conduct the business meeting. But we will have ample time for public comment, but we can't let the comments go on forever. So, anyone wishing to address the board should sign up. So, I have the signup sheets. If there's someone who wishes to address the board that has not signed up, we would ask you to do so and we will take you in the order in which you have signed up. Depending on the number of people who wish to speak, I may impose a time limit.

And so today it looks like we only have three people that have signed up. So, I'm not going to impose a time limit today because we only have three people. But I would ask that everyone keep their remarks concise and to the point. Don't ramble, don't vent. This is not the family therapy session. It's a time to conduct orderly business. I may also have to limit the number of speakers so that we can conduct the business. Meaning that does not appear to be an issue today.

Profanity and yelling will not be tolerated, because that is not dignified or respectful and I don't use profanity and I don't yell, and I don't like people to do it to me. So, I will treat you, everyone in this room with dignity and respect. And I expect the same. So, if there is profanity or if there is yelling, we will ask that you'd be removed from the meeting. Anyone that can't follow those rules up front, I would ask you to kindly leave at this time. And as I stated back to rule number one, everyone will be treated with dignity and respect.

So thank you for your consideration. Alright, so we're ready to begin. I understand that at the last meeting all of the business was not concluded. There was some unfinished business. So, before we take the public comment, I would like to start with the unfinished business from the last meeting and then we will go to the public comment.

2. Old Business

Deputy Warden Williams:

Good afternoon board members. So, at the last oversight board meeting myself, Cathy McCauley from DHS and Amy Kroll, who is our reentry administrator, had proposed for the jail collaborative to continue being funded by the inmate welfare fund. We had provided some information for the entire board to review and there were some follow-up requests that were made. So, some of those requests included the reconviction rates because we wanted to look at recidivism and the efficacy of the program. Additionally, there was a request for information related to community agencies that are involved or integrated within the system. And to that credit, it's a very extensive and expansive list. So, I was able to have our partners organize that for you so that you could see the way that they support these programs and initiatives. So, at that time we were not able to have a vote on whether or not the proposal of \$789,308 which is a direct request from the inmate welfare fund, could be utilized as an expenditure to continue these services. So, at this time I would ask that the board please reconsider that with this new information.

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Judge Lazzara, duly seconded by Mr. Korinski to approve the request for \$789,308 from the Inmate Welfare Fund to be used for reentry programs in collaboration with the Jail Collaborative.

3. Public Comment

a. Damick -

I would like to talk about an issue that came up before we were here, having to do with who has control over what the inmate federal inmates do. Both Cashman the warden that the fed had control and they said don't do anything. So, I did a little research on that right from top to bottom. And the answer is, you can do anything you want with the federal prisoners, I mean within law, and they can take any program that is available. They have no objection to the County jail providing service for inmates who are there under the federal government, stay in the jail while they're waiting for various things to happen.

I also feel there might be some ICE Immigration people here and I'm hoping they will also come under that same. I hope that there are COs who have the language ability. This hasn't happened before, and I do hope that you will do it. This is the public meeting and always has been. WE raise questions, but we never hear what the decision is. Nobody knows. I mean, we don't know. The public doesn't know what happened to the issue. I'm asking if something is done when someone raises an issue, you say, look, we did this and this, it looks better for the County jail and looks better for the oversight board.

One thing I've noticed, by the way, with this increase from last month, the number of pregnant women has increased. They're up to what, 30 now. I'm wondering what's

going on. Why are so many pregnant women inmates at the County jail? I think that might be frankly, and if I can be public on it, something for someone to do a research study on as to what's causing this. This is unusual.

Also, unfortunately, again, ever since you hire the organization to do the suicide study, we've had suicide attempts. It's been since April 1, 4, 1 and last month 1 suicide attempts. Fortunately, no completion, no suicide. That's good. Unfortunately, there at least one each month. Somebody isn't catching something. And as you know, very well know a lot of mental health. Also, people who don't have mental health before they can get can develop from variety of things that can happen in the ACJ. One being solitary. I think if there's any way that anyone could do some research of why this is continuing it would be beneficial to the County jail to have practically done no suicide attempts and no suicides, which you have accomplished already.

Transit is looking at having busses run all day and night. All the time. Including in the early mornings. What we're trying to get them not to release people in the early morning. One of the problems is that there's no bus, so this is coming along. I was wondering if they were in contact with anybody in the County because it's working. It would work to, to your benefit, if you have to release people as you customarily do at 2:00 AM or et cetera. For a variety of reasons with the warden has been very careful to explain. I happen to know that there's been the use of pepper spray in the institution. I did research on that, and I fear that it wasn't done legally, not under the rules or regulations that are on us department of justice federal Bureau of prisons, which conducted.

I have a copy of the, of the rules and I would be glad to pass them around. Alright, we can pass this around. But for inmates they're very painful as you well know. And if they're done under improper rules without a CO who has been specifically trained in this procedure plus a variety of other things you are subject to a lawsuit. I don't want to see the county subject to a lawsuit. We don't wonder. We don't want to always be complaining. We think you have a good jail. We think you can have a better jail. Thank you very much.

Judge Clark -

Thank you Ms. Damick and I guess warden concerning the pregnant women, I guess we do have data on the number of pregnant women. I'm not sure Ms. Damick that we could specifically answered the reason why there's an increase. But we can look at maybe, you know, why they're not out on bond, why they haven't been released and those kinds of things. I don't know that we will ever be able to really answer that for you, but we can certainly try to look into that. And I have not personally heard anything about the buses running 24 hours. That would be a very good thing so that people who are released in the wee hours of the morning might be able to have safe transportation. I did have a discussion I think yesterday with the warden about this issue.

And as I understand it, people that have been admitted to the County jail are not released in the wee hours of the morning. They are given clothing and there were arrangements made for them. It's the people that have not entered the jail and are able have made bail and they are welcome to stay until the buses run. But many of them

choose to leave. So, it's an issue that we are looking at. It would be really nice to have the 24/7. You can't, you can't speak out, we'll give you a chance to speak. So, we're looking at it and we're looking at the issues of whether we can we've also had some discussions about the availability of bus tickets for people that needed to leave. So, it's a little complicated, but we're, look, we're actually looking at it, but thank you for bringing that to my attention. And we'll look at the rules regarding the pepper spray, but I do think, Ms. Damick has a good point about questions that are raised that the public should have some reporting back, so we might try to be able to do that. I think that's a very good point. Thank you for bringing that up.

b. Thomas –

Well firstly, thank you president judge for your attention and coming here today to talk with us about this. I want to reiterate, and I'll start with the last board meeting where I was detained or arrested unlawfully. When I was speaking, I'm using my fifth amendment or first amendment, whichever of those, the right to speak to this oversight board. And I was not given any reason to why I was detained, or arrested words were used like detained than words where you use like arrested. So, there were never really a clear understanding of why what was going on. Christian who was with me, we both received citations in the mail. We wanted, Christians not here today, but I definitely wanted to address this issue and bring that to the attention of this council as well.

I want to bring something I've been bringing to attention for a while and why I think a lot of people who are with us think that the warden needs to be fired. The warden was hired 2012 coming directly from Maryland. He was fired for turning a blind eye for a sexual assault. Later on when he was brought to Pittsburgh, he brought the same gentlemen with him to Pittsburgh who was also a part of the sexual assault case. This is a right to know we can forward you these documents. I have the documents myself. I read through it. There's about a hundred transcript, maybe 200 pages on this transcript. And I'm worried about this because we have been talking about the blind side and the side eye of sexual assault within the jail for the past four to five years and under his direction that it is still happening.

I'll reintroduce myself. I get excited when we get to talk about these things, but I'm Ciora Thomas, I'm the founder and president of SisTers PGH we house and advocate for transgender people in Pittsburgh. I'm also commissioner for our state of Pennsylvania for LGBTQ affairs commission as well as the president of our LGBTQ advisory council in the mayor's office. And I have been having conversations with all of those platforms on how we can support at first support the jail with the resources they need as far as training. We have trained Orlando and his team, I want to say in the last five years on how to be a better jail for LGBTQ inmates and specifically our trans inmates. They are still being housed. Trans women are still being housed with men. They were still being abused. They were still being raped and assaulted under the duress and direction of the warden.

Now I want to be clear on who brought him up here from Maryland and that was Wayne White. Wayne Wright was another person that was involved in this case in Maryland. And they also brought to Pittsburgh. They're not with us anymore at the jail anymore, but they were brought here. These are people who turned a blind eye to rape and

sexual assault. And when we come here time after time to talk about this, we have to understand how serious this is. It's not just a thing we can just throw under the pillow. People are being hurt and abused. And what we've been trying to express to this board for the last few years is the severity of that. We're not coming here for nothing. We did create a community, I want to say a community coalition of community leaders that will be also in a place to oversight the oversight board to make sure that the board is doing what the board needs to do as far as service to the community and making sure that the warden is doing what the warden needs to do as warden.

And we still suggest for the warden to be fired.

Judge Clark –

So, can I ask a question? So, I know that from time to time I have gotten letters from inmates about issues in the jail. I have not gotten any specifically about sexual assaults in the jail. And I believe one of the issues was about coming forward. And I know that it's difficult for victims sometimes of sexual assault to come forward, but if people that are being sexually assaulted in the jail, the only way that folks can be held accountable is for the powers at be so to speak, to know who is responsible for these actions. And so, I don't know whether there has been any sort of counseling or victim services provided to the transgender inmates in the jail about this.

But it could be something that we could, not at this meeting, but discuss at a later time if you would like about a way to make that process better for all inmates, transgender or other, I think sexual assault is a difficult thing no matter who you are and it's, you know, underreported many times. But, so is the conversation that maybe we could have at some other point to come up with from some ideas as to how to deal with it.

Thomas -

If I may, we've had these conversations and we've had these conversations, I don't even want to exaggerate, but maybe 10 to 15 times throughout the years. We've been in full conversation with the council here. We've read testimonies I received from within my organization when people, especially trans people are to leave the jail, they come to my organization, they walk into our doors were the first correspondence of because they need housing and resources.

We have filed reports. We have testimonies and we have presented these things to the council over the years and nothing has been done. As I mentioned earlier, we took the time over a years' time to train the warden and his staff on how to handle these situations. And the warden took what we did over the years and just put it on his desk. Nothing was implemented in the time that we put as community leaders at the time we put into that training to protect those people or protect our people inside the jail. So, these are conversation I would be happy to have that conversation with you.

So that's what I'm asking. You'd be willing to do that maybe be outside of this meeting. I have to talk to the warden. I have to see what was presented to the board. I haven't been on the board for many, many years, so these are new issues that are being raised here, but I can guarantee you that, I believe that the board would take sexual assault or assault of any inmate in the County jail no matter who, seriously or at least the board

should. So, I will meet with you to discuss this. I'll give you my contact information and you can contact my office to set up a time.

Thomas -

Absolutely. In the meantime, I think it would be worth cause I know the council has not been down to the jail like they should. It's in your bylaws to visit the jail unexpected. That has not happened over the years. So, I would hope that before we have that conversation, maybe an untalked about visit to the jail happens.

Judge Lazzara -

There was a surprise visit in the beginning on May of this year. I was just appointed to the board and I became a member just at that point and we immediately had a surprise visit. So just so you're aware, we did do that at the very first week of May of this year.

Thomas -

Can you report to us your findings?

Judge Lazzara -

There was some discussion at that May meeting, the first May meeting on that Thursday. Judge Cashman did relay some things that we did. There have not been findings as far as I'm aware.

Thomas -

Did you happen to visit the kitchen?

Judge Lazzara -

We did not.

Thomas -

Okay. So, the kitchen right now is currently infested with roaches and mold. The inmates are being told to wake up at 4:30am in the morning to go work in the kitchen. And if they don't wake up at 4:30am in the morning, they are to be cited. We talked about just the hardest talk about slavery behind our jail walls.

Judge Clark -

So, I would just ask this and the interest of sort of timekeeping so we can get to the meeting. I would ask if you could put these things in writing to me it can be part of our discussion as well as you if you wish and that way, um, I can share them with the board and we can be prepared to either ask more questions about them or address them at the next meeting.

But I have the feeling that you have a sort of a long list and we can't, we can't, we have to get to the board agenda. So, if you could do that, I would appreciate that greatly.

Thomas -

Yes, I can absolutely do that. Do you want to touch on one more thing before you may leave? We have been also meeting, I know you just met with Judge Pappas and we have been meeting and having,

Judge Clark -

I have not met with judge.

Thomas -

Well, we have been having conversations with Judge Pappas in support of having a judge in his position to chair this board. And I did just want to bring that to the attention. So that you're aware.

c. Englert –

Yeah, I really don't want anybody to know who I am. I'm not happy to be here and speak, but I did want to come and say thank you to Ms. Damick. You're here all the time. And the other reason I know why you're here is because I'm able to review the prison board notes and those prison board meeting notes on the kind of controller's website. And I read them just to see what's going on because you know I'm definitely afraid to be here.

I'm always afraid of retaliation from my job. But I read what's going on and I see your notes and I see that you do kind of take a stand for the people that work in the jail. Well, I was surprised to learn is when I go in the County controller's website, there's an embedded YouTube link and it's blocked, but I would never think anything of it because we cannot access YouTube from our internet Explorer browser. I would never need to go to it for any reason, but it's an embedded link and I was shocked to learn that officers are getting hearings for violating computer policy for stuff like this, this embedded link or if we do an area code search or a zip code search for an inmate, Google has something called search engine marketing that inserts paid ads. So, if I look up a zip code for an inmate to see where they want to write a letter to their aunt or their uncle, where church or a three-quarter house, I need to get the zip code, Zillow or realtor.com insert a search engine marketing ad into that Google search.

And I get flagged by the County web filter as if I'm actually on that website and a short time later, before you know it, over 400 officers are expected to get hearings for violating the computer policy of the jail and code of ethics at the jail. Part of that is our job. I personally have had a hearing scheduled and I looked at 10 of the websites that were listed under my name. Five of them don't even exist. The other five are straight up marketing ads and you know, 400 officers getting suspended 10 days times 8 hours a day, 32,000 hours of overtime Times an average rate of \$32.33 cents. And you're looking at, well over a million dollars of overtime, and 10-day suspensions. And hardships on our family. And while our union has a grievance against that, I just want to thank you because the way I learned about everything that you do for Allegheny County and its citizens, including the incarcerated citizens, the people that work at the jail, everything I do comes from reading those notes.

Little did I know I could get in trouble for accessing the controller's website because there's an embedded YouTube ad linked to her website. So, I want to thank you for that. I also want to adjust the more morale of the officers in the facility. I don't speak for all the officers, but the warden, administration and deputy County manager Pilarski has been working overtime to kill the moral of the officers in that building. Part of that is

these internet hearings, I mean you'll never see, hopefully I want to knock on wood, you will never see my name in trouble other than for when I speak out or whatever, but I'm not an officer that you should ever see in trouble. I think Amy and Jack in a test, I do everything but strong on them. To get inmates into their programs.

I constantly tried to put my inmates back into society as better individuals because that's what I swore to do. Over 80 inmates in 18 months. I've successfully sent the programs, six of them did not complete. Two were released, two got kicked out in two quit. So, I take my job very seriously. I just want to say thank you because the only way I know what really happens here is by reading that. But unfortunately, I get in trouble from the embedded YouTube link. And also, to just touch on one thing. I don't want to take up too much of your time. I understand there's very important business here, but it's been over a year ago, that two officers were stabbed in that building. I believe at that September meeting a young man stood up here and asked what was Warren Harper going to do differently? And he said what was going to happen differently, but I just don't see those things happening. I have real concern for my safety in that building. I've tried to address it with the warden, and I've gone through the chain of command. I don't have any answers yet, but I just really came here to thank Ms. Damick for her support of officers and everybody she fights for. She's a treasure. We appreciate you. Thank you.

**End of Public Comment held to end of meeting*

4. Review of the Minutes for July 11, 2019 meeting

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Sheriff Mullen, duly seconded by Ms. Pares to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2019 meeting.

5. Warden's Report

First thing I would like to say to the board is this, my primary concern and the admirations primary concern is the safety and security of our staff. And anytime anything happens in that jail, we take it seriously to make sure that our staff and the inmates are protected. So, I wanted to say that the first and foremost we would ask people not to shout out please. Thank you. On August the 16, we met with a group that was at the jail oversight board meeting to discuss some of their concerns. And the meeting was very productive. I've tried to contact this group multiple times after the meeting to get back with them as to some of the recommendations and how we can resolve some of the issues and not have not been able to contact or getting in touch with this group. But one of the things that we've learned from this meeting is that individuals that have paid their bond and then and being released can wait in municipal court until daylight to, for their safety. So, we have accomplished that already. As far as core clothing for everybody going to court. That's not going to happen. Only inmates that are going for a jury trial will be in civilian clothing. So that's some of the things that we're trying to do as administration to reach out to everybody to resolve these issues.

Ms. Thomas made that she's absolutely right. We've contacted the community and we wanted the community's input as to how we can better treat our transgender population. And we at the jail, we are doing that in accordance to our PREA regulations. We have a transgender committee, the expedite through the process. We have 10 PREA investigators. We are number

one when it comes to ensuring the safety and security of our inmates and ensuring that these inmates are not raped or sexually assaulted. So, anybody that is sexually assaulted or allegedly have an issue pertaining to PREA, they can make these reports anonymously to our PREA coordinators and investigation is immediately done and not just done by the jail, but our County police, that are stationed inside the jail. So only thing that I'm asking of these individuals on the outside when they get these allegations that people have been raped, I will ask that they report to the local police department so that they can come to the jail and investigate these allegations. But the safety and security of everybody in our jail is paramount.

Thomas – *(hard to hear not at microphone)*

So some of these reports have been reported but what are happening about that. These reports are being stuck down the road by the administration. They're afraid. The blue is for the blue and that kind of work. We all know that. So we have reached out to the police to get these things handled and the issue with their friends, their buddies that are working, including Rich Fitzgerald, he doesn't want to deal with this. So, these are being that are accurately happening. I'm not stupid. I know how these steps work, just because I'm trans does not mean I don't know how this system works. The reality is that people are coming home abused and not restored like the jail was claiming to do to restore the community, send them home to be great people. So, these claims, the accusations that you're trying to put out each time we have [inaudible] to communities that you have abused, ignored for years, so you can't expect for people to respond back responding to you. The LGBTQ community is not responding to you.

Judge Clark –

So, Ms. Thomas those are the things that when we meet, we can talk about. All right.

Warden Harper -

And the last thing I would like to report to the board is that our juveniles at the Allegheny County jail that are charged as adults and Ms. Damick I'm really surprised that you didn't report this great newspaper article report about our juveniles going starting school again. So, WESA 90.5 came to our jail to document the great program we have with the Allegheny intermediate unit and the services that they provide to give these inmates a chance to get their high school diploma from their high school. So, I was really impressed with a report and that's one of the great things that we do at Allegheny County jail. And your honor, that's all I have.

Korinski –

Could you provide the board an update on the suicide prevention study if that has already commenced or has it been completed? I think that the last time you spoke on it was a few months ago.

Warden Harper -

Yes sir. The review will begin mid-September. We submitted all the documentation to the review committee and mid-September they will be there to do the review.

Korinski -

Will there be an opportunity for the board to ask questions or participate in any comments with the entity chosen for that study.

Warden Harper -

If the board feels that's necessary. I mean, I would be amenable to that. So, it's whatever the board would like to do. I think we could discuss it and come up with a solution.

Judge Clark -

We can make that happen

Korinski -

And my only other question warden on the issue of suicide, I received a complaint, which I think the County executive did and some others on the use of suicide blankets in the jail, the anti-suicide blankets. And could you speak to that program and the success of it or any complaints?

Warden Harper -

Every inmate at Allegheny County jail is issued two suicide blanks. And ever since we implemented this program, there have been no successful suicides at the Allegheny County jail. So, the program is working and when we had the suicide review, I'm sure that this company's going to agree with the methods that we've implemented to reduce the suicides at the Allegheny County jail. As I stated before, our primary responsibility is for the safety of these inmates and that's the decision that we made to ensure that we stop the suicides at Allegheny County jail.

6. Deputy Warden's Report

Deputy Warden Williams -

Unfortunately, I have another request. So, there's been much discussion about the use of port authority bus tickets, and we've been able to sustain that program through the support of the inmate welfare fund. So as Judge Clark spoke on earlier individuals who are released from our custody and are going back into the community, oftentimes they don't have transportation available to them. Maybe at the time of their release or their support systems may not be able to pick them up. So, through the funding of the inmate welfare fund, we've been able to actually provide bus tickets. We had so many individuals who were interested in seeking that service and accepted it that we actually didn't request enough. So, we've been spending money from the operating budget and we are asking to have a \$15,701.50, which we do believe will allow us to sustain the rest of the year from the inmate welfare fund to continue to support the port authority bus ticket program.

Judge Clark –

So, do you have any questions and if not, I'll entertain a motion

Korinski -

Are we getting any type of reduced rate from the port authority?

Deputy Williams -

You know, I can't speak to that exactly. I know that we do work in partnership with port authority to ensure that we can get individuals to their destination.

Korinski -

Not that the controller's office is opposed to at all to the request. It's certainly a great thing, but I think it should be put to the port authority that this is a great program that helps the community and that if possible, we should be receiving some type of reduced rate. Because the

County certainly supports the port authority. And the port authority should support the County in this endeavor.

Judge Clark -

So maybe we can have a meeting with the port authority and see what if there is a reduced rate or we can get a reduced rate. There is a real concern about safety of people who are leaving in the middle of the night and are out on the streets. Obviously, that's not safe. Right now, it appears that at least the people that have been processed through the jail and are being released from the jail are being kept safe. But the other ones, sometimes it's a choice and I can't say that I would not make the same choice if I was bonded out and the options where I had to sit in the municipal court building till the next morning or just try to get out on my own, I would probably maybe take my chances and leave. I wouldn't necessarily sit there. That might not be the best decision. It might not be the right decision. But it certainly a decision that I can understand. So maybe even with that population, there's something that port authority could do to help with that. So, I think it might be worth trying to have a sit down and talk with port authority about the situation.

Deputy Williams -

Absolutely. We can work to schedule that with them too.

Councilman DeFazio -

Is there a reason why the two o'clock in the morning, can't look the much sooner than that?

Judge Clark -

Well these are the ones that are after, I guess they'd been arraigned made bond, is that correct Ms. Dean? So, it depends on what time they get arrested. So, people get arrested at night and then they go before the MDJ and then they're bonded out and they can leave. And so it could be two o'clock in the morning. And so that's just the way it is. And so they have the option now of sitting there and waiting until the buses are running to leave or they or they can leave and many choose just to leave. So, it just depends on when they're arrested.

(inaudible question regarding Inmate Welfare Fund spending)

Judge Clark -

So I would say all of that is recorded in the minutes and those minutes are available to the public. And I'm assuming there's also some form of audit that is done over the inmate welfare fund. I guess if you go back and review the minutes, you can see what the votes were on the inmate welfare fund and how the money is being utilized.

Korinski -

I do believe your honor on the last page of the minutes, we have been for at least the last year providing a monthly balance.

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Mr. Abass, duly seconded by Judge Lazzara to approve the request for \$15,701.50 from the Inmate Welfare Fund to be used for bus tickets to be used during the reentry program.

7. New Business

Korinski –

The controller's office does have a point of new business that we would like this board to consider moving forward. I think in order for this board to conduct its statutory mandate, it's difficult for the board to respond to complaints or to investigate conditions. And we would ask that this board consider a hiring or contracting with someone responsible to the board to conduct it. Statutory functions make it hard for the individual members to respond to complaints and we're always doing so after the fact and there really isn't a lot of transparency or accountability to the public and I think it leads to poor perceptions that perhaps aren't warranted.

And I think such a person could be paid for through inmate welfare funds. We always run a very robust balance and that could be something that the board could have to accomplish its mandate and assure the public and conduct its business. So, I would just ask the board to consider that moving forward.

Judge Clark -

All right. So, maybe we can put that as an agenda item on the for the next meeting and maybe if you have a specific proposal, you'd like to come up with to present. If someone would like to work with him on that. Are there any volunteers? All right, you have, so maybe you can come back to Ms. Klein.

8. Allegheny County Jail Medical Services

**a. Allegheny County Health Network
Deputy Warden Williams -**

So Ms. Damick had talked about the number of pregnant females that we had during this monitoring period and today's total population is 9. So just to offer some reassurance that we can't control the population that comes to us. We do actively work to ensure that we're meeting the needs of this population. So, I wanted to report on that and then it had been a prior request that we also report on those that identify as transgender intersects or non-binary within our population. And today's current population is 12. Some are actually housed on gender affirming units. I also wanted to report that September is national recovery month and in the healthcare services unit, oftentimes people think exclusively of the physical health services that we provide, but we have robust mental health services as well as substance use services, which Judge those areas you are very well aware of being involved with a mental health court.

The statistics state that 46.4% of adults almost half will experience a mental illness in their lifetime. And in the jail, we see about 40% of our population is prescribed at least one psychotropic medication. Additionally, an estimated 20.7 million people aged 12 or older needs some form of substance use treatment. So, we have several different programs that have many different levels of intervention and education when within the Allegheny County jail that we're very proud of. We offer those services both to the male and the female units. We do that through our reentry programs as well as partnerships with renewal for outpatient drug and alcohol therapy. So, because this is such an important month to so many of our population, we wanted to highlight that we are celebrating that our director of substance use programs has also sent out some literature to the staff because it's not just the inmates that would experience these

kinds of events in their lives.

So, there is support out there and we wanted to highlight that with the staff to try and normalize that and encourage people to seek treatment and help when they need it. I also wanted to let everybody know that within the substance use department, drug court and DUI court will be coming into the facility, some of their representatives to do some presentations with participants to encourage them to engage in those services if they're eligible. Additionally, the men who live on 5U, which is our substance use housing unit for males, they're doing recovery posters. So, defining what their recovery means to them and we support all forms of recovery from 12 step abstinence to medication assisted treatment as well. Staff are creating an overdose Memorial tree because unfortunately so many have lost their lives to this disease. And we want to recognize that. And then we will also be hosting three guest speakers who have actually been past participants and graduates of our programs. One of them has actually maintained three years of sobriety. The community has engaged in working in the field and has been a speaker within our facility as well. So, we're very excited to be able to continue to support those recovery efforts for individuals who have been in our facility.

9. Community Corrections Reports

a. The Program for Offenders Mike Gilmore:

In addition to our report that we submitted, I'd like to add that on August the 29th, Sarah Russo from the Hugh Lane wellness foundation provided a three-hour LGBTQIA training to our management and our treatment staff. Our security staff is going to be trained on this on September the 18th and the agency plans to use this as a precursor to more in-depth future training on sexual identity and gender identity expression.

Klein -

Yes. Hi. I was looking at the services that were provided and I saw that there was a 0% completion under drug and alcohol and employment and training. And although it looks like there was only maybe one participant in the employment and training, and I just wonder if you could speak that seems lower than it normally is.

Gilmore -

I'm sorry, I can't address that right now. If you would give any time. I will research that certainly were involved actively in drug and alcohol treatment. We have people that go through the program and completed on a weekly basis and I'm not sure why that would have been recorded as a zero. That doesn't sound right. Okay. Maybe it was a mistake. I'll double check the report when I go back.

b. The Renewal Center Frank Declare:

I've just liked to note that on September 14th, which is a Saturday, we will be participating in the Pittsburgh recovery walk. We'll be setting up a table at that event and also several staff along with numerous re-entrants will be participating in the walk aspect as well.

c. Electronic Monitoring

Just to quick review our active numbers for the month of our reporting period. We had an 850 people go through our program. 113 of those we successfully completed and 11 were returned for various violations.

d. Goodwill

Previous board meeting we were happy to announce that two of our residents had completed their GED. We're extremely important. I'm glad to announce this week they will be honored at the award ceremony and the two residents have also gone on to training with all state for welding. Another thing that we'd like to announce is that there we have replenished our weight room for the guys at the center.

10. Public Comment Cont.

d. Sunny -

You guys probably seen me, put plenty of places and spaces. This is Sharon Burke; her son is currently in the Allegheny County jail on and around August 21st of this year. Her son Richard Burke was badly beaten by two to three guards of the Allegheny County jail. He was also tased, refused medical attention for several days. Then thrown in the hole. He had impaired vision. Tons of bruises, swelling, also pain all over his body and face. I don't know if I said he's 30 years old. He was given one phone call a week to his loved ones while in the hole. I hear you say report these things, but nothings being done, and nobody's being held accountable. Time after time, protestors, activists, advocates have taken the streets for you guys to hear us and nothing is being done. When do we hold these people accountable? Better yet? At what point do we hold these people accountable? It's always just a conversation and nothing's really being done, and nobody's being held accountable.

Judge Clark -

All right. Thank you. Does anyone have any questions? Warden, this incident, are you familiar with what she's reporting?

Warden Harper -

I am not familiar with this incident, but it's something that I can research because we keep all the packages and everything together.

Sunny -

Right. So, these things were already addressed. Mom had made several phone calls as well as me and several other people and nothing's been done as it's always swept under the rug and you know, it's like we'll get to it, we'll get to it. And it's just sad because you guys on this panel don't look like us and don't live the lives that we live, and nothing's being done. It's just always a conversation.

Judge Clark -

So typically, I can say that when I received communication from inmates in the County jail, whether it's concerning an alleged assault by guards or other staff at the jail or other inmates, it has been my procedure to then re forward that information to the Allegheny County police for investigation. I'm happy to do that for you. If you have not already met or talk to the Allegheny County police.

Sunny -

Please, please, if we can get her as much information as possible before she leaves today.

Warden Harper -

We've had some communication with the mother and one of the things at Allegheny County jail, every incident that happens in Allegheny County jail is reviewed. We have hundreds and hundreds of video cameras and every incident is on video. The captain, sergeants, majors, deputy wardens review every incident. We have our County police that every incident of use of force is referred to. So, I don't want you to think that we take this lightly. We've communicated with the family and I just want to let you to know, we're going to look at it again today, but every incident at the jail is video recorded and distance maintained so that when allegations like this come up, we can review it and refer it to the police.

Sunny-

So, you said you would view the video again are these videos that are frequently viewed and so it should have been seen and it was overlooked?

Warden Harper -

No, I'm going to say this.

Sunny -

It'll be on camera.

Warden Harper -

Absolutely.

Sunny -

So, at what point when you see this on camera, what happens next?

Warden Harper -

If there's violations of our policies and procedures, people will be held accountable. But you got to also remember to our police look at everything too. So, I assure you that I'm going to look at this incident.

Sunny -

So, the same people that are supposed to be protecting these inmates are watching the video as well? Is that what you're saying?

Warden Harper -

I'm saying the management staff is reviewing the videos, the majors, deputy wardens are reviewing every incident.

Sunny -

So, I just want to make sure that this is going to be addressed immediately.

Warden Harper -

Yes ma'am. We will.

Sunny -

Okay. Thank you. You're welcome. Would you like to say something?

Burke -

So, I just want to add one other thing. I did speak with a case worker after another inmate called me and informed me what happened to my son. She did not get back in touch with me, but I did speak with Ms. Williams, today regarding the incident. And I did just want to say that when I initially spoke with the case worker, she did say that my son had been struck by officers and tased by officers. And when I spoke with you today, Ms. Williams, you said that your understanding was that it was another inmate that had assaulted my son. But that is not what I've been told up until today. So, to the best of my knowledge there was no other inmate involved that it was guards. I just wanted to say that. Thank you.

e. Swayne Uber –

I wanted to ask a couple of questions around medically assisted treatment in the jail. I'm fairly sure methadone is not one of the options when we know that that and Bupa, which is another solid option. I believe the jail only right now provides Vivitrol. I'm not positive people can confirm that, but one of our main concerns is once people are released, if they do have substance abuse issues in particularly opioid related there's enormous risk of overdose, I think it's about three to four times higher in the couple of days afterwards because people right now enter ACJ and are forced to go cold Turkey and have, you know, very horrific symptoms.

I've heard specific testimony from individuals who have gone through that we have alternatives. They're are actually not that expensive. We could do it right now. I think the jail needs to look in, not look into this, implement these sorts of processes both in terms of providing the medically assisted treatment that is actually effective on the inside. In addition to providing what is needed on the outside working with groups like prevention point and others to potentially provide syringes potentially provide fentanyl testing strips. I understand that it's technically illegal in the State still, but that sort of idea of working with groups that are doing these sorts of things to ensure that yes, they are no longer in your custody once they're out, but we don't want anyone dying on the streets either. So please look into that related to discharge. I understand the difference between folks who have not gone through intake and are immediately released after posting or being released only when we're cognizant.

However, there's also some consistencies and lack of clarity around folks who are coming downstairs essentially and being released. There are not clear times and there's a large window, 48-hour window when people are being released, which makes it very difficult to coordinate rides to do all those sorts of things and provide the support for people when they are leaving the jail. If there could be a system and some sort of transparencies. Let's say there's one release that happens at 9:00 AM every day. One release that happens at noon, one release happens at three. And we could know beforehand when people are actually getting out because otherwise granted, at least during the day there are buses running. But you know, that's not enough usually. And

people like it'd be nice for people to be welcomed when they are leaving. So, if we could have a much clearer and more concrete process around discharge, both in terms of getting folks what they need and providing information as to how and when they are being released.

Judge Clark -

Thank you. I don't know if anyone has any response. I would just ask maybe for the next meeting because I'm actually interested personally in the issue of what medically assisted treatment in the jail was available. So, I would like maybe if we could have sort of a report about that. And then the board can have maybe just ask them questions about it and have some discussions keeping in mind the comments that you made today. Which is something that I hadn't necessarily thought of personally in that way about people then needing medication in the jail and then getting released and then what happens. So those are concerning dynamics. So, I think that's something that we should kind of look at. I'm not sure about the re the release times. I don't know. Warden, if you want to answer that about how that happens when people are processed and in the window of time in which people may be released.

Warden Harper -

We don't have a set time, we don't have no set times as Mr. Uber is recommended. But it's something that I can bring to my administration team to see if that's something that we can implement. So, we'll look into it. We can report back out next meeting.

f. Adjournment

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Councilman Defazio, duly seconded by Mr. Korinski to adjourn the meeting at 5:04pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chelsa Wagner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chelsa Wagner, Secretary