

The monthly meeting of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board was held on Thursday June 6th, 2019 in Conference Room #1 of the Allegheny County Courthouse in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at 4:00 PM.

**Members Present**

Honorable Judge David Cashman

Sheriff Mullen

Brad Korinski representing County Controller Chelsa Wagner

Barbara Parees representing County Executive Rich Fitzgerald

Councilman DeFazio

Terri Klein

Others in attendance:

Chief Deputy Warden David Zetwo representing Warden Harper

Marion Damick of the Pennsylvania Prison Society

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** *calls meeting to order.* The first order of business is public comment, Ms. Damick--

**Public Comment**

**Speaker 1 – Ms. Damick:** I did see a notice that last month – May 8<sup>th</sup>, I think it was – that you should have the answers to your request for people interested in doing the suicide blankets. Did that come in?

**Chief Deputy Zetwo:** What will happen is that Chief Deputy Williams will be talking about that, ma'am.

**Ms. Damick:** Okay. Wrong person. I will ask her when she comes -

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** We won't steal her thunder.

**Ms. Damick:** Yeah. Perfectly alright. I just – you know – wanted to double check that it was going along, and I did see that the names that was required did come in last month, so I just hope that something has come in. I do understand though that – I heard from an inmate – you've lost hot water again. During last month, there was a week when you didn't have any hot water anywhere, and – thinking – this is not the first time. It was the second time – the third time probably – that something has gone wrong with the hot water. Can you get the county to do a whole new hot water thing, so we're not doing one hot water a week after another?

**Chief Deputy Warden Zetwo:** Actually, we're -

**Ms. Damick:** It's not your fault. But, as you know, this county – it's like the elevators. Either one goes off or two go off, but if you don't fix them all, they'll continue to go off – the same thing

with the elevators, with the washing machines, and with everything. It's continually falling apart. Yes – you are – I mean I consider you the new one because I remember the old jail wasn't how it was. But now, you are the old jail, and you've become like my house – an old house with that type of equipment. I am urging that – whoever needs to report to the executive -- county executive – that all of the equipment needs to be updated, so that we don't have – that means when that week was off, C.O.'s – nobody – in the facility had hot water for a week. That shouldn't be, and I think you all will agree with me on that. I'm glad to hear now that you will hear about the suicide blankets. Speaking of the suicide though, I did have conversation with women. The only problem they had with the blankets is they're not cuddly. They're very tough, and I suppose that's what they are supposed to be, but – you know – for females, it's nice to cuddle, and they aren't cuddly. But otherwise, yes – they do keep you warm at least, and when you're getting that cold cell – it's just a little tricky. However, one of our concerns though is the number of inmates who were here under federal jurisdiction – who is making the rules? I understand they have some rules. They can't attend hardly any of the programs and that they can't do any work. And this particular inmate – You're losing a good inmate. He's a chef. He's an expert chef, but no. As you shake your head “no” – chef or no -

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** I'm not talking about his abilities as a chef. Those are all done by the United States Marshal Service. We are nothing more than a holding facility. We get -

**Ms. Damick:** I know, but I'm asking -

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** We get a fixed rate for each one of those individuals because – whether you believe this or not – the United States government doesn't have jails. They have prisons. They don't have any jails, so if they are holding someone prior to trial, they are holding them in a jail. They are paying the holder – the owner of that jail – certain fees for those people to be there. That being said, they dictate what that individual can do while they are in the facility.

**Ms. Damick:** That's what I wanted to know. Is it the feds who do that or the states who do that?

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** The United States Marshal Service – the federal government.

**Ms. Damick:** Federal government – so now I know which agency to go to -

**Cashman:** If you've got a complaint about somebody who you think isn't being provided with enough services, you have to go see them because we can only operate within the parameter of what they allow us to do because that's their prisoner. I've said this to people a number of times. We've had people in that jail doing federal sentences that have never been picked up by

United States Marshal Services because it was cheaper to house them in our jail than to put them in a federal institution.

**Ms. Damick:** I don't doubt that -

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** And we were begging them to come and get these people that completed their sentences because we just can't throw them out the door.

**Ms. Damick:** I don't want you to throw them out the door. I want you to educate them and give them some services. It seems so morally wrong -

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** We can only do what we're permitted by contract -

**Ms. Damick:** You have somebody here who could benefit while he's being kept – they're paying you less than it costs them to keep them in their prisons.

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** The diction that the government operates under is that since they are a federal prisoner, they are under our controls and we dictate all the rules regardless of where they are physically. So, it's much like a federal enclave. That's federal government territory, and you can't do anything other than what they say. I wish there was a better answer for it, but that's the nature -

**Ms. Damick:** The fact that any help from the feds – don't hold your breath. Okay. I did have – did go to the jail and talk to the females which is very good. I've also talked to females, and there was a nice, big gym which was completely empty when I was talking with my inmate. I questioned – she told me that they aren't allowed to exercise in the gym – and I'm questioning why not. Now, and another time, I was in a similar place where you had a group from outside the jail come in and they were exercising. They had a guard. But I'm wondering – the women should have exercise, not just the little open room. They should have exercise. They're right on the same floor. Why can't they use that gym? Does anyone know?

**Chief Deputy Warden Zetwo:** The gyms are used and what they do is – the gyms are used at various times throughout the day – sometimes regulated during the day, sometimes in the evening. All the inmates have gyms that connect outside so at least that way they can go out and get some air.

**Ms. Damick:** Yes and no. I mean yes – but not like the gym would - okay. Putting that aside then. One thing though is you mentioned – I certainly hope you get another meeting with the transgender people – but, one thing that is successful – speaking of women – there's a transgender in this female pod, and they're doing extremely well. I can understand why – a transgender in a female – the females are getting along with the female – everything is good and also there are women in the room next to them. Anyway, but the male – I can understand

what your problem is because you have females being male, and I think – well I won't mention how men are – but they have other feelings, and that could be why they aren't getting – it's difficult on that set up. But, it's successful in the women's group. It just something – Alright. One other thing, overtime – it was my impression that when you hired a whole group of – I don't remember how many – new C.O.'s that was to help reduce overtime. Is there any record – I understand that it's been over time now with regular C.O.'s – is there any way of keeping track of how much overtime is being used each month and how many individual C.O.'s are put on that assignment? My feeling and my observation that when you're over tired and not too happy, the C.O.'s not good for – it makes for a bad inmate – more prone to do something or criticize or hit or whatever. That's what I'm trying to get the number of overtimes down, and I was hoping that the new C.O.'s – I believe that I think the board might benefit from knowing that at the next meeting – how it's reduced – what the figures are because then they could get some idea of what to do or how to leave it. Because a good C.O. leaves a good inmate and vice versa.

**Chief Deputy Warden Zetwo:** Well to answer your question, overtime is tracked. Overtime is done in according to collective bargaining agreements in a basepoint when an individual signs up and makes themselves available and ultimately go into the force – and as in all big organizations, there's a turnover. So, as you bring new people on board, we like to say that “Yeah we had ten people graduate and move right into being officers available for shift work” – that may have been offset by individuals who have retired in the meantime.

**Ms. Damick:** Here, I was hoping that they would take plenty of overtime. But you're saying, mostly, it's because the other officers are retiring and that they fill in empty spots.

**Chief Deputy Warden Zetwo:** Not just overtime – we have other people like some people resign, some people go onto other jobs –

**Ms. Damick:** - who have left -

**Deputy Warden Zetwo:** - as you add into the workforce, you have the obvious factor where you have people coming in on one end and there's always going to be people coming out on the other end and at other points in between.

**Ms. Damick:** But maybe – would it be helpful to see that report? Any reports? I think it might give us some idea of how overworked the C.O.'s are.

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** Well, what we can do – we can ask the warden to prepare a report for us and also ask the Controller to look at that issue in terms of the viability of having people there -- whether or not they're just going to be replacing people who are leaving – whether or not they are replacing people who are now turning down overtime – whether or not the union

contract will support somebody who wants the overtime as opposed to the newbie coming in. There are a lot of other issues involved –

**Ms. Damick:** I don't think there's a question of "do you want to take overtime or not?" – I think they take overtime if they are assigned overtime.

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** That, in large measure, is a union-related contract issue.

**Ms. Damick:** Okay. I happen to know -

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** I don't think -

**Ms. Damick:** Do you people – honestly, I can tell -

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** I don't think it's a bad idea to know where you are in terms of the number of employees you have, the number of people that are asking, the number of people that are receiving, the number of people that are entitled, and what your union contract responsibilities are, in particular, overtime. So, we can see if the system is being fairly managed. I don't have a problem with that at all.

**Ms. Damick:** I think that it – except, I did notice that while you do hire when you are low on nurses which you already are – the medical systems minus seven, minus three, and three and six – to various nurses groups – minus five – that you do hire outside to do that, to take over. I'm saying that's a substitute, and if you consider having more nurses who are permanent, then you don't have to rely on outside aid who don't know – who don't always know what's required – and though I'm sure they are the same ones who come in and out. But, to have them on staff instead of having to pay outside – I think you mentioned how important nurses are. Their value is tremendous, and you have nurses – complimentary or whatever it's called – very true because I think they can get overworked and I know you hire other people, but I'm thinking just look at the salary type. Everybody who works here is in jail for a whole day just like the inmates – not just but they are in jail. You don't get out for lunch. You're just here. It's not a happy place. You have to pay for that.

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** Thank you. Any other public comment?

**Nique Craft:** Public comment? Yeah. I'm just going to sit because I don't want to be an opposing person because I don't have questions and I'm not going to super delicate and nice about this. I was in ACJ three weeks ago. I was picked up on a warrant from something that I did when I was 18.

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** Could you please state your name?

**Ms. Craft:** Nique Craft is my name.

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** Thank you.

**Ms. Craft:** I was picked up on a warrant for something that I did when I was 18 years old at a keg party -who cares. The moment I walked in there, the first thing I saw on the column was a "Blue Lives Matter" sticker. Whether your intentions or your political leanings are towards one or the other, that is the last thing that a queer, black femme needs to see when she walks into ACJ. Secondly, when I came in there, the C.O.'s treated me as if I had picked a random baby up off the sidewalk and ate her heart out. They treated me, frankly, like I was a piece of shit, which I understand that when people are in jail, they need to be treated a certain way, but I have never – I go to rallies all the time. I have never even been treated that badly by a skinhead on the opposing side of what I was protesting against. Once we were booked into processing, there is no information. Nobody tells you the time. Everybody treats you like garbage. There are males who are moping the floor, passing by a woman's cell while she is literally using the toilet, talking to them or hitting on them or sexually harassing them, and there is not one guard in there who is going to be like "Hey listen. You guys can't do this. You can't be here." I don't know if you guys know this right now, but the jail is severely overcrowded. It is so overcrowded that I spent four days – not upstairs – downstairs, in the basement, in a holding cell with 23 other women, and we slept on the floor. We slept on benches. We weren't given any blankets. We weren't told what was going on. The only thing we had to keep us warm were our uniforms, and every time we asked the guard what was going on, they told us to sit down and shut the fuck up, and that was it. The water fountains there are so warm that we didn't get water. I didn't get water for four days. Four days, like I cook for a living. I chug quarts of water every single day. I am anemic. I have endometriosis. I'm 34 years old. I had a kid when I was 15. I have body issues. I'm a chef. I stand all day. The last place I needed to be was on a cement floor for four days with no water. I am on an exhorbitant amount of meds. When I was asked about what meds I was on, I was asked, when I was in hysteria, the moment that I was in booking. Because there were certain meds I missed out on telling them that I needed, I didn't get them. There were other women there who needed insulin. They didn't get the insulin they needed. Nobody came and regulated their levels to see what they were at. I watched a woman every day – her face bloated and contracted, bloated and contracted. Her levels were supposed to be at 120. They were at 600. On the third day that I was there, we were supposed to go to court. Nobody told us we were going to court, and I told you my meds were regimented. On that day that I was told I wasn't going to court, there was a little, green pill added to my medicine – I never asked for it. When I took it, I fell asleep and woke up eight hours later. Instead of somebody telling me that I wasn't going to court, we were sedated. There were women there who were on their periods. When they asked for pads, there were told that this isn't the Holiday Inn. There were women who needed to speak to their children – women who needed facilities – and all of the C.O.'s treated us like we were less than dirt, and again, I understand when you're in jail, the idea is to make somebody feel like they shouldn't be back there. But

that's not what they did. They made us feel like we should be there for the rest of our lives, and they made comments about that. When I went to take out my jewelry, they looked at me and said, "Why would you put those things in your ears and get tattooed if you knew you were going to get arrested eventually in your life?" One of the C.O.'s looked at me dead in my face and said that to me. I don't think you guys understand. You have these meetings and these oversight meetings where you talk about these issues that go on, but I don't think you understand the stigma that you are putting on people. I'm a recovering addict. I've been sober for six years. ACJ broke my sobriety when they gave me that green pill. I didn't ask for it. It was an opioid. That's six years of my clean time gone, and I don't think – you guys shake your head – you think you know what that means. That meant when I got out of ACJ, I needed to go to therapy, I needed to go to NA meetings – more than one NA meeting in one day – just to combat something that I had when I was 18. That is the most oversighted – I can't even describe it. The bologna sandwiches that they got – the bologna sandwich, one pear, juice drink, two pieces of bread – for four days straight, three times a day, in between these hours of intervals where I felt like I was being treated like a prisoner of war. And when I left there, - and still even to this day – I can't hang out with my friends or I can't even look half of my friends in the eye or hang out with them because I feel like I left other women in that cell like a POW – like a prisoner of war – I'm not being sarcastic about that at all because I know PTSD – the things that I suffered, the things that I saw there were ridiculous. There was a woman there who had terminal cancer. She's got maybe a month left. She said, "If I have to spend two more days in this building, I'm going to kill myself." Me and another inmate had to talk her down off a ledge. Why was that me? That shouldn't have been me. I took care of a girl who was going through detox off of heroine. For three days straight, I had to take care of this girl. A C.O. came over to her while she had her face planted in the ground - drooling on the ground – kicked her feet to see if she would wake up, and she didn't move, and they walked out of the room. I took care of her – not the C.O., not the nurses – me, and it's not my place. It's not my job. I wasn't there to have to counsel and rehab these women, but I had to because you guys are failing at your jobs – every single one of you - this entire county, you guys sitting here. You're nodding your heads. You're going to take notes. That's dope, and I'm not going to leave here feeling refreshed at all. I talked to another girl, who just left, who was in the same building where she said they got so exhausted and malnourished, she thought she was going to die. Four days on a cement floor. I would really like to see you guys do a half hour. I guarantee you, you can't, and we're forced to do that with nobody telling us anything other than the fact that we were in jail and this is what you get. I came here today because I promised the women in that cell that I would do everything in my power to make sure that they never felt the despair that we felt. The idea that I was there for four days, and I am still afraid to this day that in two weeks that I might fucking end it because of the things that I heard and I saw. Pregnant women – six months pregnant, laying on a cement floor for four days with no water and can't even sit in the infirmary - can't

get their meds – insulin – can't get their meds – cancer – can't get my meds. I just – I don't know what the whole point of this meeting is. I came in here with fire in my belly and my heart and just imagining what you guys were going to say – what the looks on your faces were going to say when I told you. Even the fact that you guys aren't even reacting kills me. I don't think you understand. I really don't. It's like laying out there on the cement with a tiny, little box over you, and even where it's located – I saw three of my friends riding bikes in the four days that I was there – people I grew up with – while I was sitting in jail. Those are the things I had to see. I had to hear women and men screaming and wailing as if their lives were going to be over, and they had only been in those cells for three hours. Again, I understand we need to be punished. We need to understand "don't break the law," but when I was 18, I got arrested because I was trying to save some girl from driving home drunk - and I just didn't follow up on it because I felt like I was being a superhero, so I didn't do what I needed to do. That was my mistake, but I'm 34 now. I had to pay for it in the worst way, and I really think it's more than just being like "Okay, we're going to fix this. We're going to do something about it." I think the only people who could understand what a lot of us went through were people who stayed at a concentration camp, and I do not say that lightly. My mother is from Germany. I have many friends who are Jewish. I've met people from the Holocaust, and the same things they told me is the same thing that I experienced. At 34 in 2019, that was not something I ever thought I should or have to do, and I think these meetings have to be more – I feel like I have to do more because if you guys don't, then I don't know what I'm going to do with myself – and I honestly don't know the next time if I do the protest thing - if a cop walks up to me and intends on handcuffing me and taking me back to ACJ, I will slit my own throat before I walk back into that building, and I'm not even kidding.

**Shawn Green:** I second that.

**Ms. Craft:** – Not even kidding. That's not me exaggerating. That's not me having a mental illness. That's – I will not go quietly back into that building. And these are the types of people that you are sending back out into the street, and they are going right back there for that reason. They make you feel like you're nothing – like they look at every single one of you – no matter who you are, no matter what color you are, no matter how many ties you guys are wearing – they look at you and you go "you fucked up, and you are the worst human being on the planet Earth." - I don't care what you look like – and your C.O.'s are doing these things. So there's my little thing – like I just – you guys are killing people. People are dying in that building, and it's a little more than women need recreation. Women don't get any time. They don't get the time that the guys do when they stand at the vending machines. They call their girlfriends. They have these chats. Then, they look in our cell and go "Oh baby, I love to lick that pussy. Look at you over there taking a shit." You know how that feels? When you're in the bathroom and some guy's looking at you, saying those ridiculously crass things to you – it creates – I'm not

even going to apologize for it. It creates a mindfuck you were not prepared for. That's not how jail's supposed to be at all. They split the genders, so things like that don't happen. I shouldn't have had to go to sleep at three o'clock in the morning, worrying about being sexually harassed literally to death or having a C.O. look at me and go "this broad expects this place to be a Holiday Inn because she asks for a pad, so she could plug up her bleeding body." It's just – it's not right, and it just goes beyond this. I hope you guys go beyond this, and I hope that my words haunt you the same way that this place has continued to haunt me for weeks because I've been through trauma – like I've been through the worst – like I'm one of those – like I've seen so many things, especially with drug addiction. I've never seen anything like I've seen in ACJ in the four days that I've been there, and I – to even imagine that a woman this size was sleeping on the floor for four days on cement – for four days, you guys, with no water – no water to speak of – 'cause you're like "oh you have the water fountains." It was spitting out hot water – you couldn't even drink out of that. So – you know – fix your death camps or else I'm going to be here every Thursday at four o'clock cursing up a storm and being super crass until something is done – 'cause I connected with these girls that were in there like I know things that are still happening, and I'll know the things that are happening next week because I do have friends, and I was told not to network and you best believe that is exactly what I did.

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** Thank you. Any other public comment?

**Mr. Green:** Yep. So, my name is Shawn Greene, and I was beat up at the Allegheny County Jail by the C.O.'s. It was nearly over a month ago, and today - sitting here - I still would slice my throat before I'd go back to that jail. That's a fact. Before I was put back in that position – so my issue is that, at the jail, there are guards who are not properly trained to deal with people with mental illness. I have a mental illness, and when I'm put under a lot of pressure, I don't know how to react sometimes, and I've been beaten for that twice at the Allegheny County Jail. The first time, I had PTSD for two years and did not live my life. This time, I have real support. I have activists behind me that showed me that I'm going to get back on my feet – that I can keep going, so now I'm lucky enough to stand here and say why are there four blind spots in processing at the ACJ – Period – If there's a blind spot, that makes you guys pretty – you know –

**Ms. Craft:** It leaves us vulnerable –

**Mr. Green:** -open to beat us up every opportunity you get. I was physically thrown around and they reminded that there were blind spots when I was placed in those blind spots. Your sergeant punched me in the face and told me I deserved it. He said, "Where's my no justice, no peace?" – because I would have tested in jail three days prior to my arrest for protesting. I'm not sitting here to say anything besides you are all killing people. You do not even realize it. No one is helping anyone inside that jail. There is no one inside ACJ working for the best interest of those inmates. That's a fact. I've been there multiple times – every time for something simple –

and I was forced to stay for four days on mental health even though I passed every time. So, I don't understand what it is that you guys are trying to do, but I think that there needs to be more. You guys aren't regulating your C.O.'s. You're not training them to do anything besides be aggressive – and she said something about overtime – when I was there, there were 16 guards that were forced into overtime. It was 22-hour shifts that a guy told me he had to work while his kid's birthday was that day. That guy – that same guy – threatened a kid on my way out because he wouldn't calm down. I watched your guards put two guys in a shower together who were throwing racial slurs at each other – I watched that with my own eyes. I was held with a federal inmate who just beat the shit out of a guard, days prior – to be in a place with him – like there is no regulation in the ACJ, and there are three deputy wardens awarded. None of you guys are present – none of you guys are doing anything about it. I don't even know half of you guys. I don't even know you. That's why I'm looking at you. This is your responsibility to be responsible. You're not being responsible. Your peers are not being responsible. There are set people up to die. If I didn't have what I have, I would not be standing here. I would be dead – by choice, by fear. I should not be afraid of the people that are supposed to protect. There are people in jail dying - suicide. How do you die in the custody of someone else? Where is your regulation?

**Ms. Craft:** - if I could interrupt really quick – do you know how one of the last ones – do you know this? Somebody did die, and they figured it out. You know how innovative you get? She tied the towel around her neck, and she flushed it down the toilet and hung herself. That's how people are killing themselves – it's not like you watch prison stories, and people are shanking each other. People are getting inventive in ways that you have no idea. That's how much they're dying in there. Sorry to interrupt.

**Mr. Green:** You're good. I was – the medical staff are horrible, and you guys don't actually care for the people that are – I mean at least if you're going to beat me up – like I couldn't stand on my own two feet. I couldn't see in front of me. They really beat me up, and the nurse looked at me and said he's fine. That's not okay. That's not what we're supposed to do. We talk about transgender women being placed with men. I watched a transgender woman be placed with men like me, and I watched her get tormented by the men – by the guards, who enticed the men to torment her. That was normal. That's not normal – that's not okay. I don't care what you think about her. Place her somewhere she's safe. Give her the opportunity to be herself instead of putting her in the position to be hurt or raped – like you guys don't do anything for people, yet you're supposed to make sure they're okay. This is an institution that is set to institutionalize and that is exactly what you're doing down there. Work on that. Fix that. Stop with the blind spots. Stop letting your guards beat people up, and then when the Post Gazette calls and asks for the story – you tell them it never happened. It happened. I got the pictures. It happened twice. You guys keep beating people up. Stop. Figure that out. Then, we'll talk about

overtime because until you figure that out – why you guys are not working that out – then we have no other thing to talk about because people keep dying. Suicide doesn't happen. It's not a choice. That's something that you're forced into down there. I had a choice outside to live or die. In there, the choice is taken. That's your fault – no one but yours and your peer's. Keep that in mind the next time you guys have this meeting and the warden doesn't come down here – and express his care for what we have to say – the fact that she slept in the basement. Think about that at the next meeting – maybe he'll show up. Think about the fact that these meetings are held at 4pm and the courthouse closes at 5pm. Let's talk about that. Think about the fact that you guys usually end these meetings before an hour. How is that acceptable? – People are dying at your hands. How is that acceptable? Let's talk about it. That's all.

**Ms. Craft:** They're human beings – I mean I see it – I even see it on some of the people that I'm close with, but you see it on jails – jails are not supposed to be pleasant. You're absolutely right. It's not, but you are supposed to give basic food, cot, blanket, rehabilitation – you don't want people to come back, but I can tell all of those C.O.'s act like you're going to come back. You leave and these motherfuckers look at you and go "see you in two weeks." See you in two weeks? Did you – you're looking at these people and saying "see you again" – "I hope to see you again, so that I can continue to torment you." – We want to get – We are getting better. There are so many of us – and even if you're not – even if you're going to continue to be a fuck up for the rest of your life, you should have people once you get into jail that want to make sure that you do not return – that they just don't want to see you. We're not there for people's entertainment. We're not here for cop fighting rings with human beings. We're not here so people could laugh at all the quips that guys can possibly come up with through a brick wall to tell me how many ways he wants to fuck me in my ass. That's the last thing I want to think about when I'm going "man, I really hope I kept my job today." I hope when I get out I'm going to be able to be okay. I hope when I get out, I can hold onto my sobriety because I really don't remember what feeling high – I don't remember what that feeling is – I do now, and I think about it every day since I've been out there – and I swear to God, everything will be on your guys' hands if I regress back to being a junkie again because I was one of the worst ones, and I became one of the best people that I could in the six years that I stayed sober. Your rehabilitative place took that away – they took – Lorenzo was one of the best and brightest artists that we've had. This boy colors with chalk. He's like the nymph fairy of Pittsburgh, and his soul was ripped apart for nothing – for nothing. There's no rehabilitation here. You're just creating more fucked up, mentally ill people that are just going to continue to denigrate this city, and they shouldn't have to – I'm living my best life, and Lorenzo should be living his best life, and I shouldn't have to be worried – I think more about the women that are there than I think about myself everyday since I've been there – I can't wait 'til little Taysha Wright gets out. I can't 'til Kathleen Herbert gets sober. I can't wait 'til I see fucking Tim – These are all names that I remember – I've known Nico for over two years - can't even tell you what his last name is

– but I can tell you what the last names of all these people in the cell are for a reason. We shouldn't have been trauma bonding like that. It shouldn't have happened that way. It really shouldn't have – and I mean, as a little experiment, seriously go home and sleep on your bathroom floor for one night and see how we feel. That's how you're actually going to do the work because that's how we do the work – that's how activists do the work. We lock ourselves up so that we can feel how the other people are feeling. That's the only way you can get it done but sitting here, listening to us – nothing is going to happen if you guys actually don't want change – and like I said, we'll know that because unfortunately, we're black, brown P.O.C.s – we're going to have friends in that building again, and they're going to tell us stories, and I'm going to come here, and I'm going to tell you it in every crass, ridiculous detail that I can because you're giving me this floor, and you're going to hear every ridiculous word and bigoted thing people say to us because if we have to go through it, you guys have to go through it, too.

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** Okay. Thank you. Any other public comment?

**Ashley Palmer:** I have a question. Is there anything that you guys are able to do to streamline the pre-processing or the pre-arraignment process at the Allegheny County Jail, so people are not sitting down there for days at a time?

**Chief Deputy Warden Zetwo:** We make every effort to try to process people through as fast as possible whenever they come in right from the door – all the way through medical – they try to get them back there as quick as possible.

**Ms. Palmer:** And how long does that typically take? – because from what I'm gathering, it's four days –

**Chief Deputy Warden Zetwo:** We would make that – we try to make that for people up on top within 24 hours.

**Ms. Palmer:** At what point after – and I understand what you're saying – so from the time they see medical intake – from the time there before a magistrate to be arraigned, how long is that?

**Chief Deputy Warden Zetwo:** I don't know off hand, but I will get back to you with that if you want me to.

**Ms. Palmer:** Oh, absolutely. The next question – the next comment that I have is: Is it possible to actually put a magistrate there because these magistrates come and go? I've watched them come and go. They're not there for a full eight hours, and there's not always a magistrate there. You have to wait until they're done because there are magistrates that rotate in and out.

**Chief Deputy Warden Zetwo:** That's an issue you're probably going to have to address with the courts since –

**Ms. Palmer:** - I can do that.

**Chief Deputy Warden Zetwo:** -the courts are all involved with that. -

**Ms. Palmer:** Who do I have to speak to about that?

**Chief Deputy Warden Zetwo:** I wouldn't know off –

**Ms. Palmer:** Is it Judge Cars –

**Chief Deputy Warden Zetwo:** I wouldn't know off hand, and I don't want to give you false information.

**Ms. Palmer:** Okay.

**Chief Deputy Warden Zetwo:** But that's who you'd have to work with on that because they have a rotating schedule with magistrates coming down here and they sit on a bench.

**Ms. Palmer:** Okay, so I would need to speak with – Okay. I'll figure that out, and the next question I have is: What are your release times at the Allegheny County Jail?

**Chief Deputy Warden Zetwo:** It could be various times once they bring people down from upstairs and once they get their release papers down from inmate records. They send that out to the officers – once we get the word that the individual was supposed to be released, they should be released within 48 hours.

**Ms. Palmer:** Okay, so why are you guys releasing inmates at three o'clock in the morning?

**Chief Deputy Warden Zetwo:** I can follow up on that. That's –

**Mr. Green:** I have video.

**Ms. Palmer:** I have video as well. That's dangerous.

**Ms. Craft:** Yep.

**Ms. Palmer:** Then they're left downtown – exposed – They have nowhere to go. A lot of people – normal people – are sleeping at that hour, so that's –

**Ms. Craft:** The buses don't run.

**Ms. Palmer:** That makes no sense.

**Ms. Damick:** The buses can't – the buses –

**Ms. Craft:** The buses don't –

**Ms. Palmer:** They don't –

**Ms. Craft:** The buses aren't running –

**Ms. Palmer:** They don't run at three o'clock in the morning, and they're not getting there. They'll tell you.

**Ms. Damick:** Don't they get bus passes?

**Ms. Craft:** Well, no. They're told that if we show our bracelet when you get out that you can use that as a bus pass from jail, but I think Western Psych gives you a bus pass –

**Mr. Green:** There's no buses at three o'clock in the morning.

**Ms. Craft:** Right. Well, either way, there's no buses at three o'clock in the morning.

**Ms. Palmer:** So, you have inmates that are running around downtown with no way to get back to their families.

**Chief Deputy Warden Zetwo:** Well – like I said – I don't know. That's – I can get back to you on that –

**Ms. Palmer:** Okay.

**Chief Deputy Warden Zetwo:** That's – because I don't want to give you false information.

**Ms. Palmer:** I'm – but I'm giving you information like I have solid proof of that.

**Ms. Craft:** So, it's –

**Chief Deputy Warden Zetwo:** Yes, and I wrote that down, so I could follow up on that on my –

**Ms. Palmer:** Okay. I just think it's a safety concern for individuals, especially if you have them sitting down there for four days – and they're being abused and traumatized or assaulted and then you're thrown out onto the street. The next thing I wanted to ask about is: are there a lot of inmates being released without being given the proper documentation of who they're supposed to contact if they have to check in with something like Child Services? A lot of people are violating the conditions of their bond because they're just – “okay bye” – and they're not given the proper documentation. They're just shoved out the door and expected to figure it out – and I know this because I work in a criminal defense lawyer's office.

**Chief Deputy Warden Zetwo:** Okay. I can find that out for you, too.

**Ms. Palmer:** I have a list of names for you.

**Chief Deputy Warden Zetwo:** After this meeting –

**Ms. Palmer:** Why – I had left – I will call my boss and let my boss know. Do you have a card?

**Chief Deputy Warden Zetwo:** I will give you an email address.

**Ms. Palmer:** Okay. That's perfect. Thank you.

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** Any other public comment?

**Rebecca Ferrer:** I have a question – actually – so what I'm wondering is, a couple times, I've heard people ask questions here and I've heard you say "that's not us" – "that's not something we do. You have to do this here. You have to do this here. You have to do this here. Right?" – you don't have answers. You don't have oversight. This is the oversight board, right? Why are the people who can answer these questions – who are in charge of this – who can make change – why aren't they here?

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** The warden's on vacation. That's all I know.

**Ms. Ferrer:** Okay. I have heard at least three times –

**Ms. Craft:** Was he here last week when he wasn't on vacation?

**Ms. Ferrer:** None of it was –

**Ms. Craft:** Was he here when he wasn't on vacation? He's on vacation this week. Was he here last week or whenever the last time you guys have this meeting?

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** He was here.

**Ms. Ferrer:** I mean – you haven't just said the warden, right? You haven't said "the warden can answer that, and he's on vacation." You've said three different things about three different, other separate entities that are in charge of things that are major human rights violations. This is the oversight board. Why are the people who have oversight on those human rights violations not here? – and if you can't answer that question, then fine – It's not a question, but it's a question that you should be able to answer I think at the next oversight board.

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** Thank you.

**Swain Uber:** I just wanted to echo that – I think, again, there is a reason there are representatives on the boards and the sheriff's office and the controller and the county council and the executive all sitting at this table. It is your job, too – even if it may not fall under the jail's correct part of view – it is your job to oversee all of the processes around and surrounding the jail and the processes – that is literally what this is for. I understand that maybe you have to

speak with Judge Clark or whoever else, but you can do that – and you need to do that. This is your job, so – you should not be waiting for a week for people from the public to come and tell you that there is no processing in place. You should know that. You should have those numbers. Those numbers should be presented to us every time – it should be publicly available online – but it also should be presented to us in the forms of reports at every meeting. Those sorts of things should be out there. It shouldn't be up to people who just experienced the trauma of what it means to be at ACJ to come and ask for it. That should all be clear and out for everyone to get to look at, so it's not up to her to go talk to Judge Clark or whoever else.

**Ms. Palmer:** I will.

**Mr. Uber:** No. Do it. Do it.

**Ms. Craft:** That's why we have an Ashley.

**Mr. Uber:** That's for this table to do. That's your job.

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** Thank you. We will review the minutes of the May 2, 2019 meeting.

### 1. Review of Minutes for May 2, 2019

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** – anybody have any additions or corrections to the minutes?

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Sheriff Mullen, duly seconded by Ms. Pares to approve the minutes from the May 2, 2019 meeting.

### 2. President's Report

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** We are going to be looking at two requests from the warden for the expenditure funds, and I'm going to let the warden expunge it but it is part in parcel of overall program to try to address hopefully some of the issues that you have. That it is a fact that every inmate will now be getting a tablet once they go into the jail, and they will be able to communicate to the warden – to the administration – about all sorts of different problems – whether or not they've received their proper medication, whether or not there's been an incident of sexual abuse, whether or not they have some problems in intake – all of this is going to be down to the electronic monitoring system which will give us a better handle on it and a more immediate way to look at it and try to response to it, but I'll let the deputy warden talk about that when we get to that.

### 3. Warden's Report

**Chief Deputy Warden Zetwo:** Good Afternoon ladies and gentlemen of the board – several things have transpired since our last meeting. As everyone was told, correctional employee’s week was celebrated from May 5<sup>th</sup> to May 11<sup>th</sup>. A memorial service was held to remember those who passed away over the years with the county executive making some public comments up there in front of the jail at the memorial service. This service was followed by an awards ceremony for correctional employees. I want to pass on that we finished the expansion of the level five video arraignment area. What had happened was that we actually fabricated a new little section there, and we added onto an existing structure there which increased our capabilities from six work stations to eight, so we now have eight stations there where we can conduct video/telephone conferences with our inmate population, with the courts, and with the department of corrections. One of the things that I want to pass out here is – the facility is going to be getting ready to do a mock audit for our planned upcoming PREA – an inspection that’s going to occur toward the end of the year. We haven’t had a schedule yet. The facility is in a process now, getting ready to prepare for this inspection. This mock audit is trying to help prepare the ACJ for the upcoming prison rate elimination audit, and this mock audit will involve a review of the current geo-policies and procedures. They will come in and interview the staff and inmates alike, and they tour the facility to ensure the jail is in compliance in all areas of PREA-practices and guidelines. The secretary actually reached out and offered the assistance of the Department of Corrections. This individual is from the DOC down to help us prepare for that, and the auditors are going to be coming here from June 24<sup>th</sup> to June 27<sup>th</sup>. They were actually arranged through the PREA outreach center, and they’re going to coming from Melinda Allen and Associates, LLC.

#### **4. Deputy Warden’s Report**

**Deputy Warden Williams:** Good afternoon board. One of the items of request was a follow-up from last month’s meeting, in which we were talking about the batterer’s intervention program utilizing the Duluth model, and there was an additional request for some data to better understand the individuals that were served. Now, I wanted to add a point of clarity – the completion rates may seem to be low, and that’s related to those that complete while they’re incarcerated with us in the facility, but they are designated to be able to continue in the community as they work through their classes and coursework. In the community, there is a fee, so we try to get as many sessions completed while they’re in our custody so that they don’t have that expenditure while they’re out and they’re working on fulfilling a program that’s often court mandated for them to do. So, I wanted to make sure that I made good on my follow-up with the data request to re-ask the board for permission to utilize inmate welfare funds for \$159,090 for this request, and I think Ms. Klein had an additional question.

**Ms. Klein:** I do have a question. I was looking at the completion rate that dropped – I think significantly – from 49% to 34%. I was just wondering if there was a reason.

**Deputy Warden Williams:** Our population in the year where the completion rate was higher – our population like the stay was actually longer during that period of time. During 2018, I think a positive thing was that people were spending less time incarcerated, so that would contribute to those completion rates because those are only reflective during somebody's time in custody.

**Ms. Klein:** So, it is possible they were released –

**Deputy Warden Williams:** Yes.

**Ms. Klein:** - and unable to –

**Deputy Warden Williams:** - unable to complete with us but able to continue in the community.

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** One of the other things you have to know is if somebody is sentenced and part of the sentence is to participate in the batterer's intervention program – if they don't complete it while they are in jail, it doesn't mean their period of probation is ended. That is a continuing responsibility, and they will not be ended – if you will – on the period of probation. It will probably be violated for not completing that program because they have to provide certification to the probation officer before they sign off on it. It's a program that provides a lot of good benefits to people – providing the understanding of how they should be interacting with their paramours, their wives, their families, and anybody they come in touch with – and it gives them a better insight. We try to get the percentage rate up – over 85%. It's a very beneficial program. Any motions to adopt the recommendation?

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Sheriff Mullen duly seconded by Councilman DeFazio to approve the proposal for the batterer's intervention program.

**Deputy Warden Williams:** Thank you very much. The second request that I have – and Judge Cashman touched on this a little bit – we will be moving towards an implementation program that provides access to tablets to the individuals while they are in our custody. Part of those initiatives will include an expansion of programs, access to music, messaging, and additionally their ability to do library searches on the tablets, which should then allow more people to be able to access those resources without having to compete. So right now, on the housing units, there is one kiosk, and individuals have to utilize that when somebody's not on there. Typically, this contract has been held with the county for a two-year period, but because we will be transitioning to the tablets, we're requesting to renew only for one year and the request for those funds to continue the law library services are \$38,640 and that's a request also to come from the inmate welfare fund.

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** This is – you can understand -- we have a contract with Lexis to provide access for inmates in the jail to do their legal research. However, they only have access to that particular program at 46 kiosks, so you've got 2,000 inmates at 46 spots where they can go online. The thrust behind this particular program is to expand the tablet program to allow anyone who's in possession of a tablet to access Lexis Nexis so that they can be doing their legal research not in one particular area. They can do it in their own cell. They can do it in the pod. They can have all of that information available to them. It will also provide a database that can be expanded by the jail to cover a number of other situations. One – I'm talking about medication. Did they get the proper medication? If they get improper medication or if they get it at all, make a complaint about how they're being treated by correction officers. All of that will go into a central database to – so we can have that information and then start to make an investigation out of it, and we will provide a figure – a better database – handling problems in the jail, but there will be no direct connection between inmates nor do they get a connection where they can access the internet for the purposes of connecting to another individual.

**Ms. Klein:** Question. Is it the same system that will be passed out in the morning and then collected in the evening?

**Deputy Warden Williams:** We haven't fully established – in some housing units, depending on the amount, we may be able to have longer access. We have to learn charging capabilities to make sure that they are able to utilize them, so I'm not certain of the full technological capacities. We do know that we have a lot of ideas we would like to implement with this program, and once a vendor is finally selected, we'll be able to sit down with them and better understand. We know that, right now, the tablet programs that exist are purely educational or for some music resources – those can only be utilized for a certain period of time due to battery life, so we're hoping that this might be a little bit more expansive.

**Ms. Klein:** I would just say that it would be nice for people after six o'clock –

**Deputy Warden Williams:** Yes.

**Ms. Klein:** - to have access because it's a long day.

**Deputy Warden Williams:** Yes.

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** Any motion with respect to the request made for these two inmate programs?

**Ms. Klein:** I would move that we agree to the -

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** Pardon?

**Ms. Klein:** Sorry. I move to accept the proposal.

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Ms. Klein to approve the proposal for the inmate tablet program, which was seconded by Mr. Korinski.

**Deputy Warden Williams:** Then the final update I have for the deputy warden's report, which Ms. Damick alluded to earlier, is that we did go through the suicide prevention RFP which is really an analysis for us and a look at what we're doing in the facility. So, the RFP was released and available on Public Purchase on 4/11/19. It was closed on 5/8 and then reviewed with a panel. It was competitive. We did have five vendors that submitted for this. It did go through our MWDBE verification and approval. A vendor – we believe – has been selected, and we plan to announce that very soon, so we anticipate an aggressive timeline with this as we did with our RP process so that we can continue to move forward and make any additional recommendations in the facility. I just wanted to provide an update with that. Thank you for supporting us along the way with those initiatives.

## **5. Old Business**

Nothing to report.

## **6. New Business**

Nothing to report.

## **7. Allegheny County Jail Medical Services:**

### **a. Allegheny Health Network**

**Deputy Warden Williams:** Back again. So, our pregnant population – we had a large number of individuals come into the facility. We currently have four females who are pregnant within our facility, and we had one individual who successfully delivered within this past reporting period. Mom and baby are both doing very well, so we are excited about that. Another initiative that was important to note is the partnership between the health department and the jail has been taking place – and to focus on Hepatitis A – so we've been providing some vaccines to some higher risk populations – if they accept – they have a right to refuse, but within this last reporting period, between our clinic manager, our substance use programs, our reentry program, and the health department, we were able to provide 67 Hepatitis A vaccines, which we were really excited to do. Lastly, something else that Marion Damick alluded to was the staffing, so I know that the numbers – we've talked about this in some meetings – appeared to

change dramatically sometimes and it can cause some concern, so it's important for us to offer clarity – that if there are vacancies for a nurse, we fill that position with an agency staff nurse. We're working actively to onboard county nurses, and we've made this pitch a few times before if you know anybody who's looking, we continue to advertise, but we make sure that we do have agency nurses to fill in when we do not have county staff onboarded. I just wanted to offer that clarity. Thank you.

**Ms. Klein:** I have a follow-up.

**Deputy Warden Williams:** Yes.

**Ms. Klein:** There was a publication that the ACLU put out – I'm thinking like eight years ago – It was called "Pregnant and Parenting Behind Bars," and it was for – the idea was to be – it was a free distribution, and I wonder – I just want to follow up that it was something that would be helpful for inmates to still have copies of that.

**Deputy Warden Williams:** I don't if we have copies of that. I do know that we partner with Duquesne University who offers pregnancy classes as well as resources. They do sell in partnership with Dr. Anderson. She's one of our physicians who provides care and support to our pregnant female population, and we partner with the Doula Organization as well so that they can be present and advocate for moms' birthing plan to be honored during that process. So, I'm not sure if that publication is offered, but I will find out.

**Ms. Klein:** - 'cause I could get you it – I'm sure.

**Deputy Warden Williams:** Thank you.

## **8. Community Corrections Reports**

### **a. The Program for Offenders**

**Mr. Gilmore:** Mike Gilmore from the program. We recently hired a new facility manager for our male facility. She has a background in mental health. She has managed a mental health facility before. We welcome her and believe that she is going to be a good addition to our administrative team.

### **b. The Renewal Center**

**Mr. Zack:** Good afternoon, Adam Zack reporting for the Renewal Center. Our corporate office has moved from Grant Street to the Boulevard of the Allies now we're right next to our male work release residential building, and so far, the transition has been very smooth. Also, this

past month, we had our PREA audit, and we have not gotten our official results yet, but all signs show it will be a good audit. We're just waiting for the official results to come back. Then, also, it's this time of year again where we're partnering with the Downtown Pittsburgh Partnership. Last week, we cleaned up an alleyway over by Market Square by the Dunkin' Donuts. It was staff and reentrants that cleaned the alleyway. We're going to do that a couple times this year.

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** Thank you.

**c. Electronic Monitoring**

**Dave Daley:** Good morning your honor and the board. Dave Daley, I will be representing the electronic monitoring. There are 832 active on the bracelet for April. 77 completed were taken off successful, and two were returned due to capital violations. Thank you.

**d. Goodwill**

**Gaye Velar:** Good afternoon, Judge Cashman and the board. May not sound like much, but I'm happy to announce we're going to be hiring a new case manager – since March, I've been the only case manager, so for me, I'm exceedingly happy and this person will start June 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you – and one other thing, the board – the last time I was here – asked, we were getting some painting done and getting the floors waxed, and they wanted to come tour the facility. Anytime that you now have where you're free, please come and see us.

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** Thank you. Motion to adjourn –

**Ms. Damick:** Can I just – before you adjourn, I just want – I'm not sure that Deputy Williams mentioned it because I couldn't hear it very well. There's been one more attempted suicide last month. Sorry to interrupt.

**Honorable Judge Cashman:** Okay. Thank you.

**9. Adjournment**

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Councilman DeFazio, duly seconded by Sheriff Mullen to adjourn at 5:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chelsa Wagner, Secretary