

The monthly meeting of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board was held on Thursday, January 3, 2013, in Conference Room #1 of the Court House, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at 4:00 p.m.

The following members were present:

The Honorable Donna Jo McDaniel
The Honorable Sheriff William Mullen
Austin Davis representing The Honorable Rich Fitzgerald
Joe Asturi representing The Honorable Chelsa Wagner
Joe Catanese representing The Honorable Dr. Charles Martoni
M. Gayle Moss

Also present were Warden Orlando Harper, Deputy Warden LaToya Warren, Major Ron Pofi; Marion Damick; Dana Phillips, Doug Williams, Chuck Madarino, Larry Ludwig, Mike Gilmore, Carol Hertz, ACCHS and other interested parties.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Marion Damick discussed the following:

- Welcomed everyone for 2013
- Federal prisons have reduced costs of phone use by inmates. Look at this in regards to County contracts for phones (which are up for review) which are considerably high.
- Editorial – prison as a solution of choice for mentally ill individuals. Prison quadruple 2000-2006. And is 56% greater than the non imprisoned population.
- Library Services –Hope to have a report from the Warden on the progress
- Reminder: Proposal on how family members notification when sent to hospital, on how many can visit and when. This has been stuck for 1 year and ½ and hope you consider this year.

President McDaniel also wanted to follow-up on what Mrs. Damick said. She stated that we need to pay attention – Alliance College is being changed into the State Correctional Institution of Cambridge Springs. If this doesn't show us we are going in the wrong direction I don't know what does.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of Dec. 6, 2012 were motioned by Ms. Moss and seconded by Mr. Davis and approved by the members of the Board.

WARDEN'S REPORT:

Follow-up to Alternative Housing:

- Designed a plan on how to fill the beds.
- Given deadline of January 30th so we will have the beds filled.

Good news selection has been made for the Deputy Warden, and the name will be released soon.

January 15th - 18 correctional officers starting basic training; of those 15, 3 are black.

Follow-up to Leisure Libraries:

- Donations for books are in process. Donations are being accepted. Remember that not everybody in jail reads on a college level so be broad in selections or donations.
- Looking at locations for shelves and books in the pods
- Should be up and running within a couple months.

The Warden's Report was accepted.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Moss asked if anything has been done on how we would notify parents of inmates going to the hospitals. The response was that there is a protocol, each situation is evaluated and determine the process of notification to family. Warden and Sheriff determine security risks, etc. Further discussion was held on the process, including transportation of inmates. Ms. Moss is still looking for the written policy, and that notification of the policy is provided to the community at large. The President summarized that:

1. There is a written policy,
2. Warden and Sheriff work it out, and
3. Of course, the family can come to court for assistance when there is a problem.

Ms. Moss wants to make sure that the family is notified. The Deputy Warden pointed out that the Jail has to be notified by a Doctor/Hospital on the determination of life threatening illness. If determined to be life threatening by the hospital physicians, the family is immediately notified.

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

Allegheny County Correctional Health Services Report

Nothing to report.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS REPORTS

Nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Sheriff Mullen, duly seconded by Mr. Davis to adjourn. The Allegheny County Jail Oversight Committee meeting was adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chelsa Wagner
Secretary