

The monthly meeting of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board was held on Thursday, September 1, 2016, in the Gold Room of the Courthouse in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at 4:00 p.m.

Members present:

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

Also attending: Warden Harper, Amy Kroll, Marion Damick and other interested parties.

A proclamation was presented to Marion Damick in recognition of her dedication to social justice and civil rights. Today, September 1st, 2016, shall be Marion Damick Day.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Marion Damick representing the Pennsylvania Prison Society presented the following:

- She is grateful for the openness of the employees of ACJ as well as the prisoners. It makes it easy for her to address problems, assist in finding solutions and give praise when appropriate.
- Reviewing the Edovo Tablet Program, many of the male inmates are using the car app provided on the tablet. It may be helpful to check with auto body shops to evaluate their interested in hiring these men once they are released. This education should provide an opportunity for employment.
- The termination of parental rights. Legal notices are published in newspapers. Incarcerated parents may not have access to the information. Are individuals made aware of these notices, are the notices sent to jail? Can individuals appear via video or in person to prevent loss of custody? Dr. Walker replied that she was unsure about Orphan's Court but several courtrooms in Family Court are videoed. Judge Kim Clark is knowledgeable in this area and can assist with any questions. Parental rights are not lost in one sitting. There has to be evidence of relationship deterioration over a long period of time. Amy Kroll stated that there are inmates attending their CYF hearings via video arraignment. The notice comes through the parent advocate. If you are in jail and your child is involved, the inmate receives a hearing notice. Bill Mystic is informed and he arranges with Family Court for participation whether in person or video for the hearing.
- Reminded the Board the ACJ will be designating a Pod to juvenile male offenders. What arrangements are being made for juvenile female offenders?
- Mentioned that \$650,990 was being requested for services in the ACJ and is coming from the Inmate Welfare Fund for various things. How much of this money is going to each one of the items listed in the request from Chief Deputy Warden Warren.
 - In regards to the \$650,990 funds requested last month, transportation was one of the costs these funds are to cover. Why are bus passes (\$20,000 request) not covered under transportation? They are listed separately? Controller Wagner mentioned First Fleet could be given this responsibility. It should be evaluated for cost savings.
 - Inquired why staffing the Discharge and Release Center (\$153,488 request) was not covered in the County budget.
 - Addressed concern about the catering for the Pods coming from the Inmate Welfare Fund (\$10,000 request). Wondering if during these special occasions (holidays, Graduation, etc.) the families understood the events were being funded by the Inmate Fund not by the County. It's a nice program, but should it be paid for by the inmates and their families?
 - Inquired if personnel retention was a problem because of low salaries. This should be evaluated.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

One correction was Lynn Griffin was listed representing Controller Wagner in the July 7, 2016 minutes. Controller Wagner was delayed but present. As corrected, a motion to approve the minutes of July 7, 2016 by Ms. Klein and seconded by Mr. Davis and unanimously approved by the board.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Judge Williams stated he is trying to get the board to focus on rebranding re-entry. It's such a waste of talent and opportunities for people as we plan for reintegration to their community if we are not proactive on planning. We, as a society, think we can give the Warden money to keep the incarcerated away from the public. This is one of the most inefficient models for a group who has fallen through the cracks. Do we want to spend large sums of money to keep people marginalized? With that money we could be retraining, creating therapeutic communities and rehabilitation, etc. There are many more beneficial to do with that money than warehousing people. Thoughts and ideas are welcomed on how we can improve our system to reduce recidivism.

WARDEN'S REPORT:

Warden Harper stated:

- Today marks the one year anniversary Allegheny County has taken over medical services at the ACJ. Thank you to Dr. Joseph who has helped make the program successful. There has been an improvement in the overall healthcare system.
- The male juvenile unit is now open. We appreciate Deputy Long for getting this unit up and running. The pod houses 11 males and they started class this past Monday. A location has been identified that will house female juveniles. Construction will begin soon. Currently the ACJ houses 1 juvenile female who will turn 18 at the end of the month. Allegheny County is the only county currently trying to separate the juvenile population from the adult population. Again, Allegheny County is at the forefront
- We have two new hires: David Siford as the Fiscal Manager and Eileen O'Malley as the Fiscal Analyst to evaluate and manage the Budget for ACJ.

DEPUTY WARDEN'S REPORT:

Amy Kroll, Administrator of Jail Reentry Services gave an update on the ACJ Virtual Visitation Program and the staffing at the Discharge and Release Center. Judge Williams stated that in the past many individuals would be released and rearrested shortly after because they had nowhere to go before or the Discharge and Release Center. Now the staff of the center ensure they have transportation, a place to go and that they arrive safely to where they going. The Discharge and Release Center is a separate entity and the funds requested are not included with ACJ services.

A motion to approve funding in the amount of \$153,000.00 for staffing the Discharge and Release Center was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Sheriff Mullen and approved by the Board.

Ms. Klein questioned what happens if the Port Authority rates change, where do the excess funds go? Ms. Kroll responded the funds will go towards next year. Ms. Wagner suggested a request be made to Port Authority for a subsidized rate for individuals being released. Ms. Kroll explained that the request was already made to Port Authority but was denied claiming they do not give subsidized rates. Ms. Wagner volunteered to follow up on this request with Port Authority. It is absurd since Port Authority provides via sponsorships, free transportation to football games or the casino. Controller Wagner explained she would condition approval, contingent on the Port Authority not allowing a subsidized rate. The Controller stated, no Allegheny County Authority should deny this request without an explanation to the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board. Mr. Davis explained that Port Authority has their own Board and should not hold funds because Port Authority said no. Ms. Wagner stated she

would like the motion to say the spending is being approved, while acknowledging the expenditure should be substantially less than funds requested. Ms. Wagner stated that she wanted to address the issue with the Port Authority but not hold up spending. Mr. Davis explained that he would not amend his motion and that his motion stands to approve funds. Ms. Wagner clarified that she does not want to hold up expenditure but she would like the Port Authority to get back to the board with a response on providing a subsidized rate. A motion to approve for the funding in the amount of \$20,000.00 for Zone 2 Bus Tickets was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. DeFazio and approved by the board.

A motion to approve funding in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the Catering for Program Pods was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. DeFazio and approved by the Board with one nay vote from Ms. Klein.

A motion to approve funding in the amount of \$153,000.00 for staffing needs of the Discharge and Release Center was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Sheriff Mullen and approved by the Board.

Jack Pischke, inmate program administrator, and Julie Kowalski, Family Services of Western PA provided details about the Batterer's Intervention Program. A motion to approve funding in the amount of \$152,033.00 for the Batterer's Intervention Programming was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Sheriff Mullen and approved by the Board. Ms. Wagner stated someone from the ACJ needs to report back, at the next meeting, with an RFP and then come back to us with a request for the Inmate Welfare Fund addressing the needs of the females with respect to dispute resolution. Mr. Davis explained that the ACJ will not come back to the Jail Oversight Board with an RFP. Ms. Wagner explained this is just an RFP request from the Inmate Welfare Fund for females with respect to resolution of disputes. Ms. Wagner indicated Correctional Officers at the ACJ need to have the ability to effectively assist individuals who are not equipped to deal with serious disputes. We need to support the staff at the ACJ when dealing with angry individuals.

Mr. DeFazio left the meeting, Joe Catanese sat, Chief of Staff, County Council sat in to represent him.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

One of the statutory powers and duties of this board is to preform unannounced visits twice a year to the ACJ. Judge Williams requested that Warden Harper provide some guidelines for Jail Oversight Board members when conducting these unannounced visits. Warden Harper agreed to prepare the procedures and email to the Controller's office for distribution. Board members will be notified when the unannounced visits will be conducted. Ms. Wagner explained that these visits would be:

- During an appropriate timeframe during the week
- Half of the board members would conduct the initial visits and the remaining members will attend a second visit.
- Visits are to be no more than one hour long

ALLEGHENY COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES

A. ALLEGHENY HEALTH NETWORK:

Dr. Joseph stated they recently held a Job Fair and 49 people responded. There are 6-8 people who are potential hires and are currently awaiting the security screening. The next Job Fair is September 13th and they will also be a participant. Ms. Wagner inquired about open positions still remaining. Dr. Joseph said they are in need of LPN's,

RN's and mental health providers. They are using an agency to assist in recruiting qualified individuals. Ms. Wagner requested a list of open positions be presented for the next meeting. Dr. Joseph agreed and explained they are currently in process of hiring an Assistant Director of Nursing. They are reviewing and evaluating 3-4 prospective applicants. Ms. Klein inquired about increase in the number of pregnant females in the ACJ and their care. Dr. Joseph explained that Dr. Anderson visits weekly to review their healthcare status and request any necessary accommodations needed to ensure the patients safety.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS REPORTS:

Program for Offenders- none

The Renewal Center- Adam Zak, County Case Manager Supervisor, explained that recently DDAP licensing recently conducted a visit and found to have no deficiencies. The staff will be participating in the Pittsburgh Recovery Walk on September 10th.

Electronic Monitoring- Steve Esswein highlighted the July 2016 report. There were 828 participants in the program. During this time, 112 participants successfully completed the program and 13 individuals were removed for violations. For the one month period, electronic monitoring has saved 31,265 jail days.

Goodwill- Gaye Velar, Case Manager, stated the PA Family Support Alliance assisted their participants with voter registration, access to religious programs, and other appropriate outreach.

A motion to adjourn was made by Sheriff Mullen, seconded by Ms. Wagner and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,



Chelsea Wagner
Secretary