The monthly meeting of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board was held on Thursday, April 2, 2015, in Conference Room #1 of the Courthouse in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at 4:00 p.m.

Members present:

The Honorable Judge Joseph Williams

The Honorable Judge David Cashman

County Controller Chelsa Wagner

Austin Davis representing Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald

County Council President John DeFazi**o**

County Sheriff William Mullen

Dr. Claire Walker

Also present were Warden Orlando Harper, Marion Damick, Deputy Warden LaToya Warren, John DeGhetto and other interested parties.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Ms. Marion Damick representing the Pennsylvania Prison Society addressed the Board with the following:

* There had recently been some positive publicity about the jail and criminal justice reform in the newspapers. In one of the newspapers it stated, “After years of complaints from rights within families of those incarcerated the Federal Communication Commission is investigating the financial intricacies of largely unregulated $1.2 billion a year prison funds system.” Ms. Damick suggested inquiring about this.
* After receiving a letter from a man incarcerated stating his concerns for not having a current parole officer, Ms. Damick called the County Probation Office about this case. She was informed that his parole officer had retired at end of March and that currently there was no replacement. Ms. Damick was informed that the County Probation Office is under a 90 day hiring freeze all other officers are at full potential. Ms. Damick stated her concern that the County Parole Office is being overworked and understaffed and questioned why is there a 90 day freeze. Judge Williams replied that the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board is in place for the safety and welfare of those incarcerated. Judge Williams informed Ms. Damick that this issue was not relevant to what the Jail Oversight Board is to oversee.
* Stated was the concern that only one out of 20 had passed the GED again.
* Positive things happening in the jail was noted including the work done in the re-entry programs, the author Judith Tannenbaum who held a workshop in the jail as well as a potential research project coming from the University of Pittsburgh.
* Corizon’s prescreening has not improved with only 66% of prescreened inmates having completed their intake. Also brought to attention was the City Paper having an article about HIV in the jail and those with HIV are not receiving their medication on time.
* Questioned was how often and how long restraints are used and why is it being used now when no previous cases have been reported.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

A motion to approve the minutes of March 5, 2015 by Mr. DeFazio and seconded by Mr. Davis and unanimously approved by the board.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

Judge Williams addressed the fact that he has been asking for those who attend the Jail Board meetings to “trust me “when it came to correcting the issues within the jail. He said that Carnegie Mellon University, UPMC and Allegheny Health Network have all agreed to partner in different ways to help get health services in the Jail back on track. Dr. Walker asked if this was a supplement to having Corizon. Judge Williams stated that this was the intention for now. Controller Wagner suggested that it could be helpful to have someone from the Controller’s office, since having done the audit on Corizon, to participate in the future healthcare meetings. Judge Williams agreed but stated that he is only a participant of this new healthcare process and does not direct it. Judge Williams thanked Controller Wagner for volunteering to assist in moving the County forward and stated that he would take Controller Wagner’s suggestion to volunteer back to the group for discussion. Dr. Walker inquired as to the source that this new process will be paid from. Judge Williams stated that he was unsure of the cost but stated that this cost will come mostly from the County Budget. Controller Wagner inquired about recommendation to the Administration that came from the Corizon audit that the Jail Board was to act on. It was suggested that if the Administration were to assess the $20, 000.00 penalty it would not only be symbolic but beneficial. Mr. Davis stated that he would take the suggestion back to the County Manager for him to review. Judge Williams stated that he felt the $20,000.00 was more of a declarative statement than a monetary gain.

**WARDEN’S REPORT:**

* Deputy Warden for Operations, Joseph DeMore has accepted the Warden’s position at Butler County. Dr. Walker stated that this is a loss for Allegheny County but a gain for Butler County. A motion was made by the board to get a plaque to show the appreciation for his work and asked Dr. Walker to draft a letter of thanks before Deputy Warden DeMore’s last day on April 24th.
* There will be a cadet graduation on April 3rd of twelve officers. Remarkably, four of those officers will be promoted straight into full time positions.
* The first week of May is Correctional Employees Week which will be celebrated.

**EXECUTIVE ACTIONS:**

Deputy Warden Monica Long requested:

1. Renew the Contract with Deaf Talk LLC who will provide interpreting services and equipment to the jail for impaired and non-English speaking residents. The term of this agreement will run from January 1, 2015 thru December 31, 2015 for the cost of $25,000.00. A motion to approve the funds for the Deaf Talk LLC Contract in the amount of $25,000.00 was approved by the board.
2. Enter a Contract with Touch Legal who provides maintenance and support for 46 kiosks located on each inmate housing pod. These kiosks provide law library information to each inmate housing unit. The term of this agreement will run from April 1, 2015 thru March 31, 2017 for a cost of $38,640.00 per year. A motion to approve the total funds for the Touch Legal Contract in the amount of $77,280.00 for the term was approved by the board.

Judge Williams informed those present that the monies for these contracts come from the Commissary Fund which is generated from the inmates and their families. The approval is to allow the spending of the Commissary Fund to go to these different services to improve the quality of life while in the ACJ.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**CORIZON:**

Dr. John DeGhetto, Medical Director for Corizon, provided a report summary from January thru February 2015. It was stated there had been an increase in Clinical Visits, Mental Health referrals and commitments to Torrance. During January, there was an audit done on the Drug and Alcohol program and the findings were that Corizon was in compliance with the Allegheny Department of Human Services standards. Dr. Walker inquired about the increase amount of ER runs during February and whether this was normal. Dr. DeGhetto agreed that this was particularly high and noted that during this time there were some significantly ill patients. Dr. Walker also asked if these individuals who were on ER runs had been housed in the ACJ for long periods of time. Dr. DeGhetto stated he wasunsure of the length of time these individuals have been in the ACJ. Dr. Walker stated that it may be helpful in the future to keep these kinds of statistics about health in the jailed community. Dr. Walker inquired as to what Staffing Vacancy Ratio stood for in the report. Mr. Keith Holstead explained that this figure was the percentage of staff on duty as opposed to what is contracted. Dr. Walker suggested that the reports should include numbers of staff and vacancy ratios by type of service along with numbers of residents referred or served. I that way the Board could identify workload issues. Controller Wagner stated that one of the findings by the Controller’s office during Corizon Audit was where the information provided in this area could be found.

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS REPORTS:**

***Program for Offenders-*** It was noted that due to a problem with the sprinkler system on March 13, 2015, the program had to relocate the residents. Becky Ludwig from the Renewal Center and Connie Clark of the Jail were thanked for their assistance and helping to move the residents to a floor in the Renewal Center. This is where the residents will be temporarily housed until the facility is repaired. This was stated as an excellent example of cooperation.

***The Renewal Center***- Mr. Adam Sellers, program manager, informed the board that training began with staff in the beginning of March so that they are in compliance with the pre-audits that are coming up with the Prison Rape Elimination Act. A thank you to Jack Pischke from the ACJ who was able to coordinate a representative from the YWCA and the Renewal Center and enable the female residents to participate in a Breast Cancer Awareness Workshop.

***Electronic Monitoring***- Mr. Frank Scherer highlighted the February report. There were 720 participants in the program as of February 2015. During this time 122 participants successfully completed the program and 10 individuals were removed for violations. For the month, the Electronic Monitoring Unit has saved 15,198 jail days. Dr. Walker inquired as to what percentage of the individuals on electronic monitoring were pre-conviction. Mr. Scherer explained that 53 individuals were pretrial out of 7.36% total cases. Dr. Walker also inquired if the Electronic Monitoring program was doing outcome analysis. Mr. Scherer explained that the program does a yearly recidivism analysis.

***Goodwill-*** Mr. Josh Martin explained that in order to combat the growing medical needs of the residents, the Goodwill Center will be partnering with the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System to provide healthcare. Mercy team members have collaborated with Goodwill staff to provide services to aid residents. As of April 7, 2015, the Goodwill administration will be meeting with Mercy administration to work out the process for scheduling a mobile unit to come to the Goodwill 24th Street parking lot. Residents will be able to visit with doctors for checkups, various screenings and tests without leaving the site. It is with hopes that eventually this can be opened up to the local Veteran’s Association, Chambers of Commerce and local residents. Dr. Walker inquired about the continuity of care when someone is discharged from Goodwill residential program. Mr. Martin explained that the continued care either comes from Corizon or by way of the Department of Public Welfare to utilize treatment on the outside.

Judge Williams reminded the board and those present that as per statute, the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board is required to make at least two unannounced visits to the Jail to meet privately with residents. The Board then must publish its findings. Judge Williams explained that he will be reaching out soon to the board members to arrange a date and time that will work.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion to adjourn made by Sheriff Mullen, duly seconded by Dr. Walker was approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsa Wagner

Secretary