

The monthly meeting of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board was held on Thursday December 6, 2018 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:

Warden Orlando Harper

Marion Damick of the Pennsylvania Prison Society

1. Review of the Minutes for November 1, 2018

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Councilman DeFazio, duly seconded by Sheriff Mullen to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2018 Board meeting.

2. President's Report

I have a few things to go over but first; Ms. Damick, I was very short with you last meeting because I didn't want to have a repeat of what happened in October. I didn't know that you were coming forward with the request that you did. I apologize for that because it was an appropriate request and I'm glad that we did it.

One of the very interesting things about being the administrative judge is I get a bunch of reports every day from different people, and I had an email from Frank Scherer the ahead of the probation office. The number of people detained in the jail as of this morning, it was 971 at 200 and less than a year ago. That shows the processes that we initiated about three years ago is working. All the judges are going over their detainer list, weaning out the people that shouldn't be detained and keeping the people in there that should be in the jail until such time as your case has concluded. I'm really very, very impressed with those numbers because when we first started reviewing we got almost 1500 people detained and now we're below a thousand and the numbers are going down.

All that being said, I want to thank each and every one of you for your help and cooperation over the last couple of years. I think this will probably be my last meeting. We're having a new administrative judge appointed in the criminal division as of January 1 and next Wednesday the board of judges were voted on a new president judge, and historically it's been the choice of the president judge to make the determination as to who serves on the oversight board, not knowing who is that it's going to be. I'm not going to say that it's my position to hold forever, but I do want to thank each and every one of you for all the help and assistance that you've given me over the last couple of years.

3. Warden's Report

Good afternoon board and good afternoon everybody. First thing I would like to do with just wishing everybody a happy holiday. The judge is completely right. Our population has dropped dramatically and today's count was 2,194. A couple months ago we were up in the 2,400, so

today's count was 2,194. What I would like to do is discuss some of our accomplishments in 2018 and what some of our goals will be in 2019. So some accomplishments in 2018; we opened up a veteran service unit and I just want to thank everybody that participated in that in particular Chief Zetwo because he brought the idea from the state. We're providing more out of cell time for mental health inmates. You know, one of the things that we learned is just not right to have individuals locked in a cell 23 hours a day. So we're providing more out of cell time for our mental health inmates.

Our body scanners up, the officers have been trained and by the end of the year we'll be utilizing our body scanner to deter contraband from coming into our jail. We revised our intake process to provide a screening for all inmates entering our facility within four hours, which is in accordance to NCHC standards. We have data to show that Narcan being given to inmates being released has reduced the overdoses in our county from inmates being released from jail. So we're really excited to see to overdoses reduced from inmates being released from jail also we started 20 inmates on a Vitrol program.

We also brought in an ortho doctor, and an x ray company called Tri state in to the facility to reduce the amount of outside ships to hospitals and appointments. So hopefully we'll see a reduction in outside trips. Well, we have already received that. In 2019, some of our goals will be; we will be issuing tablets to the majority of the inmates in the jail. These inmates will have the capability of doing video visitation using the tablets, submitting electronic record requests for sick calls and requests, etc. Etc. So we are really excited about the tablets for the inmate population we are also going to provide more out of cell time for our segregated inmates. So we want any segregated inmate out of the cell more often. We also want to start a competency restoration program in our jail to restore the competency of inmates that have been deemed incompetent by our courts. We're also going to talk about some of the changes that we're going to make to the discharge and release center and we're going to talk about that in a few minutes. We're going to also seek our drug and alcohol state certification in 2019. So those are just some of the things that we're looking forward to do 2019 and our accomplishments for 2018.

Terri Klein: Thank you, it is really good news to see the population decline. Will there still be in person visitation even though they have access to virtual?

Warden Harper: Yes ma'am

4. Deputy Warden's Report

Ladies and gentlemen, in front of you, you have a handout and it deals with the 2019 funding request for three specific areas inside the facility. Before I go into that, I do want to say something concerning corrections in general, a responsibility we have at the county level, while running a correctional facility is not only a ensure the care, custody, and control of those individuals who have been convicted, sentenced, and those who are still waiting their process to be adjudicated through the criminal justice system. We make every effort we can because we're obligated to ensure that there's a smooth transition back into the community because the last thing we want is to have people come right back. We do everything we can to decrease the recidivism we have.

That being said, the three areas we're looking for on increases in this handout and you'll notice that we have what we paid in 2018 versus what will be 2019 and it's highlighted in red the

increase and actual increases, you'll see are relevant to the normal traditional 3% increase because of wages and similar things of that nature and it's going to be a request for additional funding for other positions. The first thing we're looking at is going to be HOPE, help open people's eyes. One of the things that we have up at the facility as we have the HOPE program, which is a specific pod where inmates get housed on and they actually assist the inmates by they requested go live down on that unit and they meet the criteria, they're housed in that unit and what they do is they'd go through various programming. It actually lets them explore what brought them into the criminal justice system in the first place and then it goes into programming to help them get back out on the street in a successful manner. So we're asking for funding for that.

Next one we're looking at is the VRC discharge and release center. We're requesting an additional body as a discharge coordinator and we're looking at an additional part time staff member. Whenever we staff that, that's a very important area and get these individuals back out because that's considered part of their smooth transition back into society. We coordinate through the discharge program where they can get housing, transportation, and coordination with various agencies out on the street that will help them achieve success when they get out.

The last year we're looking at is the family activity center FAC. Right now we have one full time person at the facility that works on that. What we want to do is just want to go to two part time individuals to do that so they can alternate on the weekends and work down in the inmate visiting contact area. When children come into the jail, one of the things that we actually need to realize is that for a lot of these inmates have families and the family unit must be able to function together good in these individuals down in that area will. They'll help in that where they can actually foster individual. They can watch individuals while there's constructive communication going on between say a husband and wife, the wife and a husband. These are some of the requests were going through and you'll see I have highlighted down here where the 2018 expenses approved by the oversight board was \$387,085 and with what we're requesting in 2019 because of these additional requests for positions is off \$486,157.04 a actual increase of \$99,069.04. It seems like a lot of money and it is a lot, but I believe what we pay out can pay dividends in the long run.

Brad Korinski: How many inmates are on the HOPE pod currently? How many go through there during the year?

Katelyn: I'm director of the HOPE prerelease program. We serve 65 men at any one time as well as the women vary between anywhere between 10 and about 35 women. For a year I don't have the stats on me, but it's typically around 400 to 500 or so inmates that come through our program.

Brad Korinski: What is the capacity?

Katelyn: The capacity is a 65, for the men. I'm usually running that every week. And for the women it could be as high as well, but because we get fewer women, we don't get as much interest with them, you know, in the jail overall.

Terri Klein: Do you have data on the recidivisms rate among your participants as compared to the general population?

Katelyn: So I don't have as compared to because when I asked for them to run numbers, they'd give me what mine is, but not what it's related to the rest of the program, recidivisms can be a bit tricky because we have it related to a whole bunch of things. We have rebooking, we have reconvection, and we have rearrests. What I can say is that we are lower certainly than the regular population and we serve primarily high to medium risk and so we're seeing people who normally would have a much higher rate of recidivism.

Terri Klein: Just a general question I think maybe the last meeting or two meetings ago, Ms. Wagner asked if we could have a total of the welfare fund so is it possible to do that?

Warden Harper: I did not bring that information, but I will send it to all right after this meeting.

Brad Korinski: I think our office maybe even could include it each of each month.

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Sheriff Mullen, duly seconded by Councilman DeFazio to approve the 2019 funding request.

5. Old Business

Nothing to report.

6. New Business

Nothing to report.

7. Allegheny County Jail Medical Services

a. Allegheny County Health Network

Laura Williams - I know that you guys have already accepted the proposal for funding, but I also wanted to talk about some of the goals and changes for the discharge and release center, so we're going to be integrating and incorporating a lot of the services that they provide through communication and coordination and the health care department, so the discharge and release center staff will work very closely with the health care department so that we can better identify the risks and the needs of the individuals. Not everything will have to come from their self report when they're starting their release process, which can be a very anxious time for them. They may not remember all of the services that they might need because they're so anxious about getting back into the community and reintegrating will also be better able to identify those who might be at most risk for a fatal overdose.

Right now we ask everybody, would you like to have narcan yes or no? Our data reflects that more people who are not injection drug users or opioid users are the ones that are actually accepting the narcan, which would suggest they're doing so to help a family member, a friend or a loved one, so we may be able to provide a little bit more intentional or focused overdose prevention education to those that are leaving our facility and who are the most vulnerable, are really excited about continuing to build on what is an excellent program and something that many correctional facilities do not have. It's one of the prides that Allegheny county can stand on that we really do care about reducing somebody relapse and recidivism rate, which serves all of us in the county. So thank you very much for supporting these initiatives. We appreciate it.

I wanted to also talk about, um, two separate populations that may have been something that would catch your eye in the data for the healthcare. So we've been talking a lot about the pregnant women that number as you can see is standing pretty high. And then so where the ob clinic visits. So as of today's date, we have nine who have been in the facility and 3 that just came in either yesterday or today. So we are at a total of 12 women who are pregnant. The ob clinic visits jumped up because we do actually have 3 women who are very close to delivering, we have many others that are in their second trimester. And as you move along in your pregnancy, it's very appropriate for you to be seen on a more regular basis for care. So we're making sure that we're monitoring this vulnerable population as well.

And then in the last two months you may notice that our mental health referrals has increased. That's important. You know, we've talked a lot and there's been public comment to offer that it is our job to monitor this and to do something with the information. So we are increasing our awareness of the mental health needs. Not somebody who comes in suicidal, but really looking at somebody who may have the highest risk factors for suicidal ideation during their incarceration. We're having a higher number of individuals who are referred to our mental health units. We're also trying to ensure that we keep people engaged in care and services at a higher rate so we can reduce the chance of a negative event that they may have. So other than that, based on our population fluctuations, we're seeing our trends pretty similar. Those were the outliers in the most recent month that I wanted to address for you.

Terri Klein: Since you have women who are close to delivery do they have access to doula or midwives?

Laura Williams: So there's a volunteer organization and without their permission, I don't want it to, but we do have a volunteer organization that has been very, very critical in working with us in our population. We just had one female who did deliver, who actually I was just provided with a letter from her today, had a very positive experience with the doula who was able to be supportive throughout the entire laboring process, which was over 12 hours. So that's an important part of the care that we provide that as an extension of a community organization that recognizes the need that wants to be there. So we're going to continue those efforts. We actually have an upcoming meeting with them to discuss some more opportunities. They are able to come back and make visits with mothers who have delivered.

Brad Korinski: Who staffs the discharge and release center? Will that be the same for 2019?

Laura Williams: They are staffed by a contract with Great Lakes, we have many contracts that are integrated and have access on an as needed basis so we will do the same with them.

8. Community Corrections Reports

a. The Program for Offenders

Mike Gilmore – Pennsylvania Women’s Works provided a coat and hat for every woman in our program. We also had a performance audit completed successfully.

b. The Renewal Center

Frank DeClaire – Holiday party on Thursday and Saturday for program participants.

c. Electronic Monitoring

Steve Esswin – nothing new to report

d. Goodwill

Tree decorating with different cultures.

9. Public Comment

Warden Harper: We will be having a luncheon for our employees for the holiday.

Article presented by Marion Damick:

- New York Times 11/29 Jail Ordered to Give Inmate Methadone for Opioid Addiction in Far-Reaching Ruling

Ms. Damick: I would like to discuss the 24 pregnant females in the jail. And only nine of them are on medication.

Judge Cashman: There are not 24 pregnant women in the jail, there are 12 and that is only because there were just 3 brought in.

Laura Williams: So we have two women on buprenorphine and one who's on methadone as well. So three of the 12.

Ms. Damick: I see that ER runs are the same as last month and there were no suicide attempts. I am also happy to hear that you will not be using Torrance as much as it is not one of the better hospitals. Where will the mental health inmates be going now instead of Torrance?

Warden Harper: They will remain in the jail on pod 5F.

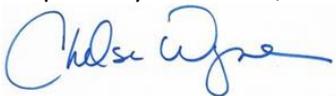
Judge Cashman: Just so you know it would be cost prohibitive to send an inmate to Western Psych because we would need to send a sheriff to be there with them at all times.

Warden Harper: I would also like to say that we're proud to announce that we're installing cameras throughout the jail and that task will be completed by the end of the year. So the issues that were brought up previously, the cameras will be installed and functional by the end of the year.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:26pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chelsa Wagner
Secretary