The Monthly Meeting of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board was held on Thursday June 1, 2017 of Conference Room #1 of the Courthouse in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania at 4:00 PM.

**Members Present**

Honorable Judge David Cashman

Sheriff William Mullen

County Controller Chelsa Wagner

Austin Davis representing County Executive Rich Fitzgerald  
Terri Klein

Also attending: Warden Orlando Harper, Ms. Marion Damick of the Pennsylvania Prison Society, County Councilwoman Sue Means, and other interested parties.

**Public Comment**

Ms. Damick presented the following

* It’s good that the number of inmates detained is being reduced.  This leaves 259 down from 1000 but it is still a significant number in on detainers.  These are not all serious criminals.
* Ms. Damick thanked Deputy Warden Long for purchasing inmate recreational supplies at a lower cost by soliciting bids from multiple vendors.  Purchasing the goods from Wal-Mart was a good idea.
* Ms. Damick congratulated officers Yeager and Griffin who are stationed in the pod and do great work.
* Ms. Damick referred to Ms. Klein’s question about usage data for the law kiosks in the pods.  She doesn’t see inmates using the kiosks when she visits the Jail.  Presumably the inmates must sign up to gain access to them.  She is concerned about inmates who are not able to use the kiosks. These inmates should not be overlooked and the usage data Ms. Klein request could reveal these gaps.
* Renewal is doing extremely well.  They have more money than other groups and they’ve been around a long time.  Their good results should be applauded.
* Regarding health care there was a net gain of two positions.   Regarding remaining healthcare staff vacancies, we need to do more to entice people to work in a place like the Jail.  It is not always a pleasant place.  It is a necessary element of running a Jail to keep everyone as healthy as they can be.
* The number of pregnant inmates has declined. ER runs have gone up from 30 to 51 over the course of 2017 so far.  Does this mean the Jail could catch health issues before they become an emergency?  Outside referrals have gone up to 115.   To save money it would be good to get this number down and instead provide health services within the Jail.
* Surgeries have gone down to three total for the month. Mental health referrals have gone down, but unfortunately there was both a suicide and a suicide attempt.  These are worth looking into to find ways to improve prevention.

**Review of the Minutes for May 4th 2017**

Mr. Davis made a motion to approve of the minutes and Mr. Mullen seconded the motion. The minutes for May 4th, 2017 were approved with no corrections.

**President’s Report**

The latest issue of Pittsburgh Quarterly has an article titled *No Money Down* about the non-monetary bond system within the Jail. They make reference to correction officials from New Jersey that came to the Allegheny County Jail learn from and adopt the ACJ bond system.  The non-monetary bond system has helped reduce the population in the Jail and look at the types of people in the Jail.  The article goes back to 2007 when this was first looked at as a tool to get people out of Jail who shouldn’t be there. If you get someone who is in on a DUI or a simple assault, and they’re in the Jail for 30 days, they risk losing their house or apartment, as well as destabilizing their family and job situation. Typically they are getting individuals in front of the court within 72 hours. In that 72 hour period the probation office has done good work making recommendations to Judge Manning. The article describes how the system is working today.

**Warden’s Report**

David Zetwo will assume the position of Chief Deputy Warden. Chief Zetwo retired from the PA Department of Corrections with 26 years of experience. He also retired as the Deputy Superintendent of SEI Pittsburgh. Matthew Kohler was promoted to the position of Major.  Whitney Menarcheck is the new Director of Substance Abuse and Treatment at the Jail she has five years of experience in a behavioral health setting working with chemically dependent individuals.

Rev. Greway, president of the Downtown Pittsburgh Ministerium, reported that the Ministerium has received a grant from the Lutheran Church of America for a project downtown.  The project, which marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, is a storytelling project that asks Pittsburghers what kind of change or reform has happened in their lives.  The project is an interfaith project.   Staff were brought into the Jail to interview everyone from the warden to the staff and inmates.   The project went very well and will be displayed downtown this October on doors and windows as a public art display.

Warden Harper reported that a $2,500 bonus is being offered newly hired healthcare staff and after 90 days they will receive a $1,000 check.  Dr. Joseph and Laura Williams are working aggressively to hire new individuals for medical staff.

Judge Cashman remarked the Jail population has remained steady over the past several months between 2,100 and 2,200. The demographics are about the same every month as well with about 1,850 men and 250 women. It is good to have fewer inmates in the Jail as it enables the Jail employees to provide adequate services by balancing the population of guards and inmates.  Judge Cashman is pleased with the way that the population has leveled off and more and that the population of nonviolent offenders is being reduced.

Ms. Wagner applauded the Warden for the work on the bonus structure offered to the healthcare staff hires.  Ms. Wagner inquired if the bonuses apply to all healthcare staff vacancy positions.

Warden Harper replied that the bonus is for RNs LPNs and Med Techs and also for mental health RNs.

Ms. Wagner also inquired regarding the vacancies, the changes month to month, are these only changes in actual employees.  Do they reflect changes in the staff listings as well (for example if the Jail were to decide to reduce the number of nurses they needed).

Dr. Joseph responded that these changes are reflected in the monthly staffing reports. However the report may not always indicate if, for example, several part time positions were consolidated into a full time position.

**Deputy Warden’s Report**

Responding to Ms. Klein’s question about the Lexis Nexis law library kiosks, Major Williams reported that the standalone machines do not track who uses them.  Inmates do not have to sign up to use the kiosks and therefore targeted usage data is not available.   It’s the same system they have in the state.

Ms. Damick commented that around a year ago it seemed that inmates used to have to sign up to use the kiosks.

Warden Harper stated that inmates have never had to sign up for this system.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

**Allegheny County Jail Medical Services**

Dr. Joseph reported that they have been working aggressively to hire and fill healthcare staff vacancies.  They have made progress hiring for evening and night shift positions.  The bonuses have been helpful in the hiring effort.  They have also been recruiting aggressively.  The area of most hiring difficulty is for LPNs.  Two LPN candidates were recently interviewed. One individual was not happy with the salary, the other had a family medical emergency and withdrew their application.   Despite these setbacks, Dr. Joseph is confident that improvements are being made overall.

Regarding the oversight report, offsite specialty referrals have increased.  They have seen an increase in the acuteness of the patients that they treat.  Things like broken bones from what physicians refer to as roof jumpers wherein individuals jump from a significant height and shatter their heels.  These things take a significant amount of time to heal.   The medical director does a good job with his team taking care of these inmates in need of long term care.  There are a high number of inmates with gunshot wounds, with 8 total currently in the Jail. These also require a lot of care. The Jail is being forced to operate as more of a hospital when it is not equipped to be a hospital.

After recent communications with the Jail, Allegheny Health Network has stated that they can bring healthcare specialists into the Jail. This would reduce inmate transportation costs associated with specialty referral visits.   Both the medical director and Dr. Joseph review outside referrals to ensure they are indeed necessary.

More inmates are volunteering to attend substance abuse treatment programs as opposed to being referred to the treatment program by a counselor, etc.

The electronic health record system go live date has not changed. Jail medical staff are still working to implement this system by July 25th.

Ms. Wagner inquired who the provider of the EHR software was. Dr. Joseph replied that the provider is NaphCare and the product is called TechCare

Ms. Klein inquired about the acute nature of the patients in the Jail as to how the determination is made of whether or not incoming inmates should be taken the hospital rather than the Jail.

Warden Harper replied that at the door, the Jail medical staff reviews the condition of incoming inmates and makes a determination as to whether or not they need to be sent directly to the hospital. The Jail will not accept inmates in serious condition.

Ms. Klein inquired if the Jail staff have the authority at the door to override the police to determine if an individual needs to go to the hospital.  Dr. Joseph confirmed that his is the case. Head trauma for example is an area where the Jail will not accept individuals because of the imminent risk. This medical clearance at the door occurs before the intake medical exam takes place.

**Community Corrections Reports**

1. **The Program for Offenders**

Nothing to add to the report.

1. **The Renewal Center**

The Renewal center recently applied for and has been approved from the PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs to become a licensed referral and assessment center. They are waiting to have their license updated.

1. **Electronic Monitoring**

Steve Esswein reported that there are around 700 individuals in the system with 120 successful completions and 9 returned for various violations.

1. **Goodwill**

Gaye Velar stated that there was nothing to add to the report other than that their organization is fully staffed.

**Adjournment**

Judge Cashman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mullen and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,



Chelsa Wagner

Secretary