

The monthly meeting of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board was held on Thursday August 1, 2019 in The Gold Room of the Allegheny County Courthouse in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at 4:00 P.M.

Members Present

Honorable Judge David Cashman

Sheriff Bill Mullen

Brad Korinski representing County Controller Chelsa Wagner

Barbara Pareas representing County Executive Rich Fitzgerald

Councilman DeFazio

Terri Klein

Abass Kamara

Others in Attendance:

Marion Damick of the Pennsylvania Prison Society

Warden Harper

1. President's Report

Judge Cashman: I'd like to tell you a couple of changes that we've made in order to accommodate the growing numbers of people who desire to attend this particular meeting. We've relocated our meeting site to here, the gold room in order to afford these individuals the opportunity to make public comment. We will be structuring that process as follows, individuals wishing to speak will need to register prior to the start of the meeting. Speakers may not allocate or defer time to another speaker. Speakers unavailable to proceed at the time he or she has been called will result in the cancellation of their opportunity to speak. All remarks must be regarding the issue at hand and limited to three minutes. Remarks should be made to the board in its entirety. And it'll be my job as the chair to make sure that all of the public comment is in order. Any speaker that should use vulgar or offensive language, make slanderous remarks or to refuse to leave podium at the end of allotted time we may rule that you're out of order and then have you removed from this meeting by the sheriff.

2. Review of the Minutes for July 11, 2019 meeting

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Sheriff Mullen, duly seconded by Ms. Pareas to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2019 meeting.

3. Warden's Report

Warden Harper: Over the past several months we have received feedback back, comments and shared perspective from members of the community. At the Allegheny county jail, we have an obligation to investigate and review all concerns and report, but due to privacy regulations we are unable to confirm or dispute any allegations that may involve protected health information and or confidential matters. Within this meeting, our administration remains open to meeting with individuals and remains committed to providing the care, custody and control of the population we serve. We remain open to the meeting with the concerned citizens and we continued to extend invitations to host these conversations. We've also responded to all the questions that were brought to the jail and to the board and our response has had been given to the chairperson of the board and all board members.

So, I would like to report also that on June 21st, 2019 in East Liberty, we had our second annual re-entry dinner that was held to celebrate the achievement of our reentry participants. Over 75 individuals attended this re-entry dinner and they were accompanied by their family members to celebrate their success in reentering society. And lastly, I would just like to announce that tomorrow we have a cadet graduation at 12 o'clock at Allegheny county jail where 12 cadets will be sworn in to be correctional officers that Allegheny county jail. That's all I had to report.

4. Deputy Warden's Report

Deputy Warden Williams: Good afternoon board, Laura Williams, chief deputy ward at the Allegheny county jail. Within your packets for this meeting we have a request and in order to make the request I'm actually going to be inviting two individuals up to stand with me, speak and respond to any questions that you may have. The request is to continue services through the jail collaborative through our re-entry programs and that was actually exactly what the warden had just referenced that we successfully had individuals participate in a dinner to honor their success. So, I'm joined by Amy Kroll, she's the re-entry administrator for us here at the jail. She works with us and partners with DHS and then also Kathy McCauley who is the Chief Planning Officer with DHS. It's important to note that the jail collaborative is a representative group multi-departmental within the county.

So, we're represented by the jail, the courts and DHS. And through that, within the last 20 years, we've been working to reduce recidivism through the efforts designed by this group to ensure that we're providing services while individuals are incarcerated to assist in their better entering society when they do leave. Some of those programs we've talked about historically like batterers intervention program, some of the CBT groups that we've been extending to veterans. I do have two individuals here who can speak to the specific ask, which is within the inmate welfare fund. And this year we are requesting \$789,308. That is an increase from last request, which was \$18,343. So I'm going to pass the mic to my counterparts here.

Kathy McCauley: Hi, my name is Kathy McCauley and I'm a member of the jail collaborative and I wanted to just first think about with you who actually is in the Allegheny county jail. If you really think about the population of individuals who are there, most people actually are discharged within 3 to 10 days. Those people who remain are awaiting trial or they may be sentenced as serving a sentence in the ACJ. It's those individuals who are sentence that we are targeting the reentry program to, and this is because these are the individuals, the medium to high risk individuals among them who are most likely to recommit crimes when they're released. So this is our opportunity to do something for them, for their families while they're there, an average of almost 300 days to work with them while they're there during the period prior to release.

To make sure their release is an effective one that connects them with their families back at home to make sure that they have housing, they get back on their feet, that they're reporting to probation. So having that sequence from in the jail through release and post is what we've been working on for the last 10 years. The inmate welfare fund, the inmates own money, is really, really important in making sure that this program is working as effectively as it is. And as you may have known from the urban institute evaluation, there's been a halving of the recidivism rate for people who participate in this program. The other thing to mention, I think when we talk about the collaborative, the collaborative is actually not 501C3, it's not a nonprofit. It really is one of these partnerships that works. It's the courts, Judge Clark, Judge Cashman. It's the

warden. It's Marc Cherna the health department director. It's that group of people who work together to think about how to make sure that the common individuals that they are all concerned about are all getting services the best they can. And that recidivism drops because there's no better thing you can do for our community or the kids who are missing their parents than to make sure that you have good programs. So I'd like Amy Curl, who actually knows this program better than anybody, to talk a little bit about how this actually affects one or two people.

Amy Kroll: Hi, I'm Amy Kroll. I'm the administrator of reentry services. I've been doing this now 10 years in the jail. So I thought the best way that you guys can understand this is when we talk about one or two individuals in what happened in their life. So in Allegheny county jail, when somebody gets sentenced or we recognize somebody is in there on minor charges, but they have one or two detainers possibly to two different Judges. Those are the individuals that we enroll in our program. From there, that individual receives an encompassing evaluation because that individual has been judged that he's high or medium risk of re-offending or coming back. Most of the individuals I'm talking about had been in and out of our jail six to eight times. From there, based on that assessment with the individual, we sit down and plan what classes they should take in the jail.

Everybody takes our cognitive behavioral therapy program called thinking for change. What is that program? Basically for six to seven weeks, the individual sits down and looks at the decisions they've made in their life. What were their bad decisions, what were their good decisions. From there they start to move forward on coming up with a thinking plan for their future. Then based on whatever other needs they have, they may go into drug and alcohol. They may go into mental health, but everybody, we look at what are you going to do when you leave the jail? So 60 days before they're ready to leave the jail. Two of the individuals I'm thinking about, basically they looked at their plan and both of them said, look, I've never really worked in my life. I don't know what to do. Both individuals were around 25 to 28 years old.

From there, we talked about all the different careers they wanted to go into. Then when the individual was 25 days from getting out, we started to make phone calls in the community with the counselor. They set up their mental health appointments. They set up their drug and alcohol appointments. And more importantly, we called a provider that we were going to, through this funding that we're talking about right now, get them into training that we were going to help pay for. So from there, both these individuals went into two different paths. One decided to go into machining, the other decided to go into our culinary program called community kitchens of Pittsburgh. So immediately when they got out, they each went home, one to an aunt. Another one went home to his grandmother. From there they were followed the very next day they went and toured those new training programs. Each of them got started in the training program, received a bus pass to be able to go to and from the training program, these training programs are five days a week. Most of them run eight to four or eight to five. And so they began attending those programs, but we also work with them to get into part time jobs because we know they have to provide for the housing that they were living in. So both these individuals attended that re-entry dinner. One is now working for Aerotek, doing fantastic. In fact, last year I actually have a picture of his final pay stub. He made \$62,000. A lot of it was over time because his starting pay right now is \$17.50. But in the very beginning he took two buses and he carried a bike in the summers to bike the last mile.

The other individual now works on a food truck. Basically he went through Pittsburgh community kitchens again using the funding that we used with the inmate welfare. He went through that program. He then started to work in a job in Max & Irmis. From there, he then started working for another high end restaurant and then from there he finally hooked up with a partner and they decided to get a food truck. So he's still working part time for another venue and he's working on this food truck. His goal is to own his own food truck. Those are just two of the individuals that attended that dinner.

So the program works and it's working not only for sentenced inmates, which is a very small population in our jail. Now we're including a bigger population. But what you guys fail to understand with this funding, it just doesn't go to people in the reentry program when we are filling our thinking for change class, for our parenting class or our batterers intervention program or the education department, pre GED, GED. Maybe a third of the seats of the 15 to 18 in that cohort, they are filled with individuals that are in the reentry program, but all the other seats are filled with individuals that are in the jail that want that program that they have written to us. Saying, I want to be in the parenting program. My judge wants me to get drug and alcohol treatment. We get them into those programs in the jail. People always think, oh, only a little part of the jail gets these classes. Know that those classes are offered to everybody. Yes, the first seats go to those that have decided they want the long term. They want to stick with us for seven months outside the jail. The rest of those individuals are just asking, I just want this one class where I have to fulfill this from my judge. So I wanted you guys to kind of see it through the eyes of somebody going through it. But the ability to get into working in masonry or machining or to get your CDL, license that is available to individuals and through this funding is how we started. But for individuals that are pretrial, where we struggle is they can get out at any time and to be good stewards of this money, we want to make sure people start the class and finish the class so that they can get something out of it. So yes, we are looking at who's going to be in the jail long enough to start the program and end the program because we want to make sure people complete. So that's just a little bit, I'm here to answer any questions.

Kathy McCauley: This works because we have partnerships with community organizations who do the work and you mentioned a couple of the training organizations if it weren't for them and mercy behavioral health and Wesley Family Spectrum travelers aid, there's three or four others as well whom we selected carefully. It wouldn't work. It's them that actually do what the hardest and real work with people individually and over the long haul. It's also important to point out that there's this wonderful partnership with probation because we've got re-entry probation officers meeting up with people before release. So they know what the standards are, they know what to expect, they know where to go to report. So there's fewer violations. And there's also these community resource centers that probation has set up through the jail collaboratives work as well that are places that are additional resources that people can go to. And I do have one more thing, which is that the money has been incredibly important to making this program work and be sustained and continue to deliver results. It's matched by a lot of money from the state through the block grant funding through foundation funds. We continually seek other sources of funding the state and federal government. So we as a jail collaborative keep trying to bring in other resources too. So we keep the inmates own money having to hopefully be as minimal as possible.

Deputy Warden Williams: So with that, we are making officially the requests that you approve for these funds to be spent with the jail collaborative. But again, if you have any additional questions, we're happy to answer.

Terri Klein: I have a question. I read in the pamphlet and I believe this was the federal money that was going to be earmarked for a MAT, is that going to be offered to other than pregnant women in the jail?

Deputy Warden Williams: So we've, we've talked about that in some of our previous meetings. We are in motion to be expanding our medication assisted treatment. This is separate from that request. So there is still funding available to support those initiatives.

Brad Korinski: Does the Jail Collaborative have meetings that can be attended by members of this board?

Deputy Warden Williams: So we have quarterly meetings. If you'd like us to extend invitations to the board, we can absolutely do that.

Brad Korinski: Okay. I think that would be helpful, myself and other members to know what goes on at the jail collaborative. How many members jail population are treated at the jail collaborative any given year?

Kathy McCauley: Through the reentry program, this last year it's 350 people. But there's also are other things that we have worked on like the information and referral hotline, which serves thousands of people. There's the discharge and relief center that we use. So I mean what I've maybe failed to convey is that re entry is really important because our goal is to reduce recidivism, but there are other strategies we've also tried to do that bring all of these different parties together to make systems change happen.

Brad Korinski: For the program that we're being asked to fund here, it's around 300 a year.

Amy Kroll: So for the entire program, but for those that go to different classes.

Deputy Warden Williams: If you did it by levels of care, the population that is receiving all of the reentry services would be 350 if you extended it to the population of individuals that this touches, as Kathy noted, like the discharge and release center. Everybody who is released from the jail into the community through the discharge and release center is also touched. So that's thousands of individuals each year. Those that receive all of the services are 350.

Brad Korinski: So those received the complete package full spectrum. Out of the total population of eligible folks. What would that be?

Kathy McCauley: Medium to high risk and sentenced are the population that we're targeting. And all of those people get this program.

Brad Korinski: And do you have any data as to success rates over the past five years? Cause I didn't see that in the urban institute study, which I think was 2014.

Kathy McCauley: We continue to track recidivism continues to be lower than the comparison group. By about half, we can get you those statistics.

Deputy Warden Williams: So I have the past year, we did not bring the last five for historical data. So if you'd like, I can share this with you. So, in case it wasn't heard when Kathy spoke, this information and data is available online and those reports will be made available by DHS.

Terri Klein: Can you a breakdown of men and women in the program?

Deputy Warden Williams: 91% male. Any additional questions for the consideration of the request?

Abass Kamara: I had a quick question. Can you give a list of the community groups that you do work with?

Deputy Warden Williams: Okay, so goodwill is a community, a group that we're working with. Mercy behavioral health is another service provider that we're working with. We're working with Wesley family services and then there are multiple trades organizations. So if you would like an extensive list of that, we would have to provide that additionally.

Brad Korinski: Is there a specific vendor that operates the discharge and a release center

Deputy Warden Williams: That's contracted through Great Lakes.

Brad Korinski: Okay. What is, what is Great Lakes? I hear their name often.

Deputy Warden Williams: Great Lakes is a behavioral Health Organization. So they provide a multitude of services. One of the contracted services that they provide to us is through our discharge and release center.

Brad Korinski: Do they have any facilities?

Deputy Warden Williams: No, they are an organization.

Amy Kroll: Most of their staff work at different facilities, whether it's drug and alcohol, mental health, they vary in all different types of agencies.

Barbara Pares: Could you say a little more about the new process for contact visits with families and how that's improved?

Amy Kroll: It's any inmate that has children that signs up for our family support program. They go through a parenting class and a relationship class. And part of that then encompasses them getting a contact visit with their children. So the third Saturday of every month they get an hour long visit in a play area of with their kids. Again it's part of the whole family support program because whether they're in re-entry or not in re-entry, we still contact their family, we work with them, if CYF is involved, they get two visits, they'll get the first Saturday and then they'll get the third Saturday with their children. Because what we're trying to do is work with CYF with reunification and making sure they meet all the requirements of what CYF has for them. And

most of the time the judges are ordering parenting classes in the jail anyhow. But now recently through a new grant we're beginning to work with the families in the community to try to support them so that when the individual, the mom or the dad come home they are able to work with them. 90% are in the black community.

Judge Cashman: I think we need more information. So if we can get reports from both of you as to the success rates and the utilization rate so that we can vote on this next month.

Deputy Warden Williams: Okay. Thank you.

5. Old Business

Nothing to report.

6. New Business

Executive session requested by Mr. Kamara to discuss the structure of the board and how to move forward, will be held following the meeting.

7. Allegheny County Jail Medical Services

a. Allegheny County Health Network Laura Williams:

Good afternoon. So in partnership with Allegheny county health or Allegheny health network at the jail, we provide healthcare, our current population of pregnant females today, six and the monitoring period, we did have 28 that came in. So, um, we also had one suicide attempt within this monitoring period. I know that was a question during the last meeting, so we wanted to make sure that we actually reported those numbers and then because there has been additional requests related to those that identify as either transgender intersects or non-binary. Our current population is 13 today. Thank you very much.

8. Community Corrections Reports

a. The Program for Offenders Mike Gilmore:

Mike Gilmore from the program. Given the high risk behaviors of our resident population, we're emphasizing and continuing a number of health and awareness initiatives this month. A mercy behavioral was beginning a, another smoking secession class at our facilities. Uh, central outreach is continuing its hepatitis C testing and education program and the county health department is continuing its testing and vaccination program for hepatitis a renewal center.

b. The Renewal Center Adam Zach:

good afternoon. We are contracted with a company called 3d canine detection services. They are actually a private canine security company and they've started out searching for contraband within our buildings. They're going to be coming in twice a month randomly to look for contraband and drugs. As you've probably heard on the news, we had, um, there's a free dental clinic at the PBG paints arena last weekend. A lot of our orientations took advantage of this service for routine checkups and not some dental work. And then finally we had a couple of re entrance. They did attend the reentry

dinner, a spoken by the warden, and they were very appreciative that they were able to be honored and appreciated by the program to be quiet and let him finish out.

9. Adjournment

4:35pm Judge Cashman called for the end of the meet prior to the completion of the Community Corrections Reports and Public Comment portions of the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chelsa Wagner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chelsa Wagner, Secretary