

The monthly meeting of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board was held on Thursday July 11th, 2019 in Conference Room #1 of the Allegheny County Courthouse in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at 4:00 P.M.

Members Present

Honorable Judge David Cashman
Brad Korinski representing County Controller Chelsa Wagner
Barbara Parees representing County Executive Rich Fitzgerald
Ken Varhola for Councilman DeFazio
Terri Klein
Others in Attendance:
Marion Damick of the Pennsylvania Prison Society
Warden Harper

Honorable Judge Cashman: *Calls meeting to order.* The first order of business is public comment, Ms. Damick—

Public Comment

Speaker 1- Ms. Damick: Good afternoon. I hope you had a good vacation, Warden. Alright, I was counting five out of... okay.

Warden: I counted.

Ms. Damick: Okay. I haven't been sending these around and I apologize. I will send all the ones that say... Two of them involve suicide attempts... Steps before you get sued. The county would be saving a great deal of money. And since everybody in the audience is here, in this county, people participate in taxes, it's a good idea to know where your money is going. Alright, I decided that my being courteous and nice hasn't gotten me anywhere very quickly. I'm gonna show a little more emotion, lots more emotion. As it relates to those who spoke last month, if you can remember that far back, because it was more than a month ago. They brought up a lot of good questions, and what drives me crazy is I saw is how they expressed it. Nobody on this board shows any expression when people are talking about being beaten, being sent out at three o'clock in the morning without busses, being brutalized when you're transgender, how you're being treated at the intake with four days sleeping on the floor. Nobody, and I looked even when I'm mentioning it, nobody says, 'oh, wow.' You look as though, 'well good,' nobody's taking a note when they talk. You all expect, I presume, to see it in the next month's minutes. That's a month gone. And they are in the next month's minutes, if you'd all have time to look at. Even if you have, you're human beings and it's really frustrating. It's frustrating for me. It's frustrating, for I think, anybody who appears here, to not feel that you're listening to what we're saying. Now whether you know if you're working on it, if you changed it, we're going to do this, we're gonna do that. And quite often, you do. But you're not showing any emotion. I don't want you jumping up and down or whatever, but you could frown... say, 'uh shut it down.' Check, check what time we're getting out. Check what time they're leaving. You're all, now when I say none of you are judges, I mean you too, Judge. Here, you're a chair, you're not the Judge. You can show an expression. When you're a judge you're being very calm, I can presume. Being calm and understanding and listening to both sides. Here, you're hearing one side, you're hearing both sides. The Warden, or by the way, he was excellent, the Chief Deputy he replaced, he was very good, he responded quite well. Give him the credit. It's frustrating, I think, for anybody in the audience, it's an open meeting. People are invited, they expect, they hope for some little showing of, 'gee, we ought to check into that,' writing it down. Do something, don't be bobble heads. You are

intelligent, all intelligent, capable people or you wouldn't be in the positions you're in. And we elect most of you, or whom you're representing. They pick, the people we elect, pick you, therefore, that shows some intelligence, I hope. Show it. This is an open board meeting. Huff puff right. Last time we talked about the gym, I mentioned about the gym not being available for the women, and what did I get back? Of course, 'well they have an open gym and they can be out in the air.' An open gym in the county jail, well you know what the gym is, it's not an open gym. It doesn't, you have two windows open, you're right off the pod, you have open air, it's cold for some reason, whatever, either heat or cold. You don't have basketball, you don't have room to move around, you don't have a ball. You're out in the air and you can breathe out in the air. But you're not out in the air, you're inside in the air and that isn't a gym, and it's outside, technically, you're legal. You're not outside, but it's not your fault, because you're in a city, and where you want, there isn't any outside. You're not like other county jails. But don't call it a gym. It's an outside area. Now, you do have people scheduled, you have kids from outside come in, I've seen there's times when that gym on the female floor is open. Why not when it's open? You know it's open because you know there's people assigned to it. Open it to the women. Say, 'okay, those who are available that want to go to the gym, it's open for the next half hour.' The CO goes over, they go over and get some exercise. That's all I'm asking. Not change the system, you can't. Just smile, frown if you want to. In any event, moving on, you did the report. You also, what I've said, and when Ms. I forget what her name was called, Ms. Craft, talked about the COs who had to work overtime. It's hard on the COs, I won't go through that whole thing again, and the response was, 'it's part of the union contract.' I don't think actually the union contract says that you can force somebody to do an overtime, and you also said at last month, you indicated, and you said that you would check on certain things, there were about five items that came up last month that you promised to check on. I'm looking forward, and I think that people in the audience are, too, to your reporting on all those five, plus the fact that prison society's particularly looking forward to your reporting on who will sit, who was selected to study the suicide situation, as I understand you plan to report on that and last month you couldn't do that, so you will get this month and I think we're all looking forward to hearing who that is and some of his/her background, which would be extremely interesting, so that we can understand, he/she, will understand what is going on. And also, if it's possible to have a way of getting connected to this individual. I think that is all that I wanted to, I've been a lot holding back, but I do feel, and I'm very serious, it's very insulting to the audience when you don't show any interest at all. You don't have to vote on what we're asking to do but show that you're at least paying attention. You're all intelligent well qualified individuals. Thank you.

Honorable Judge Cashman: Any other public comment?

Liv Bennet: Greetings. Hi everybody. I'm Liv Bennet and I am the Allegheny County Council Democratic Nominee for the 13th District. I thank you all for your time today. At the end of last month's meeting, a group of us stayed behind and spoke to Chief Deputy Warden, Mr. Zetwo, and the Chief Deputy Warden of Health Services, Ms. Williams. Ms. Williams stated that this impromptu discussion of issues was not being held in the proper time and place, so today I stand before you to air those grievances on behalf of both inmates and workers in our county jail. As you may recall, and as this young lady just referred to, during last month's oversight board meeting a woman, named Nique Craft, shared her very traumatic experience of being locked up in the county jail for four days and the conditions she encountered while there. Sadly, there are experiences that I have heard repeatedly, as I communicate with both inmates and concerned workers in the facility. I would like to take the time to put all of these issues on record now. First, is the need for separate housing for transgender and non-binary inmates. This has been an advocacy issue for at least a year as the current housing arrangements are literally putting the lives of those identifying within this community at risk. Additionally, there needs training given to officers on

how to properly deal with those who identify within the LGBTQ+ community. Secondly is the need for more workers in intake. Currently there are only two intake pods. One for males and one for females. As we heard from Ms. Nique's testimony last month, this is a problem causing overcrowding and long intake times, but due to the lack of staffing, there are drugs getting in to intake due to intake not being properly staffed. Which takes me to my third point, of there needing be a cam on every pod officer in the facility, along with training for the officers on how to administer it. Next, there were suicide blankets purchased, but according to a reliable source, the COs do not know where they are as only eight units have them from my last communication with my source, and that was last week. The need for suicide blankets might not be such a great need if there were better mental health treatment at the facility. Allegheny County Jail houses more people diagnosed with mental health illness than our area mental health hospitals, such as Mercy and Western Psych. There is a need to have more than one therapist psychiatrist on staff at our county jail. There is also a need for more stepdown mental health pods, especially for females. Currently males have a main mental health pods and two step down pods, making their transition back to into general population more gradual. Females are not provided the same, as they have one mental health pod and have no step-down pods before being released back into general population. This is unsafe, especially for those coming out of a mental health crisis. Shortly after the last oversight board meeting, I was advised from a source from here with what is going on in the jail that an entire level is being closed, which will cause overcrowding on other pods, making it unsafe for both correctional officers and inmates. If this has occurred, what is the reason for it? More often than not, it has been reported that the jail is on lockdown. What warrants a lockdown? What are the internal protocols for correctional officers regarding lockdowns? I am also calling for a black mold inspection and the cleaning of cells more than once a week. And if the jail is on lockdown during the day of scheduled cell cleaning, there needs to be a backup day in place. It has been reported that inmates have gone as long as a month without the ability to clean themselves. Again, from the last oversight board meeting, there was a statement about inmates being released from jail during the night when there is no public transportation, so these people are coming out from being incarcerated and stuck downtown with no way of getting home. Why is this being done? Then there is just some general information I would like answers on, such as the inmate welfare fund and how much money is being spent. What is the jail's capacity and how many inmates are being held at the jail at this time, including intake? Inmates who receive social security benefits and have no next of kin, are their monthly payments being added to their...? And what is the max capacity for holding cells in the ACJ? Again, I thank you for your time today and I'm eager to get answers to this long list of human rights violations. I also would still like to sit down with the Jail's leadership to address these issues. I am happy to share my email and cell phone number to open the door to communication to work together for the betterment of Allegheny County Jail. Thank you for your time.

Honorable Judge Cashman: Thank you. Any other public comment?

Jordan Malloy: Yeah. I'm Jordan from the PA Student Power Network. I've been going to these meetings for the last three meetings or so, and the first meeting I went to, Ceora Thomas of Sisters PGH, she's also on different state policy boards or whatever, talked about how trans women are being held in male facilities and the outcome of that happening which you all know already. Whenever you send women to male facilities, what is gonna happen, it's pretty obvious. Yet, I haven't heard anything about that being remedied in all the meetings I've been to since aren't even addressed even slightly other than her bringing it up with the warden here or Harper. There have been some random claims about trying to train your COs in terms of how to operate when you have trans women in your facilities; however, I don't see any actual reports on that or any actual progress on that or even attempts on your part. At the last board meeting Nique and Lorenzo both testified. Nique talked about how she was being held in the

basement of your jail. I still don't know why she was being held in a basement. You all are holding people in your basement of your jail which is wild to me and inhumane and you have cells. This is midcentury type treatment of people and I don't understand why you all feel that people who are incarcerated should be held in such conditions or why you think that's okay. Like Olivia, as she mentioned, about 75% of the ACJ population has disabilities, be that mental or physical, so you all warehousing our community, which is the most marginalized and most disadvantaged, and you're putting them in a basement. In one of the meetings that I went to, we addressed the issue of you all having people in this jail without any hot water for a week or so, something like that, which was horrendous for me to even imagine, because it was pretty cold at that point and it didn't even reach 45 degrees, yet you all had the same demeanor that you have now, which is 'we are not responsible, someone else should be in charge of this, we cant fix it right now, maybe we'll discuss this later.' That wasn't followed up on. That was fixed, I'm sure, because now I haven't heard any complaints about the hot water issue but for that to occur and for you all to be so nonchalant about it, I can't imagine any of you going without hot water for a week, I'm sure you probably never even had to. I can't imagine any of you being sent to a basement, indefinitely, after not even being processed through intake, so your family doesn't even know where you're at. You can't tell anybody that you're in the basement of a jail and whenever that woman was testifying, you all had nothing to say, because she is a black woman? Like is that the issue? Because 49% of your jail is black. And that doesn't make any sense to me because 13% of Allegheny is black, so why are you housing black people and folks with disabilities at such an enormous rate? Your jail since like maybe, 95% of the growth in this jail is due to unsentenced population. 80% of this jail is without a sentence, which means they haven't been sentenced to anything once so ever. They're just being housed there, because people don't know where else to put black people and people with mental disabilities, or physical disabilities, but you all think it's fine to hold them in a basement of a jail. I'm getting worked up, but you all aren't, I hope you're taking notes, Mr. Harper. Since this jail has been open only, or since this program for sentencing diversion has been implemented, which means that if you are guilty of a crime that is non-violent or if you haven't actually been sentenced, you can have some kind of diverted alternative sentencing program. In a lot of other cities and counties they have this, very active in Austin, Texas pretty active in Austin, Texas. I mean Texas isn't a very progressive state. In Pittsburgh, in the ACJ, only 166 people have ever been diverted from being sent to the ACJ. That's with 75% of your jail having mental or physical disabilities. 80% being unsentenced, just sitting there and rotting, while they can't pay their rent, while they can't provide for their families, while they're sitting in the basement. Excuse me, sir, sitting in the basement, you all have only diverted 166 of our neighbors, of our community members and of our family members. 166 is all you care about in the thousands that you have there, hundreds of thousands, in a year, 166, that's all we get? That's all we deserve? We don't deserve hot water? We deserve to be in the basements? We don't deserve accountability, like where are your reports? No one here is doing any kind of reports. All the reports being done on this jail are coming from outside this board. It's coming from the University of Pitt, which was done in 2016. What response have you all put to that? Like you all are so unaccountable. I don't understand how you get on this board, why you're staying on this board, but you need to be removed from this board because you're apathetic and you're inhumane. This being seen anywhere else, anywhere other than a jail this kind of treatment, if this was done in a senior home, this would be intolerable. Like why would you treat people who are unsentenced like this? Why would you treat anyone like this, it doesn't matter if you committed a crime or not? No one deserves to be treated as if they're not a human, but apparently folks who can't advocate for themselves, especially if they can't communicate to their family because they're locked in a basement and haven't even been processed yet, there's no way for them to actually articulate what they need. So, now time and time again people have been coming to your meetings demanding that you do something different, but you don't cause you all are super comfortable, and you've never even nearly been in these positions. So, I'm hoping that

Fitzgerald or Chelsea Wagner, they come through to this meeting and they can hear other people speaking to you and witnessing how unresponsive you all are and how unaccountable you all are so that they can then replace you, or Kim Berkly Clark, I hope that somebody replaces you all because I don't feel good living in a city where all of you folks are in charge of this jail. It makes me feel very ashamed because you all are treating people in this way, and this is the city that I live. \$87 million spent at least every year in tax payer money to keep this jail running. What are you all doing to keep this jail running? You're not giving them hot water. You're not giving them proper cells. It's overcrowded. You're not giving them any mental or physiological help. There's one phycologist for this whole jail, is that right? One. Of the hundreds of thousands who get proceeded through every single year, we have one psychologist. You think suicide blankets are gonna do anything about that? Do you think your tablets you propose, that they buy tablets for the folks who are incarcerated here as a solution to their whole dungeon situation? What are tablets gonna do to people if they're locked in a dungeon? I'm pretty sure you can't get WIFI if you're locked in a basement. Do you think that you have technologically can resolve your problems if you as people cannot see that you're doing evil horrible things, here? Like Pittsburgh has seen enough corruption and disgusting things from those in authority who are way too comfortable. How can you not see that inside of yourself, why are you disassociating from that responsibility of being human to other humans? I just hope that someone else, who is in authority over y'all, can see what you are doing, because apparently, we aren't enough. The community and the media are not enough for you all to be responsible and I hope that you all are replaced, I can't say that enough and you especially deserve to be fired, Harper.

Honorable Judge Cashman: Any other public comment?

Bethany Hallem: Hello. My name is Bethany Hallem. I am a recovering addict, a formerly incarcerated person, and now the Democratic Nominee for the Allegheny County Council at large. And I am here today because the people who are sitting in our Allegheny County Jail do not have the ability to be here and stand up for themselves. Look at this room. Look at how many people we have here tonight to support out comrades suffering in the Allegheny County Jail and you all sitting around this table have the authority to make it better for all of them. As mentioned before, we have so many concerns and so many questions, but time and time again we show up to these meetings and never get any answers. So, I'm here to tell you that we will continue to show up. You think this is a lot of people, we're gonna double it next time, and triple it the time after, and we are gonna keep showing up for every single oversight board meeting until we get the answers to the questions that we've been asking time and time again. Thank you very much.

Honorable Judge Cashman: Any other public comment?

Paige Dewitt: I just wanted to make a quick one. Hi, I'm Paige Dewitt. I'm a legal intern at the... center and I've been researching the Allegheny County Jail but I'm from Albany, New York, we have our own issues with immigrant services, ICE being in Albany doesn't make sense, but you know immigration services here, they're lacking. We shouldn't have ICE, we should have services for everyone, and in particular I just wanted to question why were spending 18 million dollars a year on intermediate punishment programs when they have not the support of statistics in terms of the best possible, as required, by federal probation sentencing guidelines have on these kind of committees recommended for the kind of mental health, addiction, recovery treatment that we need. We're spending on the wrong thing. We're placing a lot of burden on outside resources and then I'm wondering where this 10% that's not going toward drug addiction or mental illness treatment and this intermediate punishment with... and the county version is going? I don't know if this is a diversionary thing for people who can afford it.

Apparently if you can afford some kind of version of impatient where you're there ten hours or something, you know you get so many kickbacks as a person in privilege and yet the issues that are burdening our system and even your salaries can be fixed with better programs. We could have better jails, we could have renowned jails, and we could do a lot of the people in Allegheny County and beyond, especially in Pennsylvania. So I hope that you consider looking into these programs, considering them, putting more weight on them, sure, because you know out of hundreds and hundreds of people who are eligible only less than 300 go a year, so that's real miserable for a lot of people waiting for... it could be better, we could do better collectively without putting a burden on people who are young, like me, who shouldn't have to be trying to change policy in front of judges. It's all to you.

Honorable Judge Cashman: Any other public comment?

Racheal: I'm Racheal, and I'm from Pennsylvania Student Power. I have never been incarcerated, but my boyfriend's currently incarcerated and basically you strip them of their humanity, their dignity, and their identity... leave them in these basements and just leave them sitting there, and you don't give them their medicine. I know a lot of people that take medicine. They had it for behaviors, and then when they give behaviors, you punish them and put them into solitary confinement for not giving them their medicine. You're leaving people out here past one o'clock in the morning when you know that the buses don't run, and you're leaving them stranded by themselves with nowhere to go. They don't have money to call somewhere to get a taxi, an uber, nothing, 'cause they... you don't give them anything, and you're leaving these black, transgender women with males, and you're leaving them, and you don't care and you're sitting here... we're all saying that you don't care. We haven't seen any emotion. We haven't seen anything, and as me only being 19 years old and supposed to be looking up to people in places of power and I couldn't consider any of you a role model, like you're not anything that I could be like "I want to be like somebody like that" because you're not... I'm 19 years old, and I'm supposed to... We're the future. Me and all these other people that are younger. You're supposed to be people that we're supposed to have trust in. Now you're gonna protect us in case something happens. You're leaving these people in here, like you're leaving these people in here. You're not giving... You don't care. You take better care of your animals than you do with these people, and you... you send your animals to better... you spend more money on your animals than you do on these people, and people aren't worried about when they get out. They're worrying about if they're going to get out alive or if they're going to get out safe because you're not taking care of them at all.

Honorable Judge Cashman: Any other public comment?

Lorenzo: So my name's Lorenzo, and I'm a victim of ACJ, so I'm going to speak about a few things that hit me here, about these great people that have been here and have been supported me. Recently, I was reached out to by a gay male at the ACJ, and he was targeted by guards because he was gay. He was actually set up by the guards. They said he was a pedophile. This is a friend of mine that I've known for years that I've hung out with. He's not a pedophile. These charges were a probation violation, so eventually he was approached by six inmates in his cell where they put him down, embarrassed him, humiliated him. He had to fight for his life because you guys didn't do anything. Shortly thereafter, Orlando, here, decided to walk around the jail and ask for grievances and ask people what they thought about the jail and what they had issues with. I'll tell you what I have an issue with: you are setting up inmates, how you set me up. That's what I have an issue with. I have an issue with the fact that they let two females walk out of that ACJ three... four days ago. Okay? They had booty shorts on, t-shirts on that are ripped up. These are two women walking around at four o'clock in the morning [with] no transportation, no phone. They come to my job... I work downtown every night. Last night, I'd seen

seven inmates. Okay? You guys aren't doing anything for the people that you say you're here for. This man [Warden Harper] hasn't picked up his head since we've been here. Like honestly, it's disgusting. The same man that has promised people that he cares for your kids, for your cousins, for your friends and family, like it's a joke. He takes it as a joke. This guy's had his leg up the entire time. He's so comfortable, and I'm over here dying, like literally dying. Repetitively, inside dying and he's comfortable. This man doesn't care about what I have to say. It's ridiculous, and we sit here. We act like nothing's wrong. Let me tell you something else that's just happened. So, over the past weekend, there were 12 inmates that sat for a day and a half after bond was posted because the person working their records didn't do their job. VW Benson had to sign off on inmates being released at 11pm to avoid a riot. Is that true Mr. Orlando?... No comment? Okay, great. Okay. What staffing agency do you guys use for your nurses at the ACJ? That's something I personally want to know because when I was beat up by the guards, I didn't see a –

WOMAN1: –Miss Williams...

Lorenzo: I didn't... Oh, that's you?

WOMAN2: No. That's your –

Lorenzo: You do the staffing?

WOMAN2: I'll speak for that part.

Lorenzo: Okay. Yeah. I was beat up, and you know what that response was. When my friend was attacked by six inmates because he was set up by your guard, you probably know how that response was –

WOMAN2: I have to get a copy of that –

Lorenzo: Okay, great. The fact is like we stay there and we say like we care and we say like we want to do something, but it's really not in our position. It's his [Warden Harper]. It's this guy. This guy does not care... That takes vacations when we're all dying. When my friend sat here and said she'd rather die before she went back in your jail... your jail Orlando Harper. That's something I wish you would take into account. His demeanor is something we should take into account. All these people in this room are going to fight to make sure you lose your position because you don't deserve it. You don't care enough to be in a position like this, and I hope... I hope that all of you guys all stand up and fight against him because there are guards who are going to do stuff. There are inmates who are going to do stuff, and the next time we come into this meeting, there's going to be a way, way deeper conversation about what's really happening at ACJ. This is the second time... the second time that you've seen my face. The third time is going to be a whole different scene. We're going to have a lot of people, so be prepared to answer of questions, Mr. Harper, since you're so quiet, since your glasses keep coming off your face to rub your eyes because you're so tired, but I worked nine hours last night and I helped three of your inmates get home, so – not talk about anything apparently. Thank y'all so much for coming out. I really do... It really makes me feel a great feeling that I probably don't get to feel that often like... you've never been to the ACJ, it will kill you. If you were at it, it would kill you. If it wasn't for people I know, it would kill me. So, thank you for coming out here for the people still in the ACJ and people that get out at three o'clock in the morning with no way home. Thank y'all.

Honorable Judge Cashman: Any other public comment?

WOMAN3: I'm with Pennsylvania Student Power Network as well. You heard a lot of my friends and colleagues speak today. I just want to make sure we're all on the same page here. We're here... You guys are here... We're in this room together because y'all don't care. Can we all agree that y'all don't care? We are here holding you accountable because you have proven time and time again that you don't care. It's so easy to push the marginalized part of society to the side. It's so easy to not look into their eyes. It's so easy, right? Right? I see some of y'all still not making eye contact with me, but it's right. It's so easy. It's so easy. Well, here's the thing. We all in this room decided to come here today. We care enough for the both of us. We care enough, so even if you don't care, we will hold you accountable. I think you all forget how much power we give you and we can take that power away. We will hold y'all accountable. We will make sure that you're doing your job, and if you're not, then you're out. It's that simple. I don't need to reiterate anything that's been said today because you knew this. We didn't need to come here and speak to y'all for y'all to know this. You knew this, but now you know that we're watching. The youth are watching. The media is watching. Politicians are watching. That's the only reason why these things have been able to go on for so long. It's because you think that nobody is watching. You think that you can just get away with it because nobody is going to check you. We're going to check you, and we're going to be here next month, and we're going to be here the month after that. Maybe not during the meetings, but we're going to show up, and I hope that you guys have something to show for it. Because if not, we will.

Honorable Judge Cashman: Any other public comment? Thank you. We will review the minutes of the June 6, 2019 meeting.

1. **Review of Minutes for June 6, 2019**

Honorable Judge Cashman: Any additions or corrections?

The Board unanimously approved a motion by MAN, duly seconded by ANOTHA MAN to approve the minutes from the June 6, 2019 meeting.

2. **President's Report**

Nothing to report.

3. **Warden's Report**

Warden Harper: Good afternoon, everybody. I just wanted to report to the Board that we selected the National Commission for Correctional Health Care to conduct our suicide review at the Allegheny County Jail. I'm working with them now to come up with a date and time to perform this review, so I will keep the Board posted. We had a cadet class—

Honorable Judge Cashman: Could you provide the Board with any contact information for that particular group so that we can have some input on anybody who also has interest in that can also have the ability to contact that agency?

Warden Harper: I sure will, sir.

Honorable Judge Cashman: Thank you.

Warden Harper: We had a cadet graduate in the class of eight correction officer that began on June 2nd, so we're going to have eight correction officers. That's going to be correction officers within 90 weeks. June 4th completed the Ramadan feast for our Muslim inmates, so we had a feast for our Muslim inmates on June 4th. We had 17 individuals that received their high school diploma and secondary educational diploma on June 12th at the Allegheny County Jail. And, lastly, we had breast cancer awareness education presented to our female population during the week of June 3rd, presented by the Pittsburgh YMCA. So that's all I have to report to the Board.

Lorenzo: Interesting.

4. Deputy Warden's Report

WOMAN: Good afternoon, Board. So, another opportunity that we had over this past month was we had members from the PREA resource center come to provide us with some feedback in the institution as it relates to our pursuit for PREA accreditation. Additionally, as many members have spoken, throughout the last several months, there are many members of the courageous community who have shared their perspectives at these meetings. At the Allegheny County Jail, we do have an obligation to investigate and review all of the concerns and reports that are provided at these meetings. Unfortunately, due to privacy regulations, we're unable to confirm or dispute allegations that may involve protected health information or confidential matters within this meeting. Our administration remains open to meeting with individuals and remains committed to the population we serve. We certainly understand, as a county agency, that we have an obligation to serve the community as well as the members of public who continue to show, so we will continue to extend invitations so that we can have those conversations that are exceedingly important to have. Thank you.

Mr. Korinski: Question.

WOMAN: Sure.

Mr. Korinski: Discharge – it's come up repeatedly at meetings – People being discharged in the early morning hours. What's the discharge policy? Is that happening? I imagine there are records that can be anonymously produced. Are people being discharged at those times?

WOMAN: Yes, so people are. We are a central booking agency at the Allegheny County Jail, which means that we work with arresting agencies that come to bring in new arrests to be processed with us. At time of pre-arraignment, some individuals are assigned a nonmonetary bond or they are released on their own recognizance. We're not legally permitted to hold them, so sometimes, those arraignments are going to happen in the early morning hours. I think what we've learned from these experiences is that it's important to review those specific cases. As it turns out, that it's been reported, some of our individuals are leaving without necessary resources. During the hours of 8am and 8:30pm, we do have a discharge and release center, so that organization allows for resources to be provided including clothing if the individual does not have appropriate clothing at the time of release. However, that is limited to the time periods that I just listed, so–

Mr. Korinski: So, you could theoretically be discharged at two o'clock in the morning?

WOMAN: Yes, you could.

Mr. Korinski: Okay – and who would have control over this? The courts? How would someone be discharged? Why would we discharge them?

Honorable Judge Cashman: Well, what would happen is somebody would come in, they would be arraigned by the magistrate–

Mr. Korinski: Right.

Honorable Judge Cashman: – the bond would be set, and most of the people who go through the Jail get a nonmonetary bond so that they don't have to post a bond – so they're eligible to be released, and there's no ability for the Jail to hold them any longer because their freedom has been restored to them. You know, I think it's a – a very troublesome problem because you don't like to think about people wandering around in the streets at two or three or four o'clock in the morning. At the same time, I don't want somebody to be in the Jail because we're waiting until six o'clock in the morning to arraign them when we could have them arraigned them at one o'clock in the morning. There are magistrates that are there throughout the entire period to cover the 24 hours in a given day. Now, most of them are in municipal court during regular court, but we have a magistrate that covers these morning hours. It's an issue – you know – that you have to look at, but at the same time, it's an issue that causes a – a problem with limiting somebody's freedom when they're free to go. If they've made bond, if they're nowhere – if their next scheduled court appearance, there's no way we could legally hold them, but – you know – it's something to look at –

Ms. Damick: Can I make a suggestion? If an inmate doesn't have someone to pick them up and some inmates do – some people would – they let them out if they can go out at 2 or 3am, okay. But if they have no one – the inmates – say "look nobody is here to pick you up. How about staying three more hours and it'll be six" – you'll think they'll say no... Maybe not. Give them the opportunity to say "Okay. I'll stay in here for three more hours until I can get a bus."

Lorenzo: Stop releases between one and four. That's the simple solution.

Honorable Judge Cashman: I understand. That presents another problem.

MAN3: What if you get them a ride from a Lyft?

WOMAN: Exactly.

Honorable Judge Cashman: Where do we put them?

MAN3: – get them an Uber?

WOMAN: What if – What if you –

Honorable Judge Cashman: I can't put them back into the Jail where they were.

WOMAN: What if you extend the hours for the discharge and release center? Why can't you make that 24 hours?

Honorable Judge Cashman: I'm sorry.

WOMAN: Why can't you make the discharge and release center open 24 hours instead of just that hours?

Honorable Judge Cashman: It is open 24 hours.

WOMAN: No. It's not. She just said –

Multiple People: She just said –

WOMAN: Listen. Listen.

Honorable Judge Cashman: Stop. We already – It's your turn.

WOMAN: Yes.

Honorable Judge Cashman: We have to have a magistrate on-duty to arraign them except for bond. That's a function that's outside of the Jail. That's a court function.

WOMAN: No. I understand that, but I'm saying the discharge and release center that is located within the Jail that's responsible for releasing the inmates –

Honorable Judge Cashman: That's something to look at.

WOMAN: But I think that that could resolve a lot of it.

Honorable Judge Cashman: The initial problem is where do I put them, because I can't put them back in the general population –

WOMAN: Right.

Honorable Judge Cashman: if they're not supposed to be there.

PERSON: You keep them in –

PERSON2: Hold them for 48 hours.

PERSON3: They're supposed to be out.

Honorable Judge Cashman: I'd like to address that problem. I'd like to correct it. I wouldn't want to see people wandering the streets at two or three or four o'clock in the morning. It's something that we can get together with people and see if we can come up with a solution that may work.

WOMAN: Okay.

Honorable Judge Cashman: But I may have people who have a mental illness that don't understand what is going on – can't make a rational decision, but I can't hold them.

WOMAN: Right. Okay.

Honorable Judge Cashman: So, it's something to look at and – you know – we can always tweak the system and make it a little bit better.

WOMAN: Okay.

Mr. Korinski: Are you able to come forward with some data like the population we're talking about and the number of people, when they're released, and how many people we are talking about that are being discharged?

Multiple People: Three hours????????

Mr. Korinski: Or what the volume is?

WOMAN2: I think that request has been made very recently –

Mr. Korinski: Okay.

WOMAN2: And I think that we're working to determine how we can provide that data. A lot of our records are on paper when it comes to new arrests, but we will determine ways that we can do that.

Honorable Judge Cashman: Okay. Once we have an idea of what the magnitude of the problem is – that might be a benefit to us to hopefully getting a workable solution.

WOMAN3: It seems like if someone doesn't have the appropriate clothes and the correction officer has a key to the discharge and release center, that would be an easy fix – to go in, grab clothes, and go.

WOMAN2: I think that we've been provided with – you know – ample feedback that gets us an ability to continue to move forward as we attempt to do.

Honorable Judge Cashman: Okay. Thank you.

5. Old Business

Nothing to report.

6. New Business

MAN: Your honor, I don't know if this counts as new business, but I think there's some value in it at the end of today's meeting if we can go into a brief executive session to address some of the –

Honorable Judge Cashman: We can do that.

MAN: – the concerns that were brought up today and in the past.

Honorable Judge Cashman: Okay. We can do that.

7. Allegheny County Jail Medical Services:

a. Allegheny Health Network

WOMAN: Good afternoon. Good evening, again, Board. So, our pregnant population currently stands at six today, and there was a request today as far as the staffing agencies that we utilize, so we utilize Reliance Staffing Agency, Maxum Staffing Network, Bulldog Staffing Network, ATC, MSN, and Cell Staff. So those are all the different staffing agencies that we use for our healthcare services, and I wanted to make sure that I was able to provide that since it was an immediate request. Thank you.

WOMAN2: Excuse me. Is that "Reliance"?

8. Community Corrections Reports

a. The Program for Offenders

Mr. Gilmore: Mike Gilmore from the program. We're in the midst of our annual D-Dap program of our female facility last week, and they're currently in our male facility, so we should have a report on that in a couple weeks. Also, Allegheny Health Choices provided mental health first aid to our monitor staff and our case management staff so that they can better prepare to deal with mental health issues as they might arise.

b. The Renewal Center

Mr. DeClare: Right. The Renewal Center was proudly involved with the annual Get Back to Work Help Fair. That took place on June 20th and 21st. We collaborated with organizations such as Alph Institute, State Parole, County Probation, ECSI, Foundation of Hope, and Collab 18. This fair had nearly 80 employers and other vendors helped in the reentry efforts. Last month, we presented information about our PREA audit, and we got our final results back in. We were about 100% in compliance for our PREA audit.

MAN: Thank you.

c. Electronic Monitoring

Ms. Piot: Jackie Piot for Adult Probation. In the month of May, we had a total of 900 individuals on electronic monitoring, and we welcomed 148 new cases. We had 131 successful completions. Seven absconded from supervision, and ten technical violations.

d. Goodwill

Ms. Velar: Gaye Velar from Goodwill Center. Good afternoon. I'm happy to report that two of our residents have just completed their GDE, and both of them will start their welding program this coming Monday. That's all I have to report.

Honorable Judge Cashman: How's your assistant?

Ms. Velar: Pardon me?

Honorable Judge Cashman: How's your assistant?

Ms. Velar: What assistant?

Honorable Judge Cashman: That took some of your caseload away?

Ms. Velar: Oh! They hired a new assistant. He started two weeks ago. I'm very happy about that.

Honorable Judge Cashman: Good.

Ms. Velar: I was able to have vacation last week.

Honorable Judge Cashman: Alright. Before we adjourn, I would ask that all of the individuals who spoke today, leave your name and contact number with our secretary so that we can have an opportunity to arrange for a meeting and talk to you, because it's better to talk with somebody than ask somebody. I know that all of your concerns are legitimate. You wouldn't be here if they weren't, but at the same time, I think in order for us to fully appreciate the problems that are involved and understand what is necessary to be done, if anything at the Jail, then we need the ability to talk with each other. So, if you would do that, I would appreciate it. With that, motion to adjourn.

Ms. Damick: I just discovered you had four suicide attempts last month.

Honorable Judge Cashman: Pardon me?

Ms. Damick: I just noticed you had four suicide attempts last month.

Honorable Judge Cashman: Yes?

WOMAN: Oh.

Ms. Damick: That's unusual for you, and I'm certainly glad that you were able to use the –

WOMAN: Why wasn't that mentioned? Who was supposed to mention that?

WOMAN2: So, it's difficult to fully respond to that. The attempts were by – one individual did have multiple attempts, and I can't provide more detail than –

WOMAN: But wasn't that supposed to be in the meeting minutes –

WOMAN2: No.

WOMAN: It was already adjourned.

WOMAN2: I can't provide details to that information due to –

WOMAN: But why wasn't it mentioned –

WOMAN2: – the patient's privacy rights.

WOMAN: – in the meeting? No, but it's her job.

MAN: It's her job to remember that.

WOMAN: Thank you, but why wasn't that mentioned during the meeting?

WOMAN2: It is part of the reports that are provided to the Board.

WOMAN: Oh, so we're not allowed to know that. Only they're allowed to know that. Okay. Alright.

MAN: Oh, okay.

WOMAN: I just wanted to know. Oh yeah, I forgot. We got an outline. This is what we got, so we're all good. I forgot. Thank you by the way. I voted for you.

Honorable Judge Cashman: Motion to adjourn.

WOMAN: Thank you.

Honorable Judge Cashman: Thank you. We will go into executive session –

9. Adjournment

The Board unanimously approved a motion by XXXXX, duly seconded by XXXXX to adjourn at XXpm. The Board moved into executive session.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chelsa Wagner, Secretary