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

**Members Present**

Honorable Judge David Cashman

Lynn Griffin representing County Controller Chelsa Wagner

Austin Davis representing County Executive Rich Fitzgerald

Kevin Kraus representing Sherriff William Mullen

Terri Klein

Also attending: Warden Orlando Harper, Deputy Warden Monica Long, Deputy Warden Wainwright, and other interested parties.

1. **Public Comment**

Nothing to report.

1. **Review of the Minutes for April 6, 2017**

Mr. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Griffin seconded the motion. The minutes for April 6, 2017 were unanimously approved by the Board with no additions or corrections.

1. **President’s Report**

Judge Cashman stated that as of May 1, 2017 there were a total of 2,169 inmates in the Jail. Of that population 1,029 were being detained, of that 770 were being detained on new charges. What they have effectively done regarding the issue of detainers is to continue to reduce the number of people detained on technical violations. Technical violations include things like failing a drug test, using a bad address, and failing to report. They are focusing on people who are actually committing new crimes and these are the individuals being detained. This becomes significant because there are 638 full time employees at the Jail. When the detainer list was large it meant that this group of employees was working to supervise almost 2,900 people. This is not a task that anyone should have to handle. Reducing the population has made the task of operating the Jail more manageable. They are keeping in Jail those who are actually committing the crimes as opposed to those who can be released on a bond or sent to an alternative housing facility so they can get the treatment that they need. Judge Cashman is given a monthly report regarding the Jail population, and a good portion of the individuals being detained are being detained by specialty courts including domestic violence, mental health, or DUI courts. These are the individuals that are undergoing significant supervision by these courts. This is to be expected. This is how they are continuing to work to keep the Jail population at a manageable figure.

1. **Warden’s Report**

Warden Harper announced the promotion of Major Williams. Major Williams has been promoted from Major to Deputy Warden of Administration.

Correctional employees and nurses week begins next week. This coming Wednesday, a memorial service will be held at ten o’clock in front of the Jail.

In Allegheny County, many people come to the Jail to share best practiced. Ms. Laura Williams recently was invited to Baltimore to speak to both health and detention departments.

Ms. Laura Williams reported that she was invited to be the keynote speaker at the conference to talk about Narcan initiatives and overdose prevention. They head about the Allegheny County Jail’s initiatives because one of their employees used to work for Prevention Point and this employee was able to share information about the Allegheny County Jail’s initiatives. There were 67 attendees 18 of which were health departments and 14 were local detention centers. 24 jurisdictions were represented. They discussed how their facilities were implementing Narcan upon release projects. Ms. Williams was able to offer and accept suggestions on the implementation of the program.

Warden Harper stated that the Jail has been called upon to share its expertise regarding their juvenile population and how it is managed. Three correctional employees were present: Captain Smith, Officer Yeager, and Officer Griffin. These individuals manage the juvenile pod and Warden Harper thanked them for their good work.

Deputy Warden Long reported that she has been asked to present at the National Juvenile Justice Conference being held this year in Florida in October. She will present how the Jail was able to take juvenile inmate populations from all over the City. They have medium and maximum inmates in the same space with minimal incidents. Part of this success is due to Officer Yeager and Griffin who work in the pod who received special training to provide these juveniles with what they were not always getting at home. The juvenile inmates are given clear boundaries, mandated to attend school, they receive rewards for positive behavior. There has only been one confrontation in the pod which is very low. Deputy Warden Long was able to set up the pod with treatment and now the juvenile inmates are offered cognitive behavioral therapy, drug and alcohol education, and mindfulness. The juveniles especially enjoy the mindfulness training and this has had a positive impact on their behavior. The juveniles are supported with contact visits so they can maintain access to their family as well.

1. **Deputy Warden’s Report**

Deputy Warden Long presented an expenditure request in the amount of $10,602.17 for inmate recreational equipment and supplies. These supplies will be distributed among the housing units to encourage socialization. This year to save money, Deputy Warden Long compared the costs of the equipment from the usual contractor with the cost of the same materials from Wal-Mart. By purchasing the materials from Wal-Mart the Jail will be able to save $6,909.46.

Mr. Davis thanked Deputy Warden Long for comparing prices to find the materials at a lower cost. Mr. Davis made a motion to approve of the expense. Ms. Klein seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Ms. Klein inquired if the County had a contract with Wal-Mart or otherwise how the materials would be purchased. Deputy Warden Long replied that they made a one-time purchase request through the Controller’s office and that this request had been approved.

Ms. Long presented a contract extension request with Touch Legal who provides maintenance service to kiosks that provide law library information in each of the inmate housing units. Costs for the contract have not increased over the previous two years. The total for year one and two would be $77,280.

Ms. Klein inquired if the Jail maintains data or usage statistics for the law library kiosks. Ms. Long replied that she would look into this and see if she can get a report of the usage data.

Mr. Davis made a motion to approve of the expense. Ms. Klein seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Judge Cashman stated that in the past week, several lawyers were discussing using laptops in the jail. Inmates cannot use laptops that have access to the outside world or the internet. The iPads in the jail are all regularly used by the inmates. This points to the benefits of the iPad software made available to the inmates and shows that the inmates to regularly take advantage of these services.

1. **Old Business**

Nothing to report.

1. **New Business**

Nothing to report.

1. **Allegheny County Jail Medical Services**
	1. **Allegheny Health Network**

Dr. Joseph reported that six RNs will be interviewed in the coming weeks and three have recently been interviewed by the jail medical staff. He expects that all three will be accepted once their clearances come through. This is good news because these individuals have expressed interest in the evening and night shifts for which the Jail has struggled to fill. An interview for an LPN position is also scheduled in the next couple of days. They continue to aggressively recruit and interview for other positions. They are going back through old resumes to continue to call people. They are also contacting former employees to see if they would be interested in returning to work at the Jail. Two recent hires were found this way.

1. **Community Corrections Reports**
	1. **The Program for Offenders**

Carol Hertz reported that all residents from the Oakland facility have been successfully relocated to the new West Homestead facility. The process had a lot of moving parts but went very smoothly.

* 1. **The Renewal Center**

Adam Zak reported that on May 15 construction will begin at the 2nd Ave facility to create room for additional male inpatient and detox beds.

Ms. Klein inquired how many detox beds will be available after the work. Mr. Zak replied that a combined total of 20 beds will be available for either detox or inpatient use.

* 1. **Electronic Monitoring**

Jackie Piatt reported that for the month of March there were 727 offenders with 100 new cases. They successfully closed out 158 cases with 18 total violations 6 of which were absconders and 12 were new arrests leaving a total at the end of the month of 659 offenders.

Judge Cashman met with Frank DeClair from electronic monitoring last week and was surprised at how low the number of individuals in the program was. Mr. DeClair had told Judge Cashman that the program could manage as many as 1,200 individuals but he would be comfortable with up to 1,000 individuals. Judge Cashman will meet with individuals from criminal court to discuss the possibility of getting more individuals into the electronic monitoring program. Many individuals are automatically disqualified from electronic monitoring given past offenses but they will work to find individuals who do qualify as electronic monitoring is a very cost effective system.

* 1. **Goodwill**

Cindi Owoc stated that on May 2nd the Goodwill Center had a client appreciation day. The staff set up a BBQ in the parking lot for residents who greatly appreciated the event.

1. **Adjournment**

Judge Cashman made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Griffin seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsa Wagner

Secretary