The monthly meeting of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board was held on Thursday, June 5, 2014, in Conference Room #1 of the Courthouse in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at 4:00 p.m.

The following members were present:

The Honorable Judge Joe Williams

Dr. Claire Walker

M. Gayle Moss

Melanie Harenski representing The Honorable Chelsa Wagner

Austin Davis representing The Honorable Rich Fitzgerald

Also present were Warden Orlando Harper, Deputy Warden Long, Deputy Warden Emerick; Marion Damick; Doug Williams, Chuck Madarino, Larry Ludwig, Mike Gilmore, Ted Johnson, and other interested parties.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mrs. Marion Damick reminded the Board of the following:

* + - Life Behind Bars Conference was June 2-3, 2014. Jail’s director of the Re-entry gave a great report at one of the workshops. Since 2013 compulsory to be in re-entry concentrating on highest risk of incarceration. Outside Services are important. One reason for high recidivism is that prisoners need careers. The Jail is hiring a Vocational Counselor from AIU who will start in July. This is financed from the Inmate Commissary Fund.
    - Since the Mayor has announced the encouragement of immigrants in our area. We should pay attention to the 3rd Circuit Court decision that states are not required to imprison immigrants based on a retainer from the Federal ICE. This is now discretionary instead of compulsory. Already the Mayor of Philadelphia has signed an executive order directing them not to imprison people without a judicial warrant.
    - PG reported that 5 guards were suspended due to the employee bringing in a personal gun to the jail. We would like to hear the policies established concerning this incident.
  + Judge McDaniel is meeting with Corizon next Wednesday. Haven’t met because they were waiting for the new person who will be in charge. Decided to wait until the new person is on board. A meeting is scheduled with Deputy Warden Long, Warden Harper and Corizon.

**Sister Barbara Finch – Nursing staff**. Once again, she comes to the board to invite a county official along with Corizon management to look at staffing patterns. Corizon began with a great reduction of staff, which is an issue now as we certainly need more. It is her understanding that there are restrictions according to budget as to so many nurses per shift, but this has been a struggle for our management to schedule, as we are understaffed. The needs of the inmate would be better served if we had a fuller staff. Dr. Walker asked if the issues of personnel being shifted from place to place and not able to use their accumulated knowledge and expertise. Is that something you would also like? Sister Finch said that is exactly part of the problem.

Judge Williams stated that this is the 3rd time this thought of care being compromised has come up, and we never get beyond this point. We need to address this as care is being compromised. We need to convene a subcommittee, with employees of Corizon, to address these issues.

Terri Lathan – Nursing Staff – As an update She receives calls daily from Med Nurses who inform her that they are going home and taking naps from exhaustion. They are not sleeping well at night because of their concerns on the job. Each Med nurse has at least 6 or 7 pods to do the medication on a pod and the medication is not pre poured, but they are dispensing medication on the POD. In addition officers have concern because of the time spent and exposure to the population because of the length of time. There is also an increase of Inmates getting back in line and getting additional medications, which slips by because of the time involved for each Med nurse and it not being pre-dispense. Judge Williams asked if she could find out what percentages of Inmates are on psychotropic drugs, and if it could be provided to him.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes of April 3, 2014 were motioned for approval by Austin Davis and seconded by Dr. Walker and approved by the members of the Board.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Judge Williams stated that after speaking with Judge McDaniel’s that she wanted everyone to know that the Corizon issues are yet to be resolved. Dr. Walker asked if Judge McDaniel had an opportunity to hold the meeting with Corizon. He stated it had not as of yet. Judge McDaniel hopes to have closure and will report back on the September Meeting.

Judge Williams also announced that there will be no Jail Oversight Board meetings in July or August.

**WARDEN’S REPORT:**

Warden Harper informed the Board:

* The Allegheny Substance Abuse Female Inpatient Treatment Program received 100% compliance by the Pennsylvania Department of Health (Division of Drug and Alcohol Program Licensure). Dr. Walker asked does that mean that they will get a license or that there license is confirmed. Response was this was an inspection for renewal and there license is renewed for a year.

**EXECUTIVE ACTIONS:**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

The warden also distributed at the table the monthly Report for Extraordinary Occurrence and Population Numbers PA Department of Corrections, Office of County inspections & Services. Dr. Walker asked if it is possible to get the report out to the Board before the meeting with the Regular Packet and the Warden responded yes. Dr. Walker thanked him for distributing to the Board.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Judge Williams introduced President DeFazio to the board.

President DeFazio asked if anyone was present from Corizon, who initially wanted to ask questions regarding the issues involving Corizon.

**PRESENTATION BY CORIZON**

Dr. Patterson reviewed the monthly report. Some items do standout. The efforts during the Intake Screen. We looked at the number of people in the intake area that have not been booked or processed and are held there for a while. We decided that we really need to have a pre-screen booking to identify people who may have problems, suicidal, chronic care, and/or medications. This has been helpful in identifying people earlier. We have a new process for Pregnant patients who are opium dependent are now permitted to be medicated on site, which is an improvement. Commitment to Torrance remains a problem. Our waiting list tends to be long, but we manage them at the Jail. Dr. Patterson wanted to clarify the wording on positive PPD’s which is more on the results of the chest x-ray – TB test or possibly infections. Dr. Walker asked if he does the PPD test (tuberculosis test), and he stated yes, but only list in the report those who have a positive reaction and positive x-ray. Good news there are no active cases. Same for STD’s; this represents the number of individuals with only positive STD’s and treated within the Jail.

Dr. Patterson met with the Health Department in expanding our screening of infectious diseases in the county. We are partnering with them for the criteria for expanded screenings. Dr. Walker asked regarding the zeros for January and February, what do they represent? These reflect that there were none actually treated based on symptom. Judge Williams asked, are you inquiring on how broad was this assessment? The response was not broad at that point, but that is why they are working with the Health Department for expansion, including identifying target populations.

Ms. Moss asked about Torrance State. What are the numbers for those waiting, because I understand in the past it was a large number? Dr. Patterson responded that there is a significant back log, and it is around 20.

Dr. Walker inquired about CQI Audits. What are they and is here some number every month, or how is this represented? Yes some are ongoing and some are targeted. Kat Stalenski represented Quality Assurance where we audit different areas of our practices. Based on what is found, we do a corrective action plan and a follow-up. Are those reports shared with the Warden, and the response was yes, once a month the Warden reviews the Quality Insurance Audits.

President DeFazio is asking that we get this straighten out, as Judge McDaniel is doing, but we need to get answers. Judge Williams stated that he agreed and it is time to talk about performance and strategy for quality care for the inmates, not Corizon’s philosophy or corporate ideas – but Corizon’s performance and how they services the inmates. What I am hearing from their staff is that it is not the quality of care as received previously. With staff complaints regarding stress because of the demands being placed upon them, as well as the small inventory of drugs available. Judge Williams is hoping that upon Judge McDaniel’s return that we get clarity on these issues, which keep appearing.

Dr. Walker asked a question regarding staffing vacancy ratio. Number on staff vs. Corizon’s budgeted number. The number shows the percentage of positions that are filled. And the positions are the ones you have in your budget. Dr. Walker stated there are two questions there, are the numbers in the budget sufficient; and what percentage of that number which represents actual.

Dr. Patterson touched on Mental Health Services, coverage during off shifts and weekends, there typically have a professional assigned, but in the area of absence or call offs, there is always a Mental Health Nurse at the facility. Judge Williams asked again for the percentage of inmates on Psychotropic drugs.

Dr. Walker stated that the report is so much better, and thank Dr. Patterson. Mental Health referrals have increased 19% and that number is pretty high. That is a place where staffing might be of particular interest. Dr. Walker asked how many people are available for that service, and is that a sufficient number for every shift. If there is a problem that is the kind of resource that we need to make sure you have. There is constant recruitment; we have reached an agreement upon his return the Psychiatrist will provide additional time.

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS REPORTS**

* PROGRAM for Offenders, Inc – Nothing to report.
* House Arrest – Nothing to report –
* Renewal Inc – Nothing to report.
* Goodwill – Nothing to report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Austin Davis, seconded by M. Gayle Moss to adjourn. The Allegheny County Jail Oversight Committee meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsa Wagner

Secretary