

The monthly meeting of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board was held on Thursday, March 6, 2020 held in the Gold Room of the Allegheny County Courthouse in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at 4:00 P.M.

Members Present

Honorable Judge Clark
Sheriff William Mullen
Brad Korinski representing County Controller Chelsa Wagner
Barbara Parees representing County Executive Rich Fitzgerald
Council Member Bethany Hallam
Abass Kamara
Terry Klein
M. Gayle Moss

Others in Attendance:
Warden Harper

Deputy Warden Williams

Meeting guidelines –

1. Everyone in this room will be treated with dignity and respect. No exception
2. Everyone will have the opportunity to be heard, within reason. Depending on the number of public comments that sign up to speak there may be a time limit imposed.
3. Profanity and yelling will not be tolerated. Anyone using profanity or anyone who is yelling will be removed from this meeting.

Announcements – None

1. Old Business

- A. Tablet Contract Update – Warden Harper, I still cannot give any information about the tablet contract update, so as soon as I can, I will advise the board.
- B. ACJ Death 12/30/2019 – Warden, I don't have an update on that, but I will not be reporting out on the death of this individual in accordance to HIPPA regulations that I've just handed over to the judge. I will not be reporting out on that death, because I do not want to violate any HIPPA regulations.
- C. Religious Item Policy - an individual reported to the Jail Oversight Board that on October 23rd, 2019, she was brought to the Allegheny County Jail and her tallas was ripped from her neck and was thrown away. I tried to review video of the incident, but we did not have video of the incident because it was in October, and we don't retain video of incidents for that long of a time period. I also interviewed all of the officers that were assigned to the post on that day, and neither one of the officers recalled an incident taking place. I just want to tell everyone what our policy is on religious garments going into the Allegheny county jail. The first thing we have to remember is that the safety and security is most important. Tallas's, scarves coming into the jail. Will be confiscated and maintained by the jail and not returned to the individual, at least not until they get out of the classification department. I cannot have individuals in the intake department, in the orientation unit, with scarves that could be used to *hang themselves*, doing this process. I just need everybody to understand, no religious garments will be allowed to be given to the inmates that can cause inmates harm. Yes.

Ms. Hallam

I just have a question for the warden, how long *are* videos retained for?

Warden Harper

I'm not going to give that information out; I don't think that's information I should give in public. That's something we can discuss behind closed doors.

Ms. Hallam

I just think it's important for people to know so that they can make a complaint, that they have to do in a certain amount of time or else there's no way to prove it.

Warden Harper

My thinking is that if there is an incident that happened, we should know about it ASAP. So as soon as the individual left that jail, we should have been informed ASAP. And that's what I recommend to anybody, if they're involved in any incident, you cannot wait 3, 4 months to bring it to our attention.

Judge Clark

For a point of clarification, if there was an incident that was reported right away, and it was on video, the video would be retained longer

- D. POD 4A Blanket Shortage, 2/4/2020 - I looked into this incident, and one of the things that we try to ensure is that every inmate that comes into our facility has two suicide blankets. None of my supervisory staff reported that any of our pods were short on this particular day, and if they were short, correction officers should have advised supervisory staff of the shortage. I could not confirm whether or not this is true. I just want to assure everybody that it's our responsibility to make sure that everybody has two suicide blankets, and in the future, if we could be advised of the situation ASAP and in a hurry, then we would jump on it. It's the correctional officer's responsibility to let supervisory staff know right then and there if they do not have the suicide blankets for the inmate, so that we can get the suicide blankets. I was not able to substantiate that, your Honor.

Mr. Korinski

Warden, is there an inventory for the blankets, at the ACJ? So that we do have sufficient blankets on hand? We have 100 more than we need, or... do we maintain an inventory?

Warden Harper

What we do, Mr. Korinski, is that every day, we make sure that we have at least 100-and-some suicide blankets to give to our new inmates when they come into the facility. Especially over the weekend and long holidays, we make sure before we leave for the weekend and the long holidays that we have ample enough suicide blankets, mattresses, etc, for the inmate population.

- E. Procedure for Court Ordered Child Visits - Okay. Procedures for court-ordered CYF visits. Every week, Deputy Beesom [?] and Deputy Zetwarf [?] receive emails from CYF case workers with transportation orders and family court orders attached. They approve and send the approvals to sergeant Hefling [?] and Miss Kroll [?]. They check for classification levels, county and state, federal, inmate separations and misconducts. If the court-order

specifies a contact visit, then the individual receives a contact visit. So those court orders are approved by our deputy wardens at the jail, these individual's charges and separations are checked, and if there's no issues with the separations, then the court-ordered visits will be allowed. But one of the things I want to inform everybody is that we have a contact visiting schedule. The first Saturday of the month is designated for CYF female court-ordered visits. The second Saturday of the month is designated for male pod workers and male Hope Program graduates. The third Saturday of the month is designated for male family support, female family support, and juvenile visits. The fourth Saturday of the month is for kitchen workers, first half, a-k, kitchen workers second half, l-z. One of the things that Ms. Hallam brought up last month, was trying to come up with an emergency plan as to if these court-ordered visits could not take place. I talked to Amy Kroll and my team at the ACJ, and out of 8 years, we've only had 1 time, which was the last couple weeks, that court-ordered CYF visits could not take place. So we will not change our processes when it comes to the court-ordered visits, because 1 time out of 8 years that we were not able to facilitate the court-ordered visits, and the reason why we could not facilitate the court-ordered visits is because we did not have any electricity in the facility, and none of our elevators were working. And I cannot jeopardize the inmates or my staff to facilitate these court-ordered visits.

Judge Clark

As a judge who orders those visits a lot. If it's possible that I could get a copy of that schedule – because I was unaware that there were different days for males and females, and they're asking us to complete a form or put in a court order with what Saturday of the month they want the visit. Because some of them may be entitled to 2, if they're in the Hope pod and then – they might be entitled to have more than 1. I was not aware of the schedule. The other thing I would just say is, it might appear that visits are not appear, there are many other reasons that visits don't occur, but it doesn't have anything to do with the jail per se. Sometimes the transportation does not happen, CYF or the foster care agency or the caregivers are the ones responsible for transporting the child to and from the visits, and something happens – or the person transporting the child, when they get there, they have contraband or test positive for some controlled substance, and they will not let them in with the child, which has nothing to do with the jail, but with who's bringing the child in. While we do get reports that court-ordered visits aren't happening, it's not usually as the result of what's happening at the jail, it's usually on the other end, who's doing the transport to the visitation. I just wanted to make that clear. And at least I can say personally, I can't speak to the other judges, when there's an issue with the ordering a visit and the jail does not think it's appropriate, they always get in touch with me, they don't just not obey the court orders. I just want to make that clear, that the jail staff are not violating court orders by just not having the visit occur, they are contacting the judge and saying we have a safety concern or saying that - that the visit cannot, that we cannot have the contact visitation. I just wanted to make sure that everyone understood that.

- F. Policy Book - It was brought up at the last jail oversight meeting that board members would like to see all of our policies and procedures. At that meeting, I did agree to do that. But I'm having some difficulties in agreeing to supplying all the policies and procedures. One of the things that I would like to do with the board members is to have a discussion as to some of the thoughts I have as to providing the board with the specific policies that they would like to see. One of the things that I was thinking about was putting all of our non-security

policies online, so that everybody can have access to our non-security policies. Policies that are security-related, I would like to ask that the board members come to the jail to review the policies that are security-related, to ensure the safety and security of my staff and everybody else. I would just really like to talk to the board members to come up with another mechanism to provide you with the requested information pertaining to our policies and procedures.

Judge Clark

We can certainly do that, because we are going to be scheduling some other meetings for the board outside of this public meeting, to discuss some issues. I do like the idea of the policies and procedures that don't involve security matters, that they be posted so that anyone in the public would be able to see them, so I think that's a good idea. Then I understand why those involving security, you might not want to put those on a public website or have them disseminated to the public, because obviously that would impact the security of the facility, if people knew some of what the procedures were. I think we can have further discussion with the board about that.

- G. Suicide Report Update -The suicide report is completed. Judge Clark asked the warden to make a presentation at the next board meeting about the report. I wanted the board members to be able to view it first, so I believe it was sent out today or yesterday to the board members so that they can review it. It's kind of lengthy, and we'll have some discussion about how we want to present the information at the next meeting.
- H. Amy Weiss, deputy Controller, welfare prisoner expense fund presentation. – Brad Korinski - Your honor, just to keep it in context, if I may, since you weren't here at the last meeting. I've asked our Deputy Controller, of the Allegheny County Controller's Office, to come before the board to explain the moneys available in the inmate welfare fund, and to explain the moneys going into the fund, and out of the fund, so that this board can make a more informed decision about how to spend those moneys. And I know those discussions on how we should spend it are ongoing. Miss Klein and I have met over the past month and further discussion will be had by this board on guidelines for the spending of that money. But I thought it would be good to hear from a financial professional, what's in the fund balance and what that all means.

Amy Weise

Good afternoon. In your packet, you have this landscaped sheet. We started providing this in your board packets in 2019, just to go over what you've been receiving monthly, and then we've added some additional information at the bottom of this document. We thought we'd start several years ago, just to see a trend of how the moneys have been, how the fund has grown and how the money has been received and spent. We selected the year 2014 to start, no particular significance of why 2014, but we just wanted to give some history. you'll see there, as of December 31st 2014, your cash balance was 1.8 million, as of just a few days ago, the end of February of this year, that number is now 2.8 million. the cash balance has grown a million dollars over that course of time. Similarly, fund balance, which is midway down the sheet, the number that's in parentheses there, it was 1.5 million in 2014 and it now stands at 2.5 million. That's the

growth of the fund over those years. For the first time, for calendar year 2019, and we're currently working on our annual financial report for the entire county, but for the first year since 2014, you can see down near the bottom of that column as of December 31st 2019, the fund had expenditures in excess of revenues. It did incur a slight loss of 122 thousand dollars last year. But if you go further down, revenues have grown. We show over, again these are 2-year increments, 2014, then 2016, 2018, and 2019. And we'll continue through 2020. Revenues had a pretty nice increase in 2016 of \$162,000 over 2 years, which is a 6% average annual increase. That slowed a bit in 2018. Over 2016 of a 4% annual average growth, and that slowed even more yet, 2019 over 18 of 1%. Not sure if that's less purchases in the commissary or a decline of population at the jail, but revenues have slowed a bit over time. The revenues that go into the prisoner welfare fund are commissions on sales in the jail's commissary. That is the basis of revenue in the prisoner welfare fund. At one point in time, back in 2009, it was seized – commissions on the phones that the inmates in the jail use, those commissions used to be deposited in the prisoner welfare fund. I was not part of that decision, I'm not sure why those revenues ceased to go into the prisoner welfare fund. Those commissions are about 1 million dollars annual. Since 2009 those go into the general fund of the county. So that's essentially the growth of the fund and the source of revenues. The bottom half is to explain where expenditures are for each of the years presented above. If you notice that 2016, for instance, 1.4 million of expenditures were incurred in the calendar year 2016, if you drop immediately below to the table, we have a series of vendors that are in the first column under expenditures. The vendors are fairly consistent year-over-year, the dollars amounts are indicted, that aggregate down to the 1,435,000 for 2016. Similarly, 2018, the 1,325,000 enumerated in that column. And then the 1,787,000 is also enumerated. The most significant categories, and I don't need to go through each one of these, you're probably familiar... as approving these expenditures, but the AIU, the Allegheny Intermediate Unit provides education and employment preparation. There are monies that flow through the county's department of human services for contracts it holds with the AIU for education employment prep. Mercy for CBT classes, family activities, parenting classes. And some copier expenses [?]. In 2019, the most significant expense outside of some of the human services providers were the purchase of the suicide blankets to the Bob Barker company, of 241,000 in 2019. Christian associates is another significant expenditure. The family services of western Pennsylvania provide the batterer's intervention program. The Jail Education Solutions is another significant expenditure, over recent years for the tablet education. Then the Matthew Bender and Lexus Nexus law library expenditures. I had some conversations with Mr. Korinski in our office about the fund balance, and what does a fund balance represent, some people call fund balance your rainy day fund. Sometimes they refer to it as your savings account. Being formerly budget director for Allegheny County, the rating agencies look to your fund balance as some sense of the financial stability of a fund. Their metric for governments is that you should have no less than 5% of your annual operating expenditures in the fund. So just to say, based on a fund balance of 2.5 million to 2.7 million, 5% reserved, that would be recommended under those metrics, it would be 85,000 to 100,000 fund balance is available for expenditures going forward, it's essentially the same as your cash balance, for the most part, 2.8 million of cash, 2.5 of that is in the current rainy day fund.

Ms. Hallam

Thank you so much for this, I have been very interested and waiting for this for a while, so thank you so much for putting this together. My main question is about line item services in discharge center, I was wondering if you could speak to what exactly we are spending money on for discharges, and also why it's only, it was only 1/3 of the amount in 2019 as it was in 2018. I saw the Great Lakes Behavioral Research Institute?

Ms. Weise

I'm sorry, I cannot speak to that. I know that they were – the most recent invoice I looked at, I think there were 5 employees from Great Lakes providing services, so perhaps some of that has been absorbed within the jail, the jail's full-time equivalent, I'm not sure as to why that amount has decreased.

Ms. Hallam

Something I had heard is that we were actually using the inmate welfare fund to provide Narcan to formerly incarcerated people when they are being discharged, I was wondering if that is included in that? Because I don't see that anywhere on here.

Ms. Weise

I did not see, and again, I looked at supporting documentation, invoices, when I was reviewing these. I didn't see the words Narcan, so I cannot attest to where Narcan purchases are occurring.

Judge Clark

I asked the Warden, he will get that information for you, and we can present that at the next meeting, about the Narcan and how that's being distributed.

Ms. Hallam

Okay, but it's not coming out of the inmate welfare fund?

Warden

I'll report on that next month, I'm not sure right now.

2. Public Comment

A. Mrs. Damick, Pennsylvania Prison Society

The fact that you are cooperating so well, Warden, with the people who want to get the inmates who are possible to vote, to be able to sign up for voting, I understand that's going very well and should be completed in plenty of time for the vote next month.

I do notice that this past report you had the most inmates coming in that you've had in the last several years, and I'm wondering – with the virus going around, you're now a community. You have a lot of people together who came from outside. Has anything been done, medically for investigatively, to see that everybody is healthy? Hasn't been

with anybody – I would presume, just presuming, that none of the inmates have recently come from China, but one never knows. But they're out with people. Everybody is out with people, we're all together out here. Everybody is becoming extremely concerned how this has spread and how easily, with communities close together, and I'm pointing out that you had the most new inmates come in this past time, this past period. Is anything being done to look at that?

Warden

Absolutely, Mrs. Daminek. One of the things we're doing is partnering with the health department and our emergency services to try to come up with an emergency plan as to what we will do if we are faced with this coronavirus. So right now we are working with our external partners, deputy chief Williams will give you guys an update on exactly what we're doing at the ACJ, but we're really looking at it and working with emergency services to come up with a plan.

Ms. Damick

I'm glad I brought it up, because I think people might be concerned about that. I'm glad to hear that. Now, the – I did notice, so very good – you've gone very down on suicide attempts. From several months ago you were up to 4, down to 2, and now 1. I hope that you are doing something that is causing that to go down, which is – that's important, I'd love to see it at 0. It was mentioned, earlier, about what happens when visiting with the elevators being out. This has been a constant problem here, it has been every since they were put in. And I remember when they were built and put in, they were French – nothing's wrong with the French, of course, but every time something went wrong with the elevators you had to go to France. Presumably, that's changed down, I would certainly hope. In any event, elevators certainly do go down, and this has caused a lot of problems. The issue was raised just this afternoon, how because the elevators were out, and you can't have children walking up and down the steps or whatever. If we had some contract, some way to assure that there will always be an elevator – heaven forbid there's a fire, you don't use the elevator. But to make it easier to visit, and as you know visiting is extremely important for inmates, to keep in touch with the family and the family in touch with them, so that they can – when they are released, or hopefully released, they can commit to fit into the family again, and be productive citizens. That's why I'm concerned, every time I hear an elevator mentioned, that the elevators are down again. I'm asking, you looked at money – has anything been considered, working on elevators to make sure they stay usable?

Warden

Absolutely. For the last couple of years, we repaired all the elevators in the facility. But like I said – and I was telling everybody earlier – this is the first time in 8 years that we had to cancel CYF visit, and that was because we had no electricity at all. We do have some elevator failures, but we have a contract with a vendor that comes within 45 minutes to repair those elevators. And it's not just the ACJ that has elevator issues,

every building around this city has elevator issues. *Every* building. My thing is this, that was the only time I remember in which all the elevators were down.

Ms. Damick

I do remember when all the elevators were down, but I'm slightly older than you. I was also wondering, because I don't see anything, if all the inmates have received their tapes, or whatever they need, so that they can get what is federally required to have, a legal library, in quotes. Because the videos aren't always working, and you only had one, and you *still* only have one, in each pod. And last month, you mentioned that you were having... tablets, has everybody been granted a tablet?

Warden

No ma'am. We have not announced the vendor yet, so no ma'am.

Ms. Damick

Isn't that against the law?

Warden

Just as long as they have the ability to use the law library kiosks, which they do have, we are not violating any laws.

Ms. Damick

Even -alright, I'm not going to pursue that, you know where I was going on that.

Warden

Yes ma'am.

Ms. Damick

Otherwise, I really appreciate the fact that you get back to us even though, in many cases, you haven't been able to check into it. Thank you.

B. Sai Koros

I came here last month to speak about my experience, being arrested for peacefully protesting in October, and I believe it was talked about briefly today, but because many of your weren't here last month, I'll just briefly repeat that my prayer shawl, a Tallas, it's a Jewish sacred object, was ripped from my friend's neck. I was a witness to this, and it was thrown in the garbage, even though the officer knew that it was a religious garment, she had repeated to him twice that it was a religious garment and he threw it in the trash. Now I understand that there is no video evidence of this, and this time, but I also want to make it known that it is not just a scarf that was thrown out, it was a sacred object. And the actions of that officer reflect very poorly on the jail's policy on religious objects. I want to emphasize the fact that even if it was just a scarf it shouldn't have been thrown out in the garbage, but

because it's not just a scarf, it is actually an antisemitic act. And I take that very seriously, and I hope you do as well.

Judge Clark

I can say I certainly take it seriously, and I'm very very sorry that someone had this experience. And I don't think the Warden was meaning to say that it was just a scarf, we realize that it is a sacred religious object, and I would be very upset if *my* sacred religious object was taken from me and then thrown away. But there are safety factors for the policies, and for some items – if I wore a crucifix I'm assuming they would remove it at least temporarily, because it's something that I could use to cause harm to myself, until I've been classified. So I can't say anything else other than I'm very sorry that someone had this experience –

Ms. Koros

I had this experience. And it was *my* tallas that was thrown out –

Judge Clark

It was you? I thought it was your friend-

Ms. Koros

My friend had it around her neck, but it was my tallas.

Judge Clark

Well I'm very sorry that *you* had this experience. The only thing I can do right now is to express my deep sadness that this happened, and maybe we can talk later, if you want to contact me about some other way that I can, we can think that – well we can't ever make it better and you're not going to get it back, but I think that we can have a discussion about it, and it could be a learning experience going forward. I would be happy to do that, and I will give you my contact information if you're still here at the end of the meeting.

Ms. Koros

Sure. And I also just want to make it clear that it wasn't that it was taken away and it wasn't left around my friend's neck, that would be a different thing. It was the fact that it was thrown away, in the garbage. And that was completely unacceptable, and I would really appreciate it if actions were taken to make sure that all officers are made very well aware of the sacredness of these different objects, and how inappropriate and unacceptable it is that they're thrown away. If it's a cross, if it's a tallas like mine, there are so many religious objects that have so much meaning to people. And it is wildly inappropriate that this happened. Thank you so much for your time and attention.

C. Representative Ed Gainey

First and foremost, madam president, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. And on another note, I just want to personally say thank you, and I have a question. So I've been meeting with a lot of different people in our community, in regards to some of the issues in the jail, and I had asked them, do they have an ED, an executive director, and we

had a conversation, and they gave me some updates on it. But they said that if I really wanted to know what's going on, then it should be up to me to come to this committee right here and talk to you about what an executive director looks like, is that a possibility and is that something going forward that we believe would give more continuity and more organization to the whole jail situation? So I wanted to come and ask so I don't take it upon myself to assume, because a lot of times we assume, we end up being wrong. But when we come to the decision-makers, I think that we can get an answer that at least moves us forward. So today I was here to talk about and ask, is that even possible, what does that look like, and how, going forward, can that work together to improve all situations?

Judge Clark

I can't really answer that without having some more discussion, I would just say, probably anything is possible, but whether it's the right thing to do or whether it's likely to occur, I can't answer that. I can just say that we can have a discussion about it, and perhaps if you have some thoughts about how that could happen, you could communicate that. I just can't really answer that right now.

Rep. Gainey

I've been trying to meet every other month with a group of people, just to keep my hand on the pulse and see what was going on and see how we can improve, so I don't want to seem like I'm coming here and criticizing, because I'm not. I'm more being inquisitive, to find out how things can get done and how we can work together for the better of the overall good. So I want to make sure – when they told me I had to come and talk to you guys, I wanted to make sure this was the first time that we talked, and maybe we could talk again in private, but I would love to know about the position of the executive director and how we can make that work.

Judge Clark

Well – there is no executive director, it's a jail.

Rep Gainey

And that would be creating.

Ms. Hallam

Could we, as the jail oversight board, create that position?

Judge Clark

I can't answer that either, I don't necessarily, I mean we can vote to do anything, but someone else has to approve that. I think there has to be a discussion about why that might be... why we might want to consider that, and why it might be possible, and what the pros or negative sides of doing that are. I've never been one to say that we have to always do things the way we've been doing it, so I'm not trying to say that, but as of now, I can say this, as the President Judge, and understanding that there are lots of other outside concerns, including money, I realize now as President Judge why some of the things that I wanted to do when I was administrative judge or just a judge, and they said no... now I have a better understanding as to why. Not that I necessarily agree with it, but I have a better understanding. I think it's something, if the board wants to have a discussion about that we

can certainly do that, but I can't really answer any of those questions right now. I'd have to look historically, how the jail is structured and how everything is paid for, and quite frankly look at how other jails and correctional facilities are operating to see what the best practices is. And so we can discuss anything that you like, I'm open to doing that, but I can't answer any of those questions about can we do it, should we do it, what the ups and downs are, I'm happy if you want Representative Gainey to meet with you at any time just to get your thoughts and why you're making this requests. Don't think, sir, in this form, because I think it's a lengthier discussion, I think we can't do it. I need to understand where you're coming from and why you're bringing that up. And then perhaps, with the rest of the board, we can have a discussion about that and think about it.

Rep. Gainey

And I appreciate it, just, I've got a lot of calls on a lot of different things, and I don't like to come pointing fingers, always like to do my investigation and homework before I make any recommendations. So that's why I came here today, just to find out. I look forward to having a great conversation. I meet with this group probably every other month just to hear their concerns as a representative, and see how we can work together to solve issues. So again, madam judge, I appreciate it, the board, thank you, and look forward to a conversation.

Judge Clark

Thank you.

Ms. Hallam

Your honor? May I ask something? Is there someone in specific, whether within county administration or within the jail specifically that we should invite to our next meeting to speak to this? If we're not able to answer it ourselves, who can we bring who can answer these questions?

Judge Clark

Well I don't know. I think we should meet and talk about it first, and then we can talk about what we want to do going forward. That's, I think, as the oversight board, we need to have a discussion first and see what, if anything, we want to do. We might decide that it's not – it might not be in the scope of our oversight to create such a position, and if we decide that, then it certainly needs to be passed on somewhere else. But I think we need to have a discussion about it, and I'm not prepared to invite anybody to speak on it or to do anything. I would like first to talk to Representative Gainey to have some insight into why he's making this suggestion, and then we can talk, as the oversight board we can have a discussion about it, and then maybe make some decisions as to what, if anything, we may want to do.

Rep Gainey

That's good. Again, thank you.

3. Review of the Minutes for December 5, 2019 meeting

Thank you. The minutes were sent out to you and you have them, I hope you've had an opportunity to review them. I'd ask the board if there are any additions or corrections to the draft of the minutes that were sent.

Mr. Korinski

Your honor, I do have a correction. Councilwoman Hallam name is not listed as a member in the presents.

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Sheriff Mullen, duly seconded by Councilwoman Hallam to approve the minutes with the correction to add Bethany Hall, Council Member present, from the March 5, 2020 meeting.

4. President's Report

I think this may have been reported at the last meeting, the board did have a meeting concerning the inmate welfare expense fund, and the security issues or safety investigations in the jail. We're going to have some ongoing discussions about this and receive ongoing information from the warden on a periodic basis.

5. Warden's Report

Warden Harper

Good afternoon. The first thing I would like to do is read a memorandum that I sent to the manager of our elections department. As you are aware, we have a staff member whose responsibilities include working with the population to make them aware of voter registration deadlines, submitting applications to your office, and then securing the absentee ballots applications, and coordinating with your office to have election staff visit the facility to allow inmates to vote prior to each election. Last year we began conversations with an organization called All Voting Is Local. The national non-partisan non-profit is focused on removing barriers to voting. One of the specific focuses is on increasing those voting for jailed but eligible citizens. Pennsylvania is one of the states in which the organization is active, and is also piloting campaigns in Arizona, Florida, and Ohio. Locally, All Voting is also working with the PA prison society and VEEEM, the Voter Empowerment, Education, and Enrichment Movement on these efforts. In April 2019 we added a question, are you a registered voter in Allegheny county, to our booking questions, in collaboration with this group. Today's population is 2244 inmates, and of those, 758 inmates self-reported as registered voters in Allegheny county. In advance of the presidential primary, signage, developed by the 3 organizations, will be placed throughout the facility. At the end of March the groups will be hosting town hall meetings in each of the facility's 35 pods. Volunteers will make presentations to the inmates regarding voting rights for those who are incarcerated and provide general information on deadlines and other important information that inmates will need in order to be able to exercise their right to vote. The jail will work with your office to provide voter registration forms for use during these meetings, which will be returned to the election department at the completion of the town hall meetings. Once voter registration is completed, we will work with these organizations to provide messaging and/or visits on each pod with absentee ballot applications. As our process has been, the jail will collect these applications and then coordinate with you to have an election official bring those ballots to the jail so that they can be voted and then returned to elections. This is a pilot program at this time, so following the presidential primary, we intend to reconvene with All Voting Is Local and its partners, as well as with elections, for feedback on the process and improvement on potential processes. We are committed to supporting voter registration and election efforts in Allegheny county. Future improvements may improve allowing the use of electronic tablets for registration. It is our hope that the implementation of the electronic

tablets will also allow us to offer educational material, available on each table to inform inmates of their eligibility.

Judge Clark

I think this is very exciting. The prospect of the town hall meetings and then helping the inmates complete their registration and the absentee ballot process, so that they will actually vote. Miss Hallam,

Ms. Hallam

I have a few questions. How many of the 2244 people who are incarcerated today are eligible to vote? I know you said 258 are *registered* –

Warden

758.

Ms. Hallam

758 are *registered*, I'm asking how many people are *eligible* of the 2244?

Warden

There are 758 people that are eligible to vote.

Ms. Hallam

Maybe I'm not clarifying, what I'm asking is legally, regarding who can vote as incarcerated population. You know, so if you're not actively serving a sentence, you're eligible to vote, what I'm asking is that I know 758 people are registered, but there are 2244 incarcerated right now. How many of those people could potentially be registered?

Warden

We won't know that until we have the town hall meetings and sit down and talk with these individuals. After the town hall meetings are conducted, we'll have a better accountability as to who's actually eligible.

Ms. Hallam

You don't have a record of who's in there serving a sentence, who's in there on a detainer, who's there waiting trial-

Warden

We do.

Ms. Hallam

So that would answer that question, that's where I'm coming from.

Warden
Right now I'm not able to answer that.

Ms. Hallam
Okay, so if you could give me that information, I would appreciate that.

Warden
We can try to get that information.

Ms. Hallam
Okay, and then the next thing is, I don't know if this would come from you or come from - maybe the board of elections is who I should ask about this, do you have a report of how many people who are incarcerated in Allegheny county jail at the time have voted over the past couple of years? For comparison? We can set a benchmark on where we were in past years and try to set a goal for this year of how many people we'd like to vote.

Warden
I think that you would have to get that information from board.

Ms. Hallam
From the board of elections, okay. Thank you.

Warden
The last thing that I would like to bring to the board is that we're excited to team up with a national organization called PD Green. We have a representative from PD Green that will give a description of the program. After the deputy warden gives her announcements to the board, we will have the representative from PE Green talk about the new program that's going to take place at the Allegheny county jail.

6. Deputy Warden's Report

Deputy Warden Williams

Good evening, board, thank you. The Deputy Warden's Report talking about the organization PE Green. I'll invite Talia Allen up now. She's a representative, she's one of the local representatives of this nationwide agency, and she can speak more to specifics about the services that they will be offering, but this was done in congruence with the adult education program that we have the AIU, the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, of which we have representative Joe Tocar present. And then, of course, Jack Pishkey [?], who most of you are familiar with, who is our Inmate Programs Administrator. We're very excited that it's spring break right now, and we're going to be following the adult education program schedule in order to provide these services that will be beginning next week in our facility.

Talia Allen, PE Green

Hi and good afternoon. I was asked to speak briefly about the PD Green program and what we do. The PD Green program is a national organization that supplements existing educational models in jails, prisons, and correctional institutions. We do that by recruiting volunteers

orphaned from university campuses and training them to teach incarcerated students. There are also some community volunteers, but PD Green in Pittsburgh is primarily working with Duquesne university to recruit students. This has been about a year and a half now, and we're finally getting to the point where we can launch within the facility along with Joe and Jack Pishkey [?]. We'll be starting next week, and we do this through training our own organizational staff and then they go through the prison facility orientation and from there they're ready to start. Are there any questions about what we do or how we do it?

7. Allegheny County Jail Medical Services

Deputy Warden Williams

Each month we talk about our pregnant population, so the numbers reflect 21. We did have within this reporting period many women who were pregnant come into the facility. Today's count is 3, we currently have 3 individuals who are incarcerated and pregnant at the same time.

Then **coronavirus, or COVID-19**, has already been mentioned before. Though I can't explain the detailed plan, because that would take quite a bit of time to do, I want to reassure that we are very fortunate to be in Allegheny County, where there are so many active stakeholders that are involved and constantly communicating. Prior to this meeting, there was another one that was being hosted at the Allegheny County Health Department, they are, as the warden already spoke about, looping in emergency services. We're in constant communication with the sheriff's department, the courts, all out criminal justice agencies, so we do have a number of preventative plans or emergency preparedness plans that are being enacted, systematically throughout a staging process. One of the things that we value at the jail is that it is influenza season, so we have had active influenza within our facility, which is also a communicable disease that is spread through respiratory – water droplets or surface bacteria, or viral... on high-volume surfaces. We've been getting our tests run, it's important to keep individuals who are sick in spaces where they can be well, and well people separate from those. We encourage frequent hygiene, and we will be, of course, stepping up those measures within the facility. We've done a total inventory and account of the PPE or the personal protective equipment that we have within the facility, to include masks as well as gloves for individuals not just the residents within the facility, but of course the staff as well. As we can, we'll continue to work with the health department to make sure that that information is communicated to our staff, so that everybody can stay safe and reduce or mitigate the spread of illness and the risk of disease within the facility, and also encourage those opportunities and appropriate hand hygiene for the inmate population as well. As we know, a confined environment is something where we have to take these risks very seriously, because disease spread can happen so quickly. So we appreciate the support from the Allegheny County Health Department, who has been providing constant health education, bulletins from the federal and the state level, as well as connecting us to some other facilities who may have had higher exposure rates or risk rates to see what they're doing in terms of best practices. As we're *all* continuing to learn about this new coronavirus strain.

Mr. Korinski

Your honor, if I may, a question. Question on the monthly report of programs and services.

Deputy Warden

Which page? Because there's a few references – page 4?

Mr. Korinski

I'm looking at Employment and Training and the PD Green presentation sparked my interest. I know active services under employment training is 2 which strikes me as low. But if you could comment on that, and the question would be does the PD Green would it fall under that employment training? Or would that be something that we could know about who's enrolled? And the number of participants?

Deputy Warden

PD Green would be considered to be separate from – and the education certainly augments somebody's capacity to be – more advantageously hired, but it's not specifically for employment and training. I think Miss Allen spoke to that this is to augment, supplement, or make more robust, the educational services that we have available in the facility. We will of course be tracking the number of participants within that program.

Mr. Korinski

So then that would fall under the education line.

Deputy Warden

Yes.

Mr. Korinski

Okay. So are there only – why only two people in employment training? Depending on population or offering

Deputy Warden

Why I can't answer at this present moment, but I think service availability – partners engagement, as well as individual's interest, and if they are in any other competing services. May be some contributing factors, but what I can do is by next month, as we've become accustomed to, dive in deeper to that specific line so that we can speak to the enrollment rates for that.

Mr. Korinski

Thank you. And then one other question maybe for next meeting, could you provide the board with a list or a pricing of commissary items? Since the inmate welfare fund is being discussed. And also a price list for the phone calls as well?

Deputy Warden

Those are contracted items; I think we'll discuss and report out of what we can.

Ms. Hallam

One quick question. Out of the 3 pregnant women within the Allegheny county jail right now, how many of them are on medication assisted treatment?

Deputy Warden

You know, we had some releases very recently, so I would have to look to see how many of them are currently in medication assisted treatment. I know at least one of our current individuals.

Ms. Hallam

And to confirm, those are the only people who are allowed to receive medication-assisted treatment within the Allegheny county jail.

Deputy Warden

No.

Ms. Hallam

Who is eligible for that program besides pregnant people?

Deputy Warden

WE have started – I know we've reported in some previous meetings that there's program expansion going on within our facility for the medication-assisted treatment. The first phase, which we have already initiated, is individuals who transferred to our facility who are maybe from either a state or another county correctional agency, who are already maintained on some form of medication-assisted treatment. The primary right now is vifinorfine [?] or suboclade which is an injection. So we have been maintaining those individuals when they come for transfer. We will continue forward, we want to make sure that we can support them with appropriate services such as counseling, as well as meet all of their additional needs that they may have, medically. So that's where we are with our program expansion.

Ms. Hallam

And what is the timeline on that expansion?

Deputy Warden

I do not have a timeline when we will be moving to our next phase, right now. We're having some personnel changes and want to make sure that we have stability within that program in order to continue the expansion.

Ms. Hallam

Okay, thank you.

8. New Business

Terri Klein

Yes. I would like to, if possible, report on a meeting Mr. Korinski and I had, because I volunteered to spearhead the committee that was going to look into guidelines on the inmate welfare fund. So Mr. Korinski and I met last month, Mr. Korinski was doing some investigation, so I really need to congratulate Allegheny County, because the Allegheny County Jail is an exception that they separate the inmate fund and sequester than, and it's not folded into the general operating fund. We are very appreciative of that. I just want to make sure that people know that that really is an exception. So we were talking about tenets, best practices, for setting guidelines for dispersing from their mate welfare fund, and just wanted to let you know what we're thinking about is the guiding principle should be the greatest good for the greatest number. So how can we use this money, that again, is not tax-payer money, for the greatest number of people? We agreed that it should not be spent on mandated functions, that is statutorily-mandated, constitutionally-mandated, case law-mandated. I think we should also try to look that those inmates who are putting in are getting out some benefit from the services. And an idea that we're working on is to try to get a needs assessment done. I would like to have an academic needs-assessment to determine what inmates as well as correction officers, perhaps community members, think should be spent on the inmate welfare fund. I don't presume to know what the best way is to spend this money. I'm reaching out to people in a school of social work to come up with, hopefully, a proposal to bring to the board about doing a needs assessment. And I, again, we'd love to have input from anybody else in the board, and we can certainly let you know when we are meeting again.

Judge Clark

Ms. Moss you volunteer

Ms. Moss

Yes, it is one of my pet peeves

Judge Clark

I do think the board has been very careful just to not make sure that the money is spent inappropriately. But I do agree that there are some things that probably should not come out of the inmate welfare fund. But there's things that are needed by the inmates. And the board, the jail has a budget every year, and over the years the budget has grown, I guess the costs of running an institution have increased, and so how best does that fit in with the budget that the jail has? And are there ways that we can look at the budget differently or request different things in the budget? I think it takes a lot of thought and planning, and so I personally look forward to hearing more from your committee about recommendations. But I have to say, I really like the guiding principle. I think that's an excellent way to focus in on how the inmate welfare fund should be spent. *The greatest good for the greatest number of inmates*. I like that, so thank you. Does anyone have any questions?

Ms. Hallam

Well, maybe it's a question – I'm not sure who to direct it towards. But I've gotten a lot of reports over the past few weeks, months, from people who are currently incarcerated and actually staff members within the jail, about the K2 issue that's been going on. First, you're familiar with this, you've also received reports about this, Warden. Basically, for anybody who's not familiar with it, there's been a massive usage of people smoking K2. People within their jail cells smoking K2. From what I've been told, it's coming through the vents, onto other pods

where it's not necessarily happening, and there are corrections officers who are suffering and these are other incarcerated people who aren't choosing to use K2, who are inhaling the fumes of it. I was wondering if you've heard of this, if you have any plan for it, and if not, if I could maybe suggest some sort of air quality monitor, putting in a random selection of pods and seeing if we can monitor what's going on there.

Warden

Contraband is a problem throughout institutions throughout America, and Allegheny County has been the first to combat contraband coming into the facility, especially K2. We were the first to start xeroxing [?] all mail coming into the facility because we knew that contraband was coming in through the mail. We did that a couple years ago. We brought in a body scanner. We are the leading agency when it comes to combatting contraband coming into our facility. Of course, there's contraband coming into the facility, just like any other facilities, but we aggressively search these pods every day to make sure that our staff is safe. At one time, with the health department, we did have air quality monitors in the pods, and every time there was a report of K2, we did test the air. But if you know anything about K2, the strain changes every day, and you would not be able to notate that, notate a new strain. We take contraband deterrents seriously at the jail, and any time we've received a report, we go to that cell block and we search that cell block to try to find the contraband. We are working aggressively to try to combat this contraband from coming in.

Ms. Hallam

Thank you.

Judge Clark

Any other comments? Alright, thank you. I just wanted to announce that I will be working with the board to set up our unannounced visits and inspections. And it's my intention – I realize that every board member may not be able to make every visit – but we're going to set them up. And we also talked when we had our informal meetings, that we would like to include the community corrections site as well. Because people are serving sentences at those places, and it's an extension of the jail, and we believe that we should be making unannounced visits to those facilities too. And I wanted to announce that so that when we show up, you won't turn us away. We'll have the community corrections reports at this time, the program for offenders.

9. Community Corrections Reports

A. The Program for Offenders

Mike Gilmore

I'd like to report that Pennsylvania women's works provided a customer service-first training at our female facility. Those that completed the class got an industry-recognized professional certification, and they were connected to local employers for interview opportunities. Also, Mercy Behavioral is back doing smoking cessation classes at our facilities again.

B. The Renewal Center

Frank DeClare

Report on a couple facility upgrades and improvements that are currently going on in our center. With the help of the reentrance we're painting all residential floors and living spaces, and wrapping up a complete tear out and remodel of the shower areas on the fourth floor, and as soon as we're completing that, which will be next week, we intend to completely tear out and remodel the shower areas on the fifth floor. Thank you.

C. Electronic Monitoring

Steve Esswein

871 Individuals are enrolled

117 Completed

13 Absconders

Terri Klein

I just have a question and I'm not sure to whom I should address this. But with Goodwill closing, for the inmates who were scheduled to go there, have they been absorbed into your other...

?

Yes

10. Adjournment

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Judge Clark, duly seconded by Sheriff Mullen to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chelsa Wagner, Secretary