

The monthly meeting of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board was held on Thursday, July 2, 2020 held as a virtual conference at 4:00 P.M.

Members Present

Honorable Judge Clark
Honorable Judge Lazzara
Sheriff William Mullen
Chelsa Wagner Controller
Barbara Parees representing County Executive
Bethany Hallam At-Large Council
Terri Klein
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

1. Public Comment

Judge Clark:

The first item on the agenda is public comments. If you were here at the last meeting, you know that we had a lot of public comments from the meeting before. The warden and Deputy Warden spent a lot of time reviewing the comments and answering them, but it took significant time in our meeting agenda to do that. Council woman Bethany Hallam, who is a member of the board had a suggestion that I thought, was very good so we're going to try this. We collected all of the comments and we will post the comments and questions that were submitted on the website along with the answers. So that people will get to see all of the comments that were submitted. Because we have not been able to present all of the comments at any meeting and they will get to see all of the answers. So I believe that remaining comments that were not addressed at the last meeting have been answered by the Warden. Those will be posted. This time we received 19 comments for this meeting but a number of them dealt with similar issues. I have three that dealt with the issue of visitation at the jail. When's that going to happen? Three that dealt with the suicide report. And six that dealt with the tablets. And there was a myriad of others. So because there were some questions from more than one person about some items, I did ask the Warden if he could briefly talk about those things at this meeting in the public comments portion. So warden I will turn it over to you at this time to address those three topics.

2. Old Business

Warden Harper:

Good afternoon everybody. So the first thing I want to talk about is visiting at the Allegheny county jail. Those of you keeping up with the COVID-19 cases in our community, you see that our cases have increased tremendously and therefore we will not have visiting at the Allegheny county jail for a while. The COVID-19 cases in our community continue to rise and one of the things we do not want to do is have visiting in our jail where that virus could re-enter our jail. So visiting will not take place for a while and one of the things we're looking at, is how much of an increase we are having in the community. Once we can see we are stabilizing and the COVID-19 cases have been reduced in the community, we will start talking with the health department about how we can bring visiting back at a reduced pace, until we feel safe to bring visiting back to protect everybody at Allegheny county jail. So the next thing is the suicide report. So there are several things I want to talk about pertaining to the suicide report. The first thing I want to talk about is what we have done before NCCAC arrived to our jail to conduct this report. The first thing we did was revive our suicide policy and the NCCAC team noted that our policy was excellent, it was consistent with NCCAC standards. We implemented the suicide blankets at the Allegheny county jail where every individual living in our facility is provided with two suicide blankets. We implemented some architectural repairs in the cell block. Training on suicide topics including avoiding obstacles to prevent mental health was provided to our staff. We utilize our electronic health director. We had a rover in our intake department and his or her primary responsibility is to continuously rove down in our intake department to determine whether a person is having any medical issues. We've increased the out of cell time for our mental health and segregated inmates. We provide Narcan to anybody that would like Narcan upon their release. Medical and mental health are working collaboratively together when excepting inmates in our RHU. We participate with our mental health court stepping up the sequential instep model partnership with DHS pretrial services at JRF to keep people with lesser crime and mental illness out of our jail.

a. NCCAC Recommendations

So the next thing I would like to do is go over the 13 recommendations from NCCAC.

1. Obstacles to visibility. That has been completed.
 - A correctional officer is now stationed in the segregation dayroom at all times in order to observe all the cells.
 - Mirrors have been installed in our medical holding unit to give employees view of our blind spots.
 - Corner cells are not used unless there is an emergency and then inmates are double celled.
 - A second correctional officer has been assigned to the medical holding unit and the officers are required to conduct 15-minute irregular security inspections.
 - The inmates control center has a screen to prevent inmates of opposite sex from viewing each other. In accordance to PREA we had to put that screen up to prevent inmates of the opposite sex from seeing each other but we did install a dimmer switch to make it more visible for our employees in the control center.
2. Limit the officers from observing the pod. That task has been completed.
 - Officers and med nurse have been instructed to pause the medication pass to allow time for the correctional officers to complete their security inspections.
3. Lack of privacy. It's completed in part but still in progress.
 - The mental health specialist has been moved into the healthcare area so that mental health screenings can be done in a more private setting.

- We are reviewing ways to modify Space in the intake department, so it is more seclusive for open and honest responses. This will take a substantial amount of time. We estimate 12 to 24 months for this recommendation.
 - Healthcare staff have been reminded to utilize out of cell private space when conducting interviews on the pod.
4. Additional training and interpersonal communication needed for nurses and correctional officers. That is in progress.
 - We recognize that training is crucial and additional training will be developed and provided to healthcare staff and correctional officers. We anticipate the completion of this training to be 6 to 12 months.
 5. Suicide resistance cell. In progress.
 - Additional correctional officer has been assigned to the mental health unit, intake department, medical housing unit, and the segregation unit in order to increase observation in these critical areas.
 - The fitting of the cell to make them suicide resistant is not feasible. However, the cells on the acute mental health pod, detox pod, and segregation pod will be made more resistant.
 - We will re-fix the acute mental health cells and intake remove the desk and change out all bunks. This will take a substantial amount of time. We estimate this to take about 24 months.
 - Institutional wide environmental changes include modification of the desk, painting cells to a lighter color, the order of painting will be prioritized by dark color. With the goal of painting all the cells in the jail to a lighter color. So that's going to take up a substantial amount of time. We estimate it will take 24 months for us to paint every cell in the Allegheny jail to make it lighter.
 - Repair the gap in the wall. That's going to take approximately 12 months. We've begun that process.
 - We're starting on covering up the holes on the bunks. That has been on going and we're going to continue to try to cover up all the holes in each of the bunks.
 6. Medical leadership, safe housing inmates withdrawing from substance. Has been completed.
 - The medical director has routine meetings with physical health and mental health providers monthly. And formal meetings occur weekly. The medical director is working with the clinic managers to develop a strategy to reduce the back log of clinic visits.
 - Safe housing for inmates withdrawing from substance was noted as a recommendation however ACJ does provide safe housing for inmates withdrawing from substances. This practice has been in place prior to the NCCAC review inmates in specific pods are double celled detox protocols are followed including medications have been in place and were approved by the medical director.
 7. Enhanced Policies. Complete in part but still in progress.
 - The orientation policy for health care has been published the orientation program has been revised and implemented in order to be consistent with NCCAC standards.
 - All newly hired health care staff receive basic orientation outlining the relevant security and health service policy and response to emergency additionally all newly hired health care staff receive 40 hours of orientation followed by additional orientation, on the job shadowing and support for the next 90 days.
 - All staff must demonstrate competency prior to assignment.
 - Employees can train other employees and support new employees during the shadowing portion of the orientation.
 - Policy 304 suicide prevention, detection and intervention. Policy 305 mental health screening and evaluation. Policy 608 training staff development. Have been revised.
 - Policy 2207 communications and patient health needs is being revised.

- The health care policy for mental health services, mental health programs, residential units, and Infirmiry care are under development and will be posted within 30 days.
8. Top problem list. Is in progress.
 - The function of the problem list and the EHR will be reviewed with the provider and health staff. The medical director and the chief psychiatrist will develop a list of mental health problems that should be on the problem list.
 - We'll provide training to the mental health staff to enter the diagnostic findings and the suicide risk on the problem list at intake.
 - We will revise the EHR as indicated so that the mental health problems are identified. They will also be populated into a problems list in our EHR. We estimate that will be completed within 6 months.
 9. Staffing. It's in progress and ongoing.
 - The health care department will have greater flexibility to make staffing changes as a result of the renegotiated collective bargaining agreement.
 - The changes include more competitive salary, Capacity to assign and schedule staff to meet operational needs, more flexibility to utilize current resources in areas as needed, cross training the staff to increase their involvement in the on the job training of all new staff.
 - All vacant positions are posted on the county website.
 - Educational programs have been contacted. Internships occur in the mental health and the substance use department. Additional resource allocations are requested with each annual budget.
 - Staffing on the medical housing unit is sufficient and includes 2 nurses, 2 MAs, and 2 correctional officers.
 10. Greater integration of behavioral and primary care. Is completed.
 - Collaborative meetings are occurring.
 - Suicide screenings PHQ2 is conducted by the primary care provider with each clinic visit and mental health is contacted for inmates with identified potential suicide risk.
 11. Therapeutic programing on mental health units is limited. This is in progress.
 - We are exploring the use of other departments to facilitate educational groups. This process was initiated but was put on hold due to the additional requirements connected to COVID-19.
 - Our health care administration will be reallocated current mental health assessment registered nurse, psychiatric aide resources within the mental health department in order to improve therapeutic programing on our mental health pod. We estimate that to be completed within 6 months.
 12. Treatment plans for suicidal inmates does not meet NCCAC standards. This is still in progress.
 - Treatment plans will be revised to be consistent with NCCAC standards.
 - The mental health director will provide training to the mental health staff following the revisions related to treatment planning based on NCCAC suicide prevention resource guide. We anticipate this to be completed within 6 months.
 13. Specialized training for staff recommended. It is in progress and ongoing.
 - Additional training modules will be developed to enhance the existing suicide prevention training.
 - These will include specialized training for medical, mental health, custody staff, intake, communication skills training to all staff and additional CIT training to all working in critical areas. We anticipate this to be completed within 12 to 24 months.
 - We will extend the avoiding obstacles to prevention training program to custody supervisors, medical staff, custody staff who work on the medical, mental health, withdraw, segregation housing unit, and medication administration health care staff.

- Providers will receive cross training to further integrate these behavioral health and primary care.
- We've already completed the suicide drill on all three shifts and those suicide drills took place in January 2020.

Those are the 13 recommendations that were recommended by NCCAC, and as you can see, we have completed a lot of the recommendations that they made.

Judge Clark:

Thank you, Warden we are going to have a report, a little bit later from the subcommittee. Does anyone have any questions for Warden Harper concerning their progress and addressing the recommendations or any comments at this time?

Bethany Hallam:

I have one question. My question is in regarding the one recommendation from the report about not having bunk beds in the cells where folks are withdrawing. I thought I heard the Warden say that, that was something that had already been addressed? So are you saying that there are no more double celled folks in the withdrawing pods and that they are only sleeping on single beds?

Warden Harper:

I did not say that Ms. Hallam. We are double bunking all of our inmates that are detoxing, so those cells continue to have double bunks.

Bethany Hallam:

Right. But the suicide report does say that you should not do that, correct?

Warden Harper:

I don't recall the suicide report saying that ma'am. If you can give me the page number where it says that. I don't remember reading that.

Bethany Hallam:

I can actually quote it for you. It says "Withdrawing inmates are not housed in a safe location that allows for effective monitoring nor in suicide resistant cells. They are double celled and sleep on bunks reportedly some still have ladders. Staff reports that inmates have fallen from the top bunk. This can result in injury that present risk of seizure. These practices are not adequate for these patients. Some correctional facilities house withdraw patients in a dormitory setting with beds close to the floor".

Warden Harper:

Well unfortunately Ms. Hallam, we don't have dormitory settings here at Allegheny County jail. We're doing everything we can in our power to make sure that these detox inmates are double bunked so when one individual is having an issue as far as medical etc. the inmate can sound the alarm so we can get help. So we don't have a dormitory setting to do what you just reported ma'am.

Bethany Hallam:

Oh no, I understand that we don't have a dormitory setting. I'm asking, that instead of bunk beds, if you need to double cell someone because of withdrawing can we have two beds that are at the ground?

Warden Harper:

We don't have enough room in the cells to do something like that. And according to ACA and basic logical theory, you cannot have inmates that close in the cell together. So, no we cannot do that.

Bethany Hallam:

Is there a possibility that we could use extra empty pods that are not currently being used to expand the housing of withdrawing incarcerated people?

Warden Harper:

Right now, Ms. Hallam I don't recommend we do anything different to the open pods because we have so much going on. As I stated before with the COVID-19 cases rising in our community when it comes back to the Allegheny county jail were going to have to utilize all these empty pods like we did three of them before to make it safe in this jail. So we're going to keep these pods open because we're going to make sure that we're able to protect our staff and the inmates when that virus does re-enter our jail.

Judge Clark:

So I would just suggest, we do have a subcommittee that will be working on these issues ongoing. So I think at this particular time that might be a issue for the subcommittee to review to see whether there is any possibility to change any of those practices in regard to inmates who are withdrawing. I do agree with the Warden right now that the empty pods should probably be reserved in case there is another flare up of COVID-19 in the jail. But I think it's an issue that could be referred to by the subcommittee. Any other questions or comments for the Warden about the suicide report?

Chelsa Wagner:

My question isn't on the suicide report, but I was wondering if now is the time to ask some follow up questions on COVID-19?

Judge Clark:

Well it's on the agenda. So we'll get to that in a minute. Okay? Thank you. So Warden just briefly can you talk about the status of the tablets?

b. Global Tech Link and tablets

Warden Harper:

Absolutely. I'm proud to announce that GTL (Global Tech Link) is the provider that will be providing the new telephone contract. Hopefully we'll have the tablets and everything up and running within 90 days. That's what we're trying to do. I just want to talk a little bit about the cost of the tablets because the cost is basically the same. And I just want to talk about some additional things we're going to be providing to the inmates. For a local call it's still 19 cents. Interstate call is still 19 cents. International domestic call is still 19 cents a minute. Any international calls are still 50 cents. But I also wanted to talk about some of the extra things that'll be provided to the inmates. One of the things we realized at the Allegheny county jail is that our inmates need more contact with their loved ones. Not just with them socially visiting them periodically during the week. We want them to talk to them using the video visitation. The video visitation is going to cost 25 cents per minute. We're also going to have a program where individuals can electronically message inmates. Say for example you have a loved one and you just want to say, "hey how are you doing?" Etc. that'll be 25 cents for that to be sent. That's a lot cheaper than a postage stamp that you send when you mail in the mail. So 25 cents to receive an incoming electronic message. And it'll cost 25 cents to send an electronic message. Also, we have the capability if the individual wanted to send a photograph, it's 25 cents per photograph if you want to send a photograph to your loved ones. Video message. Say for example it's the holiday and the inmate is in our jail and you want to send the inmate a video message. It's \$1 for a 30-minute clip where you can send a video message to your loved one to say hi. It's a remarkable thing. I'm just excited about some of the things that were going to be able to provide our inmates. Every time I walk the jail, the inmates are excited about some of the things they're going to be able to do. I hope that everybody in the community see that we're trying to do everything in our power so that loved ones can keep in contact with their loved one that is living in our Allegheny County jail. I'm ready for any questions.

Bethany Hallam:

Something that I have the most questions about, after reading through the contract are some of the incentives that were offered to the county so for example. If Allegheny County jail population were to drop to 1,257 people, the county would only receive \$50,000 per month but if the jail is maintained at double that number, if we have over 2,500 people in the jail then the county's revenue doubles as well to \$100,000. So over the course of the contract, which is what three years? The county would collect nearly \$2million more if we keep that population at or above 2,500. So my concern is that based off the way the contract is worded and with the minimum monthly grants that are based off of the monthly average daily population there. I'm worried that the county is instead advised to keep the jail population high, as opposed to doing all the procedures that we have been working on the past few months to drop that population down.

Judge Clark:

I'm sorry. I don't think that's a question for the Warden because as I said at many meetings, Warden Harper or the jail has no control over who's there that's the responsibility of the court. So I can guarantee the court is not to concerned with the county making money to keep inmates in jail. We will try or continuing to try to keep the numbers low, as low as we can to keep the community safe. And it's an issue we continue to address. So that's the responsibility of the courts. The Warden has no say in who is in the jail. It might be the responsibility of the police because they initiate the arrest in many cases. I don't think the police are concerned with that

either. I don't think anyone is concerned about the numbers as a profit making for the county. I can guarantee you that, that's not the way the judges or the court is going to operate in deciding who's in the jail or who's out of the jail.

Bethany Hallam:

Ok I guess my concern was that the Warden is the only person that's a part of this meeting today who was consulted at all in the negotiation process for the contract so that's why I was asking him to speak to that.

Judge Clark:

Alright, but that's really a question for me, certainly, or a question for the courts but it's not a question for the Warden.

Bethany Hallam:

Ok then I have another question if you don't mind about the video visitations capability. Prior to the pandemic you could go in to visit your incarcerated loved one in person for free and now with the capability of video visitation, there are some plus sides to it but it's going to cost money. I'm wondering if the jail has any plans, or it would comfort me to know if there isn't a plan or possibility down the road of eliminating all in person visitation and relying simply on video visitations?

Warden Harper:

That's one of the things we would never do at the Allegheny County jail, is eliminating our face to face contact with our loved ones. So that will not happen. This video visitation is just going to be an additional means in which they can actually contact their loved ones. So I assure you Ms. Hallam, we're going to still continue with our face to face visits and we're going to give them the video visitations. So they can keep in contact with their loved one.

Chief Williams:

Ms. Hallam, we talked to some of our other correctional partners and they've actually reported that you're right there can be an increase cost but for some families that do not have the capability of getting to a facility this does open the opportunity for them to visit. Most of our individuals who are counting on or utilizing public transportation or their own vehicles, they have to park downtown which can be very expensive. They may have to get child care arrangements for children. They have to go through our security procedures, which also takes time. There can be conflicts with work schedules. So for some people this may, when you consider all of those additional cost, actually be less expensive and less of a burden for them to be connected to their family. The Warden did note that we will not be eliminating in person visits. Our intent is to be able to expand the capacity for family contact.

Bethany Hallam:

Thank you. One last question if you don't mind. Since you were a part of these discussions, could you speak as to whether the concept of free calls or someone who uses a public defender or a low-income person incarcerated in the jail. If they would have access to free video visits or free phone calls. I guess I'm just concerned about the profit that is being made on these calls by

the county. That the charge that's being assessed to the incarcerated folk and their loved ones is not equal to the charge that it cost us to administer those calls. But instead it is kind of worked in a profit for the county. Could you speak as to why that was a part of the decision?

Warden Harper:

The only thing I can say to this is Ms. Hallam is that the video visitation calls are going to be just what it is, 25 cents per minute. So right now, there's no free video visitations calls when it comes to that.

Bethany Hallam:

But the county is making a profit off of the phone calls and video visits correct?

Gayle Moss:

May I say something? Do we have a vendor? That bid on getting that setup, like what is charged when you make calls out?

Judge Clark:

So there's two questions for you Warden. One from Ms. Hallam and one from Ms. Moss. I don't know whether you're able, or which question you want to answer. If you can.

Warden Harper:

Ms. Hallam, the county is making money from the calls and I'm just going to leave it at that. Ms. Moss, your question was, were there vendors that bid for this phone contract?

Gayle Moss:

Yes, I was asking were there vendors that came in and bid for the phone contract? They would come in with a bid and get a contract for a year or something like that.

Warden Harper:

Yes, ma'am it's the same process.

Gayle Moss:

So that's what we have now? The same process?

Warden Harper:

Yes ma'am

Gayle Moss:

Ok so with having a vendor who makes the money? The vendor? Is that right?

Warden Harper:

The vendor will be making money and the county will be making money.

Gayle Moss:

Alright. Okay thank you.

Bethany Hallam:

Sorry one last thing. How many bids were looked through before deciding to award the bid to Global Tech Link? How many different vendors put in a bid for this when we put out the RFP?

Warden Harper:

I want to say four companies applied. I think it was four.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay. Can you give us some insight as to why Global Tech Link was chosen? Why this contract was chosen?

Warden Harper:

You know Ms. Hallam, we have a RFP process and through the process we felt as though they presented the best product for what we're trying to get. They went through the RFP process with everybody else.

Bethany Hallam:

So the amount that the county could make on this proposal was not a factor?

Warden Harper:

Money is always a factor when it comes to bids like this, but that wasn't the sole factor.

Bethany Hallam:

Was the revenue sharing that was proposed in this contract the same as the one from the other bids we received?

Warden Harper:

I can't answer that right now.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay. Thank you.

Judge Clark:

Any other questions? Thank you, Warden, for addressing those issues and again the comments that were received, we will answer those comments and they will be posted on the website. I think we have good Segway to the next item of old business. We had two committees, subcommittees that met. I'm going to ask judge Lazzara to give a brief report on the inmate welfare expense fund subcommittee and then followed by that Ms. Parees will give a report on the suicide prevention subcommittee.

c. Inmate Welfare Expense Fund Sub-Committee Report

Judge Lazzara:

We had a very good meeting on June 19th, 2020. The members of the subcommittee: Bethany Hallam, Terri Klein, Barbara Parees, Chelsa Wagner, and myself. Brad Korinski from Mrs. Wagner's office did join us for a little discussion on some things that needed some background on. What we decided is that we were going to discuss all aspects of inmate welfare fund, so that we include the income sources as well as the appropriate expenditures. We decided at this meeting to sort of start more broadly and discuss those concepts broadly. We did have some discussion of where the money comes from for the inmate welfare fund. Right now, it's 100% of the profits from the commissary. That has not always been the case, we certainly raised questions about whether we can return to some prior conditions and that's something we will go into more fully at a later meeting. We also then talked about expenses, with expenses being segregated into two types of expenses in the jail, mandatory expenses is what we call them which will be things that the jail must provide to the inmates of the Allegheny County jail. Those are things which should be funded by Allegheny County. We have started by identifying a list of those things, like food, clothing, hygiene products, medical and psychological services, legal library, staffing, security, facility and it's up keep, inmate and staff safety, Juvenile education, deaf and translation services. It is our intentions at the next meeting to do a deeper dive into those mandatory expenses to see what is covered by what the county funds provides. Like how much clothing is provided? What are the basic medical and psychological services provided? So that will be something we will dive in deeper on at our next meeting. We also talked about broadly, identifying what discretionary expenses are. In doing so we actually really try to look for some good legal principles, which we did not find any in Pennsylvania. Therefore, we moved outward, and started looking at other states to see what they could can find as approvable expenses to come out of the inmate welfare fund, with the idea being that these are things that benefit the general population and advance education and the welfare of inmates. We did not get very far on that part of the conversation because the rest of our conversation took so long, which was wonderful. We really had a good talk. That is also something we will be discussing in our next meeting. I think it was a very productive first meeting. I think that we have very interested people on this committee who are really planning to make sure that what we are spending the inmate welfare fund on are appropriate and should be covered by that fund and are for the benefit of the inmates.

Judge Clark:

Thank you Judge Lazzara. Anyone have any questions or comments? Okay we'll move onto Ms.Parees and the suicide prevention report. Obviously, Warden Harper talked a lot about that in the beginning so we'll hear from Ms.Parees. Thank you.

d. Suicide Prevention Sub-Committee Report

Barbara Parees:

Thanks judge Clark. The suicide prevention subcommittee meeting on June 5th, 2020. Attending the meeting were Bethany Hallam, Beth Lazzara, Gale Moss, Chelsa Wagner, and myself. We also had a really productive meeting. We had two charges to address during this meeting. One was to determine how the report should be released to the public. The second was to review whether the recommendations are in the process of being implement it at Allegheny county jail. So we made two recommendations at the end of our meeting. One was that the NCCAC suicide prevention program assessment would be posted, and it is as of today. It's posted on the Allegheny County website, in the Allegheny County bureau of corrections section and it's under resources in the report section. So if anyone wants to look at it, they can find it there. We also wanted to have it connected to the jail oversight board page, which is located in the court section. So it is on the courts website in the same place where one might go to post comments for the meeting. So you can find it in both places on both websites. I checked and they are both there, and available today. Second, we made the recommendations that Warden Harper would be asked to begin the process of reporting to the jail oversight board, at our regularly scheduled meetings and that we ask him to start today and we are pleased to have had that report. It gives us the bases of where we are as we begin what will be a long process. You can tell from what he indicated. We also recognize as a group, and this is also apparent in his report that the recommendations fall into generally three categories of issues that some may know will be resolved in a short amount of time that there will be others that will be in progress and others that will be resolved over a longer period of time and that there may be issues that will take a substantial amount of time and resources to resolve. Those largely fall into areas related to construction and changes to the physical structure of the facility. We also indicated that we want to meet regularly, and we are going to do that and that we will request process reports from the Warden so that we can make sure these recommendations are being addressed in a timely manner and will be completed ultimately in the best way they can. We also recognize that some of the recommendations have an urgency of importance. Because of their impact on suicide prevention and they should be pursued with that in mind. That's one of our guiding principles as well. We then spent the remainder of our time talking about our thoughts about the report and we focused on the key findings and we asked the Warden too in his report to also focus on those 13 key findings. As you can see, some of those we will address routinely as we go through this process. That's our plan to continue to process oversight on a regular basis.

Judge Clark:

Thank you. Any questions or comments? The next item on our agenda is COVID-19, and I would just say that given the circumstances of the state of the pandemic, it's sort of ever changing and the cases are increasing and just as we've been sitting here, I think there has been some additional orders of recommendations that have come in. I think that while the pandemic is in effect this should be a standing item on our agenda to talk about it. I'm going to turn it over to the Warden just to address what's going on right now in the county jail and I believe Mrs. Wagner had a question or comment about that and then we'll go to her.

e. COVID-19

Warden Harper:

The first thing I want to say to everybody is, I want to thank the men and women that are working in the Allegheny County jail. The men and women working at the Allegheny County are doing a phenomenal job at stopping the spread of the virus in our jail. If you look at jails throughout the nation you see the amount of issues that they are having in their jail. But this is a time at which everybody at the Allegheny county jail came together to make sure we are doing everything that we need to do to protect the inmates that we are in charge of protecting and also our families and loved ones. Making sure we are not taking anything home to our families and loved ones. So I wanted to commend the men and women working at the Allegheny county jail. Right now, we're doing really good, we had a positive employee a couple weeks ago. Other than that, we have not had any positive cases at the Allegheny county jail. Even though the COVID-19 cases in the community continue to increase. And it's because of several things that we are doing. We are making sure everybody in the jail is wearing a mask at all times. We are making sure that all commonly touched areas are cleaned with bleach and water frequently throughout the day. We are making sure we are socially distancing. We are making sure that the inmate, every time they use the telephone, are wiping the hand and ear mic down with bleach and water to stop the spread. So I'm just really excited right now about everything we are doing to prevent this virus. We're doing so well that we've increased the amount of inmates that are allowed out for recreation so they can have more time out of their cells to call their loved ones. They are out of their cells a little bit more because of the work that we have done to prevent the virus from spreading inside of our jail. Deputy I don't know if you have anything to add.

Chief Williams:

I do want to add something because I think that there are a lot of assumptions being made in our attempt to be transparent with the reporting data. So we have tested 124 individuals and there is an asterisk by the test data. There are some requirements we are mandated, if somebody is going to be released from our facility to a skilled nursing facility or a long-term care because of the mandate from the state, those populations have to have a negative COVID-19 test in order to be released. The state department of corrections also put out a mandate that when transferring individuals that have been sentenced to a SCI have to have a COVID-19 test as well. So we have had a fluctuation, sometimes spikes where you may see that we have 17 pending cases. Or some large number like that. We are testing these individuals but that does not necessarily mean that there is a clinical indication to do so. We do treat individuals that are tested as a possible case. We utilize that language within the facility but as it was updated today all of our transfer inmates were negative. We did test two individuals within the last week based on symptoms, so for clinical reasons not for testing mandate reasons. We did conduct test; those individuals were also negative. So I just wanted to make sure because I am positive that there are so many questions related to what it is that we were doing and how are you doing it, when this data comes out and you see large spikes in numbers because we have in the past had a large spike of positive cases within a short period of time. If there are questions, I wanted to clear the air with that and maintain the commitment that we will continue to report these numbers out. It is difficult to get into the small details on the website. But that is why we will continue to see a fluctuation from here on out, so we can comply with that other correctional partners.

Judge Clark:

Thank you, Warden and Deputy Warden. Mrs. Wagner?

Chelsa Wagner:

Thank you, Judge Clark. I appreciate the information from the Warden and Deputy Warden. I am wondering if this goes to how we are able to view the information and how the public views the information in real time on the website. And I think particularly as we are looking, at least in our region right now and many other places but really the case in our region, we basically have two different phases that we kind of have maybe looking at everything before the end of June and everything to present. I'm just wondering if there's a possibility that we might be able to see the data in a way that isn't just the cumulative number that includes everything before and everything that has spiked in this last week forward. I think one easy way that would help inform the public is just to elaborate on it and put the information on the website up until a certain date at the end of June and then everything thereafter. I know and one of our earlier calls, and the public comments Ms. Damick, asked whether there can be a dashboard like there is at Allegheny County. I don't think there was an answer to that, so I'm curious if Allegheny County already have that filled out for the general reporting of the data. Is there a reason we are not able to do that at the jail? So we will be really addressing questions and won't have to provide as much explanation every single time because I don't think there's any problem with the testing and having to label them as possible positives. Because having more information is always going to be better. And I think there are real limitations in how it is presented right now, that could be supported with some of the infrastructure the county already has but it could be made more friendly for the public.

Chief Williams:

Mrs. Wagner, I really appreciate that feedback. It was unbelievably constructive, and I think you're dead on. As the pandemic has been evolving in the community and our facility, I think that we have all tried to do the best that we can, and it is time to adapt because the processes have adapted as had the disease spread in the community. I think our team in collaboration with some of our other county stakeholders like the marketing department or the department of information technology can find a way to more meaningfully present the data so that people do not have heightened anxiety or panic when they see these large changes in the numbers. And then we'll find a way to communicate this routinely and accurately.

Judge Clark:

Thank you. Good suggestions. Any other questions or comments?

Bethany Hallam:

I just have a couple questions specific to COVID-19, which ever one of you can answer this better. So pod 4A, by my understanding is where we are quarantining our new admissions to the jail upon arrival for the 14 day quarantine? How many people are currently quarantining on that pod?

Chief Williams:

Give me one moment because I'll look up the count sheet. Do you have additional questions that I can provide answers for while you're asking those?

Bethany Hallam:

A lot of them are tied into what's going on, in pod 4A. But while you're looking up that, what are the medications that are given to folks in the jail that test positive for COVID-19? Is it all the same or does it depend on each person? Can you explain that for us a little bit?

Chief Williams:

I can explain that while I'm looking up the data for the housing units. Medications are prescribed based on the clinical assessment of the provider who is treating the patient. So, there are a number of considerations that would be involved with that, including their allergies maybe, if their only symptom is a fever, they maybe on a antipyretic which could be Tylenol. Unless they have an allergy to participate in fever reduction. If they are having additional symptoms, they may be placed on something like azithromycin, they may be given Mucinex or some other kind of decongestant aide. It's going to be totally dependent on what their characteristics of the expression of the illnesses is, as well as what their allergies are, their medical history, and any comorbidity.

Bethany Hallam:

Thank you. The second question is about medications as well while you're looking at up, is regarding inhalers for people who are incarcerated. Are folks who are to receive inhalers able to receive them? I've been hearing reports that there was a shortage, I was wondering if that was still a problem?

Chief Williams:

Early in the pandemic there was absolutely a shortage. Not just inhalers but some other medications that were being distributed to a lot of different health care providers. That is not the current case. We haven't had a lot of individuals who were not previously prescribed inhalers requesting them. And digging pretty deep into their medical records including community records and pharmacy filling, we found that a lot of those individuals who reported a history of asthma have not actually been prescribed inhalers. It's been a really difficult challenge, weeding through that. We do have the capacity and do provide multiple different forms of inhalers based on what their conditions would indicate.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay. Did you that answer about 4A because I have a question that's a follow up to that as well?

Chief Williams:

I'm sorry my computer is running a bit slow. It was 106 this morning but I do know that we have had transfers on and off, including releases from that housing unit.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay. So 106 people on 4A? The next question is about that, those people that are quarantining there. I've heard you all speak multiple times before about the procedure, like when someone is admitted to the jail there's a 14-day quarantine before they get into general population. What I'm wondering is, let's use 'Joe and John'. Joe and John are cell mates on 4A. They are in their 14-day quarantine. Joe has been there for 12 days on his quarantine and John is on his 14th day of quarantine so he's getting out. Now the person on their 12th day of quarantine has a new cell mate come in and will be on day 1 of quarantine. Correct?

Chief Williams:

By what you just described, your story, yes that could be correct but I'm curious what the question is.

Bethany Hallam:

The question is basically the group of people who do a 14-day quarantine, do they see no one else but other folks in that same cohort for 14 days? Or are as people graduating out of their 14 days, new people are coming in and being mixed in with that original group? My concern is that this is no true 14-day quarantine because folks are being mixed in at different times during their quarantine.

Chief Williams:

Ok I better understand now. I'm looking at the census from this morning and I could name the officers, but I won't just out of respect for them, but we have routine and regular officers who work for alpha. They are absolutely incredible and throughout this, they have worked very very hard to be diligent managing multiple populations, individuals who are new court status, individuals who are detoxing, individuals who are diabetic, individuals who are also sick and tired of being on a quarantine status while they are in jail. And they maintain the census sheet which we review at least once a day. They include the dates in which their quarantine period would end. There have been times, absolutely, where somebody maybe a day or two off with their cell mate. And I can see that in the census sheet that I'm looking at right now. But I only found in this current census sheet, unless I'm miss counting, five individuals who are in a cell with someone that did not arrive on the exact same day booking with them. We do our absolute best to keep people separated. When individuals are on the quarantine period I think it's important to remember that it's not just that we wait and see, we are actually speaking to them every single day, taking their temperatures, and doing symptom screens for them as well to make sure that if they were to develop any symptoms, we would segregate them appropriately and get them tested. We also then quarantine their cell mate until we have the outcome results from that pending test to make sure no movement would occur that would be unnecessary and potentially spread disease. I'm sure the individuals who don't frequently work that unit may not understand, and I bet that, that is probably the belief. That we're not really following these measures. But I have to give all of the credit to the officers that work that unit. I can't take credit for the hard work that they do. They've done above and beyond what we could've ever imagined throughout this period of time. They work very hard and should be recognized for that.

Bethany Hallam:

Are all of those people doing rec. together on pod 4A?

Chief Williams:

We have smaller groups on 4A coming out of the unit, they have to socially distance, they have to wear their mask. We have limited phones on that housing unit because we do not want individuals to be in the same area at the same time. So yes, we do have somebody who maybe ends their quarantine on 7/8 coming out with someone who maybe 7/11 but incidental contact or contact that is not within that six feet perimeter is still permissible just like anybody at the grocery store. We do have to make sure they are taking all appropriate precautionary measures, they're cleaning everything and that they are maintaining a safe distance. But just like in the community, we're all coming into contact every day, it is important we take the appropriate preventive measures and they are doing that on the housing unit.

Bethany Hallam:

Is that something you can also say about 2A the kitchen pod? Because I have been receiving some complaints about 2A as well, that there's about 65 to 70 people who are all doing rec. at the same time.

Chief Williams:

I'm not sure that, that's possible because we have 2A with a population of individuals who are at work for different shifts. So there would not be 60 of them on the housing unit at the same time, unless they were sleeping.

Bethany Hallam:

Ok I was hearing that it was after the meals around 8:30 at night.

Chief Williams:

We can look into that, but unfortunately all of the things that we hear aren't always true.

Bethany Hallam:

I know, that's why I like to ask you guys about it. I just have one last question and it's about medically vulnerable incarcerated people. I know that you all have taking a bunch of efforts to make sure that they are housed in cells that are not with non-medically vulnerable people. But I heard that they are housed in a general population pod and whenever there is rec. there are medically vulnerable people who are doing rec. time with regular general population. Is there anything we can do to separate them and make sure that doesn't happen?

Warden Harper:

One of the things we're trying to do is try to give these guys as much out of cell time as possible and what you're recommending right now is for a particular portion of these inmates to receive even less recreation. As I stated before, our COVID-19 cases in this jail has been very small

because of what we've done. So I do not think that we need to change anything as to how we proceed because if we do these individuals would be out of their cells even less and we don't want that.

Bethany Hallam:

Right. That is not what I wanted either, I'm more talking about the fact that we have empty pods and then we have 106 people on one pod where medically vulnerable people are on the same pod with general population. So my question is not at all intending to limit the amount of rec. time that folks get but instead to make sure they can get rec. time safely. And with open pods, I'm just wondering why we're still not expanding to those pods?

Warden Harper:

Ms. Hallam, I explained that earlier, about the empty pods. But I just wanted to thank you for your continued interest in how we are operating the jail but we're going to continue to operate the way we've been operating ma'am.

Bethany Hallam:

And I will continue to push you on it. So thank you very much.

Judge Clark:

Any other questions concerning COVID-19 at this time? Thank you.

3. Review of the minutes for June 4, 2020

Judge Clark:

You all received the minutes from the last meeting, they were very lengthy because all the comments that were read in, were put in there. I'm hoping you had an opportunity to review them and I will entertain any additions or corrections at this time and if there are none I will also entertain a motion to approve.

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Bethany Hallam, duly seconded by Gayle Moss to approve the minutes from the June 4, 2020 meeting.

4. President's Report

None

Judge Clark:

Any oppose? Alright so the minutes are approved. I don't have anything to report other than just to thank judge Lazzara and Ms. Parees for agreeing to share the two subcommittees and to carve time out of their already busy schedules to do that and to thank the board members who have an interest and agree to serve on those committees and taking time out of their very busy schedules to attend meetings and to make suggestions. Thank you. Warden is there anything else you want to report at this time?

5. Warden's Report

No Additional Information to report. See old business.

Judge Clark:

Deputy Warden Williams, anything else that you want to present at this time?

6. Deputy Warden's Report

Chief Williams:

I do just want to briefly touch on some of the numbers. As we can see our pre-bookings did go up. We have been resuming some of our clinic visits. So we have established particular areas in the waiting room we actually have the floor marked where chairs can be so we can move more individuals for the clinic for some additional privacy. I also wanted to note that we did have 9 pregnant women. We have one pregnant female currently, she is in the process of being released. Though the number was higher in the monitoring period we have continued to stay vigilant with that population of individuals. Other than that, I don't have any additional updates.

Judge Clark:

Any questions for Deputy Warden Williams? So we have an item of new business from Ms. Hallam.

7. New Business

- a. Request for fund to be added to the commissary accounts of the 1,739 inmates, (as of July 1, 2020), in the amount of \$50 distributed from the Inmate Welfare Expense fund totaling \$86,950. "As visits are still suspended and the pandemic continues to spread in Allegheny County with countless folks still out of work and suffering financial hardships of their own, it is one small burden we can take away from the owed ones of those inside." – Councilwoman Hallam

Judge Clark:

Ms. Moss you had a question.

Gayle Moss:

My question was. What was the balance of the fund after we gave the first \$50 to the inmates? I couldn't seem to find it.

Bethany Hallam:

I don't have the exact number in front of me maybe someone else does but it was hovering around \$3million.

Judge Clark:

It's approximately \$2.7million something like that.

Gayle Moss:

Thank you, that's all. That was my question.

Judge Clark:

That's fine. Any other questions?

Terri Klein:

I have a comment. My concern with the commissary fund being used for phone calls is that the county, any time there's a phone call, the county also gets money from that. I guess I feel like the county is already making money from the commissary funds and then we're almost in my mind double dipping if they use that for phone calls. I'm just bringing this up as a concern not that I'm against this, but I think it's a consideration that we're kind of taking money twice.

Judge Clark:

Right and I think that is one of the things the subcommittee you're on will be addressing so we look forward to hearing that. Unfortunately, the issue of phone calls for the incarcerated, prices are pretty exorbitant. I would just say right now just in all fairness to sort of the county and everything else, with the COVID-19 pandemic we are sort of in a precarious situation. A lot of the revenues that the county would really get are down now so the money that goes to the jail comes from the taxpayers. It comes out of the county budget. They're the second largest budget I do believe under the county department of human services they have the biggest budget and then the jail. Right now, while I think we might have some discussion on that, I think one of the focuses need to be getting through this pandemic. I don't know what the revenues they'll see from this for a period of time and I don't know whether that's still existing the county was giving every inmate during the pandemic one free phone call a day. So the county was eating the cost for that. I think there's some discussion that should be had with that and I think that it's best for the subcommittee to continue that discussion. But I think we all need to realize that right now is budget time for the county we're all preparing our budgets. We're all getting ready for the budget cycle and it will be interesting to see what's there for us, the county, all of the court, the jail, department of human services, what the revenue losses are with things like the drink tax and other things that brought in pretty good revenue that goes to the jail, department of human services, and other places. But your point is very well taken. I think that just on a global kind of prospective all over the United States, we need to talk about this issue with how we allow our incarcerated to have contact with their loved ones with the community and the outside and the cost of that. I think it's certainly worthy of a discussion. I'll stop there and I don't know if you want to say anything else about it but I do share your concern.

Terri Klein:

The only other thing I would say is I learned this from Ms. Damick is that the people who pay into their loved one's commissary fund are the taxpayers too.

Judge Clark:

They are. And I know it's an issue, it is. One of the answers is, I think we all have to work hard, and when I say we I mean, the courts and others on who's incarcerated first of all and the number of people. And whatever happens in the jail, happens in the jail but that's the one thing over which they have absolutely no control who is there and how long they're there. And that's something we are looking at, I mean everyone is looking at ways to reduce incarceration. I think if you would ask at least anybody in this room, on this board, in the United States of America, we over incarcerate. And that's the bottom line, so how do we stop doing that and make sure our communities are safe and that people will be held accountable for what they did. But incarceration isn't always the way to hold people accountable. Sometimes the actual trickle-down effect from incarceration cost the taxpayers more. I see it in dependency court when I have a parent that's incarcerated. They lose their job, they lose their children, they lose their housing, so the taxpayers support foster care, the taxpayers support all the things that the kids need and so we're putting someone in but we're still spending a lot of money. And there's nothing as expensive as incarceration. Nothing. It's an issue that we need to continue to talk about. I unfortunately have no real answers for you. I can tell you, those are my concerns and what I believe. But I don't have any answers, but I welcome ongoing discussion to see if we can figure out something better. Mrs. Wagner did you want to say something?

Chelsa Wagner:

Yes, thank you. I would just speak up to say that I support the motion on a few points. One, we won't be meeting as a board for another month and I think we all see that right now the numbers, and therefore the panic that's associated with it, is unprecedented for our region right now and certainly for anybody who has loved ones in the jail and those incarcerated. Just a comment on the larger picture of the county budget, of course all of our budgets, government or otherwise, are certainly going to be more and more effected by this. However, relatively speaking the county is in a much better position than any of our counterparts in sum, that's because we have built up for the last 8+ years, a very healthy fund balance. And that's there for emergency but also because of our revenue sources, unlike the city of Pittsburgh or the school district who rely heavily on earned income tax. Counties are a bit better situated. The big unknown for us is what I would refer to as the downstream, how the federal and state funding streams are really going to affect us. But I think in terms of just looking at this and understanding that we have a committee that's going to continue to look at this, we have a pressing issue right now and I think that as Ms. Hallam stated the same vote that we made a couple months ago really did go a long way and I would just say that, that's really the kind of public policy and spending decisions we want to see, where the money coming in is going to the same policy area. So this is the money we are raising, which I would say we shouldn't be raising but this fund has really increased over the years and by my last count it's at about \$3.1million. So I do think that this would be timely and I do ask that the other board members support this.

Judge Clark:

Does anyone else have any other comments at this time? What I'm going to do because last time when we took a vote it was sort of complicated so I'm going to do a roll call vote to make sure everybody's vote is included. If I leave anyone out, please let me know.

The board unanimously approved a motion by Ms. Hallam, duly seconded by Judge Lazzara to approve the placement of fifty dollars (\$50) from the Prisoner Welfare Fund on the commissary fund for all current incarcerated persons at the Allegheny County Jail.

8. Community Corrections Reports

Judge Clark:

The Community Corrections Reports were submitted with all the other meeting material.
(Refer to the July Warden's Report)

9. Adjournment

The board approved a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 pm by Judge Clark

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chelsa Wagner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chelsa Wagner, Secretary

JAIL OVERSIGHT BOARD JULY 2020 PUBLIC COMMENTS

DATE	NAME	ORGANIZATION	CONCERN
6/29/2020	Asia DeVaughn		Sorry one last question, with the city going back to the yellow phase, even if we cannot have physical visits will our loved ones get video visits? I think this would be fair and reasonable to keep everyone safe.
6/29/2020	Jenifer Caltagirone		Who oversees the medication and medical treatment of the inmates during the pandemic? My fiancé is on medications, that he he should be evaluated every month or so. Especially one of his medications he should not be on long-term it causes memory loss. Also I have tried to call medical several times, Left several messages, no call back. My fiancé has asked for an inhaler they do not have Any. His primary care doctor has ordered him one I am trying to get a hold of medical to bring it to the jail. What am I to do? The inmates need some kind of visitation, other than the phone, To keep their spirits up. Is video visitation a possibility?
6/28/2020	Ashely Sisley		Are inmates required to wear their masks? And if so, when and where?
6/28/2020	Asia DeVaughn		When will visits reopen back up for the Allegheny county jail? When will our family members get more relief and more time out of their cells? They are currently locked in for 23hrs a day. With 1hr out, we barely get to talk to our loved ones this has been happening for 4 months with no relief or resolution. The food has even become worst, when will they get the TTO meals back? The world is opening up but the jail hasnt yet, our family members are suffering and deserve some type of relief.
6/27/2020	She Fields		Last month you stated you were "sooo" close to having the tablets ready to go and video visitation. I am Wondering the progress of this. We have 3 small children who miss their father and haven't seen him in months and barely get to talk to him due to limited rec. It is proven that contact with an incarcerated parent can help minimize the distress these children are suffering. I am sure not just with my own but with every child who has a parent in ACJ. I implore you to please find a way to make this work, look past the "criminal" behind bars and have empathy to the fact there are whole families standing behind those in ACJ, many with small children. The pandemic and no visits are having extreme mental health consequences on these children who did not ask for this. Thank you for your time.

6/26/2020	Olivia Bennett		<p>Hello, Thank you for your time today. I am writing as a result of receiving a letter from an incarcerated person presently being held in the Allegheny County Jail. I wanted to share parts of their letter so their voice can be heard directly by this board. Here is a excerpt of their letter: "I'm writing because we, inmates, in the ACJ are being dehumanized. We've been locked down because of COVID 19 since March 16, 2020 and while the whole state is in the green stage we are still in the red stage. Today is June 22, 2020, I am in general population (redacted to protect identity but gives location) and haven't been allowed to shower or recreation since Thursday June 18th, this is illegal. We are locked in our cells at least 23 hours a day. Some days we never come out since March 16, 2020. We have to eat, sleep, breathe, urinate and defecate in the cell without any disinfectant. We've been denied visits since March 16, 2020 though our visits aren't contact [visits]. We are in direct contact with the guards, nurses, doctors and other staff who leave and enter the jail daily. They are using COVID 19 to discipline us and keep the jail on lock down. I think this is a violation of our 8th Amendment Right to be protected from cruel and unusual punishment. We are being ignored because people think we are on lock down because of COVID 19. We need some help in here, seriously, I'm trying to not lose sanity by reading and meditating. Everyone is ignoring us, how can we get some help? P.S. They are saying we are on indefinite lockdown since June 18, 2020 no showers, phone calls, recreation, or law library with no explanation." This is the letter with the experience of an incarcerated person and I'm sure many others incarcerated folks in the ACJ. I would like to just share this and hear the response of the Jail Oversight Board on how it plans to advocate for those who are incarcerated. These folks are holding on by a string and are calling out for help and I believe that is the function of this board. Please show up for this and all the other incarcerated people residing in the Allegheny County Jail. Thank you.</p>
6/29/2020	Marion Damick	Pa prison society	<p>In the approximately 6mths (pre virus) when the Board received the "suicide" report has the ACJ done any suggested changes in mental health care, and has this been recorded ? If so, could it be released? Is there any way this could be made public? (sneaking in another?: could the Board or ACJ be more transparent in reporting improvements to the public?</p>
6/29/2020	Shaylan Wilkes		<p>When we be able to have visit? And are you guys doing to keep our love ones safe doing all this I don't want my love to get sick</p>

6/29/2020	John P Kenstowicz	Pennsylvania Prison Society	<p>RE: ACJ Staffing The NCCHC report on suicide prevention at ACJ states, “we did observe shortages in medical nursing and mental health specialists. Supervisors report a high attrition rate, especially among medical nurses” (Page 26). Since the report was done last year, the staffing for medical and mental health positions have steadily decreased instead of increased. Question: The use of exit interviews, especially during periods of high turnover, is considered a best practice per workforce development experts. Considering the critically important role nurses and mental health providers have at ACJ, has ACJ implemented an exit interview process? If so, what insights have they found? Has the exit interview information been shared with the Oversight Board? If not, would the Oversight Board like to have access to the exit interviews to more accurately assess for themselves staffing issues? RE: Therapeutic Needs The NCCHC report further states: “Therapeutic programming on the mental health residential unit is limited”. (Page2) “Our record review found that treatment plans were incomplete and not well documented and groups and psychosocial programming was minimal”. (Page 23) Question: Are treatment plans being completed now and well documented? How many therapy groups are being provided weekly? Has psychosocial programming increased, and, in what ways?</p>
6/29/2020	Marion Damicj	Pa prison society	<p>(By another Pps Mbr. The use of exit interviews esp in periods of high turnover is considered best practice per workforce development experts. Considering the critical my important job nurses and mental health providers have at ACJ, has ACJ implemented an exit interview process? If so, what insights have been found? Has this been shared with the Oversight Board? If not, would the board like to have access to access staffing issues?</p>
6/29/2020	Craig Coppaway		<p>Will you be considering the release of inmates with non-violent charges and detainers due to the rise in COVID cases?</p>
6/30/2020	Greg Dober	PA Prison Society	<p>The NCCHC report on suicide prevention at ACJ states: “More custody and health staff need to take the time to establish rapport and trust with the inmate. It will lead to the inmate feeling comfortable in talking about recent losses, feelings, and fears that can elevate into thoughts of suicide. Effective interpersonal communication will minimize the sense of emotional isolation, a critical risk factor often leading to suicide. We observed and were told that communication is largely at cell side. This is not conducive to establishing rapport and trust.” (Page 11) Question: Has there now been an increase in the number of contacts and interviews that are conducted in a private office instead of at cell side? How much of an increase?</p>

6/30/2020	Joslyn Lunz		Will there be single cell requirements for inmates who have underlying conditions? My fiance' has asthma which is an underlying condition, due to the inability to afford health insurance coverage he has no recent medical notation regarding this medical, can his underlying medical condition be considered?These are my concerns.
6/30/2020	Joslyn Lunz		will there be visits available, if not in person(at the jail), will there be virtual visits made available for inmates & their families?
6/30/2020	Lisa Young	The rights of the incarcerated	Hello, my comments are out of concern for my son. He is currently incarcerated/detained at ACJ & I am concerned for his physical health. My son has asthma. He has had a diagnosis for asthma since he was 3 years old. He has had to take preventative medication throughout infancy, toddler, adolescences, & adulthood, however once he was no longer covered under my health insurance, he did not continue on meds, only sought medical treatment due to asthma attack or flare up. Now that he is incarcerated I am having problems with trying to seek possible single cell status due to this underlying condition. I realize the difficulties the jail is faced with regards to social distancing, but is it possible for my son to receive single cell arrangements? Also, how to we get communication with the counselor. I have placed numerous calls into his counselor and have not received a returned call. How do we get our calls returned or speak with the assigned counselor regarding concerns or questions regarding our love ones. Regardless of their acts, they're still humans and our love ones.
7/1/2020	Judy M Shanor		My understanding is that The inmates do not have tablets their tablet yet it would be very nice if the children of the inmates could see their parents especially on birthdays holidays important days it's important for these children to be able to have communication with their fathers or mothers so speed it up So these children can see their fathers and mothers it's very important I'm doing this on behalf of many many children they cry for their parent it will be really nice for them to be able to actually see them since there is no visitation because of the virus.

7/1/2020	Danielle Pipkins		My brother has been in your facility for almost 4 months. He is locked in his cell for 23/24 hours a day. This is by far the most inhumane thing I've ever had to deal with in my entire life. Not only have we not been able to visit him, which I'm not understanding since there is no contact, your facility has not utilized the equipment they have available (tablets,video) for visits either. Not only do I miss seeing him terribly, but his poor children:(my brother is a very active father to his children and has now been removed the right to see them. I'm simply not understanding why the technology that is available is not being utilized? His children are what gives him purpose. It's tortureous enough bring in a cell 23/24 hours a day and then to remove visits is icing on the cake. Please for the welfare of the children put the technology you already have to good use!
7/1/2020	Melissa Vilk		Wondering the progress of the tablets? July 2nd is my sons 7th birthday and he wants nothing more than to see his father. Was wondering how this is all coming along as we are going on 4 months of no visits. With the virus on the rise, it doesn't appear visits will be reinstated any time soon. Most other prisons and jails have video visits. If there is a problem with a few inmates, why punish them all? Thank you
7/1/2020	Daniel Bosh		The children of fathers and mothers are suffering undue punishment from not at least seeing their parents please start video visits. Thank you for caring.
7/1/2020	Sherryl Kleider		Is ACJ transporting inmates to state? I have heard they are not because ACJ will not test the inmate to see if he is infected. If the are transporting to state how long do they have to wait to be transported? Thank you.
7/1/2020	Katie Wallick		When are they going to provide tablets? Children that have a parent away is hard enough but to not be able to visit for such a long period of time is painful for them. Tablets should be a priority.

