

The monthly meeting of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board was held Thursday, September 3, 2020 held as a virtual conference at 4:00 P.M.

Members Present

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

Others in Attendance:

Warden Harper
Deputy Warden Williams

Meeting Guidelines —

1. Everyone in this meeting 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 Comments

Judge Clark:

The public comments are online for people to submit written comments. At the last meeting, we took those comments and the answers were given and posted on the website. We will then move and continue to do that while we have the meetings virtually. Some of your questions maybe answered during the meeting because some of the information that you want to know will be contained in the presentation.

2. Old Business

a. Inmate Welfare Expense Fund Subcommittee Report

Judge Clark:

So, then we'll start with the old business and these were questions that were raised at the last meeting. The first is, we have the inmate welfare expense fund. We like to do the subcommittee report, and that would be Judge Lazzara.

Judge Lazzara:

We had a really productive meeting on August 26th, 2020. I have to first of all give a shout out to the folks that are on the inmate welfare fund subcommittee. I think everyone comes with really great ideas and it is a really wonderful conversation that takes place, very respectful and everyone really tries their hardest to do what is best for the inmates from this fund. I think everyone is like minded in that. I just wanted to give a shout out and a thank you to the members of the subcommittee they are all so cooperative. So, we began our meeting by reviewing the actions from our last meeting in June as well as the August 5th, 2020

correspondent with Pennsylvania Prison Society of Allegheny County. We then entered into a discussion about how best to use the inmate welfare fund for the most benefit of the inmate. We were really focusing on long term or ongoing projects and we have several that we thought about including the book screening program, library, writing supplies, tablet subsidies, and video conferencing subsidies. We decided that before we would make any recommendations to the jail sight overboard about a particular project, that we would get some input from the inmate population as well to make sure that our views are the same as their views. Since they are looking at it from a much different perspective than we are. So, we are going to try to reach out and do that. We're going to have, hopefully a meeting with the Chaplin down at the Allegheny County jail and possibly have a survey of the inmates on the tablets hopefully or using a paper survey, so we can get some input. That's one of the things we wanted to extract as we go down there. We also had a discussion about the reserve fund and establishing a fund for the inmate welfare fund so that when we do get into these long term projects, which will commit a certain amount of dollars each year that we will always have a reserve to fall back on in case something comes up that we would need to suddenly fund. So, we had that discussion as well. We also had a discussion about maybe having a little bit more contact with the jail collaborative, so that we can find out what they're doing, they are certainly more close and intimate with what's going on in the jail and we thought that it would be helpful to also have some discussion with the jail collaborative or at least have someone from our board attend their meeting so we have better information. So, out of this meeting, we have come up with some recommendations that we would like to make to the jail oversight board. The first recommendation is that the inmate welfare fund should maintain a reserve fund of \$150,000 and that we would review this amount every two years because obviously the income may fluctuate. So, we felt that, that would be best and the most transparent way to come up with a reserve fund. That would be our first recommendation. I don't know, Judge Clark, if you would like these in the form of motions. If you'd like me to read all the recommendations first before we decide on motions.

Judge Clark:

I think it would be nice for us to hear all of the recommendations first and then decide if you wish to make a motion for any of them at this time or if you wish to do any motions at the next meeting. Let's hear them all I think that would be good.

Judge Lazzara:

The second recommendation is a jail oversight board member should be appointed to represent the jail oversight board at the jail collaborative operations committee meeting. So, the jail oversight board is more informed about the programs at the ACJ and to make sure that any of our efforts to improve inmate welfare are not duplicated. We don't want to be doing the same thing the jail collaborative operation committee is doing. The third is that the Allegheny County jail should investigate or examine the requirements, which would include equipment and staffing requirements for a book or reading materials screening program. Specifically looking at similar programs that are in existence in the department of corrections and available through programs such as ' Book'em ', and force the jail oversight board should work towards and discuss having all profits from the telecommunications contract returned to the inmate welfare fund. They used to be part of the inmate welfare fund previously, the telecommunications profits were then put, I guess, into the general fund for the county and we'd like to start working towards having those profits returned to the inmate welfare fund. So, those are the four recommendations that the committee is making to the overall board.

Judge Clark:

Does anyone have any questions for Judge Lazzara? Or any comments at this time, about any of the recommendations that her subcommittee has made? I had a question. I forgot my question about the books.

Judge Lazzara:

To be able to bring in books from other than just the vendor. If a family member or another organization that collects used books, they would be able to get them into the jail. There is a problem with just having books donated to the jail because, you know, obviously there was a big issue with K2 perhaps being on pages. We understand that there is a safety concerning bringing items into the jail. But, the department of corrections has a program where they do the book screenings and it has been successful and so we thought that perhaps we could look into that more to see if that would be a possibility at the jail. Understanding that it may require a significant expenditure of funds for equipment or staffing so that it continues in the future.

Judge Clark:

Right. With respect to the recommendation to have someone appointed to the operations committee, I'm not sure who appoints the operations committee. Do you know who does that?

Judge Lazzara:

Well I had a conversation with some folks from the jail collaborative operations committee. The way it works is there is a jail collaborative operations committee, which is sort of the lower tier that does the work and looks into some of the projects at the jail. And then there is a committee that goes above that, that is the jail collaborative cabinet. In reaching out to them, there were some interest from the jail collaborative operations committee of having someone from the jail oversight board join them at their meetings. My understanding is that the jail collaborative cabinet will be taking that thought up at the next meeting and if they approve, I would think that, you're the chair of this committee if you could appoint someone to be our representative at the jail collaborative operations committee meeting.

Judge Clark:

I think I am attending that meeting. So, I think we'll have the discussion about that as well. I think. There are so many meetings that have similar names.

Judge Lazzara:

I believe that you are on that. I think that meeting is within the next week or two. That would be something that's going to be brought up at that meeting so that you can decide whether or not you'd like someone from the jail oversight board. We just think it would be helpful so that especially, when were talking about the inmate welfare fund, we're not trying to recreate the wheel or duplicate services. My understanding is that the jail collaborative operations committee is often the committee that does the work that generates the request that are made of the inmate welfare fund. So, having someone down at the ground level, we would have a better understanding of why that request is being made to the inmate welfare fund. Instead of sometimes I think we get into an uproar and want to know what they need the money for. Because we get it at the last minute, after all the conversations have taken place about why that request is being made. It may help smooth things over. It may help us understand better why the request are being made.

Judge Clark:

And then the last thing I wanted to maybe have a little discussion on was the revenue from the telephone calls. Personally, I think that, that's something we need to look at a little bit later. Right now, we don't know, for example how revenue generally in the county is going to be, given the pandemic. And our inmate welfare fund is pretty healthy right now, I'm not saying that we shouldn't do it, but maybe we need to wait and see how revenue pans out. Because it maybe needed for something else. The jail is one of the largest line item budgets the county has. So, I think we need to maybe look at that at another point, to see if the county needs to use those funds for any other things at the jail or even in the general operations fund.

Judge Lazzara:

That's sort of why our request was not made to immediately say that we wanted to take, but it was to work towards with the understanding that we want something done over time. That we would have many discussions about. We understand that there are financial difficulties presented because of the pandemic and we did not want to come across aggressively and say "return that money to the inmate welfare fund", it was much more of an understanding of what those financial realities are and that we wanted to have the time to be able to discuss so that we could possibly work towards that as a goal for the future. We would like to begin this discussion with working towards that, so we have a better understanding of where everything stands.

Judge Clark:

Thank you. Does anyone else have any questions for Judge Lazzara or any comments? If not, do you want to make motions today Judge Lazzara?

Judge Lazzara:

I think that was the intention of our subcommittee.

Judge Clark:

Okay, you can do that. I would suggest that you make them individually as each of your recommendations.

Judge Lazzara:

Yes absolutely. The first motion is that we should establish a reserve fund for the inmate welfare fund in the amount of \$150,000 with that amount being reevaluated every two years.

The board unanimously approved a motion by Judge Lazzara, duly seconded by Terri Klein to approve the establishment of a reserve fund for the inmate welfare fund in the amount of \$150,000 being reevaluated every two years.

The second motion is that a jail oversight board member should be appointed to represent at the jail collaborative operations committee meeting and again that would obviously require permission also of the jail collaborative operations cabinet to allow us to be able to do that. If we are allowed to do that, we should appoint someone to attend those meetings.

The board unanimously approved a motion by Judge Lazzara, duly seconded by Terri Klein to approve the appointment of a jail oversight board member to attend the jail operations committee meetings.

The third motion is that the Allegheny county jail should investigate or examine the requirements, both in terms of equipment and staffing for a book or reading material screening program. Specifically looking at similar programs in existence at the board of corrections as well as available through programs such as 'book'em'. (Terri Klein 2nd)

The board unanimously approved a motion by Judge Lazzara, duly seconded by Terri Klein to approve that the jail should investigate the requirements for staffing and book screening program.

Judge Clark:

I'm very happy about that motion because it stresses me out when people don't have books.

Judge Lazzara:

I absolutely love books and I tend to buy them. I hate to say that I'm a supporter of Amazon, because they send me books so fast, but we read them faster. We have a ton that would be great to donate. I figured I'm not the only one in this pandemic.

Judge Clark:

Several years ago, you might remember this Judge Lazzara, I don't remember whether you were in family division then or if you were in criminal division. But the family division collected books and criminal division actually joined in and we donated those books to the state correctional institute at Muncy for the women's prison. The Sheriff Deputy when they were making a run to Muncy, to either take someone to or bring someone back from Muncy took them, I believe we had about 25 boxes. It was really nice. Really nice staff, all the employees, the judges, everybody joined in and it was really a nice thing to have all the wonderful books that went to the women at Muncy. I'm looking forward to it. If we have the screening process, if we could do something like that for the jail and it could be huge. It could be all the county departments contributing, not just the courts, that would be wonderful. So, thank you for that motion.

Judge Lazzara:

That would be wonderful I think books are the most important thing to give someone. For mental health court, anytime one of our folks become a parent or grandparent, I give them each a baby gift. The baby gift is always a few books because I think it's the most important thing that you can do, which is encourage people to read with their children and grandchildren. So, we do, do that constantly.

Judge Clark:

So, we have the next motion.

Judge Lazzara:

The fourth motion is that the jail oversight board should work towards having all profits from the telecommunication contract returned to the inmate welfare fund. Not that we do it immediately, but that we work towards and discuss that for a future time. (Bethany Hallam 2nd) That was the last one. Thank you very much Judge Clark.

Judge Clark:

Thank you. That was an excellent report.

b. Suicide Prevention Subcommittee Report

Judge Clark:

The next bit of old business is from the suicide prevention subcommittee report. Which is chaired by Ms. Parees. And I don't know whether the Warden is at every meeting, it was decided that he would give an update. But before he does that I don't know if there's anything you want to add?

Barbara Parees:

No, I just want to say that the subcommittee has requested that the Warden provides monthly updates on the jails progress for implementation of the recommendations indicated in the suicide prevention plan. And I believe he's prepared to do that now.

Judge Clark:

Thank you. Warden?

Warden Harper:

Good afternoon everybody. So first, recommendation #3. The lack of privacy. The architect has submitted a drawing as to how we can provide more privacy for the inmates in our intake area. And I will be discussing it with my team, to see how we can implement the drawing that the architect has submitted. Recommendation #4 and #13. New lesson plans have been reviewed and approved based on the recommendation from the NCCAC review team. Staff that is qualified to provide the additional training, have been identified and initial training will focus on staff on our mental health pod, detox, and segregation pod. The training department also talked to county staff that's responsible for crisis intervention training. Alternative methods of providing information to staff are being explored due to the restrictions for group gatherings related to COVID-19. Suicide prevention and intervention wallet card have been created for all staff. The cards include risk, potential size, and responses to potentially suicidal inmates.

Recommendation #6. Medical leadership. The providers have been deployed to the pod to complete visits that normally would be completed at the clinic. This is also consistent with the guide given regarding gatherings related to COVID-19. Recommendation #7. Enhance policies. The following policies have been completed and continue in progress of being reviewed and approved for publication by the administration. Mental health programs and services, medical housing levels of care, infirmary level of care, communication on patient health needs.

Recommendation #10. Staffing. We have hired a health service administrator and she began her employment on August 10th, 2020. Since her arrival, her focus is recruiting staff. And multiple positions are in the process of being filled. Chief Williams will discuss that a little bit later. So, that's everything that we've done since the last meeting pertaining to the NCCAC review.

Judge Clark:

Does anyone have any questions or comments for Warden Harper?

Bethany Hallam:

I have a question Judge Clark. If this is something we're going to get to later when we talk about the policies that were posted, I totally understand if you want to put this off. As it specifically relates to the suicide report, one of the recommendations that was made, was about enhancing some of the policies in regard to suicide prevention and mental health staffing and treatment. And I just noticed that the policies that were posted, nothing in reference to any of those were posted and so, I was just wondering how we are to ensure that we are in compliance with that requirement of the report.

Warden Harper:

I will talk about the policies on the website a little bit later Ms. Hallam.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay. Thank you very much.

Judge Clark:

Any other questions or comments? Ms. Klein?

Terri Klein:

Is there going to be a training schedule as far as the suicide prevention? I'm just concerned that one and done really isn't sufficient for training.

Warden Harper:

One of the things we're doing, we want to train everybody in suicide prevention at our jail. But we have to realize during these unprecedented circumstances with COVID-19 we're having a difficult time with the staffing challenges and providing the training at this present time. But as soon as we can provide the training we will do so as quickly as we can.

Terri Klein:

I guess my question is, is there a plan to retrain every six months or once a year as part of a refresher?

Warden Harper:

It would be once a year ma'am.

Terri Klein:

Thank you.

Judge Clark:

Any other questions for Warden Harper? Alright thank you.

c. COVID-19 Update

Judge Clark:

The next item is an update on COVID-19.

Chief Williams:

Good afternoon everyone. We have on the website made available the numbers that are currently reflected. We tested 455 individuals. 412 have been negative. 38 have been positive. We have zero present positive cases within our facility. We have no pending test currently within our facility. Of the employees, we've had 116 tested. 102 have been negative. We have had 13 positive and one individual that has a pending test. So, that is our current update in regard to COVID-19.

Judge Clark:

Any questions for Deputy Warden Williams? Alright.

d. Speaker from Trinity

Judge Clark:

The next item was the speaker from Trinity. I met with the Warden and I think that we decided that, that person would come to the next meeting and I would ask any board members, if you have any questions you want to ask. Trinity is the food provider. Is that correct?

Warden Harper:

Yes ma'am.

Judge Clark:

Alright. So, if you could submit any questions so that they are at least prepared to answer. It doesn't mean that you can't ask questions that day, but I would rather them be prepared to answer the questions than to say, "I don't have the information" and then we don't get the information that we need. So, if you have questions, submit those to me within a week before the next meeting so that we can give them to who ever is going to be here from Trinity, and they can answer the questions.

e. Jail Policies

Judge Clark:

Warden do you want to talk about the jail policies?

Warden Harper:

We have close to 33 of the jail policies that we feel will not jeopardize the safety and security of this facility. If any board member would like to see any other policies that is not on the website, they're more than welcomed to contact me and come to the jail and we can show them the redacted copy of the policy. But on the website are the policies that we felt would not jeopardize the safety and security of this facility.

Judge Clark:

So, does anyone have any questions for the Warden about that?

Bethany Hallam:

I do Judge Clark. I have a couple questions about this. First of all, from the policy index that I have, there's around 200 policies at the ACJ. And so, you said that there were 33 out of those 200 that were posted?

Warden Harper:

Actually, there's 283 policies at the ACJ and only 33 are posted. Yes ma'am.

Bethany Hallam:

So, there's about 250 policies that were not posted? Is that correct?

Warden Harper:

Approximately.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay. Is there any plan to post any additional policies online or are these the only ones that are going to be posted online?

Warden Harper:

There will be very few more policies that are going to be posted. But Ms. Hallam, many policies will not be posted online.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay. Who decides which policies are okay to be posted online and which aren't? Is that something you do by yourself or is there someone else that makes that decision?

Warden Harper:

Warden Orlando Harper and my team makes that recommendation ma'am.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay. And you said that we can, as members of the jail oversight board, can come to the jail and see any other policies but they will be redacted as well?

Warden Harper:

Yes ma'am.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay. Is that something that we can schedule to happen for anyone who's comfortable before the next jail oversight board meeting?

Warden Harper:

I have no problem with that ma'am.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay. Also, can you explain, I mean 283 policies, that is a lot to not be posted on here. Can you just go into a little detail about why these policies are not posted or why they are redacted?

Warden Harper:

One of the things I have to do Ms. Hallam, is protect this institution from any safety and security issues and providing all of those policies could jeopardize the safety and security of this institution and that's all I can talk about right now in this form.

Bethany Hallam:

So, the redacted version that we can come and see has redacted anything that jeopardizes that?

Warden Harper:

Yes ma'am.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay so why can't we post the redacted version online with the rest of the policies?

Warden Harper:

Because we don't do that in our business ma'am. We don't put anything online that could jeopardize the safety and security.

Bethany Hallam:

Right. But didn't you just say that all of those things have been redacted already? So, can we just post the redacted version?

Warden Harper:

We're not going to post the redacted version ma'am.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay. I understand but why? I'm just trying to understand, I guess. If the redacted version that we're able to come see in person have removed anything that you think jeopardizes the security of the jail then why can't we post all of them, so we don't have to come down to the jail to see them, that they are there for the public? If the security concerns have already been redacted?

Warden Harper:

I'm going to just say this Ms. Hallam; the board is absolutely able to come down to the jail to see the policies. But I don't feel, as the Warden of this facility, that even posting the redacted policies on the website is suffice and I still feel that putting those policies on the website could still jeopardize the safety and security of this facility.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay. Then is it possible for us as jail oversight members, to see the unredacted policies since it is our duty to provide oversight to the jail. It is important that we see the full unredacted policies. Even if it is just in person.

Warden Harper:

No ma'am.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay. There is no wiggle room with you on that there? I mean I just feel like I seen right to know requested polices in the past prior to this year, that were not redacted and yet those policies are now redacted and not posted online. I'm just a little confused as to what changed over the past year.

Warden Harper:

Ms. Hallam. I understand your feelings, but I already stated my response ma'am.

Judge Clark:

So, I would recommend this first. Any board member that wants to see the redacted policies in addition to the 33 that are posted online to go to the jail and do that. And then maybe we could have a discussion. It might be clearer as to why certain policies are first of all, not posted online redacted or unredacted. And then there could be a discussion about what is redacted from the information, and why that is and whether or not the board members can or can not see it. I feel that right now because the Warden believes that there's a security issue. I believe that he's not comfortable maybe even discussing all of the reasons in a public meeting where people are listening. So, it could be that we could look at them and have a discussion and maybe at some point do an executive session to discuss things further. I think that we need to see what it is. And I think that this public meeting is the right place to discuss things that could potentially be a security issue. So, I think we need to start with the board members who want to see the policies to look at them and then it might be a little clearer. And maybe somebody like Sheriff Mullen can also give us some guidance because I'm sure the Sheriff's department has many policies too and I don't know whether any of them are posted. We can have that discussion.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay. I appreciate that Judge Clark and I totally understand the intentions to protect the safety and well-being of the people who are incarcerated. But I just want to remind the Warden and the rest of this board that we have a statutory right as the jail oversight board, to examine any documentation, any policies, any procedures that happen in the jail. And those are not redacted

policies but those are the whole policies and it is our duty to provide proper oversight via the statute that we are able to inspect them. I think maybe we should get a solicitor input on this as to whether or not via the statute that the jail and the Warden are allowed to with hold the full policies from us.

Judge Clark:

We can do that, but I suggest that, first before we get to that part, let's look at them and it might be clear why the Warden is making a certain decision. And then we can have a discussion about whether we have the right to see everything or whether we don't. I'm not comfortable saying yes or no right now but I don't think the Warden is comfortable having this discussion about it in this kind of meeting. It's something that needs to be dealt with in an executive session.

Gayle Moss:

I agree with what you're saying Judge. I agree. I think we need to look into it a little bit further before we start making decisions on what not and why, that we look into what you're saying and see what some of those things are then maybe we'll understand it better.

Judge Clark:

I think Sheriff Mullen was going to say something.

Sheriff Mullen:

No. I thought you were going to ask me a question. And I was just getting ready to answer your question.

Judge Clark:

No, I was just going to say I didn't know if you wanted to say something today. I thought that maybe as a board member once we take a look at some of the policies, maybe you can give us some guidance because you're in a law enforcement capacity and may have similar issues about what policies get posted or given to the public. You don't have a board like the jail does so, it's a little bit different I will say that but maybe you could give us some guidance.

Sheriff Mullen:

I can try and do that. Obviously, there are some policies we don't want to tell anybody about. But there few and far between. People challenge us sometimes about us showing our policies but then we won some cases so that we didn't have to do that.

Bethany Hallam:

And this is not few and far between this is 250 out of a total of 283 policies.

Judge Clark:

I get that and I'm not saying that ultimately, we shouldn't have more I'm just saying, let's start with looking at them. I prefer to do things in a more collaborative way and kind of meet everybody half way. I think corrections is a tough business and it's even different than what the Sheriff does in terms of law enforcement. So, there maybe good reason but maybe we could overcome the concerns that the Warden has. So, he's invited the board to come in and look at any of the policies, they will be redacted but it could be redacted because there's a name that's redacted or something that does not take away from us understanding the policy. I think we need to look at them first and then make a decision as a board whether we feel that we have the right to more information, whether we want more information. I do think we would probably get

some guidance from the county solicitor to give us that guidance. But I think, we should start just by looking at them first and maybe we might understand what the Warden is talking about.

Bethany Hallam:

I appreciate that Judge Clark. If we could at some point before the next meeting or closely after that, take a visit to the jail. If we could schedule an executive session to discuss the policies that the Warden isn't comfortable talking about in a public meeting, I think that would be a great help as well.

Judge Clark:

So, we may be able to do that, but my suggestion is that we might have an executive session before the board meeting. I think it's easier to do it before rather than after, but we can talk about how we want that to work.

Bethany Hallam:

Thank you.

f. Unannounced Visit to the Jail

Judge Clark:

Alright. This isn't one of the things that's on the old business, well it's sort of on old business. I guess we had talked about at the last meeting, we do need to make an unannounced visit to the jail. I just wanted to ask the Warden about that. If we come unannounced to the jail, a group of us, obviously we would have to have a mask. We would have to have temperature checks I'm assuming. So, what I would ask is that the Warden to make a list or tell us what the expectations are when we come so that we are able to make our unannounced visit and not be turned away. Would they prefer groups of three or how ever we want to do it? Just in terms of safety and then when we get that, we can decide. I think personally it should be smaller groups. Maybe half can go one time and the other half go another time and that will give us two unannounced visits. That might be a good way to start out. I don't know whether anyone else has any thoughts about that.

Judge Clark:

Mrs. Wagner?

Chelsa Wagner:

Thank you. I know in the past we've broken up when we've had them while they're there. I think that sounds like a good idea, but I think it would be good for it to be available so that if everybody wants to participate, they have the ability to do it sooner rather than later.

Judge Clark:

Can you Warden and maybe Deputy Warden Williams, provide us with sort of the safe guard that we'll have to do to have this visit? In terms of mask, temperature taken, things we should or should not bring with us?

Chief Williams:

We would ask that if you've been ill or are experiencing any symptoms that you obviously do not come to the facility. But everybody who does come to the facility is required to wear a mask appropriately at all times. They need to submit to a symptom and temperature screen which will be done at point of entry and there may be a necessity to refuse if you are reporting any of the symptoms or do have a temperature elevated higher than 99.0. So, we recognize that a lower

threshold and it's important for people to recognize that, although a fever is typically recognized at 100.4. We have a lower threshold in our facility because of our congregate setting.

Judge Clark:

Alright so that's good. If we could just get that in writing and we can send it out to all the board members so that they understand it. Thank you.

Bethany Hallam:

Can I ask a question about that Judge Clark?

Judge Clark:

Yes.

Bethany Hallam:

I was just wondering if the Warden or Deputy Warden would be willing to clarify when we show up, since this is an unannounced visit, is there any more direction you can give us? Say I want to show up tomorrow night at midnight, where do I go? I just want to make sure I'm following the proper protocol. What entrance do I come through?

Chief Williams:

We can provide all of those details. I'll send an email to Judge Clark.

Bethany Hallam:

Thank you very much.

g. Tablet Update

Judge Clark:

The last thing on old business is the tablet update and questions.

Warden Harper:

Your honor. We are on track to have the tablets up and running by the end of the month, the first of October. Right now, it looks like we're on track ma'am.

Judge Clark:

Great. And then we've talked about having a demonstration so I thought we should maybe have that at our November meeting to give that first month so they can get everything in line and work out the bugs and have someone come and give us a demonstration at our meeting. How does that sound?

Warden Harper:

Yes, ma'am we'll make that happen.

Judge Clark:

Is that ok with the board?

Gayle Moss:

Yes.

3. Review of the Minutes for August 6th, 2020

Judge Clark:

Alright. So, we have a review of the minutes for August 6th. The draft was sent out. I would just note a correction, we have present Ms. Klein and she was not at the last meeting and Mr. Kamara was at the last meeting. I hope that you had the chance to review the minutes and I will ask if there are any additions or corrections or I'll entertain a motion to approve.

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Gayle Moss, duly seconded by Judge Lazzara to approve the minutes from the August 6th, 2020 Meeting

Judge Clark:

The minutes are approved with the corrected attendance.

4. President's Report

Judge Clark:

I don't have anything additional to report at this time.

5. Warden's Report

Judge Clark:

And so, I will go to Warden Harper. Warden do you have anything to report to the board today?

Warden Harper:

Yes ma'am. Your honor, we're proud to announce that on September 8th we will be opening up our second video conference center at the Allegheny County Jail. Which will consist of 18 more machines in which we can do remote visitations with our attorneys and the courts for the inmate population. But one of the things I would like to say to the board is this; the 18 machines still will not take care of all the needs of the attorneys wanting to meet remotely with their client. It's convent upon the attorney to also know that they can come to the jail and see their client through the glass also. But I'm just proud to announce the opening of our second video conference center.

Judge Clark:

I believe there was a question earlier this week or last week from Judge Lazzara about that, so Judge do you have any other questions for the Warden about that or any comments?

Judge Lazzara:

I think it's wonderful that we have the ability to do the video conferencing. I know that I've been using it everyday for pleas and even for a non-jury trial. This second conference center, from my understanding, is going to be used more by the attorneys and JRS and providers and such. My concern is how the staffing is going to be so that we can use all 18 machines. Because I think that if we have full staffing of it, I think all 18 of those machines are going to be humming all day. So, I was just curious as to what the staffing levels are going to be for the video conference centers?

Warden Harper:

Staff is going to be predicated on whether or not employees are using their approved leave. As long as we have enough staff to staff it properly your honor, we will make sure that it is staffed. But you know we're encountering times like never before. So, I assure you that we will have that video conference center open with proper staffing as much as I possibly can.

Judge Lazzara:

How many staff members would be needed to run the 18 machines?

Warden Harper:

We have 2 scheduled ma'am.

Judge Lazzara:

I know that there is a separate video conference center for the courts is that the same thing; two people to run that one?

Warden Harper:

Yes ma'am.

Judge Lazzara:

How many people are going to be trained to run those machines? So that if the two that are trained are off, we have some substitutes.

Warden Harper:

We have relief staff to make sure that we have appropriately staffed individuals trained to operate those post.

Judge Clark:

Ms. Klein?

Terri Klein:

Warden are those two people who are in the viewing area also responsible for escorting the inmates there and back or are they stationed there?

Warden Harper:

They are going to be stationed in the video conference center.

Terri Klein:

And then there will be escorts to bring them there and back?

Warden Harper:

Yes, ma'am we will have people to escort them to and from the video conference center. Yes.

Judge Clark:

Any other questions?

Bethany Hallam:

I have one Judge Clark. I promise it's only one question. I had some different religion and spiritual advisors reach out to me asking if, now that we have the additional video conferencing capabilities, is there a way that we can open that up to let's say Rabi and other spiritual advisors that are used to doing work in the jail but can't come in due to COVID-19? Can they use the video conference capabilities?

Warden Harper:

I wish at this time I could Ms. Hallam, but there's so much demand with the attorneys and the courts. I just don't know how I would be able to do that at this time.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay. Thank you.

Judge Clark:

Mrs. Wagner

Chelsa Wagner:

Thank you, Judge Clark. Warden Harper I wanted to just ask, it's related to this and you may be getting to this separately and if so it's fine to defer. But a question around visitation and what your expectations are of visitation, continuing it anytime and perhaps if either via video conference centers or as we've already discussed with the tablets on schedule, what you anticipate for that and just related question in this whole area and some of these were raised on some of the public testimony and questions. But I just wanted to reinforce which is about free phone calls. So, if you might be able to address that whole area.

Warden Harper:

Absolutely. Right now, individuals coming to our jail to do social visits. That will not take place for the near future. With the tablets coming on board, that will enable us to do video visitation with inmates loved ones. The free phone calls are still in effect and has been in effect since the beginning of the pandemic.

Judge Clark:

Anything else Mrs. Wagner?

Chelsa Wagner:

No, I think you answered that. I appreciate it.

Judge Clark:

Judge Lazzara?

Judge Lazzara:

Warden I actually just wanted to complement you on how smoothly the court section has been working with the video conferencing and your staff there. The guy who cleans the computers, tables, and chairs in between he is an inmate, I don't know who he is, but he is wonderful, pleasant, and is always helpful if we should have any problems. So, if you could pass that along. I thank him every time I see him and if you could pass along the fact that he got a public shout out I'd appreciate it.

Warden Harper:

You know Judge Lazzara, it's really good to hear some good things that we're doing. I really appreciate you saying that. I also wanted to thank all of the staff that was able to get this second video conference center up as quickly as they did. They put a lot of work and dedication into getting it up. So, I really appreciate hearing some good things ma'am. Thank you.

Judge Lazzara:

Absolutely. And just so everybody understands, that second conference center which will certainly be for the attorneys' use is really neat so the attorneys can have good conversation with their folks but it's also really neat for JRS and for providers. You know in mental health court I have people waiting on housing and CRRs which are mental health group homes. They can't go to those mental health group homes until they are able to have an interview by the

person that runs the group home. If they have the ability to do that through the video conferencing, we can move those people out of the jail and into their next phase of recovery and life much faster. So, it is going to be very much appreciated by all of us and so we do appreciate the fact that the jail got it up and running. Getting computers at this time of COVID-19 is hard enough, but they were able to do that and provide those conferencing facilities, so we appreciate it. I just wanted to make sure my main question was just about staff and I appreciate all that you've done. Thank you.

Judge Clark:

Thank you Judge Lazzara. Any other questions or comments for the Warden?

Bethany Hallam:

Yeah. Sorry Judge Clark. Just one more question. I had heard that the free phone calls had ended but I thought I just heard the Warden say they were still taking place and being provided.

Warden Harper:

The free phone calls have not ended. The free phone calls are still in effect. With us doing this telephone upgrade and tablet upgrade there were some disruptions with the phones. But the free phone calls are still in effect.

Bethany Hallam:

Thank you very much.

Judge Clark:

Mrs. Wagner did you have something else?

Chelsa Wagner:

Yes. I just wanted Warden Harper to see if he could address just two other areas briefly and these were also raised in public comments. One is regarding the commissary. Complaining about the commissary being drastically slashed. And then some what related to that, there is a question about just food being, what they say is unpalatable, a lot of food trays are being returned not touched. And then separate from that, this comes from the PA Prison Society and this is in regard to the cleanliness of the cells. Questions on inmates not receiving towels, cleaning solution, and so forth. So, if you'd be able to address those, I'd appreciate it. Thank you.

Warden Harper:

Let me talk about the cleaning. Every time the inmates come out for their recreation, they have the capability of cleaning their cell. At a minimum the inmates can clean their cells at least once a week. They have access to paper towel and rags and cleaning supplies to clean their cells. So, this information is just untrue. What was the next question Mrs. Wagner?

Chelsa Wagner:

I say these are related. These were two separate public comments. One was in regard to the commissary being drastically slashed.

Warden Harper:

Commissary has not been slashed at all. We're still providing the inmates the same commissary that they've been receiving for years.

Chelsa Wagner:

Okay. So, there's no changes to that. And then the last one was about food quality. A frequent complaint that we see is that the menu does not match what is actually served. That's obviously something we can address next month. But if you're able to address that at all just for the sake of the public comments. What I see here is about 30 to 40 trays where entree is not touched. So, I'm just passing this along for the interest of public comment if there's anything you'd like to add on that.

Judge Clark:

I would just add something. That's sort of an ongoing concern that has been raised since last year. I think it is an issue which is why we need to have Trinity here. I understand that there are some limitations. A lot of things that I would like to see people eat are sort of cost prohibitive and fruit is a special issue because it's sometimes deported and used to make alcohol and sometimes used to throw at people so there are issues with that. But I'm sort of, what I would call a food snob. I believe in having a very healthy diet and I, myself, feel that I probably would not be happy with the diet that they have in the jail. I think we need to have ongoing discussions about the food and the healthiness of it and obviously the quality. This is not the four seasons hotel, but we still want it to be food that people can eat and really enjoy as much as they can. So, I think these are questions that I think next month we should have for Trinity about the concerns that you have. The concerns that the public has about the quality of the food and why there aren't a lot of vegetables. I know that in some cases they want to keep the calorie count high because some inmates are only eating one meal and they want to make sure they have sufficient calories. And I get that. But maybe there should be other options. I like a lot of vegetables and so I would not be happy with that diet. So, I think it is an ongoing concern and we need to address that with Trinity. And then you know there's always the option when it's time to renew contracts maybe with the lack of satisfaction we need to go with another vendor. I don't know if you want to add anything to that Warden?

Warden Harper:

You know your honor. The only thing I was going to say was that the diet is created by the dietician by the contract vendor and sometimes substitutions are done because of the supply chain changes and the community has challenges. I review the trays almost daily. The food is ... I would eat the food. Now maybe we should have more vegetables and that's something that we're going to make sure we have in the next contract. But I review the food. I look at the food and I would eat the food.

Judge Clark:

Alright. Well that's good to know because we're not there. I mean we want them to have a healthy diet and so, that's kind of the bottom line. We'll look at that and we'll ask our questions to Trinity and I do know that, even for me shopping, I've been going shopping online. There's a lot of stuff that I want to order, and I can't get so I know that there is a shortage. Especially now during this pandemic. That maybe a little bit of the issue and why we're getting more complaints about the food. But I think we'll be addressing that. I think I seen Ms. Klein's hand up.

Terri Klein:

Yes. Mrs. Wagner, I have a question and perhaps a favor. I don't know if you could do this, but my understanding was your office completed an audit. I feel like in order for me to make questions I need to know what was in the contract and where you saw a deficiency in the contract. Is that something that you could pull together so that we could make questions for our guest speaker next month?

Chelsa Wagner:

Absolutely. It is on our website, but I will send the link to everybody for that if that's helpful. And I will say the Warden and the jail staff were very responsive within that audit. It was really Trinity and if I would generalize a lot of the contract terms not being met. So, I think these questions are for Trinity but even in this time they should be answering, and they didn't answer very much with respect to the audit or even with the opportunity that everybody has an auditing to respond to any of the finding. So, I'm looking forward to having them in person to be able to ask them questions.

Judge Clark:

Thank you. Judge Lazzara did you have something? Alright. Does anyone else have any other questions?

Bethany Hallam:

Yes, Judge Clark. I have two quick things. First of all, is it possible that at our next in person jail oversight board meeting, that we can get a sample of the trays so that we indeed could see and eat what they are eating?

Judge Clark:

Probably the short answer to that is yes. Or maybe, depending on when we have our visit to the jail and the time, it might be dinner time or lunch time. Maybe we could have it. I can say that when juvenile court judges go visit juvenile facilities, we often have a meal and eat what the kids eat there, and a lot of the places have a culinary arts program so the kids are actually making the food. And actually, the food isn't bad. The kids in the culinary arts program do make somethings that are gourmet quality but just the general food actually is not bad. I think that might be something we might want to consider if we're having a visit, maybe to do that. But I guess the short answer to that is yes. I just don't know when we're going to have another in person meeting. We might be able to address that issue sooner when we make a visit.

Bethany Hallam:

That's a great idea. I promise, last question before the Warden report is over. At a previous meeting the Warden gave us a numerical list of people who are administrative punishment, RFU, things like that. Is there a way we could receive those numbers again today?

Warden Harper:

I'm not prepared to give those numbers right now ma'am.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay. Could you please send them to us in an email after this meeting?

Warden Harper:

Yeah after I do my review, I can do that ma'am.

Bethany Hallam:

Thank you very much.

Judge Clark:

Any other questions? Warden is there anything else you want to report today?

Warden Harper:

No ma'am.

6. Deputy Warden's Report

Judge Clark:

Alright. We have the Deputy Warden's report. Deputy Warden Williams?

Chief Williams:

Good evening everyone. Before I get into the typical reports that I address which are related to staffing as well as some of the health care processes. The Allegheny county jail wants to join other voices of recovery and celebration memorial and recognition of national recovery month which is current and present, September marks that recognition. Recovery is not possible to be done alone. Every person engaged in their recovery process should be proud and celebrate their strength and resilience and remember that recovery is possible. For those still struggling there is support available and there is a great phone number that answers 24/7, 365, the number is 1-800-662-4357 and that goes to the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol program. Believe it or not the Allegheny County jail is a large supporter of the recover community. We have several different initiatives in our facility and at time of release to help support people as they transition back into the community. But there are many community partners that we could not do this work without. And for those who have committed their lives for frontline work, thank you. I want to recognize the Allegheny County Health Department who has been working very hard as far as overdose prevention goes. And one of our favorite partners, Prevention Point Pittsburgh. As far as staffing goes, I know that this is something that's continuously comes up in public comment and I certainly understand why. We welcomed a new health care administrator to our facility within this last month as the Warden reported earlier. She's a physician's assistant and she has 26 years of prior service in prisons. She's been transitioning in and meeting with staff as well as reviewing a lot of the procedures within the health care department to identify areas where we can do process improvement and also focus on staff recruitment as the Warden had indicated. Within this month we've on boarded already two new full-time mental health specialists. So, as we were talking about in the NCCAC review and increasing some of the programs as well as training opportunities. We have started addressing that in our recruitment efforts. We've on boarded one full-time LNP and I did not reflect these in the current numbers because I didn't feel that, that would be fair or accurate to do but within this month we are on boarding another full-time LNP, PRNLPN, and a PRNRN. We're still actively recruiting and interviewing for all vacant positions and that information as far as open career possibilities are available on the county website. So, if you know somebody who's working in the health care community and would like a change, we would love to have them on board. Additionally, the community has been going back to school and so has the Allegheny County jail. We have the Allegheny County intermediate unit who helps provide all of the education services within the facility and they do so with the support of Jack P. who is one of our program administrators and you guys have heard presentations from him in the past. I wanted to extend specific gratitude to the AIU, as we were working on figuring out a plan for opening up educational services. They met very frequently, either via phone calls or zoom meeting with their department along with ours to make sure that we would be able to find creative responses to meet educational standards as well as providing these services within the confines of COVID-19 in our institution. I'm proud to report that the juvenile educational program is fully operational and has been since Monday August 24th, 2020. We're currently serving five juvenile males. Those services are being offered to them on their housing unit a daily schedule that includes four subjects of physical education is being done by the juvenile education teaching staff and several of the conference rooms that were located on the housing unit have actually been converted into classroom areas as well as other designated areas in the common

area of the housing unit. There have been some small logistical challenges that have developed during that time but with the support of the correctional officers who work the unit as well as the education staff, we've been able to overcome those challenges. For now, the adult education program is still working within the parameters of a packet program primarily. Classes are still being offered to assist the inmates with obtaining their GED. The pre-apprenticeship program which is a math-oriented program and prepares offenders, is still being offered. Computer literacy without the use of actual computers is being given to provide opportunities for workforce development and they've been focusing specifically on resumes, research for jobs, and job interview skills to supplement what we previously provided as far as curriculum goes. We wanted to make sure that as education and returning to school has been on everybody's mind that the board was able to know that we've been working to do that within this facility as well. The final update that I have is that we currently do not have any pregnant nor post-partum females in custody. I know that's something I reported on in the past. Thank you very much.

Judge Clark:

Thank you, Deputy Warden Williams. Does anyone have any questions or comments?

Bethany Hallam:

I have one Judge Clark. Deputy Warden Williams since you mentioned national recovery month, I was wondering if you could give us a realistic timeline for when MAT access would be expanded in the jail to folks who are not pregnant?

Chief Williams:

We have offered vivitrol. And I know that I was giving monthly reports on this in the past and I hate to say that COVID-19 has thrown us for loop but it certainly has. So, we've been initiating individuals on naltrexone, the oral form of vivitrol if they are interested in that. We've been having difficulty with expanding our buprenorphine program. We have been expanding them to individuals who are coming to us from other facilities. So, if they're a state or another county correctional facility inmate who comes to our jail, we've been able to maintain them. We're continuing to get our providers all trained and eligible with the DEA acts waiver to be able to prescribe buprenorphine, but we definitely slowed down. There's continued interest from the Allegheny County Health Department to support us as well as grant initiatives through DHS so we remain committed but we have not made the progress that I hoped that we would make and I fear to provide a timeline because we're still very much learning what the fall and return to school is and or could potentially bring us with COVID-19.

Bethany Hallam:

So, people who are actively using drugs that come in off the street in addition to people who coming into the jail on an active methadone or suboxone prescriptions, they are not being offered those medications?

Chief Williams:

No, they are not.

Bethany Hallam:

Are there plans to do that even though you can't offer a timeline? Is that in the works to make that happen?

Chief Williams:

I know it maybe far from memory but yes, I think I openly presented on that sometime last year that, that would absolutely be the way that we are working towards. We do need to put out for

contract for a methadone provider that would be willing to serve the population within our facility. We do have the capacity to serve individuals as far as the morphine goes we've just been very challenged to get that program up and running.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay. I'm sorry I wasn't on the jail oversight board last year so that might have been why I missed that. But is that the biggest barrier? Finding someone who is able to prescribe it to be on the jail staff?

Chief Williams:

No, I don't think that's one of the biggest barriers. With medication assisted treatment the medication is one part of the treatment so there are a number of different challenges. Some individuals do come in positive on buprenorphine or methadone, but they aren't actually engaged with those services. We got very recent news, I think it was August 26th, 2020, that Medicaid has again changed their parameters so, before we were limited in being able to get somebody active medical assistance coverage. Now we can apply for that person at any time. So, a goal is to prioritize those that are in the substance using community or mental health community or chronic care community to make sure that they have continued insurance coverage when they leave. It's not just about when somebody comes to us it's insuring that we're taking all of the appropriate steps to offer counseling services which are most recommended with the medication treatment. And then have the warm hand off to the community provider that is willing and able to serve them. During COVID-19 a lot of the medication assistant providers had to also go to telehealth. So, this has been very difficult for us in this facility as individuals are transitioning back and again it's not my intent to make it sound like it's a COVID-19 problem. And it will be something that we work towards, we just have not resolved it yet.

Bethany Hallam:

Now that the new tablets will be available as of October, is telehealth with MAT providers and therapist something that the jail will be offering to the people who need it?

Chief Williams:

We currently have contracted providers who do some services with us. We have not approached them just yet to determine the amount of services they will be able to provide through the tablet program. So, we're still on the exploration. But it is a great suggestion, I appreciate that.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay. Thank you very much. And if you do get any additional information on that before the October meeting could you please provide that to us then?

Chief Williams:

Absolutely.

Bethany Hallam:

Thank you very much.

Judge Clark:

Any other questions or comments for Deputy Warden Williams? Alright. Thank you, Deputy Warden.

7. New Business

Judge Clark:

The next item is new business and we have a request for funds to be added to the commissary account of 1,719 inmates in the amount of \$50. So, this is Ms. Hallam's request, so we'll pass the floor to Ms. Hallam.

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.

Judge Clark:

Any other new business?

Bethany Hallam:

I just have one thing Judge Clark. I would just like to ask of any voter registration efforts that the jail is undertaken in these months leading up to the general election?

Judge Clark:

Yes. I'm glad you brought that up. I meant to ask about that during the Warden's report. Warden or Deputy Warden Williams can you talk about the voter registration?

Warden Harper:

With the implantation of the tablets it's really going to help us get a sense as to how many individuals want to vote in our jail. So, we're really looking forward to the tablets coming in to help us get a sense of how many people actually want to vote. We are teaming up with just an entity to try to get out the inmates about the election so that we can get as many people to vote as possible. But I'm going to let Chief Williams follow up.

Chief Williams:

As we had also discussed we had large intentions of doing townhall meetings, but we had the signage posted and we're continuing to talk about it. The case workers have supported also Jack P. who was mentioned before and we will be excited to report, hopefully next month all of the initiatives and maybe provide some numbers as well.

Bethany Hallam:

Great. Thank you. And Warden were you saying that there's some sort of survey or something that will be on the new tablets that will be asking them if they are interested in registering to vote? Is that why you mentioned the tablets?

Warden Harper:

I've really been thinking about trying to do something. Not a survey but just put out to the inmates who's interested or who is a registered voter. I feel as though if we put it on the tablets, we'll be able to get real live data as to who is eligible to vote or who's interested in voting.

Bethany Hallam:

Awesome. I couldn't agree more. Thank you very much.

Gayle Moss:

But you know we do want to get it out before, if they aren't registered. That ends on the 20th of October.

Warden Harper:

We're definitely going to make sure we get that out to the inmates as quickly as possible as the Chief stated.

Gayle Moss:

Okay. Thank you.

Judge Clark:

Any other questions or comments? Thank you.

8. Community Corrections Report

Judge Clark:

So, we have the community corrections report which were sent out to you. I don't know whether anyone has any questions about the community corrections report. I would suggest since those folks are not live, if you have any questions if you could shoot those to me because I can try to get answers for you. And maybe we should consider at our next meeting inviting them to participate because it's been a while since the pandemic that they actually made a live report. So, maybe we should invite them so they can make a live report. But if anyone has any questions about anything that's in the report, if you can shoot me an email then we can make sure your questions are answered.

Bethany Hallam:

Judge Clark? I was just wondering if in addition to the community corrections report that we get monthly, is there any way that we could get some sort of information or more explanation from DHS with this, but can we get reports from the mini jails throughout the county? Like the CRC's the TRR's, Mercy Behavioral Health, things like those?

Judge Clark:

The short answer to that is yes. I would just say that if there's some information that you want if you can send that to me then I can communicate that, and we can probably have some information. Someone from DHS is usually watching or viewing the meeting, hopefully they are today, and they can hear what you're asking. But if you have some specific things that you want, if you could shoot me that email and then I can see if that information can be provided.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay. I will definitely do that. I was really just looking for the same information that we're getting from the ACTA and Renewal like how many people are in there just like we know how many people are in the jail. But because we don't ever hear about how many people are in those facilities.

Judge Clark:

So, those would be in the community corrections report, about ACTA and Renewal. Like I said they will be invited to participate at the next meeting so that they can actually give a live report. But if you have more questions in the mean time or there's something you want; just shoot me an email and we'll try to get that for you.

Bethany Hallam:

Really what I'm asking for is if these other facilities could be included in the community corrections reports that we get from ACTA.

Judge Lazzara:

Excuse me Ms. Hallam. These other places, CRC's and CRR's, they are not community correction. I mean there maybe people from the inmate population that go there but they are not bound to be there. I mean I don't understand how the jail oversight board really has the ability to monitor that. I mean those are mental health group homes. There not correction facilities.

Judge Clark:

Right.

Chief Williams:

Thank you for clarifying. I wanted to add in, when somebody does transition to either an inpatient or a CRR or LPSR there's so many different acronyms, they are typically released on the condition that they are transitioning to that place and taken by a provider. So, we no longer have a right to the information, and we don't know whether or not they continued, unless they were to return to incarceration for violating that condition of release.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay so you're saying they are no longer considered incarcerated when they're in those places and even though folks are there locked down and under terms of probation, we have no jurisdiction over that?

Judge Lazzara:

Ms. Hallam they aren't locked down. CRR and a CRC are not lock down facilities.

Bethany Hallam:

I have heard multiple instances of facilities that people are released from the jail to, that are locked down. I was just wondering if that's under our viewing and if we could get any information about that.

Judge Clark:

I would just say this, if they're serving a sentence somewhere else than the Allegheny County Jail, like the alternative housing places like ACTA and Renewal, yes. But the other ones like CRR and people even go to state corrections, we don't have access beyond the Allegheny County Jail once they leave there. I think that's why if you put your questions in writing we can filter out what it is you're asking and what information. We're going to ask the folks from community corrections from the program for offenders, Renewal and electronic monitoring to participate live with us in the next meeting so that they can give us a live report because it has not happened since the pandemic. So, that you will be able to have information on, but I don't know about the other things.

Bethany Hallam:

I was just a little confused because when someone is on electronic monitoring, they are no longer considered incarcerated in the jail but we're still able to get reports on that. I was just wondering why the mini jails were any different.

Judge Lazzara:

They're not mini jails Ms. Hallam. A lot of them are mental health facilities.

Chief Williams:

I will say this, they're not mini jails. And electronic monitoring is an alternative to incarceration.

Judge Clark:

Right.

Chief Williams:

That's why it is reported.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay. Thank you very much.

Judge Clark:

Any other questions or comments?

9. Adjournment

Judge Clark:

Alright. If there's no other business at this time I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

The Board approved a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:28 pm by Judge Clark.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chelsa Wagner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chelsa Wagner, Controller

DATE	NAME	ORGANIZATION	CONCERN	WARDEN'S RESPONSE
8/27/2020	Sarah J Tasey		Why are inmates being held in their cells 23/1 if they have been tested for COVID and they are negative?? Cant they be out more?? Keep the positive inmates in quarantine until they are better?? It really needs to get better at ACJ. My husband is being held 23/1 like on death row and he has not even had a hearing yet. Keeps getting continued because everything is backed up.	
8/29/2020	Sheree Porter		What is being done about visitation i haven't been able to see my loved one since March every other jail has video chat they have a right to visitations	
8/29/2020	Concerned Officer	Corrections Officer	What are Laura Williams qualifications, besides being a drug and alcohol counselor, to oversee jail operations and to determine where inmates are housed at throughout the jail?	
8/29/2020	Concerned Officer	Corrections Officer	Why does the administration, mainly the captains, deputy wardens, and warden, continue to harass us officers over cleaning a minute too early or a minute too late. Or what order we clean everything in. Is the administration more concerned about what time we clean our desks rather than officer safety such as keeping the 2nd RHU pod closed and leaving assaultive inmates on regular pods where the proper equipment (such as rec cages, shower cages, etc) would make it more suitable to rec these inmates?	
9/2/2020	Austin Hackman		I've been made aware that the medical department is struggling with understaffing. Consequently, staff and people being held at the jail are suffering and at-risk of illness and death. This issue needs to be made public and a plan made to address the understaffing. Also, I'm aware that staff members are being forced to work many days in a row without adequate support, again affecting the health and safety of all those in the community that is the jail (i.e. staff, people held there, guards, admin, etc...). There needs to be an outside investigation and report of conditions at the jail.	
9/2/2020	Anonymous Anonymous		Medical is severely understaffed, officers are forced to work 4 or 5 days in a row. It is unsafe under normal circumstances and with a global pandemic it is unacceptable. This needs to be investigated	
9/2/2020	Bonnie Fan		Nationwide as of August 13, there are at least 103,750 confirmed cases of COVID-19 amongst incarcerated people. 832 have died. Prison and jail staff have reported at least 23,726 cases and 67 deaths. The continued inaction of the Jail Oversight Board to investigate the ACJ to provide safe conditions, provide medical support, offer any transparency endangers inmates, staff, and the broader community.	
9/2/2020	Frank Ferree		What are you going to do to fix the severe medical understaffing and under-resourcing at ACJ, which is resulting in unacceptably low quality medical care for prisoners?	
9/2/2020	Abhishek Viswanathan	Qal	What are the private companies (phone lines, food, etc.) that the jail contracts with and what are the dollar amounts paid out to those companies in the last fiscal year? What new companies has the jail contracted with as a direct/indirect result of the covid19 pandemic?	
9/2/2020	Andrew Whitaker		Inmates are frequently abused physically and emotionally. Many inmates are held unlawfully for several months before their hearings. Inmates are not given proper warning of their release resulting in being stranded outside ACJ. Sanitization is neglected constantly due to lacking medical staff. ACJ is an abusive institution.	
9/2/2020	Milica Bogetic		Please consider independently investigating the ACJ. Staffing levels are at an all time low. Medical is especially understaffed and being made to work multiple roles and it's not manageable or safe. Staff are forced to work 4-5 days in a row - it's unsafe. Please do an unannounced walk through ASAP. Please interview staff - they are afraid to lose their jobs. Why is commissary drastically slashed? Thanks.	
9/2/2020	Joe Hill		People should not be sick and dying in jail!!! Why is medical so understaffed and why is the county covering it up? The conditions in ACJ MUST be investigated!	
9/2/2020	Jordana Rosenfeld		Why are your solitary confinement procedures in violation of UN declarations on torture?	
9/2/2020	Joe H		Medical is significantly understaffed, patient care is lacking	

9/2/2020	Jodi Lincoln	PA Prison Society - Allegheny County Chapter , CADBI West	PA Prison Society Official Visitors have received multiple complaints about the cleanliness of the cells. Individuals who have been incarcerated since early June have not had their cells professionally cleaned at all. We have heard that cleaning supplies like brooms and mops are supplied once a week, but they do not receive rags or paper towels or a labeled disinfectant for wiping down surfaces. Instead, they have to use their under shirts, uniforms, etc. Sometimes they are not even provided a cleaning solution and have to use their own shampoo and body wash to clean. Reports from folks say that their cells get extremely dirty because of this and the cleaning supplies are insufficient to thoroughly clean their cells. This would be something for folks to rightly be concerned about at any time, but during the pandemic, by only providing limited cleaning supplies you are putting people's lives at serious risk. What can be done to improve the cleanliness of individual cells? When will the oversight board be having a UNSCHEDULED and UNANNOUNCED inspection of the jail in order to be able to see issues like this first hand? Secondly, it has come to our attention that the daily 5 minute free phone calls have ended? Why? The pandemic is not over and in person visits have not resumed. These phone calls should continue until people are allowed in person visits again. If GTL unilaterally ended the phone calls please negotiate with them to re-institute or cover with the IWF. Speaking with family and friends should not be something only available to folks with funds or families who can afford the collect charges.	
9/2/2020	Jeanine S		Why is it that calls are not free during this pandemic like they are in federal prison? Especially if it means having food on the table or to have to put money on an account for phone calls to be received from a loved one is not right. Communication is an important part of the inmates mental health not to mention their families during their incarceration period. Please see what can be done about this. Also, sending books from only Barnes and Noble gets expensive and we have to pay shipping. Why not consider allowing the books to be sent from Amazon with free shipping. I am not able to attend the virtual meeting tomorrow. Is there a way to watch it at another time? Can you send me a response to my questions via my email please. Thank you.	
9/2/2020	Brian Englert	Corrections Officer	Why aren't the inmates getting the menu the vendor promised? I work a housing unit every day and dinner consists of pasta and red sauce, pasta and bologna, pasta and white sauce with chicken, hamburger on bun, or hamburger with gravy and potatoes 4 out of 7 days per week. The other sides are cornbread and cake with no icing, and some kind of vegetable. Occasionally you'll see red beans and rice, ham, or turkey sausage. They haven't seen a chicken patty sandwich in over a year. They haven't seen country fried steak patties in over a year. They haven't seen turkey and gravy over a year. They haven't seen pancakes and scrambled eggs in over a year. All of these items are in the contract, specification 8037-ACJ, signed in 2018. The inmates aren't served these foods. They see more starches and carbs than anything. With a housing unit of 80 inmates, I'll have 30-40 trays where the entrée is not touched. The inmates are tired of the same food.	
9/1/2020	Christine Wilkinson		You keep indicating that you receive too many questions to read them aloud during the meeting, so they will be in the minutes. Questions about why the entire staff at the Jail aren't receiving hazard pay and why the medical departments staffing levels are so low that inmates and staffs safety are being put at risk have been submitted, however, they are not being addressed. Could someone please tell me why? If they cant be read, why aren't they in the minutes with responses? Is there something that the Jail administration is trying to hide? Not addressng these issues makes its look very suspicious to the public	
9/1/2020	Amanda Pollard		Staffing at ACJ is awful. Every time there is a prison board meeting, Laura covers up how poorly staffed the jail is. The prison board needs to investigate the jail. Come down and talk to the staff. You would be in shock at how that place is ran. Investigate the jail. Inmate care is suffering.	

9/1/2020	Concerned Officer	Jail	Why does the jail refuse to open another segregation housing unit for inmates locked in on pre-hearing status? These inmates often cause issues daily on the housing units they are locked in on, causing delays in inmate recreation as well as inciting units. When will safety of Officers become a priority in the building? When complaints about Officer safety are brought through the chain of command, we hear 'Safety is out the window with Covid 19'. How is this acceptable?	
9/1/2020	Tired Officer	Jail	The jail hired a scheduling manager recently. Since then the schedule has gotten worse. Officers are getting forced overtime two to three times in a row. Some of the officers work specialized units such as mental health or disciplinary housing units. Multiple 16-hour shifts in a row are not good for work responsiveness in the serious or dangerous environments we work in. Why can't he make a schedule?	
9/1/2020	Concerned Medical	Medical	Why was the response time so long when a nurse was attacked on the second shift of the jail Sunday night in the infirmary?	
9/1/2020	Brian Englert	Corrections Officer	Cares Act funding covered the overtime of Corrections Officers at the jail during the pandemic. At the same time our union signed an agreement to make us work 12 hour shifts, which also doubled existing overtime. This effectively cut 25% of Officer upfront payroll costs during that time, while covering overtime with federal dollars. The County potentially realized a savings of \$400k per week during this time. My question is, why didn't Corrections Officers at the jail receive hazard pay? A 10% bonus would have been a drop in the bucket compared to what you were saving at that time.	
9/1/2020	Debe Napoletanowith		with covid19 being so highly contagious in closed places like nursing homes and prisons, why are they still taking in people with non violent crimes. My son has had kidney failure twice, and made it without getting it when he was upstate, and had been tested 8 or 9 times already and hasn't gotten it . But there have been substantially more cases in acj that up state. I dont understand why you are risking lives for non violent offenders. Especially with underlying conditions.	
8/31/2020	Margaret Martin		Dear Board Members, Another thank you to the Board for authorizing additional money for inmates to obtain products from the Commissary during the pandemic. I understand that the free daily phone call authorized during COVID has been discontinued and this is most unfortunate. The cost of phone calls is high, and it is a sad fact that many inmates and their families cannot afford this expense. Whether a pandemic is or isn't present, perhaps the Board would consider authorizing a free phone call either weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly, so that loved ones can stay in communication. Throughout the month of August, I kept track of meals served, and it is concerning that not one piece of fruit was served nor was there a salad on the menu. The item served the most was yellow cake (38x for breakfast, lunch and/or dinner), followed by bologna and spaghetti (19x each), and some type of bread (20x). While many inmates are incarcerated for brief periods of time, there are others who are in the jail much longer, making this unbalanced diet a health risk. Adding a piece of fruit per day and a salad three times a week would be a step in the right direction towards insuring that folks are offered more balanced and healthy meals. Your work on behalf of the incarcerated is important and appreciated. Thank you. Sincerely, Maggie Martin	