

The monthly meeting of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board was held Thursday, October 1, 2020 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. **Old Business**
 - a. **Speakers from Trinity**

Judge Clark:

We are going to take a couple of things out of order. We have some speakers from Trinity food service, and we have some questions for them that were submitted in advance of the meeting and we can also take a couple of questions. I'm going to ask Warden Harper to introduce our guest from Trinity food service.

Warden Harper:

Good afternoon. I would like to introduce Trinity's operations manager Thomas English and Mr. Alex Lee who will be responding to the questions that were sent to us from the controller's office. Mr. Lee and Mr. English, would you introduce yourselves and begin answering the questions?

Alex Lee (Trinity):

I'm Alex Lee. I'm general council. I'm here with regional vice president Thomas English.

Thomas English (Trinity):

Good afternoon.

Alex Lee (Trinity):

So, I guess I would defer to Warden Harper in terms of how you would like us to proceed. We obviously received written questions from the board, and we can go through them question by question or how ever you all would like to proceed is fine with us.

Warden Harper:

Okay. I'll start off with the first question because part of it pertains to the jail. *How does the Jail get a better variety of fresh, nutritious food? Is it a matter of cost (\$1.10 per meal only gets you so much?), availability, management discretion? Can the solution be as simple as, say, increase the cost per meal to \$1.25? I'd appreciate your thoughts.* So, the jails part of the response is that prices are negotiated for the contract and we are having an incoming competitor bidding process in which we will offer more robust specifications to ensure that there's a variety of nutritious food available. Trinity?

Alex Lee (Trinity):

Again, we agree with the Warden's comments and of course Trinity will work with Allegheny County to accommodate any changes are implemented.

Chelsa Wagner:

May I ask a follow up question to this?

Judge Clark:

Sure.

Chelsa Wagner:

So, I'm just curious when we're speaking to both Trinity and the Warden's response to that. So, to the question are we still talking in the range of \$1.10 per meal or are we talking of increased cost. I'd just like to get a little more specificity to understand something that would be a little bit more of a metric for us to aim for here.

Warden Harper:

Mrs. Wagner, right now we have to live in the confines of the contract that is present. As I stated before, we have an IFB that's out for competitive bid and of course I can't get into the details of that at this time. But I understand what you're saying. But right now, we're going to comply with the confines of the contract that's in place and as I stated in my response, we will be providing a more robust specification in the next contract.

Judge Clark:

So, Warden right now is the cost \$1.10 per meal? Is that what the cost is in the current contract?

Warden Harper:

Yes ma'am

Judge Clark:

Alright. So, I guess the question is, is there room to increase that or is there consideration to increase that cost with the next contract?

Warden Harper:

It just depends on what the submitted post your honor. I'm not able to answer that right now because we're in the middle of the bidding process.

Judge Clark:

Okay. I get that but I know that there is a bid open, but I guess that would all be apart of the budget and the approval, I guess. I think I sort of understand the answer. Mrs. Wagner is there anything else you wanted to add?

Chelsa Wagner:

I would. Respectfully, to the Warden I think when we're talking about it in this way, and I know we've in countered this sort of challenge in other areas that this board has been addressing when we're talking about something that is up for RFP and in the contracting process before this board sees it. You know, sometimes that puts us in a position of the tail wagging the dog. So, I'd like to get a better handle. Especially since we have our current food service provider here at this meeting. To me this is really the seminal question and I'd like to be able, even if we take it on the present contract. Ignore that we have a new contract coming up. Perhaps Trinity could address this from their standpoint as a food service provider, not just to our jail but educate us on how this works on a more universal manor. What do we need to do and be aware of, to have a better variety of fresh and nutritious food?

Tom English (Trinity):

Without getting into much detail because as the Warden mentioned, there currently is an IFB on the street. And actually, the submissions were in fact due Tuesday so, we're past the submission date. The specifications presented for the new contract are dramatically different than the existing contract and while the price per meal is made up of a number of factors the biggest individual factor of that price per meal is in fact the cost of food. In the new contract under the new specifications you should expect to see that price increase dramatically, as a result to the increase in food specification.

Chelsa Wagner:

Okay thank you. And then just in terms of us being able to, again for the purposes of the jail with the IFB being out and just recent receiving of submissions, even saying this in a more kind of hypothetical nature for us in an on going way to be able to look at what is being served. Could you provide just a little bit of insight on what we might want to be looking for?

Tom English (Trinity):

For the future?

Chelsa Wagner:

Yes please.

Tom English (Trinity):

Unfortunately, there is no fantastic standard in the corrections industry, for feeding populations. They very wildly primarily driven by specification. The industry has over the last 25 years that I've been in it, has driven very much towards cost reduction. So, the specification is created for this next time around does include larger portions, a different guideline for nutritional values, and larger quantities of fruits and vegetables.

Chelsa Wagner:

Okay. Thank you I appreciate that.

Chief Williams:

Mrs. Wagner. Is it okay if I add to this?

Chelsa Wagner:

Absolutely.

Chief Williams:

Okay. So, I think that it's important that we recognize some of the narrative of the oversight board is the statutory obligation to oversee a lot of the different processes in the institution. And to advocate for the population in which we serve. Throughout the last several months it's not even the full calendar year there have been comments as it relates to the food as well as the audit that was done by the controller's office and throughout that time period we have been looking at the present contract as well as the previous scopes of services that were drawn together to create the request for proposals in the past for vendors. We took a lot of that feedback presently from many of these meetings to shape the way that we constructed the invitation for bid. And as Mr. English confirmed as he was one of the receivers or reviewers of what we had submitted. We have added a large number of requirements that will definitely drive cost but it's also very reflective of the feedback that's been received so that we have a variety off food reduction and starch and carbohydrates which has been a lot of the feedback that was provided. An increase in vegetables and fruits as well as making sure that we can reasonably accommodate those that have the religious and medical diets to be ordered.

Chelsa Wagner:

Okay. That sounds great. I appreciate that and I would say that it does seem consistent with not nothing unique to the jail but really from our prospective when we're doing different audits, that it's often some sort of deficiency or where the contract or requirements could be greater or compliant to be greater that we see the opportunity. So, I'm satisfied with all those answers. I appreciate it.

Judge Clark:

Thank you. If there's no more discussion concerning this question, I think we can move to the next one. Which is, *"How many Trinity employees work at the Jail? What is the staffing arrangement? Is a dietician on site? Please talk about the role inmates play in the food service system? Finally, could you please talk about the SafeServe certification program?"*

Tom English (Trinity):

Trinity currently employees 18 people onsite at Allegheny County jail, operating four per shift essentially, that's virtually an around the clock operation not quite 24 hours. The inmates themselves handle production, service, sanitation, and preparation under the supervision of Trinity employees. The registered dietician is not onsite she is a consulting dietician that covers my region and has worked for me for about 15 years. A lot of corrections backgrounds. She is available by phone, I won't say 24/7 but virtually 24/7. SafeServe certification is offered by the national restaurant association. It meets the requirements that virtually every jurisdiction in the country has relative to having trained staff onsite to oversee the process of food handling, sanitation, and food safety. Additionally, by contract we are offering a SafeServe certification program for inmate training, where the plan is to train 10 per month. This is also something that has been addressed in the new IFB.

Chelsa Wagner:

Judge Clark may I ask a follow up question?

Judge Clark:

Yes, you may.

Chelsa Wagner:

Thank you. So, in terms of staffing I appreciate the outline, so I understand by your answers that essentially you have a four-person full-time equivalent per shift with that continuous operation.

Would you be able to give us an estimate or perhaps even a specific number when you look at the inmate roles that they are performing, measured against that full-time compliment?

Tom English (Trinity):

Are you asking what's the ratio of inmates to free world supervisors?

Chelsa Wagner:

Yes, but understanding perhaps that the inmates are not going to be doing the same shifts, so not exactly 1:1. I'm just trying to understand it in a way that's not comparing apples to oranges.

Tom English (Trinity):

I would say roughly speaking, two shifts of inmate workers per day that average between 25 and 30 with court appearances and visitation and classes or whatever else they might be involved in. So that would put it probably 7 to 8 inmates per supervisor on average. Just simple math.

Chelsa Wagner:

Okay. Thank you I appreciate that.

Judge Clark:

Anything else regarding this question? Alright the next question deals with vegan or vegetarian options. Are those options available and are they practical to have a vegetarian meal?

Tom English (Trinity):

I guess I'll handle this one. There are many different dietary options that are offered for the religious and medical accommodations and needs. At this point, as directed by the institution there is no allowance for inmates to identify a preference for their diet.

Judge Clark:

So, what happens if somebody is vegetarian or vegan comes into the jail? What do they eat?

Tom English (Trinity):

I'd have to refer that to the Warden and Chief Deputy.

Warden Harper:

So, what happens to individuals that request of a specific diet, they have to put in a request through our chaplain's department to make a request to be on a vegetarian diet, religious diet, etc. If there's any health care issues, then that request is sent to our health care department and they will make the recommendation as to whether or not they will be prescribed a specific medical diet for these individuals. So, either the chaplains department or the health care department. Those are the only ways in which these diets can be approved.

Judge Clark:

So, then if I'm a vegetarian is that option available? I understand that they have to make the request but if they make the request is there an option for someone who does not eat meat?

Warden Harper:

There is no option your honor. Because if we make a specific option for these individuals, we'll have different menus and different diets everyday and as you know we serve 7,000 meals a day and there's no way that we'll be able to accommodate everybody's request to be on a specific diet.

Judge Clark:

When I'm looking at the menu it says how many ounces of this or that. So, if I just don't eat meat, say I come into the jail and I haven't eaten meat for most of my life. Can I get extra portions of the vegetables, the pasta, the things that don't contain meat? And not eat the meat things? Is that possible?

Warden Harper:

No ma'am that is not possible. The only way that they would get that accommodation is if it was approved by health care department and/or our Chaplin's department. And like I said your honor, with 7,000 meals a day we would be serving 24 hours a day with the amount of request that would come from the inmate population.

Judge Clark:

I understand that but that was the question. I think this was Mrs. Wagner's question. Do you want to ask anything else? I think it was answered.

Chelsa Wagner:

Yes. I believe it was answered. Thank you.

Judge Clark:

Alright. Then the next question was *"Do you track/look at the trays that are returned to see if certain menu items are not eaten or not preferred. What are the quality control measures in place to ensure that food is appetizing?"*

Warden Harper:

Your honor, like I stated before we serve about 7,000 meals a day and we do not track upon return to determine whether or not the food has been eaten or preferred.

Judge Clark:

Thank you. The next question is *"As you know the board often receives complaints about the food quality etc. What do you believe is the best way that the board can ensure that the residents are receiving good tasty meals within the bounds and limitations of the contract?"* And the fact that the Warden pointed out that there's so many meals being served every day. So, there's a suggestion in there. *"For example, is it worthwhile to sample food each month? Should we be provided with a menu and then a report from the provider as to whether that menu was followed for the month?"* Any suggestions for the board and what the board can do? And that could come from the Warden and Deputy Warden or Trinity.

Tom English (Trinity):

I'd be happy to do this for you Judge. We as a company serve meals all across the country. And the only thing that's similar from institution to institution is nothing. Every institution has its own processes and procedures. The two most widely used procedures for verifying accuracy and taste, temperature, quality, appearance, portion, and menu appearance are visual inspections and the two processes that are most used for that are the kitchen officer prior to the beginning of the tray line. The process for feeding these inmates is a tray line, it runs all meals something around 2,000 per meal period, entrees down a service line. Prior to the beginning of that line is a kitchen officer, a shift commander, who ever might be assigned by the institution comes to the kitchen and verifies the menu, portion, temperature, taste, appearance, prior to the service line, signs off on the document it is a standard form we have in our packets so we can supply that. The second thing that happens on a typical bases is a tray, a random tray, is sent to the

administration office at every meal period for someone in the administration to sample and do the exact same thing. Administration could be a shift commander or could be the Warden. It could be anybody that the institution would decide.

Judge Clark:

Thank you.

Bethany Hallam:

Judge Clark, may I ask a question about that?

Judge Clark:

Yes.

Bethany Hallam:

I'm just wondering if that's the same policies for the bagged lunches?

Tom English (Trinity):

It could be.

Bethany Hallam:

Is it?

Tom English (Trinity):

It could be. It can be done for everything. It can be done for all the medical bags. There are approximately 12 to 15 separate medical menus that we serve diet meals. That can be done for all of those meals.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay. But is it being done now?

Tom English (Trinity):

No, it is not.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay. And just one follow up question on that. So, you all do provide the bagged lunches as well?

Tom English (Trinity):

Yes, we do.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay. And who gets those? In what situation in the jail is someone given a bagged lunch instead of a menu meal?

Warden Harper:

I can answer that. Bagged meals are individuals in our intake department. Individuals that are out to court. Individuals that upon their return from court may have missed a meal or they been somewhere outside at the magisterial court when they return, they may get a bagged meal.

Bethany Hallam:

Thank you.

Judge Clark:

Thank you. The next question is *“Is there a discrepancy between the menu and what is received by the residents? If so, please explain. A copy of an “actual” menu prepared by a resident from May 7, 2020 to June 7, 2020 has been attached.”* I guess that was a complaint from an inmate that they don’t often get what’s on the actual menu that was planned. If that’s so, can you explain why?

Tom English (Trinity):

I can give you a couple of generalizations and a little bit of over view. There are substitutions to the menus that are made on occasion. This particular time frame as you well know was kind of during the height of the pandemic. And there were supply chain issues as I’m sure you all saw in the grocery stores. So, there were some challenges there as well as some issues from 2019. The goal is that the menu is served as written and we make every attempt to do that at every meal. We are reviewing that handwritten note that I believe you are referring to, side by side with our actual menu and then our ‘As served’ menu which reflects any substitutions that would have been made to see if we could compare in a more logical fashion.

Judge Clark:

Thank you. The next question actually came from a public comment from Ms. Damick back in May from the prison society. It says, *“We reviewed the menu for May. Unfortunately, the menu showed exactly what we have pointed out before--the complete absence of any fruit. While this meets the calorie amount, it does not meet the nutritional requirements. In addition, nowhere in the Commissary list can be found any sufficient substitute. We recognize that fruit can be higher in cost than carrots or peas, but it is necessary for good health. In fact, in some health situations, it is necessary. Is there any way this situation can be corrected?”*

Warden Harper:

You know I would like to respond to that your honor. The first thing I want to do is just thank Ms. Damick for her insuring that we provide the necessary nutrition for our inmates. As we stated before in the IFB we’ve increased the specifications. The previous contract allowed for 100% fruit juice as a substitution for serving a fruit. This has been addressed in the future contract. We are working collaboratively to begin introducing more fruit options instead of 100% fruit juice.

Judge Clark:

Thank you Warden. I hope Ms. Damick is listening and that she will be pleased with that answer. The next question is, *“When new food guidelines are released will ACJ consider changing the meals? The Warden is correct when he claims the jail menu follows the government's requirements. Those were established in 1980; new guidelines are coming next month, which, I understand will show that high-carb diets are bad for diabetes as well as high blood pressure. Does anybody at the ACJ know this? When this is published, will ACJ consider changing their meals?”*. This is also from Ms. Damick.

Warden Harper:

I would like to respond to that. The USDA and the HHF plan to release the 2020 – 2025 dietary guidelines by the end of this year. The ACJ and the vender intend to look at the new guidelines and the registered dietician will evaluate the menu to determine based on there recommendations for consideration for a potential change of the meals in the future. So, we will look at this and then in collaboration with our vendor and the dietician, work to try to implement some of the changes.

Judge Clark:

Thank you. The next question is also from public comment, *"The recent food service audit does not include the fact that the menu they used to bid in the contract isn't what is provided. They get a straight diet of pasta (Pasta/meat sauce, Baloney Robinson) and burgers. Where are the cookies, iced cake, chicken and rice, eggs (scrambled and hard boiled) and pancakes?"*. I think that question may have been answered but if there's anything that anyone wants to add to that we can do that. If not, we'll go to the next question.

Chief Williams:

Your honor I think for this one and the remaining, we've tried to address that pretty comprehensively in our responses regarding our revisions and the IFB as well as an acknowledgement from Trinity as well that there has not necessarily been full fidelity to the menu that has been reported as being identified for service versus what has been served.

Judge Clark:

I think the next question also deals with that issue, differences in what they're served. Unless the board wants me to go through that question, I will go onto the next one. So, this one also deals with the fact that there was not fruit served or salad and high carbs. Is there anything that anybody wants to add about that?

Warden Harper:

I don't have anything to add your honor.

Judge Clark:

Alright. And Ms. Klein had two questions. Ms. Klein, do you want to ask your questions?

Terri Klein:

Sure. You know, looking at the menu that you provided there is no fresh salad or greens. I was wondering if you could price out what the cost differential would be to add a green salad three times a week?

Tom English (Trinity):

We did in fact do that and presented it to the Warden yesterday.

Terri Klein:

And that's part of the new bid, right?

Tom English (Trinity):

Actually, I can tell you that on the menu we submitted with our proposal for a new contract for Allegheny County, it does contain salad.

Terri Klein:

Thank you. My other question was regarding meals for pregnant women. Can you talk about what...I guess that would be a health care diet? But my understanding was through Dr. Anderson who provides the women's care at the jail that pregnant women were to get fresh fruit.

Tom English (Trinity):

That is correct.

Warden Harper:

I can respond to that. The pregnant ladies ...

Terri Klein:

Okay I'm just confused because in previous meetings I was told that no one in the jail gets fresh fruit including pregnant women. So, that's the reason I was asking this.

Warden Harper:

And we're here to inform you that the pregnant ladies have been getting fresh fruit.

Terri Klein:

Okay. I'm sorry then. I misspoke. And an additional protein?

Chief Williams:

The pregnant diet was developed when Trinity was awarded this contract. Between Dr. Anderson who provides our female care and the dietician, so that was specific as well to our previous policies and procedures that was outlined with the previous vendor. Our pregnant females can not have any deli meats. They are supposed to be provided with fruits like we've discussed, a higher level of fiber and vegetables and they also get water.

Terri Klein:

Okay thank you. I might be interested in seeing a menu for the pregnant women. If that could be provided?

Judge Clark:

Alright we can ask the Warden if he can provide that to the board members.

Terri Klein:

Thank you.

Judge Clark:

Thank you. Are there any other questions?

Bethany Hallam:

I just have a follow up question to one of Ms. Klein's questions about the salad that's offered. I'm just wondering if the gentleman from Trinity could answer? Was that proposed as an option that was available prior to this new contract proposal and the jail turned it down? Or is that something that Trinity didn't offer in the past and is now offering for the first time?

Tome English (Trinity):

That's a complicated answer because I don't have the menu memorized that was originally submitted with the proposal. But we responded to a request from the Warden.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay and that was a recent request?

Tom English (Trinity):

Yes, it was.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay thank you very much.

Judge Clark:

Does anyone else have any other questions for the folks from Trinity? If not, I would like to thank them for taking time to participate in this board meeting. I think it was, from my standpoint, I would say personally very useful and very informative and helpful as to the processes that maybe happening in the future and I'm glad that some of the public comments were able to be answered as well. So, thank you for attending the meeting. You were certainly welcome to stay on and hear the rest of the meeting, it is a public meeting, but you are free to be excused if you wish. Thank you so much.

b. Public Comments**Judge Clark:**

So, we'll go back to our agenda. With respect to public comments, we didn't get as many public comments this month as we have in the past. The majority of them dealt with the staffing at the jail. And we have been posting the responses to the public comments on the website. But I ask if we could just talk a little bit about the staffing in the medical department? A lot of the questions had to do with the staffing and the shortages in the medical department. So, if the Warden and Deputy Warden could just briefly address. We will still answer those questions and post them but since there were so many dealing with that issue, I thought that it would be prudent and fair to just talk about what's happening with the staffing in the medical department.

Chief Williams:

Your honor I would like to address those questions and if it's okay I can kind of summarize some together it was specifically related to the intake department and processing of inmates as they were coming in. So, in our intake department we have multiple different sections within the ground level in which an inmate has to go through. They start at the new arrest in our facility and they go through a medical clearance process which is done in the front of intake before somebody has been fully committed to the jail. So, we're asking for a history and we're identifying any medical conditions, we're also of course doing screenings measures for COVID-19 and ensuring that we're isolating or segregating people who could be at greater risk in this area to ensure that we do disease mitigation and reduce risk to others. We're identifying whether or not somebody might be currently inebriated and intoxicated or at risk for withdraw if they have a critical medical condition such as diabetes that would require monitoring while they're going through the intake process and all of that is being handled in the front of intake by our health care staff. They then go through their IV process, pretrial services, prearrangement, and then if they are destined to stay in the facility they will go to booking and processing. This is another area in which we have health care staff to include mental health professionals and we have additional screenings or assessments that are done. Our physical assessments and any ordering of additional medications that were not previously addressed or handled in this area. We are doing TB test in the back of intake which is part of our procedures. We're offering STD screenings and we are doing our mental health screening as well to assist with the identification for where somebody might be housed. If they are substance users, they are placed on detox protocols if those are clinically indicated and then they process through with showering and get upstairs to their more semi-permanent housing while they are in the intake housing unit. There are comments related to lack of staffing in this area and each month this has come up. I'm not certain which other way to address it other than this happens. And we've said that it happened. We have made every effort to fill every vacancy within this area, we like many different institutions are still subject to staff who may call off who may be using benefit time who may be in an emergency circumstance or in a position where they have to care for their family. We always have some certified health care staff in the intake area sometimes they are working in the front of intake and if we are extremely busy because of new arrest coming in those

individuals will take priority and they will come to the back where medical processing happens, and they will address anybody who is currently in present need. This is obviously not an ideal scenario and it's not the way that we choose to staff but it is something that we frequently have to react to when we do not have staff that report for duty. We've also discussed during the pandemic, we have various strict thresholds for our employees when they come in and if anybody developed any symptoms or has an elevated temperature, we cannot permit them to work. That is a safety measure in the institution. So, I don't want to side step this, it absolutely happens it is not our ideal scenario. We do have some staff onsite that can address any of these immediate needs. And we process individuals as quickly as possible.

Judge Clark:

Thank you. Does anyone have any questions for Deputy Warden Williams?

Bethany Hallam:

I do Judge Clark. In regard to the staffing part of this, I agree with Deputy Warden Williams that this is something that gets brought up in every meeting and I think it's really important and she says that she doesn't know what more can be done. So, I was wondering maybe as the jail oversight board if we could get a detailed plan on the hiring strategies to fill the vacancies. As in what are they doing? Like, what options have been thought of to fill the vacancies? And then possibly if we as the board could talk to recent staff from medical, mental health professionals who have quit, to try and figure out why there is a high turnover rate happening specifically in that area of the jail. Is that something that this board would be willing to do?

Terri Klein:

Yes. I think there is a value in doing exit interviews.

Bethany Hallam:

Great. And about the detailed plans on the hiring strategy that the jail is using, Deputy Warden Williams is that something that you could provide to us? How your going about trying to fill these vacancies?

Chief Williams:

I can. I think I would need a little bit more information and the format in which you would be seeking. I could potentially report out for how many candidates were interviewed, how many were refused because they did not meet background qualifications. In a secure environment sometimes, we do have willing staff who want to come on board, but they do not pass our background check process. We obviously could not provide the details for that because that's subject to CREA and those that are on boarding. We've been providing those that we do on board each month in the vacancies health care staffing report but if you were seeking more information I can do that. We do work very hard to recruit we've discussed this in a number of different meetings, that this is a highly competitive area for health care staff to work and corrections settings are not always the most desirable place to work for a number of different reasons. Is the board interested in providing some guidance, I would like to be able to meet the expectations and that would assist me doing so?

Judge Clark:

So, maybe what I would suggest Ms. Hallam, maybe if you could circulate to the board what it is that you're looking for specifically and maybe we could all contribute to it and then send something to Deputy Warden Williams. There are certain professions and occupations where there is high turnover for a number of reasons and as a juvenile court judge I would say, who worked with CYF case workers, there's a high turnover there and the agency made efforts to recruit. And there are

a number of reasons for that, there was survey done of case workers to figure out why there was such a high turnover. There are some occupations that tend to have high turnover. I can't say whether working in a medical department in a corrections facility is one of those, but I could imagine that it might be. I think maybe if we could, as the board sort of circulate our own little chat about formatting it and then we could get that to Deputy Warden Williams. I think that might be a productive way to do it if you're willing to initiate that conversation Ms. Hallam.

Bethany Hallam:

Yes definitely. I would be willing to draft up a format and send it over to you for review and to put out for the whole board. But also, you know, I do think that ACJ is unique in this situation. I recently heard from an experienced former DOC employee who came to the ACJ and left after a few weeks and it was because of the working conditions not because of the pay, not because of the industry. It was somebody who has been in corrections for over a decade. So, I just want to get to the bottom of why is this happening at the Allegheny County jail more so than in other correction facilities? I will definitely draft something up for you and I will send it over to you within the week Judge Clark.

Judge Clark:

Alright thank you. Any other questions for Deputy Warden Williams concerning the staffing shortage?

c. Inmate Welfare Expense Fund Subcommittee Report

Judge Clark:

Alright. So, the next thing on our agenda under old business is the Inmate Welfare Expense Fund Subcommittee Report. Judge Lazzara?

Judge Lazzara:

Good Afternoon everyone. The Inmate Welfare Fund Subcommittee had two meetings this month. We are a very active group and a very good group of very committed folks. Our first meeting was on September 22, 2020 where we actually had a conversation with Rev. Greenway who is one of the Chaplains at the Allegheny County jail and she is also the COO of the foundation of hope. It was an exceptionally informative meeting everyone on the subcommittee had questions about what exactly the foundation of hope is and what they do, and she provided us with a lot of really great background information. Our main reason to speak to her was to get some additional ideas for future inmate welfare fund projects. And she presented us with some very interesting ideas some as seemingly simple as providing writing supplies for incoming inmates, to others including some ideas for funding a maximum-security hope pod. So, there were a lot of ideas some of which the committee itself had talked about before, so she definitely added some confirmation that those items were needed. Things like maybe providing subsidies for tablet services and those things. It was a very good conversation and we have a lot of ideas from that. We then met again on September 25, 2020 to discuss an idea that was proposed by Terri Klein for a needs assessment at the Allegheny County jail. It's not just our own thoughts on what the inmates need at the jail or the Chaplains thoughts on what the inmates want, but actually asking the inmates what they would want or need if the inmate welfare fund could provide it to them. And there was some initial talk from the University of Pittsburgh Department of Social Work that led to a relatively high bid to do an electronic survey on the new tablets. It was discussed that perhaps we could make some changes to that needs assessment perhaps limit the number of folks that would be surveyed. It originally included family members as well as inmates but limited to inmates oppose to family members and that could bring the cost down dramatically. We are going to go back to PITT to try to get a new proposal for that needs assessment that the committee will then talk to Dean Farmer

of the Department of Social Work to have her suggestions and then we will be hopeful to be able to provide that proposal to the jail oversight board for consideration. We're hoping to have that done, I can't say for sure whether it'll occur by the November meeting, that we would be able to have the proposal there. I would be hopeful to do that, but it'll certainly depend on the availability of Dean Farmer and when we receive the proposal from the University of Pittsburgh.

Judge Clark:

Judge Lazzara? Was there any thought to maybe see if anybody who is working on a doctorates or masters might want to do this as part of their study and thereby reducing the cost even further?

Judge Lazzara:

I think Terri can probably best answer that because she had some conversation with Dean Farmer, but I believe that there was a masters level person that would be the one helping conduct it to make it a little more cost efficient. But Terri, if you could answer that?

Terri Klein:

Yes. So, Judge I will tell you as politely as I can what Dean Farmer told me that she seems to think it's a misconception that there are people in academia who have nothing and are just looking for projects to fill. She is hooking us up with actually a Post-Doc. So, this is a woman who is doing additional academic work after her PhD and she is very aware of the cost and is cognizant but again this would be something that, personally I feel we should be paying for their time because this is taking time from their other projects. So, she's will be, in fact I could get an email from her today that I haven't had a chance yet to review. But I do think that the cost is going to come down considerably. Does that answer your question Judge Clark?

Judge Clark:

Yes, thank you.

Judge Lazzara:

So, we are hoping, especially with Terri being in good communications with them that perhaps we can get those proposals sent to us quickly so that we can have a meeting with Dean Farmer so that maybe by November we'll be able to present the full proposal to the full board. The only other thing that we have sort of outstanding is that there has been no response from the jail collaborative. We had a motion done with the jail oversight board at last months meeting sort of suggesting that a person from the jail oversight board being included in the jail collaborative meetings and I have not yet received any answers from the jail collaborative as to whether they are going to agree with that voted on proposal from the jail oversight board.

Judge Clark:

So, I will get in communication with them and ask that question again. The answer is not clear to me either, Judge Lazzara, so I will get back with you on that.

Judge Lazzara:

And that would be the conclusion of my report unless anybody has any questions.

Judge Clark:

And Judge Lazzara do you want your report sent out to all the board members? You sent them to me, but I did not forward them. Do you want me to send these and in the future any reports you have to make sure that they're forwarded to the board? I neglected to do that.

Judge Lazzara:

I certainly think the rest of the board maybe interested in what we're doing, and I certainly would have no problems with them going there. We don't put anything in those reports that we don't discuss and there's nothing secret from the board in them.

Judge Clark:

I will make sure that they are sent out. Does anyone have any questions for Judge Lazzara? Alright thank you. You guys have been working hard and we really appreciate it.

d. Suicide Prevention Subcommittee Report

Judge Clark:

The next thing is the Suicide Prevention Subcommittee Report. Ms. Parees?

Barbara Parees:

The Warden is here to give his monthly report based on their progress toward implementation of the guidelines and I also want to let everyone know that tomorrow I will send out the full report.

Warden Harper:

Recommendations #1, #2, #6, #10, and #12 are completed as reported to the board last month. The remaining recommendations are completed in part and we are working on progressing the following areas. Recommendation #3. Lack of privacy. Facility staff are pricing out materials for the modification to the intake area. Once the materials arrive, a date for construction will be established. Recommendation #4 and #13. Additional training on interpersonal communication skills and specialized training for staff related to suicide prevention and interpersonal communication. The initial suicide prevention training for all staff is now set for 8 hours as recommended. The next class of cadet will receive 8 hours of training. The security orientation will be expanded to two days in order to provide 8 hours of suicide prevention training to all new hires. This change will occur as soon as possible. Additionally, online training has been developed to include modules with case study. Small group training will be initiated on the off shifts. Recommendation #5. Suicide resistant cells. The hooks have been removed from all the cells on POD 7E. The gaps in the cells on 7E have been caulked and all the cells on 7E are in the process of being painted white. Recommendation #7. Enhanced policies. The following policies have been completed and are in the process of being reviewed and approved for publication by the administration; mental health programs and services, medical housing levels of care, and suicide prevention and intervention. Training and staff development and communicational patient health needs policies have been revised and published. The remaining policies in process of being revised is policy 305 and policy 2610. Recommendation #8. Problem list. Additional training has been provided to all qualified health professionals in intake in order to ensure continuity of care. The training outlines the requirement to review problem list, housing history, previous mental health screening, evaluation, community record, and booking observation questions during the intake process for past history of suicide thoughts, attempts, and/or treatment and documentation of the review. This recommendation is complete. Recommendation #9. Staffing. The healthcare administration has reassessed staffing and made adjustments as needed to utilize staff. The ACJ administration continues to submit staffing reports to the board monthly for review. This recommendation is complete. Recommendation #11. Therapeutic programming on our mental health unit is limited. Individual therapeutic programming is occurring at this time. Additional group programming will be added once the restrictions regarding group settings related to COVID-19 are lifted. No further update at this time. That is all of the updates that I have pertaining to the NCCAC review your honor.

Judge Clark:

Thank you, Warden. Sounds like a lot of progress is being made. Does anyone have any questions for Warden Harper?

e. COVID-19 Update

Judge Clark:

Warden, do you have any updates on COVID-19?

Chief Williams:

Your honor, I can provide that. Our website will reflect that we have 520 inmates that have been tested. 38 have been positive since the beginning of our pandemic. 463 negatives, 5 indeterminate, 14 pending, 0 in the hospital, and 0 positives currently in the facility. However, within the last half hour I received the 14 pending test results from the Allegheny County health department, so this is breaking and not yet posted. We have 477 negatives, still zero positives in the facility and zero pending. For employees, 121 have been tested, 15 have been positive, 106 have been negative, zero are currently pending, 14 have recovered and returned to work.

Judge Clark:

Thank you. Does anyone have any questions for Deputy Warden Williams?

Bethany Hallam:

I do Judge Clark. I was just wondering if there is an update on the policies that we had asked for specifically the mental health and other policies regarding that?

Warden Harper:

I'm not understanding the question. What policies are you referring to? Are you talking about policies on the website?

Bethany Hallam:

Yeah, I'm wondering if there's any way that we can add the mental health policies on the website. Also, we were sent a letter regarding a lawsuit that was being filed. Us members of the jail oversight board we were sent a letter in our email, I think you all received that, and it was dealing with how folks in mental health crises are treated in the jail. So, I was just wondering if there's any chance that we plan to get those mental health policies up or if you're still expecting us to have to come down to the jail to be able to see them? The ones that aren't on the website.

Warden Harper:

Yes, you're still going to have to come down to the jail to see the redacted policies Ms. Hallam.

Bethany Hallam:

Alright.

Judge Clark:

Any other questions? Alright.

f. Tablet Update

Judge Clark:

Do we have an update on the tablets Warden?

Warden Harper:

We sure do your honor. We are pleased to announce that the tablets were rolled out to the inmate population on Tuesday. And I just want to say this, I think the inmates are very happy with the product that they received. They have been able to virtually visit with their loved ones and I'll tell you, I've been reviewing some of the videos and it was just really good to see them reconnect with their loved ones. So, the tablets have been implemented and we're excited about the implementation of the tablets.

Judge Clark:

And we're going to have a demonstration at the next meeting, is that correct?

Warden Harper:

Yes ma'am.

Judge Clark:

Alright, thank you. Does anyone have any questions for the Warden?

Terri Klein

Warden, in talking to Dean Farmer from the school of social work and we're trying to figure out how to put the potential needs assessment survey on the tablets and I don't want to take time from this meeting to do it. What is the best way for me to figure out if the tablet can access a website that they can go to, to get the survey? What is the best way for me to get information on that?

Chief Williams:

We're still working through a lot of these processes and I think it would be best if we maybe set up a meeting to look at the website and that way we can discuss with the vender the best way to implement this through the tablet. Would that work?

Terri Klein:

That would. So, maybe we could do that with Dean Farmer and you and the vender?

Chief Williams:

I think that would be great.

Terri Klein:

Alright. Thank you so much.

Bethany Hallam:

I have a question about the tablets Judge Clark. The Warden said that they were rolled out this week. Were they rolled out with the full capabilities that the tablets are intended for?

Warden Harper:

Absolutely not Ms. Hallam. We are still working on processes but right now, what the inmates have available to them is they're able to schedule virtual visits with their loved ones. Their loved ones are not able to schedule the virtual visits. So, when the inmates come out for their recreation, they will schedule the virtual visits while they're out on recreation. They have the capabilities of receiving messages, sending messages, getting photographs, and the telephone. Each tablet can be used as a phone, so instead of them going to a phone in the middle of the pod, every inmate has the capability to use the tablet as a phone so they can have constant

communication with their loved ones. The inmates at the Allegheny County jail will have the tablets from 9am to 9pm.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay, I'm confused. I was told that first of all there were 90-minute limits on the use of the tablets. And two, that the commissary accounts where their funds are, are not hooked up to the tablets. Have those been resolved?

Warden Harper:

As I stated Ms. Hallam, the inmates can have the tablets from 9am to 9pm so there's not limit as to how long they can have it. And the commissary icon has not been implemented yet. That will be up and running at the end of the month, first of November. But we still have the commissary kiosk on the pod for the inmates to order their commissary using the kiosk.

Bethany Hallam:

So, does that mean that the free phone calls that they were getting were taken away now that the tablets have been implemented?

Warden Harper:

No ma'am. Free phone calls are still in effect.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay thank you very much.

Judge Clark:

Any other questions? Thank you, Warden that's very exciting. I feel like we're moving into the 21st century. Thank you.

2. Review of the September 3rd, 2020 Minutes

Judge Clark:

So, the next thing on the agenda is the review of the minutes for the September 3rd meeting. Those were sent out with your meeting materials and I hope each of you have had the opportunity to review the minutes. And at this time if there are any additions or corrections, we can hear about those now or I will entertain a motion.

Terri Klein:

I have a correction Judge. And Deputy Warden Williams maybe you could just cooperate with me. In the minutes it said that a fever is determined by the temperature 104 degrees and I think we all know a fever is way before that. I think that the minutes should state 100.4. Is that true?

Chief Williams:

Yes. Last month I reported that it was 100.4 but in our congregate setting we have a reduced threshold as recommended and supported by the Allegheny County Health Department, where we recognize a fever or an elevated temperature to be at 99.0 degrees. But you're accurate, it's 100.4 not 104.

Judge Clark:

Okay. So, we'll ask that, that correction be made. Are there any other corrections or additions to the minutes?

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Judge Lazzara, duly seconded by Sheriff Mullen to approve the minutes from the September 3rd, 2020 Meeting

3. President's Report

Judge Clark:

I don't have anything; well I do have one little thing to present and talk about. We had discussed maybe two meetings ago about dealing with some issues around transgender population in the county jail. A couple of things, when we had that meeting Aaron Stalton from the Department of Human Services was watching the meeting and said that she has some suggestions. So, she's going to reach out to the Warden or the Warden's going to reach out to her to see what training opportunities are available. Then, just recently I have two law intern students from PITT who are working for me and right now they are working on one project for me but that is going to be one of the projects I'm going to have them sort of research, what are the best practices with transgender population in correctional facilities? I will have some information to present to the board with respect to that. The Warden and I also did discuss that one thing that we could sort of deal with immediately is training staff once we're able to identify who could possibly do that training. From the comments that we've gotten from transgender population, seems to me that there's a lot of issues with just the way they are spoken to and not being identified by the gender of their choice or the pronoun that they chose and those kind of things. I think some training around that area would be beneficial for staff so, we're going to be looking at those options. That's all that I have to report at this time.

4. Warden's Report

Judge Clark:

Warden is there anything else that you want to report that you have not already presented?

Warden Harper:

Yes ma'am. Your honor since the conversation we had pertaining to the transgender policies, I have already reached out to Aaron and we already have a schedule set as to where we are going to discuss training for our employees at the Allegheny County jail.

Judge Clark:

Thank you. Great!

Warden Harper:

The next thing I want to talk about is voting at ACJ. One of the things we're trying to do is make sure that every individual that's eligible to vote, has the opportunity to vote. We have a core team of case workers and program administrators going around each POD to give inmates their applications for absentee ballots and registration applications so that we can get as many people to vote as possible. We're really going to try to improve on how many people vote this year than last year. So far 99 applications for absentee ballots by mail have been filled out and 43 voter registration applications have been filled out. We have videos that are going to be played on the TV's to educate the inmates that they are eligible to vote and how they can vote. We're really excited about the progress that we're taking to try to make sure that everybody votes at the Allegheny County jail. We also added 7 more policies to the ACJ website. I know Ms. Hallam will be happy to hear that 7 more policies have been added to the website for your review. Lastly, attorneys now can register online to schedule their video visitation with their client through our website. So, any attorney that would like to register online can actually go to our website and schedule a visit online with their client. That's all I have your honor.

Judge Clark:

Does anyone have any questions for Warden Harper?

Bethany Hallam:

I just wanted to clarify about the voting because I do have a proposal on the agenda specifically in regard to making sure that folks are getting registered and that folks are getting assistance in applying for their mail-in ballots. It's not just a video on the TV? It's not just a sign posted on the PODs? Correct? You're actually asking everyone who is eligible to vote if they would like to or if they would like to register?

Warden Harper:

Our case workers are going to each POD and asking each individual in our facility if they would like to vote and we're providing them with the documentation that I just spoke on, to the individuals and assisting them in getting those applications filled and sent to the Elections Department.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay. If that's the case, Judge Clark I wouldn't mind having my one agenda item removed from new business if what I'm proposing is already taking place.

Judge Clark:

Alright we'll remove that at your request. Thank you, Ms. Hallam. Thank you, Warden.

Bethany Hallam:

Thank you, Judge Clark. And thank you Warden for doing that.

Warden Harper:

Yes ma'am.

Judge Clark:

Any other questions for Warden Harper?

Gayle Moss:

Can I say something? I have been an advocate for voting, and I have worked along with the Warden about voting, so I've been on it if that helps any Ms. Hallam. He can tell you; I'm always seeing how it's going.

Judge Clark:

Thank you. Any other questions or comments?

5. Deputy Warden's Report

Judge Clark:

Deputy Warden Williams?

Chief Williams:

Yes ma'am. I've already provided the updates as it relates to COVID-19 and our current statistics and numbers. We presently have two pregnant females currently in our custody. They may not be reflected in the monitoring period due to new admission, but we do currently have two in the building. And since the last meeting, I wanted to report that we have onboarded one

full-time licensed practical nurse, one PRN licensed practical nurse, and one PRN registered nurse. So, this is new county staff that has been onboarded since the last meeting.

Judge Clark:

Thank you. Any questions for Deputy Warden Williams?

Bethany Hallam:

I just have one Judge Clark. Deputy Warden Williams, could you speak to the PODs that are closed currently? Are there still 5 PODs that are closed down and if so, which are they and if not, how many are currently close down?

Chief Williams:

We currently have 4 housing units that are closed, and we won't discuss which housing units those are.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay, but only 4?

Chief Williams:

I'm so sorry I just did a recount of the housing units. It's 5 units that are currently closed.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay and why are they closed?

Chief Williams:

That's our operational discretion ma'am.

Bethany Hallam:

Okay. Thank you.

Judge Clark:

Any other questions? Thank you.

6. New Business

Judge Clark:

Now we're down to new business. We have one item from Ms. Hallam.

Bethany Hallam:

Thank you, Judge Clark. So, again this is because of the COVID-19 shut down and everything that's going on in the outside world. Families are struggling to support their family on the street while trying to support a loved one who's incarcerated. I would just ask that we again vote to put \$50 on each commissary account of the 1,749 inmates currently incarcerated in the jail totaling \$87,450.

Terri Klein:

I have a question. So, their commissary funds cannot be applied to cost associated with the tablet?

Bethany Hallam:

From my understanding they have been hooked up already. The commissary funds based off what the Warden told us today is that the commissary funds are hooked up to the tablets.

Terri Klein:

Can those moneys be used to pay for the cost associated with the tablets? Pictures, extra phone calls, etc.?

Judge Clark:

Warden can you answer that question please?

Warden Harper:

To add the money to the inmate to utilize for the tablet you would have to go to the website, the GTL website that's posted on our website. If you just place it in the commissary, that money cannot be utilized for the tablets. So, if the money is going to be posted for just the tablets, you have to utilize the GTL website to have it posted on the tablets.

Terri Klein:

Thank you. I might suggest that next month we might consider putting money on that account.

Bethany Hallam:

That's a great idea Terri.

Judge Clark:

Any other questions or discussion?

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.

7. Community Corrections Reports

Judge Clark:

And last, we have our community corrections reports. I believe our community corrections representatives are on the call. Is that correct?

Community Corrections Rep:

Yes, your honor.

Judge Clark:

Alright. Welcome. We haven't heard from you in a long time so we thought you should actually be a participant in the meeting.

a. The Program for Offenders Report

Judge Clark:

First, we'll hear from the Program for Offenders.

Carol Bender (Program for Offenders):

Hi your honor. I apologize I am not the one who normally participates but Mike is off on vacation this week. I guess a lot has gone on. Am I correct in saying that no one has provided information over the last few months?

Judge Clark:

Right. We just get the report. So, we thought we should have you present live at the meeting.

Carol Bender (Program for Offenders):

Okay. I guess a lot has gone on then since March. We just recently in July and August, started transferring inmates back into our programs. As many of you may be aware, our male facility went through a hefty outbreak in April. We have rebounded. The center has been cleaned, many things have changed, policies have changed, we've all learned a lot. But what I can say is that we are slowly and safely transferring inmates now back in the facilities. Of all of our residents that were tested for COVID-19, we did end up with 57 residents since March have been tested. 11 were positive. Of those 11, no hospitalization and no deaths. 100 staff since March have gone through testing at various times. 5 positives, no hospitalizations, no deaths. Everyone else was negative. We've been doing very well on that end. Again, slowly and safely bringing people in. We're actually limiting our capacity right now to keep everybody safe. We never want to go through this again. So, we're just taking it slow. Some programming just started back up. We've got Pennsylvania Women's Work and Mercy Behavioral coming into the facilities as well as AIU providing additional services for the residents. Our male facility has officially gone none smoking and our female facility is about to take that leap in the next few weeks. I know we were one of the last ones that still allowed it, and that is changing. So, smoking sensation classes are being offered and our nurse and partnership with Central Outreach, they are getting anyone who needs any nicotine patches or things to assist getting that for them. Is there anything else I can answer for you?

Judge Clark:

Well, I'll just ask if anyone has any questions? Thank you for your report and it's nice to see you.

b. The Renewal Center Report

Judge Clark:

Renewal?

Adam Zack (Renewal):

Good afternoon. Last week we had our annual county audit it was originally supposed to take place in March pre-COVID. We had it last week and we think it went well, hopefully. We haven't received a final report yet. We've been encouraging our reentrance, the men and women to get out and vote. We've been providing them resources and also applications to register and the website where they could go for resources to vote. We have actually been taking some of the reentrance out on recreation walks who are in the inpatient units, to get outside and get some fresh air. That's all I have for now.

Judge Clark:

Any questions? Thank you.

c. Electronic Monitoring Report

Judge Clark:

Electronic Monitoring?

Warden Harper:

Your honor I apologize I did not contact Electronic Monitoring. I'll make sure they're on next time your honor.

Judge Clark:

Alright, thank you.

8. Adjournment

Judge Clark:

Alright, if there is no other business, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

The Board approved a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 pm by Judge Clark.

Kindest regards,



Chelsa Wagner

DATE	NAME	ORGANIZATION	CONCERN
9/30/2020	Anon Ymous		I was hired to take a nursing job at the jail. I know people that already work there. I hear the stories of how the nurses are given extra assignment son a regular basis due to lack of staffing. I hear how staff are treated. I hear how parts of the jail don't operate because there isn't enough staff including inmates not receiving their medication on the correct shift because staffing is so short. I turned down the job. I cant lose my license because of a dysfunctional operation. When is this going to be looked at? I've always wanted to work there and had to pass up a job I really wanted.
9/29/2020	Tonya Miller		My child's father has been at acj multiple times. This time he called me to complain about how he was stuck in a cell with a bunch of other inmates in intake. He said there was at least ten of them in a cell together and no social distancing happened. Why is it ok for them to be shoved in cells together and covid precautions be ignored when they are brought in to the jail. Also he said he had to wait almost three shifts to see a nurse after he saw the judge. He was saying they kept reporting they don't have no medical staff. What is going on down there.
9/29/2020	Gregory Dober	Official Visitor of the Pennsylvania Prison Society Allegheny County	In the September 18, 2020 edition of Science magazine, published by the American Academy for the Advancement of Science, an article titled "Pandemic inspires push to shrink jails, prisons. New research focuses on the health and public safety impacts of decarceration." A study was done with researchers from Stanford University, Miami University and University of North Carolina. Dr Brinkley-Rubenstein, PhD, at UNC, one of the authors kindly sent me their preprint, non peer-reviewed, summary. The study concluded: "Prisons should operate at 85% of capacity or less to successfully minimize the harmful effects of COVID-19 on incarcerated populations." (Can be provided upon request.) Though Allegheny County Jail may be near the 85% in total occupancy benchmark, the closures of pods and placement into more crowded pods, negates this valuable practice. If individual pods are well above the 85% occupancy, then this is an unsafe practice that encourages the spread of Covid-19. I believe that this opinion would be endorsed by the Allegheny County Health Department as well. Therefore, the jail needs to implement the studies findings and bring pod occupancy down to at least 85% even opening the unused pods. Saving wages for lives is indifference.
9/29/2020	Friend or family Advocate		I know a prisoner that has been in the jail 3 times in the past month and a half or so. Each time the prisoner got processed in they had to wait 16 or more hours to be seen by medical in the back of the intake area. What I have come to find out is this is a common occurrence where medical has no staff in the back for multiple shifts at a time. How are prisoners getting timely medical care? It doesn't seem that they are. Why is no one doing anything about this? Is it because they are convicts? Even so they deserve timely and appropriate medical care. They are still people. If you all are trying to "protect the residents" as the claim is, they would not be treated in this fashion.
9/29/2020	Concerned Person		On the evening of 8/25 a person I know was brought into the jail. This is not the first time this person has come in the jail. Im informed you see the nurse upon entry and they complete medical questions related to current medical problems. This person has been ordered medications upon entry for a medical issue in the past. On the evening of 8/25, when said person asked about the medications the person was informed by Lucas or Louis (unclear of name) that meds would not be ordered at that time. Said person asked what the issue was and why the nurse would not assist with this problem. The staff member said he was not a nurse that he was in charge of the clinic area. Why would a staff member that is not a nurse be taking vital information about a persons medical history if they could not do anything? Why would a staff member be evaluating someone for medical problems if they could not do anything about it? How can someone evaluate someone else with no medical background? This seems illegal and not right at all.