

The monthly meeting of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board, Thursday, August 5, 2021 held as a virtual conference at 4:00 P.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Honorable Judge Kim Clark**

**Bethany Hallam** (present but was not on for roll call due to technical issues)

**Gayle Moss**

**Judge Beth Lazzara**

**Terri Klein**

**Sheriff William Mullen**

**Mr. Pilarski for County Executive Rich Fitzgerald**

**County Controller Chelsa Wagner**

**Others in Attendance:**

Warden Harper

Deputy Warden Williams

**1. Welcome, Call to Order and Rules**

**Judge Clark:**

We are here for the monthly meeting of the Allegheny County JOB. As we always do, I am going to call the meeting to order and I am going to state the rules. The rules are everyone in this meeting will be treated with dignity and respect. Everyone will have the opportunity to be heard if they so choose. We ask everyone to make sure they give everybody time to ask a question or make a comment. The main thing is that everyone will be treated with dignity and respect.

**2. Presentation – ServSafe Program**

**Judge Clark:**

Alright, we have a presentation about the ServSafe program in the jail and that will be presented by Amy Kroll.

**Amy Kroll:**

Thank you for allowing me to present about this new exciting culinary program that we are now running in ACJ. As most of you know ACJ has always wanted a culinary program in our facility for the inmates but because of the transient population it is always been kind of difficult to facilitate such a program. But in May of 2001, Summit Food Service was speaking with jail administration about the program and an incredible idea emerged out of that. The idea was like a marriage between the program on the inside and the program on the outside, that in case I got out I could pick up where I left off. Finally, it surfaced as a partnership between the Community Kitchen of Pittsburgh, which is on the outside and Summit Food Service, which is on the inside of the jail. Everybody asks first, why food service? The answer is, as most of you know, the food service industry is a very forgiving industry. Secondly, every food service business in operation has to have certified food handlers to meet the health and safety standards. Lastly ACJ has a very large working kitchen that serves thousands of meals daily. All together it was sort of a perfect storm. By the middle of May a call went out for a certified chef to train inmates in ACJ. The chef that was hired for this role was Darryl Coasten. Let me tell you a little bit about Chef D. He has given me full permission to discuss his background. Chef D himself was in ACJ eight years ago. He had been on and off from ACJ from 1994 to 2009. He was finally, by the way, off probation in 2012. He was in the ACJ's reentry program when he discovered Community Kitchen of Pittsburgh. He thought he would give it a try for a while. Darryl never expected that it would bloom into this incredible job for him. Darryl graduated on the program and then did further education and later returned to Community Kitchen of Pittsburgh as one of their leading chefs. It just grew from there, opening other kitchens and he has worked there ever since. His dream has always been to come into ACJ to train individuals, men, and women, that there is another pathway other than coming back to ACJ. He has been an incredible instructor in here. He is very respected by his students and he

does not buy any excuses of not showing up for class. So how does this program work? Inmates who work in the kitchen either on the morning shift or afternoon shift hear a short presentation about the new culinary class and how to obtain certifications. They learn that taking the class that you will obtain two ServSafe Food Handler's Certifications. Your first certification that you need will make you more marketable if you want to go into foodservice. It usually takes anywhere from two to three classes about two weeks and then you take a test. It is a lot of book learning. Darryl is up there instructing them. They watch a lot of DVD's about safe handling of food. It also talks a lot about your own personal hygiene when you are a food handler. Secondly, and the most important, is you then have the ability to obtain a second certification by attending class. This is far more extensive. You are usually in class for another five to six weeks, but you will obtain a ServSafe Manager's Certification. What can I do with this? If you get this certification you can actually open up a food truck. That was one of the biggest conversations, which I thought came out of nowhere in one of the last classes. I never knew that we had so many entrepreneurs that really want to open up a food truck. So in getting this certification you are now being certified to manage an operation and staff when it comes to food safety sanitation and cleaning procedures in accordance with the Department of Health throughout the flow of a food operation from purchasing to serving. Here is the beauty of this marriage with the Community Kitchen of Pittsburgh. As you all know our population is transient. So if I am in the middle of this six weeks of class to obtain these certifications and I am released, I can go to Community Kitchen of Pittsburgh Program, which is located in Hazelwood, and pick up where I left off to obtain my certification. It is absolutely free for our participants. They run a 12-week Culinary Arts Program at the Community Kitchen of Pittsburgh. In those twelve weeks, you get those two certifications, plus you get a diploma for culinary arts. You can then take that diploma go to CCAC and they will transfer 14 credits towards an associate degree in Culinary Arts. It is a continuation of this program. Community Kitchen of Pittsburgh also offers TJO, which is transition job opportunities, where you can actually be taking classes there and have a part time job. Everybody knows the hardest thing getting out of jail is to get training while you are trying to keep a roof over your head. You can actually do that in the process. We started this class right in the beginning of June. Due to COVID it was in the gym. The class was 2 hours from 2:00 to 4:00 on Monday and Wednesday. When we did the pilot, we went to the morning workers that work from 4:00am until 1:30pm and we did a presentation and asked who is interested in this program. The thing that broke my heart is we had 27 people say I am interested. We had to do a little bit of interviewing to see who is really taking this seriously and wants to get a job or has had jobs in the past in food service. I was supposed to get 17 guys, I will admit to the Warden and Chief Williams, I took 18 of the guys. I could not say no. For the first certification, it took us two weeks until they tested. They came to class and we had 1 guy get released. So, 17 of them passed their first initial certification called food handlers, which makes them far more marketable when they go in and say they have their food handler's certification. The certificate says from Pittsburgh Community Kitchen, it does not say ACJ. But we also know that food service industry right now really does not care about your record. They just need people that know food. Secondly, from that group, we only had one more get out, during the next five weeks they studied really hard to get the manager's certification. As of this past Wednesday, 16 of them took managers test, which is much harder. They studied in groups of 2 and 3 on the pods. They were quizzing each other on temperatures and everything else that you need to know now. Something else that you also need to know is that these are national certifications. When the instructor, Chef D, got their 16 tests back, he is not allowed to grade them. He has to send them into a company that grades those tests and issues those national ServSafe Manager's Certifications. We are waiting for those results back. We will be meeting Monday and I can tell you how many of the guys passed this much harder test. This Friday we are recruiting for the new class. When I went down to the kitchen, I thought there was going to be a stampede because so many of the guys were saying they want to enroll. We will be meeting with jail administration because we would like to run a morning class and an afternoon class. That way people can participate if they work the night shift 1:30pm until 8:00pm or 9:00pm or the morning shift 4:30am until 1:30pm. It was amazing guys. They go to work at 4:30am and I thought I would see heads going down from 2:00pm-4:00pm when they were in class. Chef D keeps them so engaged talking about real life and restaurant business that they are really loud and in a lot of conversation over it. It is also pretty amazing that the 2 people that were released showed up in Hazelwood at Community Kitchen to finish their certifications. Again, this was a test pilot. I would like to come back in 6 months and tell you how things are going, bring you the rate of how many people do complete, how many get their certifications, and then actually follow a couple in the community to see what the job prospects are. We finally have a program that I would say is definitely a worthwhile vocational program in ACJ.

**Judge Clark:**

Thank you, Ms. Kroll. Is it possible that you could bring someone who is been through the program? So that we could hear from their perspective how they felt about the program. I think that would be wonderful to hear.

**Amy Kroll:**

Yes, if we get the food truck guys, I will gladly bring them. You may get a sample out of it.

**Judge Clark:**

Thank you. I had told the board in order to try to streamline the meetings a little bit I am going to do a roll call to see if anyone has questions or comments. Ms. Hallam?

**Ms. Hallam:**

First of all, I just want to say, I am a big fan of the ServSafe program. I am formally certified myself when I worked in food service. I am so excited to hear that this is in the jail. Has the program considered any effort to provide transportation to Hazelwood after folks are released.

**Amy Kroll:**

We do. If you enroll at the Community Kitchen of Pittsburgh, they provide you with a monthly bus pass.

**Ms. Hallam:**

I am so glad to hear that. Thank you. My second question is there any sort of compensation for the workers while they are in vocational training program? Are they paid? Do you put money on their commissary? Anything like that?

**Amy Kroll:**

Besides getting their certification, at the end, just like at the end of all of our classes since COVID started, they will get a bottle of pop, 2 bags of chips, and 2 packs of crackers. It is like a graduation. We applaud, they get awarded their certifications and they get the stuff that includes a 20oz bottle of pop, which is the 1 thing you can never buy on commissary. It is like gold in here.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Is anybody incarcerated eligible? Do you have to be serving a sentence? Be on a certain pod?

**Amy Kroll:**

You have to work in the kitchen. Whatever pod, even we had a couple of guys transfer to different pods. Their name came up and they could move over to 5E, drug and alcohol, they were torn, and I told them to keep their books, study, and we gave them their test over there.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Thank you so much and thank you for everything that you do.

**Judge Clark:**

I would just ask, we really want to try to do 1 question per board member so that everyone gets a chance and if time permits, we will allow second or third questions. [Judge Clark then asks each member if they have a question]

**Mr. Pilarski:**

Nothing, your honor.

**Ms. Klein:**

No, it is just an exciting program. Thank you.

**Judge Lazzara:**

I just want to congratulate, Ms. Kroll on getting this program going. I work with the mental health court population and the domestic violence court population and I can tell you that so many of our people when they are released go to Community Kitchen when they are on probation. We have had many people transition very successfully to being executive chefs in restaurants, owning their own restaurants, and even have some of our people working at Community Kitchen. Community Kitchen is a great program. I am glad to see the jail partnering with them and I cannot wait to see many more successes from that. So, thank you very much.

**Sheriff Mullen:**

Nothing

**Ms. Wagner:**

I just want to say thank you to Ms. Kroll and it is definitely very exciting to hear, especially with respect to the continuation of the programming once people leave the jail. From the Controller's Office we are excited to hear this because we did point this out with a contract with a prior food service provider, so we are really happy to hear that this is underway. Thank you.

**3. Community Corrections Reports**

**A. The Program for Offenders**

**Judge Clark:**

Now we will move to our community corrections reports. We will hear from The Program for Offenders.

**Ms. Bender:**

What I can report, other than the numbers you already have, we just successfully went through our annual Department of Drug and Alcohol State Inspections at our inpatient facilities. All was great. We also just submitted our proposal to remain a provider for the jail. We have multiple programs the GROW Program just completed a series of classes at are female facility and they are in discussion to start a new one up at the male facility. With regards to COVID, I can say due to the increase in numbers with the delta variant we are going back to much stricter restrictions that we had started to lessen a few. Unfortunately to everyone's dismay we are going back to stricter. We are continuing to push and encourage vaccinations. Two men in our male facility agreed and were vaccinated with their first shots this week. Our nurse has been able to get and keep a supply at the facility. We can vaccinate in house. Does anyone have any questions? I will be happy to answer any.

**Judge Clark:**

[Asks each member if they have questions]

**Mr. Pilarski:**

Not at this time, your Honor. Thank you.

**Ms. Klein:**

None

**Judge Lazzara:**

Nope. Ms. Bender and her staff do a great job with those folks.

**Sheriff Mullen:**

Nothing.

**Ms. Wagner:**  
No, thank you.

**Ms. Hallam:**  
No, thank you.

**B. The Renewal Center**

**Judge Clark:**  
Thank you. Renewal Center?

**Mr. Zak:**  
Adam Zak for Renewal. Just like the Program, we continue to fight against COVID. We are remaining diligent, especially with the emergence of the new variant. We are promoting getting the vaccine, social distancing, cleaning, and hygiene. We are planning another vaccine clinic in our facility later this month. We just have to commit to 30 participants. I do not think that is going to be a problem. If anyone wants to go somewhere else to receive the vaccine, we encourage that and we will assist with getting them registered online. Secondly, Renewal has a great relationship with different organizations and nonprofits in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, in regard to our men and women doing community service and helping out. Unfortunately, COVID has brought this to a grinding halt in the past year. We are looking to bring this back in a limited capacity in the next couple weeks. We are in correspondence with the Urban League about assistance which is needed for a major project of theirs. The community service is a valuable way for the men and women to give back to the community and it is also a tremendous confidence booster. We are definitely looking forward to this. That is all I have.

**Judge Clark:**  
Thank you. [Judge Clark asks each member if they have questions]

**Ms. Klein:**  
I do. I am curious how you maintain social distancing in those sleeping areas?

**Mr. Zak:**  
We stagger the bunks. We have bunk beds in our rooms, and we stagger the men and women in the rooms accordingly.

**Judge Lazzara:**  
Mr. Zak, I just miss seeing you on those videos all the time.

**Mr. Zak:**  
Thank you, your Honor.

**Ms. Moss:**  
No questions.

**Sheriff Mullen:**  
Nothing.

**Ms. Wagner:**  
None, thank you.

**Ms. Hallam:**

None, thanks.

**Judge Clark:**

Mr. Pilarski?

**Mr. Pilarski:**

Nothing at this time. Thank you.

**Judge Clark:**

Thank you, Mr. Zak. Some of the judges had an opportunity to tour the Renewal Program and it was really enlightening. I am hoping that one day we will get a presentation from some of the programs. We have had them but the new program, Pathways to Recovery, I think the board would be very interested in that. Maybe you can go back and tell them that we might like to hear from them. Thank you.

**Mr. Zak:**

I will definitely bring that to their attention. Thanks.

### **C. Electronic Monitoring**

**Judge Clark:**

Last but not least we have Electronic Monitoring. I think Steve Esswein is here.

**Mr. Esswein:**

Good afternoon. As for electronic monitoring we do not have anything new outside of our report. Our numbers have stayed pretty steady over the last few months. I will update the board that PCCD (Pennsylvania Crime Commission Delinquency) did approve our grant for the drug court and DUI court. Those programs will be continued at the staffing they were at for the last few years. That is all.

**Judge Clark:**

Great, thank you. [Judge Clark asks each member if they have questions]

**Judge Lazzara:**

No, we just want Mr. Esswein to include mental health court on a grant at some point.

**Ms. Moss:**

No questions.

**Sheriff Mullen:**

Nothing.

**Ms. Wagner:**

None, thank you.

**Ms. Hallam:**

No, thanks.

**Mr. Pilarski:**

No, thank you.

**Ms. Klein:**

None, thanks.

#### **4. Review and Approval of Minutes from the July Meeting**

**Judge Clark:**

Next is the review and approval of the minutes from the July meeting, which were sent out in advance of the meeting. I want to thank Ms. Carroll for her hard work. The last meeting was very long, and she did a great job with the minutes. At this time, I will entertain any additions or corrections to the draft of the minutes or a motion.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Move.

**Judge Clark:**

Move by Ms. Hallam. Is there a second?

**Judge Lazzara:**

Second.

**Judge Clark:**

I think Judge Lazzara jumped in there first, so will give her the second. Is there any discussion? All those in favor?

**Others:**

Aye

**Judge Clark:**

Any opposed? The minutes are approved as submitted. Thank you.

***The board unanimously approved a motion by Ms. Hallam, duly seconded by Judge Lazzara, to receive the Jail Oversight Board Meeting Minutes from July 1, 2021.***

#### **5. Old Business**

##### **A. Incarcerated Individual's Welfare Fund Sub-Committee Report**

**Judge Clark:**

The first item on the agenda for old businesses is the IIWF subcommittee report. Judge Lazzara?

**Judge Lazzara:**

We had a short meeting with only a couple participants because it is been a very busy month. I have to say that a lot of it is my fault. I am sorry but with the courts opening up fully, I am simply slammed and will be until we get the 16-month backlog in the criminal division under control. We did talk about a few things at our meeting. We talked about live streaming of future meetings. I believe the Controller's Office has agreed to pay for that as we go forward. So, it will not have to come out of the IIWF. We appreciate that. The survey for the incarcerated individuals apparently was going to be distributed, we believe, this week. The drafts have been going back and forth and the survey looks pretty good. We are hoping to get back responses from everybody, but my understanding based on Brad is that it should have gone out or should be going out this week. So, I am hoping that Brad Korinski has an update and I do not know whether that is the case or not for today.

**Judge Clark:**

Mr. Korinski, is there any update that you have you?

**Mr. Korinski:**

My understanding from talking with Pitt was that was their plan to distribute this week. I have not received affirmative indication that has occurred. Perhaps the Warden or jail administration may know more on this than I do but I think we are pretty close to distribution.

**Warden Harper:**

I would like to announce that we will be delivering the Pitt survey tomorrow. So, we do have the survey.

**Judge Clark:**

Thank you, Warden.

**Judge Lazzara:**

That is fantastic. We are very excited. We think once we have those results back in and analyzed by the folks at Pitt, who have just done such a fantastic job at getting this together, our committee is going to have an awful lot more to talk about at that point. The third thing we talked about was the liaison position. I think that there is unanimous agreement that the board needs some help. Especially when we consider that we have 2 judges on this board who are going to be slammed with backlogs of 16-18 months and that it is very difficult for us to do everything that we need to do. We really think that this position will help both the jail as well as the public. For example, we get a lot of reports about things that are happening in the jail. If the liaison is able to go, we will then know, are these things happening or are these just things that are being told and then getting changed as they get told to many more people. So that person could help us nail down what are the problems in the jail and to be able to work towards solutions. I think it will help the administration of the jail because an awful lot of times we have public comments we do not have the answers to. We have to send those to the jail administration, and they have to try to scramble at the last minute to get those answers. Whereas if we can actually have a liaison help us get some of those answers, then the board is able to make much better, more informed decisions. I think that our thoughts are that this will be very helpful to the board and that they will help the incarcerated individuals. We will be able to do more things proactively, faster and get problem solved quicker, which is I think helpful to everyone involved. I think it is our recommendation that we continue to go forward with that position. We think that it will be helpful to us. We think it will help us fulfill our statutory duties. We think we have the money to pay for it in the IIWF. We would very much like to continue with the position of liaison. We understand the board itself cannot hire. We think that it might be a good idea to have this person fit under the umbrella perhaps of DHS and then report to the board. We are still, I believe, unanimous in our agreement that we need that position.

**Judge Clark:**

Does that conclude your report, Judge Lazzara?

**Judge Lazzara:**

It does.

**Judge Clark:**

Thank you. [Judge Clark then asks each member if they have questions]

**Ms. Moss:**

No, thanks.

**Sheriff Mullen:**

Nothing.



**Ms. Wagner:**  
No, thank you.

**Ms. Hallam:**  
I do not, Judge Clark.

**Mr. Pilarski:**  
No, nothing at this time, your Honor. Thank you.

**Ms. Klein:**  
No. Thanks, Judge Lazzara for distilling all of the information.

**Judge Clark:**  
I just have one thing, Judge Lazzara. Obviously, I really do believe the board needs some help. I have said that. We did get some public comments where the public felt that maybe it should not come from the IIWF. I would ask if we could look at to see if there is another source of funding for that position, whether we can get a grant or other county funding for it, so we do not have to take it from the IIWF. I think we need the position and if that is the only resource we have, I certainly would be in favor of it, but I do understand the position of the public, their viewpoint on it. I do not know whether you had those discussions about other sources of funds to pay for it.

**Judge Lazzara:**  
We have not discussed that fully, but as we all know grants are not always easy to come by and a lot of times grants will only fund for one year and then somebody has to agree to fund for the next years after that. We do not entirely know if the county will pick that up after the grant. We can have further discussions along those lines.

**Judge Clark:**  
I think it could be in whole or in part. The thing about our board is we have a statutory obligation but the do not give us a budget to do our duties. Maybe we could get some funding in part to do that. That might be something we can look into. Yes, Ms. Hallam?

**Ms. Hallam:**  
I was going to say, the county council budget season is right around the corner. Maybe, it does not have to be today but maybe at our next meeting, we as a board could talk about putting together a proposal to ask for a line item to be added for whatever amount the board deems necessary to the budget for next year.

**Judge Clark:**  
That is a good suggestion. Thank you. Anything else for Judge Lazzara or her committee?

## **B. Resuming In-Person Meetings**

**Judge Clark:**  
The next thing under old business is resuming in-person meetings. There is a couple of things including live streaming the meetings and the issue of the public comments. I do not know whether for certain we had decided when we would resume meetings. I would like to resume in person meetings at the next meeting. We have the issue of live streaming, so I would like to jump to that. Would like Ms. Hallam and/or Ms. Wagner to report out?

### **i. Live-Streaming Meetings**

**Ms. Hallam:**

I know we had previously agreed to a timeline when we would come back in person, I am a little worried now about the COVID cases that are spiking in the county. I wonder if we still want to move forward with going in person when the numbers are going way up instead of way down, which is why I think we were virtual in the first place. I

**Ms. Wagner:**

In working with the vendor that County Council recommended we will be ready to start livestreaming in September. So that is the update we have in terms of the technology and logistics with that.

**Judge Clark:**

With respect to returning to the meetings and then I will give everybody a chance to weigh in on it. Maybe there will be a motion. As Judge Lazzara already informed everyone, the courts are back to working in-person. I think if we would continue to use the gold room for our meetings that we had been using, as opposed to the small conference room on the first floor, and everybody is masked, then I think we should be safe, as long as the room is not overcrowded. That is my position on that. I would still very much like to return to in-person meetings. With that, I will ask the board members to comment on that. Sheriff Mullen, what is your position if you have one?

**Sheriff Mullen:**

I think we should go back to in-person meetings, but I am a little concerned about the COVID coming back again. Maybe we would be better off waiting for a month to see how this goes before we actually try to come back.

**Ms. Wagner:**

I would very much like to be back to in-person meeting. Especially because we will be able to have the ability to still do live streaming. But I also have concerns of imposing on anyone in the county as the delta variant is surging more within the county. I see both sides of this, I guess. Sorry, I cannot give great decisive answer.

**Judge Clark:**

Thank you. Ms. Hallam, you already stated that you had concerns. Is there anything else that you want to add?

**Ms. Hallam:**

No, I agree with Sheriff Mullen and that I would like to wait a month and reassess what COVID looks like in Allegheny County at our next meeting.

**Mr. Pilarski:**

As someone who has been involved in a lot of these conversations over the last year and a half, I strongly believe as long as we take the appropriate precautions, we are safe. As long as we take the precautions suggested by the CDC and the Health Department. I am for going back to those meetings if that is what we decide.

**Ms. Klein:**

I am in favor of moving back in-person. I think one difference is now is that there is the vaccine, which has proven to be extremely effective. I understand you can still spread it. I agree with having everyone mask and the audience members mask. I would feel comfortable. I have very old parents and I am very careful, but I would feel fine about meeting in-person.

**Judge Lazzara:**

We are back in-person. At least in my courtroom, we are masked because of the CDC recommendations and the fact that we have substantial spread in Allegheny County. I think, especially because there is the vaccine, I echo what Terry said, it is safe, it is effective, and it is wonderful. I do not see any reason if we are not all masked and somewhat distance why we cannot go back. If we start getting really high, then I think that we all have to consider whether we can do it. But I think as of now I would be comfortable coming back in-person.

**Ms. Moss:**

I am okay with coming back. I understand the load that everybody has on them. But I also agree with if we could see what this rise in COVID right now and see what happens within the month. As you listen to the news, it seems that it is moving pretty fast. We had been in the yellow. Then seeing the reports that the Warden just sent out showing the numbers that had escalated in the jail, I would like to wait another month to see where this goes.

**Judge Clark:**

Thank you. It looks like we have 4 members who want to wait and 3 who are ready to go in-person, so I guess we will wait another month.

**ii. Public Comments**

**Judge Clark:**

There was some discussion at the last meeting about when we return in-person about having the public be able to continue to submit written comments. My concern over that is I do not think we could do both in-person comments and public comments. Persons who are able to come to the meeting will want to make their comments. I only got one suggestion as to how we might allow the public to continue to submit written comments and that came from Mr. Korinski. He indicated that we could still have them submit written comments and they would be sent to the board, but we would not necessarily read them at the meeting. Sometimes the comments that are submitted are already items on the agenda that will be addressed. Individually we could respond to written comments and put them on the website, but we would not read them at the meeting. I would certainly be in favor of that, but I do not think we could do both. I do not know whether anyone else has another suggestion. You can think about it and if you have another suggestion you can shoot me an email or present it at the next meeting. Ms. Hallam?

**Ms. Hallam:**

I like the idea presented by Mr. Korinski. What we do in council, since meetings have been in person, is if you submit a written comment but you come in person, you are able to speak. The people that come in person speak first and then they do read all of the ones that were submitted in writing. What if we took Mr. Korinski's idea and also if you come in person, you can speak? Then if you submitted a written comment and you want to speak in person you can speak in person at the meeting, but the online ones will be just sent to all of us. If we have any questions or we want to bring up any concerns that were presented in the public comments we as board members can do that as opposed to reading every single public comment verbatim.

**Judge Clark:**

We cannot even read them all when they are just written. People get sort of angry about that when its not read. I would say that is something we could do but it could be problematic if you know every board member has five questions that they want to be read at the meeting. I do not think that would happen.

**Ms. Hallam:**

I am sorry if I explained that confusingly. I more meant like if I say hey Jane Doe submitted this comment and I ask a question based off of that comment referencing the comments. So that the public knows that we are listening to their comments. We as board members still have the opportunity to express the concerns of the public in the meeting and get those concerns addressed. Then anyone that wants to give a public comment in-person can come and do that. The written comments that are not addressed by board members would be entered into the record.

**Judge Clark:**

That is fine. Thank you. So, the other issue is how the comments are to be received. Right now, there are received through a link on the court website and they come to a mailbox for me as you know. Then I send

them to you. My secretary, Christine, goes through them. She prepares a document for me and categorize them. I do not really have time. It takes a lot of work to do that. I do read every one of them personally. In addition to that, I get a lot of other mail from the county jail mostly from incarcerated individuals. We really do try to take time to read and address those the best we can as well. So, it takes an extraordinary amount of time. I have done it for 16 months and I do not want to do it anymore. I am not saying it should not be done but I just really do not have the time to do it. My schedule is increasingly tighter and busier. We have to find another way to do it. I am not saying you have to do that today but if you all can think about it and figure out how you want to do it. I would just ask if you would be in agreement with the suggestion from Mr. Korinski to have the written comments be submitted to the board but not read at the meeting and a board member could ask a question or address it. Ms. Wagner?

**Ms. Wagner:**

Yes, I agree. Thank you.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Yes

**Mr. Pilarski:**

Yes, that would be fine.

**Ms. Klein:**

I agree

**Judge Lazzara:**

I agree and if we had a liaison that person could help us with all those comments.

**Judge Clark:**

You are right.

**Ms. Moss:**

I agree

**Sheriff Mullen:**

I agree

**Judge Clark:**

Is there anything else? Any other discussion, comments, or questions about resuming public meetings? Right now, it looks like unless things go horribly wrong in the county with COVID, I hope that is not true, that we were looking at October meeting to resume. Is that correct? I do agree that we have to monitor the situation. Thank you for your time and attention. Any other questions or comments?

### **C. Suicide Prevention Sub-Committee Report**

**Judge Clark:**

Alright, the next items on the agenda are all for the Warden. First one is the suicide prevention subcommittee report updates and the status of the recommendations from that report. Warden?

**Warden Harper:**

Good afternoon. If you remember, there were 13 recommendations from the NCCHC review. We have completed 9 of the 13 recommendations. Your Honor, do you want me to go through each of the recommendations.

**Judge Clark:**

I think that would be nice to refresh our recollections about the recommendations. Yes.

**Warden Harper:**

*Recommendation 1:* The facility has features that impose obstacles to visibility, supervision, and suicide prevention. For example, the iron enclosures on the segregation day rooms are necessary for recreational purposes but they obstruct the view of the cells of the correctional officers doing their routine duties. What we did to correct that was the correctional officers are now stationed on the segregation units in the day room at all times in order to observe the cells. Another part of the recommendation was the observation windows in the medical holding unit control center were covered with the screens, impeding the view of the housing unit. We have taken down those screens, so they will not be impeding the view of staff on the medical housing units. We have also placed mirrors in the cells on the medical housing units so that we can see inside the showers in the bathroom areas of the medical housing units. A second officer has been assigned to the medical housing units and they are required to do 15 minutes irregular security inspections. Recommendation number 1 has been completed. *Recommendation 2:* Medication pass on the regular housing unit is done appropriately but because it takes place, it occupies the observation abilities of the officers who must assist with the security for the nurse. As a result, the officer has to step away from the view of the cell for several minutes and could give a good window of time for those to intent to harm themselves the ability to harm themselves. Now when the correctional officers are supposed to make their required rounds, they have to stop the medication pass, make their rounds, and then continue their medication pass. Recommendation number 2 has been completed. *Recommendation 3:* Lack of privacy and interview space conducive to the effective health screening is a concern throughout the facility, especially in intake. The mental health professionals have been moved to health care area, so the mental health screening is completed in a private area. The receiving screening has been redesigned and reconstructed to improve the privacy of the inmates during the intake process. We rebuilt the receiving screening station and installed new receiving screening stations, so that we could have privacy in the front part of intake. Recommendation number 3 is complete. *Recommendation 4:* Officer and nursing rounds are being done but a greater focus on effective interpersonal communication is needed to reduce inmate feelings of emotional isolation and communication on sensitive issues like thoughts of self-harm. The current interpersonal communication skills training program was reviewed and revised and is now part of ongoing training. Recommendation number 4 is complete. *Recommendation 6:* Increase medical leadership and safe housing for inmates withdrawing from substance. The medical director has convened routine meetings with the physical health and mental health providers monthly and informal meetings occur weekly. The medical director is working with the clinical manager to develop strategies to reduce the backlog of clinic visits. Safe housing for inmates withdrawing from substance was noted as a recommendation however the ACJ does provide safe housing for inmates withdrawing from substances. This practice has been in place prior to the NCHC review. Inmates in specific pods are double celled detox protocols including medications have been in place and were approved by the medical director. Recommendation number 6 is complete. *Recommendation 8:* The problem list facilitates continuity of care by providing a comprehensive and accessible list of patient medical and mental health problems in the medical record. Currently, health staff is not effectively using the problem list to promote early identification of inmates who may be at risk of decompensating or for suicide. The functionality of the problem list has been reviewed with the medical director and improvised. Additional training has been provided to all qualified health care professionals and intake in order to ensure continuity of care. The training outlines the requirement to review the problem lists, housing histories, previous mental health screening, evaluations, community records, and booking observation questions during the intake process for history of suicide thoughts, attempts of suicide, and treatment. Recommendation number 8 is complete. *Recommendation 9:* Current assigned health staffing must be assessed in line with the population medical and mental health care needs. Staffing challenges were reported in medical nursing as well as screening and treatment services by mental health specialists. The health care department has greater flexibility to make staffing changes as a result of a renegotiated collective bargaining agreement. The changes include more comprehensive salary, capacity to assign staff to meet operational needs,

more flexibility to utilize current resources in areas as needed. This includes cross training the staff, increase staff involvement and on the job training for new staff. All vacant positions are posted on the Allegheny County website. Educational programs have been contacted. Internships occur in mental health substance use disorder department. Additional resource allocations are requested with each annual budget. Staffing on the mental health unit is sufficient and includes 2 nurses, 2 MA's, 2 correctional officers. Vacant administration building positions have been filled. Most recently, this includes the director of nursing, mental health director and mental health services administrator. The healthcare administration has reassessed staffing and adjustments have been made as needed for utilizing staff. The ACJ administration will continue to submit staffing reports to the board monthly for review. Recommendation number 9 is complete. *Recommendation 10:* Greater integration of behavioral health with primary care is needed. Integration is essential for identifying persons at higher risk for suicide behavior in the community and in corrections. Collaborative meetings are occurring, suicide screening PHQ-2 is conducted by primary care providers with each clinic visit, and mental health is contact for inmates identified as potential suicide risk. Recommendation number 10 is complete. *Recommendation 12:* Treatment plans for suicide are incomplete and did not meet NCCHC standards. Treatment plans for suicidal inmates are being completed timely at this time. Recommendation number 12 is complete. We have 4 recommendations that are still in progress and I am going to go over them now. *Recommendation 5:* No cells are designed to be suicide resistant. The areas where inmates are specifically being monitored because of suicide risk, cells should be modified to reduce the likelihood of completion. The modifications should include replacing any deficient fixtures and furnish with suicide resistant models and additional correctional staff should be assigned to mental health units, intake units and segregation units in order to increase observation of these critical areas. We have begun to restructure some of the suicide cells, and I think we have done 4, thus far. This is going to take some time. Especially during COVID-19 pandemic. So, this is something we are going to continue to work on. Recommendation number 5 is still in progress. *Recommendation 7:* Enhanced policies are needed in areas of staff orientation, mental health services, mental health programs and residential units. We still have 3 policies that need to be revised and we are working to complete those 3 policies. Recommendation number 7 is still in progress. *Recommendation 11:* Therapeutic program on the mental health unit is limited. It needs to support a therapeutic community that lends itself to treatment and recovery. We are still working on trying to come up with a plan to provide therapeutic community. We are hiring additional staff to try and do that. Hopefully in the near future we will have that resolved. Recommendation number 11 is still in progress. *Recommendation 13:* System various to overall training of nursing staff effective training in suicide prevention. Additionally, important content areas are missing from existence suicide prevention training, specialized training is not available for staff assigned to more critical tasks related to suicide prevention, and mock drills to reinforce the response to suicide is not practiced. We are in the process of doing more suicide drills. A training committee, that includes operation and health care staff, has been created to meet and address identified training needs. New lesson plans for suicide prevention have been drafted and developed. That is the report from the NCCHC review. Does the board have any questions?

**Judge Clark:**

Thank you. Ms. Hallam?

**Ms. Hallam:**

The ones you said were completed, who confirmed the completion? Is it you guys or an independent auditor?

**Warden Harper:**

This is us. The jail.

**Ms. Hallam:**

My concern is about #6, specifically, about folks in withdrawal, where the report said you need to fix this and you said it is completed because you were already doing it before the report. Was I understanding that correctly?

**Warden Harper:**

I do not think that was number 6.

**Ms. Hallam:**

I think it was number 6. It was on the recommendation for folks with substance use disorder and detoxing.

**Warden Harper:**

I got it. So, it was recommendation number 6 and that recommendation was increase medical leadership and safe housing of inmates withdrawing from substance. Our response was the medical director has conducted routine meetings with physical health and mental health providers monthly, informal meetings occur weekly. The medical director is working with the clinic manager to develop strategies to reduce the backlog of clinic visits. Safe housing for withdrawing inmates from substance was noted as a recommendation. However, the ACJ does provide safe housing for inmates withdrawing from substance. This practice has been in place prior to the NCHC review. Inmates in specific pods are double celled. Detox protocols are given to the inmates including medications had been in place and were approved by the medical director. That is what I reported.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Correct, I heard what you said. I am just confused because if these things that you are saying is a completion of this recommendation were in place before the review and they still reported it as a concern anyways, I am wondering if maybe what you think is completion of the recommendation is not up to their review standards, which is why they put it in their report.

**Warden Harper:**

I do not know what you want me to say to that, Ms. Hallam. What would you like me to say?

**Ms. Hallam:**

I would like you to say that we changed XY and Z as a result of this report that we received. Not, we were doing that anyways I have no idea why they put that in their report.

**Warden Harper:**

I do not think we ever say we do not know why they put that in the report but under our review we feel as though we satisfied that recommendation.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Okay, but again it is just you and your team who are deciding completion. It is not an independent auditor.

**Warden Harper:**

Yes ma'am.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Okay, thank you. My next question is...

**Judge Clark:**

Can we ask others if they have questions? Then, if we have time, we can do a follow up so that everybody gets a chance.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Will I get to ask more questions after everyone gets a chance?

**Judge Clark:**

Maybe, if there is time. I think we have time because some of the earlier reports did not take the allotted time, but we have a lot of stuff to do on the agenda. Mr. Pilarski, do you have any questions for Warden Harper concerning NCCHC report?

**Mr. Pilarski:**

Did they say they would come back to look at these after the fact, Warden?

**Warden Harper:**

No, they did not.

**Mr. Pilarski:**

So, they never they were planning to come back? They made the recommendations and at that time there was no plan for them to come back?

**Warden Harper:**

No, there was not sir.

**Mr. Pilarski:**

That is all I have.

**Ms. Klein:**

I am sorry I cannot remember what number recommendation this was, about the interpersonal training. If you can speak to how often that is provided to employees. Is that a yearly refresher? How does that work?

**Warden Harper:**

It is a yearly, annual communication training.

**Ms. Klein:**

Is that part of a new employee orientation?

**Warden Harper:**

They get that in the interpersonal communication training once they come on board. Yes ma'am.

**Judge Lazzara:**

We had a subcommittee that was put together to try to review the things that were in the suicide prevention report. Then compare it with what the warden and the administration of the jail was providing to us to see if the board was satisfied with that. Barb Parees headed up that effort and I was thinking that that subcommittee needs a new member. She was the head of it. Maybe that subcommittee could become involved again. So, that Ms. Hallam's issues of, just because the jail says it is done it does not mean it is necessarily done to our satisfaction, and we would be able to sort of review those things.

**Judge Clark:**

That is a good point. I think Mr. Pilarski's question, which was actually the question that I was going to ask, once the work is completed, are they going to come back and do a review? I think that is something that the committee can discuss whether that can happen, whether that will happen, whether it should happen and what is going on from there. I think it would be good for the committee to reconvene and come up with some recommendations if not at the next meeting then meeting after that.

**Ms. Moss:**



I agree with the fact that once these things are finished who says they are finished. Like what everybody else is saying, I mean they were given a mandate, but no one said they would check to see if that was done correctly or if it was not done correctly. We probably do need to meet and talk about that.

**Judge Clark:**

That is a good suggestion. Thank you. You were next in line for comment or question, Ms. Moss, do you have anything else?

**Ms. Moss:**

No, I just made my comment.

**Sheriff Mullen:**

I do not.

**Ms. Wagner:**

I agree with the prior comments and I think ideally with the subcommittee if we are able to come up with some sort of report to present back to the board to fill in a little more gaps to determine what we are able to see it as completed or not completed.

**Judge Clark:**

Thank you. Ms. Hallam, did you have another question?

**Ms. Hallam:**

Yes, I did. Since we are talking about suicide prevention, when was the last suspected suicide in the jail.

**Deputy Warden Williams:**

The last suicide was May 24, 2020.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Okay. How many suspected suicides have occurred when that person was on suicide risk/suicide watch?

**Judge Clark:**

Ms. Hallam, I do not understand your question.

**Ms. Hallam:**

The jail classifies folks as being a suicide risk and puts them in the suicide prevention cell. They are being watched more closely, often in its special cell or housing unit. My question is, of the suspected suicides that have happened, or confirmed suicides that have happened, how many of those happened while that person was on suicide watch?

**Deputy Warden Williams:**

None of our completed suicides were on suicide watch.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Okay, thank you very much. That is all I have.

#### **D. Update Regarding Money Left on Tablets After Discharge**

**Judge Clark:**

On to our next item, Warden, which would be an update regarding money left on the tablets after discharge.

**Warden Harper:**

Your Honor, I have the same update. GTL still says that they will not have anything ready pertaining to giving the money back to the inmates from the tablets until the end of summer. So that is still my same report.

**Judge Clark:**

Thank you. [Judge Clark then asks each member if they have questions]

**Mr. Pilarski:**

No ma'am, I do not.

**Ms. Klein:**

I have a question and I wonder if Mr. Bacharach is that something that the county solicitor's office could respond to? We contract with them. I just wonder if from legal it might cause faster action.

**Mr. Bacharach:**

I do not know the answer to that. I can talk to the county solicitor and report back.

**Ms. Klein:**

I would feel better if we could follow up with your office.

**Mr. Bacharach:**

I understand. I will talk to the solicitor.

**Judge Clark:**

I would tend to agree. I think my position on this issue has been made clear. I do not want to beat a dead horse but there is money that does not belong to them. Whether it goes back into the IIWF or whether we can track it to a resident of jail has been discharged they can have it, but it does not belong to them. That is the point I want to make and that I sort of find disturbing. Maybe they need more time and if they can come up with something by the end of the summer. But it is money that does not belong to them. That is my point. I do not think the Warden can solve this for us but if you have any questions or comments.

**Judge Lazzara:**

I just do not see what is taking so long. I do not understand why it takes so long for them to give back money that is not theirs.

**Ms. Moss:**

It takes long getting money back everywhere when you are trying to get it back. That is with everything you do, if you know, buying online, anything you do, you have a hard time getting your money back. That is my comment.

**Sheriff Mullen:**

No, Judge.

**Ms. Wagner:**

I would just add, there is an agent listed on the contract, so on behalf of the Controller's Office, we would be happy to call and pose the question to that individual and report back with whatever we would have.

**Judge Clark:**

If you would like to do that, that would be appreciated. Then we would ask Mr. Bacharach to talk to Mr. Szefi to see if the county wishes to take some position. I would say that Ms. Moss was right, we have all had the experience

where we have bought something or something mischarged then it takes longer to get the money back but it is been quite some time. Too long. I think we really do need to look into it. Ms. Hallam?

**Ms. Hallam:**

I would like to remind the board first that this contract, with 90 days' notice, can be terminated at any time. I know we have tried to avoid this conversation about potentially doing that in the past. I am sick of the fact that one, they have stolen money from the incarcerated folks. They stole money and have not given it back.

**Judge Clark:**

I would say, stealing is a harsh word and it requires intent and I am not sure that is. I would just refrain from making accusations of criminal conduct unless we can prove it. I think it is complicated, more complicated. I think they should have had an answer for it. At this point I am not prepared to say they stole the money and I do not think we should say that. If we have a suspicion, at some point, maybe something else can be done about it but I think we need to choose our words very carefully.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Judge Clark, I apologize, I do not mean it legally. What I am saying is if I came in front of you, in your courtroom, and I was possession of something that was not mine, that was someone else's, you would probably convict me of stealing. I cannot just say, oh Judge Clark, I was going to give it back next year or in a few months. I just want us to take it very seriously that not only do they have money in their possession that is not theirs, they are also not being responsive to the board in our requests for that money to be back to the people who it is intended for. They will not even come and speak to us in a public meeting. I cannot imagine that we are even still entered into a contract with an entity with all of that being known. I appreciate the Controller offering to reach out to the folks at GTL. If this has not been resolved by our next meeting, I would like us to talk about actions we are going to take and not just have this conversation every month.

**Judge Clark:**

As I said, we need to have legal advice about that, and I do not think we should just jump. As you know, I am disturbed about it, but I think, like I said, we have to choose our words carefully. Then, you know, if we are using them of stealing then they are never going to come to a meeting. I would not come. I just think we need to be careful with the words we use. I wish they would come and explain the difficulties are or even submit something in writing that we could understand what the holdup is. But they have not done that. I feel that we are going to ask Mr. Bacharach to talk to his Mr. Szefi about it and we will get some advice from there. I appreciate the comments. Anybody else?

**Ms. Hallam:**

Judge Clark, just one more thing. Who are we supposed to be, as a board, getting legal advice from?

**Judge Clark:**

Well I do not know; I am just asking. You know this is the county board, the jail is a county agency, and the representative from the county solicitor is here. So, we are asking Mr. Bacharach if he can look into that.

**Ms. Hallam:**

I want us all to remember that there are people incarcerated in the jail right now for way less than this.

**Judge Clark:**

Again, I would ask you to refrain from making accusations about crimes. I am not going to say it anymore, but I just think that is dangerous thing to do.

**E. Update on Policy for Polycom Devices to be used for Meetings with Other Providers (CRR, Inpatient Programs, etc.)**

**Judge Clark:**

An update on the policy for Polycom devices to be used for meetings with other providers like inpatient program, CRR, and so forth. Warden Harper?

**Warden Harper:**

Right now, we are still in discussions with the vendor to try to get scheduling with the Polycom machines. We are having some difficulties with getting the scheduling program for the Polycom machines. As soon as we get the scheduling program up and running, I will put that policy on the new policy and then I will report out to the board that the policy has been completed. But right now, the policy is not completed.

**Judge Clark:**

Thank you.

**F. Update on a Plan to Resume Visitations in the Jail**

**Judge Clark:**

Any update on plans to resume visitations in the jail?

**Warden Harper:**

I sent you guys the COVID cases that we had in our jail. It seems like it may be a little bit longer when it comes to visitation at the jail.

**Judge Clark:**

The COVID cases have been routinely posted on the website. I sent the latest ones today that I received from the Warden this morning or this afternoon I do not remember which. Thank you.

**G. Update on Plan for Compliance with the Solitary Confinement Ban Ballot Referendum**

**Judge Clark:**

Then finally update on a plan for compliance with the solitary confinement ban ballot referendum. There were a couple of questions in the public comments about that as well.

**Warden Harper:**

The only thing I can tell the board is we will be in full compliance by the deadline. We are working on being in full compliance. So, we will be in full compliance.

**Judge Clark:**

Thank you. We will await your report for that. I will ask any if they have any questions. I do not remember where I left off. Ms. Hallam? [Judge Clark then asks each member if they have questions]

**Ms. Hallam:**

I have never, as a member of the JOB, received these reports that are supposed to happen. Was that not a part of the procedure? That we as a board will receive these reports?

**Warden Harper:**

What reports are you talking about? The reports that are supposed to be submitted by the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month?

**Ms. Hallam:**

Correct.

**Warden Harper:**

I sent those reports to Judge Clark and she will disseminate it. We will put it on the website.

**Judge Clark:**

They have not done them yet, Ms. Hallam.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Yes, they have Judge Clark. They started.

**Judge Clark:**

Did I receive them, Warden?

**Warden Harper:**

You did not receive a July report.

**Judge Clark:**

Okay, I must have missed it.

**Warden Harper:**

That is due today. So, we will send that out today. Today is the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Judge Clark:**

Alright. We will look at those then.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Also, I saw the reports posted on the website but I saw people who were reported in segregated housing, which I think is like 6ish specific housing pods, correct me if I am wrong on that. But segregated housing and solitary confinement are not the same thing. As per this referendum, anyone who is in their cell more than 20 hours a day is in solitary confinement. So, it is not the same as segregated housing. It is something different. Solitary confinement can happen in any pod in the entire jail. It seems to me, that only people in segregated housing pods were included and not people in solitary confinement in other pods on this report. Can you speak to that?

**Warden Harper:**

This process is ever evolving, every month. We will be reporting out segregation in all of the pods. You are absolutely right, Ms. Hallam, and I agree with you. We will be reporting that.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Are you agreeing that that has not been reported yet?

**Warden Harper:**

Segregation in all of the housing units will be reported out in September's report. These two reports have not.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Okay, why have they not, when the referendum says they must be.

**Warden Harper:**

Like I said, Ms. Hallam, every month we are finding out different things and every month when we find out, we will correct. So, we found that out and we will correct it by September 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Okay, so the report that comes out on September 5th will include every person in the entire jail who is in their cell for 20 hours a day or longer?

**Warden Harper:**

Yes ma'am.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Thank you very much.

**Mr. Pilarski:**

No, your Honor.

**Ms. Klein:**

No

**Judge Lazzara:**

No, thank you.

**Ms. Moss:**

No

**Sheriff Mullen:**

No, Judge.

**Ms. Wagner:**

Not on this referendum. Thank you.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Judge Clark, may I ask another question since we got through everyone.

**Judge Clark:**

I would like to move on, because we are getting behind time, the report from Ms. Moss and Mr. Korinski. Let us do that and then if time allows. You might want to write down your question because if you are like me you will have forgotten it.

**Ms. Hallam:**

I can send you an email on it later for time purposes and you can forward it along. Then maybe we could start a dialogue with the Warden specifically about this issue.

**Judge Clark:**

You could do that. Thank you.

## **H. Restraint Chair Subcommittee Report**

**Judge Clark:**

Alright, next on our agenda for old business is a report from Ms. Moss and Mr. Korinski concerning the restraint chair subcommittee.

**Ms. Moss:**

Before I start, I wanted to ask permission. I am away on a one-day trip. When I finish my report, I would like to be able to leave because I have people waiting. I did not want to miss this meeting.

**Judge Clark:**

That is OK.

**Ms. Moss:**

Did everyone get the report that me and Mr. Korinski sent out?

**Judge Clark:**

They should have I sent it out yesterday and then I believe maybe Ms. Carroll also sent it out. I sent it out yesterday.

**Ms. Moss:**

I did not want to have to read the whole thing but if they did not, I will read it.

**Judge Clark:**

No, I think everybody has it.

**Ms. Moss:**

As you all know, I was given the assignment to contact other facilities on how we could do more de-escalation in the jail without a restraint chair. I am very excited about all that I came up with. My first thought was to call Torrance State Hospital. I was able to talk to the Executive Director. She put me in contact with a lady who is using verbal judo in Torrance and it is working pretty well. They have been using it since 2018. It is been working very well for them. After talking to the lady, who is the trainer at Torrance, I was put in touch with the founders of verbal judo, which are the Thompsons. Dr. Thompson is deceased since 2011 and his wife Pam is running the organization. They have great credentials and in the report that we gave you, we do have the web that you can go on and read in more depth. I think this is a way that maybe we could rid the restraint chair and have a lot more positivity around how we deescalate and training. To me one of the big things that we need more of at the jail is that our officers and our guards have more training. There is so many programs out there, but this seems to be something that I think will work in the Allegheny County Jail. As you see in the report, there would be some costs. I was also told that if we would take three people, the morning, afternoon, and evening shift, one person from each of those shifts and have them trained, they would be trained to come back to train others, which would keep the costs down. So, I do not know all the costs yet because that is another part of what we have to do. What I am looking for is to see if the committee would give an affirmative for a recommendation, that we talk to the warden within 30 days and maybe before our next meeting to get his ideas in what ways to implement the verbal training. Then meet with the verbal judo for quotation on pricing and go from there and come back with another report. Are there any questions?

**Judge Clark:**

Before we take questions I do not know whether Mr. Korinski, who work with you, is there anything that you want to add?

**Mr. Korinski:**

No, your Honor, not at this time. It is all in the report and I hope all the members had a chance to read it. Ms. Moss and I are really excited about the potential for verbal judo and it really has been very nice working with Ms. Moss on this over the past month.

**Judge Clark:**

Thank you. [Judge Clarks asks each member if they have questions]

**Mr. Pilarski:**

No, thank you for the report. No questions at this time, thank you.

**Ms. Klein:**

No questions.

**Judge Lazzara:**

No questions. I think the program sounds like a really awesome one. I do not know whether we need a motion to allow the Warden to discuss with Mr. Korinski and Ms. Moss trying to figure out if it would be helpful to the jail, but if we do need such a motion, I would be willing to make it

**Judge Clark:**

I do not think we need a motion for that. I think the Warden is more than willing to meet with folks. We would just ask them to follow through with that. Then maybe at the next meeting we might have a motion or recommendation from their committee and a motion at that time.

**Sheriff Mullen:**

Nothing

**Ms. Wagner:**

No, thank you.

**Judge Clark:**

Alright I would just want to thank Ms. Moss and Mr. Korinski. Oh, I am sorry I missed forgot you Ms. Hallam.

**Ms. Hallam:**

I just thought it was intentional by this point, but I do not have any questions.

**Judge Clark:**

I was just going down the list and I try to start so everyone gets an opportunity to be first. I would like to thank them for that. We are going to be moving into public comments and we do have some comments about the restraint chair. I am hoping that the folks who submitted comments understanding that the board is taking their concerns seriously and we are trying to do something to correct the use of the restraint chair in the county jail. I just want to thank them both again. Ms. Moss?

**Ms. Moss:**

I am going to leave the meeting. Everyone, have a good weekend.

**6. Public Comments**

**Judge Clark:**

We have obviously a number of public comments again. I am going to try to get through as many of them as I can in the time that we have set for the comments for our meeting.

**A. Ashley Campbell**

*“Why aren’t cell being cleaned after inmates? Or inmates being tested for covid? Why aren’t staff wearing mask?”*



**Judge Clark:**

We will save the COVID testing question for Deputy Warden's report. I would ask the Warden, are the cells being cleaned, I am assuming she means after a discharge and are staff not wearing masks at this time?

**Warden Harper:**

Our cells are being cleaned at all times when inmates want to clean the cells and when inmates leave the cells. Masks are required of all employees and inmates to be worn and worn properly.

**B. Personal Medical Question of an Inmate**

**Judge Clark:**

There is a question and I do not feel comfortable reading it because it is somebody's personal medical information. It is about an inmate that is experiencing some nerve pain and you all have that the comment. I would just ask the Warden if you could check on it or have the medical department check on that inmate. I am not comfortable in a public meeting reading things about people's personal information. Somebody sent it on his behalf and so I am not really comfortable. But I do not want them to think I am not concerned about it.

**C. Natasha Clay**

*"At last month's meeting I asked about how Jail staff have implemented the NCHC's Suicide Prevention recommendations since October 2019. Just two days later, on July 3rd, a man named Martin Bucek died at the Allegheny County Jail following a recent suicide attempt at a local hospital. I do not know if Mr. Bucek died by suicide but until more information is released to the public it seems likely. This drives home the importance of the question in a devastating way-- hope the Wardens can give an in-depth overview of their suicide prevention measures this month, and detail their plans to make sure this never happens again. Very sincerely, Natasha"*

And

**Concerned Citizen**

*"How was a man housed in the acute mental health unit able to kill himself? Shouldn't that be one of the "safest" places? Martin Bucek was brought into the Jail hours after attempting suicide, surely he should have been under close watch, right? What went wrong here and what will the Wardens do to make it right to Mr. Bucek's family? Do they know that he had a son? Do they care? None of these questions are rhetorical, I hope Williams and Harper will answer them."*

**Judge Clark:**

There were a number of questions about the recent death in the jail. Some of these are assumptions on how he died. Warden, if there is anything you can say publicly about what happened and where he was housed.

**Deputy Warden Williams:**

We can confirm he was held on 5 Charlie which is the acute mental health unit. We can indicate that it was not ruled to be related to suicide at all. Pathology is pending with the medical examiner's office. We do not yet know if it was natural or accidental, but we cannot provide any further details at this time.

**Judge Clark:**

Thank you. Ms. Hallam?

**Ms. Hallam:**

Judge Clark, just quickly, this most recent death in the jail, was he transferred to the hospital from ACJ?

**Deputy Warden Williams:**

Yes, he was.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Okay. Is there a way that when folks are sent to the hospital from the jail that maybe it could be included in our monthly documentation that we get for every meeting? A list of any hospitalizations.

**Deputy Warden Williams:**

No, Ma'am.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Why not?

**Deputy Warden Williams:**

Well, number one that would be a violation of security protocols. Additionally, we make notification as part of policy for severe or critical and we are communicating directly with the family as that would be the most appropriate to do. We would not be including that reporting mechanism beyond what we already report, which are those offsite trips or those ER trips. So, you get the number, but we would not be including any of the names.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Yeah, I am not asking for any individualized health information. All I am asking is when folks are transported from the jail to the hospital, for whatever reason, then we get some sort of data on how often that is happening.

**Judge Clark:**

I think what she is asking for is a report of how many people had a hospital visit or stay in any given month from the jail.

**Deputy Warden Williams:**

That has been reported. If you look in the Warden's report on page 9 under health care services, that has always been data that has been reported. You will see that there were 23 ER runs during that time period. There were four surgeries. There were 54 off-site specialty referrals. We have been providing that information and we will continue to provide the total number. We will not provide anything more than that.

**Ms. Hallam:**

I have seen that piece of the Warden's report. I just believe that it is unclear as to, you know, are people going to hunt because they twisted their ankle or are they going to the hospital because they experienced an overdose or are they going to hospital because they had some sort of serious thing that may result in their deaths in the hospital. My concern, here especially, is that folks that are ruled deceased after leaving the jail, once they get to the hospital, those are not being reported as deaths in the jail.

**Warden Harper:**

I have been directed by Judge Clark to report to her anything that is of a serious nature, such as death, such as a potential death etc. That is what we do, so that the board can be informed. We do notify the board of serious issues.

**Ms. Hallam:**

So when someone leaves the jail and after whatever period of time after leaving the jail loses their life in the hospital, you are saying that is reported to us in the same manner than if they passed away in the jail? I actually know for a fact that is not true.

**Warden Harper:**

If a person passes away in the in the hospital, they are not in the jail, Ms. Hallam. So, no we would not be reporting that.

**Ms. Hallam:**

If their death is a direct result of something that happened in the jail that absolutely needs to be reported to us.

**Judge Clark:**

So, if somebody were hurt in the jail and were taken to the hospital, the Warden would report that to me, and I would communicate that to you. If someone dies in the jail, the Warden reports that to me and I report that to you. If someone dies in the hospital, I do not believe that that is reported, but if it was an incident that happened in the jail that led to the hospitalization, the Warden would report that to me.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Okay because I am speaking specifically about an incident that happened this past November where absolutely the incident happened in the jail, absolutely the person passed away, his name was John Brady. This was wildly reported about and absolutely we were not notified. Even though his death, he went straight from the jail to the hospital and died in the hospital and it was not reported to us. I am talking about that specific incident and other incidents like it. Where something happened in the jail and the person was taken to the hospital. They did not go anywhere else between the jail and the hospital. That should be reported to us, whether the Warden thinks it is a substantial event or not because someone is losing their life. We would not know about that if it was not for local journalism and people inside the jail speaking out about it. We are the Jail Oversight Board. I believe that any person who dies going to the hospital from the jail should be reported and counted as a jail death. That is not happening. I am asking if that can start happening. That we know about these incidents when they happen.

**Judge Clark:**

Well I think that is something that maybe the board needs to think about to make a recommendation. I have asked the Warden to report to me all those incidents that are serious and I believe he has done that. I cannot remember when I made that specific request of him, so that we were on the same page about those things. I think the board should come up with something. If someone is in the jail with some illness, then had to be hospitalized and died. Is that something that would reported to the board? Is that something that the hospital would report that to the Warden? There are all kinds of things that need to be figured out. I think that is something that we can discuss, have a recommendation, and then talk to the Warden about that. I think also the Warden would need to talk to the solicitor about what exactly he can report, just like I was not comfortable reading the letter that was written on behalf of someone in the jail in a public setting about someone's medical condition. I think the Warden has to have some direction from the solicitor about what he can actually report. Especially if it is somebody's pre-existing conditions. I do not know. That is not my area of expertise about health care law and HIPAA, but I think it is something that we can look at and we should look at. But I think we have to also be la little cautious to make sure that we are not in violation of any laws with respect of a person's privacy rights and their medical records or their medical information.

**Sheriff Mullen:**

Ms. Hallam, was there an investigation done on that to determine a cause of death?

**Ms. Hallam:**

I believe that it was an overdose. I am not 100% because I did not read a medical examiner's report after the death. He was transported directly from the jail. Sheriff Mullen, I will send you the link to the reporting surrounding it when it happened in November. His name was John Brady and he came into the jail, experience a health crisis, at the time it was a suspected overdose. He was taken to the hospital. He was put on life support and was removed from life support about a week and a half after. That was never classified as a jail death. It was never reported to the board. My concern is I have gotten reports in the past, with less information so I do not

want to go into any details on those, of this happening, where a person goes into a medical crisis while incarcerated at the jail but does not pass away at the jail. I believe we should still be getting reports on that because remember when an incarcerated person goes to the hospital from the jail, they are still in the custody of the Allegheny County Jail and therefore under our oversight until they lose their life. I will send you some stuff after the meeting.

**Sheriff Mullen:**

Okay, I appreciate that. I will try to find out.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Thank you very much, Sheriff Mullen.

**Judge Clark:**

I would also state that I do not think we are entitled to receive the report from the medical examiner unless there is some sort of public inquest or investigation into the death. I do not think the medical examiner routinely turns that information over. I am not sure if even they turn it over to the jail, per say. When we have a discussion about that we can talk about those things.

**D. John Kenstowicz**

*“For 5 years from 2007-2012, I worked as a therapist on Mercy’s Community Treatment Team with Martin Bucek, who recently died at ACJ. At the time I worked with him, Marty received the highest level of care of mental health services, being seen twice a day. The team was concerned about his noncompliance with medications and his suicidal history. I would like to know how long after Marty was admitted to ACJ, did ACJ receive Marty’s records from the community health provider? Was there a phone call between the community mental health provider and ACJ staff regarding Marty’s care? Knowing Marty’s history of noncompliance with medications, what precautions did the staff take to limit the risk of noncompliance with medications?. After Marty was found to be incompetent to stand trial, did the staff increase their frequency of contact knowing that this could be a trigger for suicide? If the JOB had a hired liaison on staff, does the Board believe that they would have received answers to questions such as these within a reasonable amount of time?”*

**Judge Clark:**

There was sort of a lengthy comment from Mr. Kenstowicz with a number of questions. In the interest of time, I will talk to the Warden and Deputy Warden Williams to see if they can answer any of these questions. I can communicate directly with Mr. Kenstowicz about it. His comment will be posted on the website so that people can see it.

**E. Jane Doe**

*“Was the union of the correctional officer’s notified of this RFP proposal? And if so, who was notified about this RFP proposal? Will this RFP affect the current jobs of correctional officers while trying to re-purpose the jail? Also will there be outside contractors roaming the jail for re-purpose reasons? Will the unions of the officers have any input during this re-purpose stage? \* Bonus question: Why do the uniform patches at the ACJ say "prison" if the facility is always referred to as a jail?”*

**Judge Clark:**

There were several questions/comments regarding this. I would say the union probably was not notified because it is just an RFP. I do believe that the process will include engagement with stakeholders at the time that they decide to have a person do that. I think that since this is an RFP, nothing has been decided and none of these questions can really be answered. So, that is the best I can tell you right now.

**F. Renee Hoffmann**

*"Thanks to the Jail for posting its Segregated Housing report for June. The only reason listed for placing someone in segregated housing is "Safety." What exactly does that mean? Does that indicate that these people pose an imminent risk of harm to themselves or others? There are 30+ people on this list who spent 30+ days in segregation. One of them has spent a shocking 684 days in segregation. How can anyone be a constant safety risk for almost two years straight? How could a 68 year old woman be dangerous enough to place in total isolation for 30 days? What penological purpose could this possibly serve?"*

**Judge Clark:**

So, I do not know if you are able to comment on any of this today Warden or Deputy Warden Williams.

**Warden Harper:**

I would like to comment on that. Safety to me is exactly what she said in her statement. It is the protection of the inmate's self, others and for the orderly operation of the facility. That is what safety means on the report.

**Judge Clark:**

Alright, I guess she had a question about someone who had been there 684 days or something like that. Do you know if that is accurate, Warden?

**Warden Harper:**

If we have an individual that is constantly violating our policies and is a threat to this institution and to the safety and security of the facility. We have some dangerous individuals here. It is a possibility that somebody could be in segregation that long. Yes, ma'am.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Judge Clark, can I just add one thing? It is not a question, just a very quick comment. The argument of safety does not satisfy the requirements as per the referendum the was passed by the voters in May.

**Judge Clark:**

Ok, thank you.

#### **G. Malcolm Durrige**

*"I saw on the Jail website that friends and family members are not allowed to record their video calls with incarcerated loved ones!! It says that "screenshots and the recording of video visitation is strictly forbidden. Violators will lose permanent access to video visitation and be unable to access the system." This punishes people for wanting to stay close to their loved ones. Imagine telling a child that they're not allowed to record video of their incarcerated parent singing them a lullaby, or telling a husband or wife that they can't screenshot a picture of their own spouse. This is a cruel and unfair policy and the Jail should change it immediately."*

**Judge Clark:**

Can you talk about why that is, Warden?

**Warden Harper:**

It is a safety and security risk for somebody from the outside to use their phone to take photographs of an inmate incarcerated or video so that they can send photographs or video elsewhere. We do not allow that nor does any other correctional agency in the nation.

**Judge Lazzara:**

Sorry I do not mean to interrupt but I had indicated previously I was going to need to leave at 6:00. I do not know if I leave and there are motions that we would have a quorum. So, I just want to point that I have 11 minutes.

**Judge Clark:**

I allotted 15 minutes for the public comments and we have gone 17 minutes. I am going to stop and at the end if there is some more time to address some of those, we will but we do have some action items. Since Judge Lazzara needs to leave if we could just jump to 2 of the items in new business, which are motions to request money from the IIWF. Maybe we could do those first, so Judge Lazzara can vote and then we will go back to the Warden's report in the Deputy Warden's report.

**9. New Business**

**A. Motion to request money from the IIWF to be put on the commissary accounts of each person.**

**Ms. Hallam:**

Thank you, Judge Clark, and thank you, Judge Lazzara, for making sure we had a quorum to vote on the motions. The first motion is a motion to put \$50 from the Incarcerated Individual's Welfare Fund on the commissary account each person in the jail time. At the time when I wrote this there were 1,696 people incarcerated at the jail, \$50 for each person would be \$84,800 total. So, I would like to move to approve this motion.

**Judge Clark:**

Is there a second?

**Ms. Klein:**

Second

**Judge Clark:**

Any discussion? All those in favor?

**Others:**

Aye

**Judge Clark:**

Any opposed? Any abstentions? The motion is carried.

*The board unanimously approved a motion by Ms. Hallam, duly seconded by Ms. Klein, to request money from IIWF to be put on the commissary accounts of each incarcerated individual (1,696 individuals x \$50.00 = Total \$84,800).*

**B. Motion to request money from the IIWF to be put on the tablet accounts of each person.**

**Judge Clark:**

Ms. Hallam?

**Ms. Hallam:**

Thank you, Judge Clark. The second one is similar. It is \$50 from the Incarcerated Individual's Welfare Fund to be put on the tablet accounts of each person. Same thing 1,696 people, \$50 per person for a total of \$84,800. I would like to move to approve.

**Judge Clark:**

Is there a second? Is nobody going to second?

**Ms. Wagner:**

I will second.

**Judge Lazzara:**

I was just going to say I think the problem might be that people are concerned about the tablet company keeping money at the end of it. I think that there are certainly those questions that maybe some of us have.

**Ms. Hallam:**

I do not think that we should punish the folks in the jail for practices of the provider. They still are not allowed visits and as the Warden just referenced, the folks who are doing the video calls are not allowed to record them or anything. So, they need this money to be able to have live interaction with their loved ones. Every piece of scientific data that I have read about the need for human interaction and interpersonal relationships when someone is incarcerated shows how much it leads to decreased rates of recidivism and better behavior of folks who are in the jail. So, I just think that it would be dangerous to take this away from them just because we are concerned about the company who is providing these tablets to them.

**Judge Clark:**

Ms. Klein?

**Ms. Klein:**

You may not know this but I am just curious, do we have any idea of how much is left when people leave the jail? Is it thousands? Is it tens of thousands? is it hundreds? Do we have any idea what the scope of the money that GTL is holding?

**Judge Clark:**

Probably no one knows that. I guess it depends on if people were in there long enough to use all their allotment. But I would tend to agree with Ms. Hallam, just because these are times where people have really lost significant contact with their loved ones and families can't necessarily afford to come in and put money on people's books and people are very strapped. I think we just have to risk it and hopefully get GTL to figure out how much it is and return that money to the account. I just I think they really need it right now. As much as it disturbs me, I think they should get the money. I do not know whether anyone else has any other comments. So, we have a motion. Is there a second?

**Ms. Wagner:**

I offered a second.

**Judge Clark:**

Alright. Is there any other discussion?

**Ms. Klein:**

I would just ask, maybe this goes back to the Solicitor's office, that I just think it would be helpful to know some idea of the magnitude of the money that we are allotting that that does not get used.

**Judge Clark:**

For sure we can figure out how much we have allotted since we have started doing this. At this point it is a lot. It is a lot of money.

**Ms. Klein:**

Of course, it depends on how long someone is a resident. For me, I would like to know how much of the Incarcerated Individual's Welfare Fund GTL is holding.

**Judge Clark:**

Warden, they may not give you that information, I know, but if you could contact GTL. I mean, we really need them to answer these questions and it is not unreasonable to do that. I would ask you to ask them to come to a meeting and make a report. I just think they really owe that to us. They had offered to do it in an executive session, but this is something I do not think belongs in an executive session. Now, if you all are satisfied with that, maybe you might think that is better than nothing, but I will ask you to think about that. That is not the motion on the floor, but I felt like they should come publicly and talk about it. Alright, so we have a motion and a second. Any other discussion? All those in favor?

**Others:**

Aye

**Judge Clark:**

Any opposed? Any abstentions? The motion is carried. Thank you, Ms. Hallam.

***The board unanimously approved a motion by Ms. Hallam, duly seconded by Ms. Wagner, to request money from Incarcerated Individual's Welfare Fund to be put on the tablet accounts of each incarcerated individual (1,696 individuals x \$50.00 = Total \$84,800).***

**7. Warden's Report**

**Judge Clark:**

Alright, we are going to go back to the Warden's report. Warden Harper?

**Warden Harper:**

Your Honor, I only have 2 things to report to the board. The first thing that I would like to report is that school will start for our juvenile population on August 25, 2021. Then we had 17 correction officers graduate from our Correctional Officer's Academy on July 3, 2021. That is all I have to report.

**Judge Clark:**

Thank you. Ms. Hallam?

**Ms. Hallam:**

You skipped roll call for questions for the Warden's report.

**Judge Clark:**

I did because he only had two things and I did not think anybody would have any questions. Do you have a question?

**Ms. Hallam:**

I do have a question. It is a pretty important one. It was recently brought to my attention that there was a contract that the Warden entered into that would provide the opposite of the de-escalation training we were talking about today, almost like an escalation training. It was to receive a sort of paramilitary organization called Correctional Special Applications Unit and a simultaneous contract, seeking to purchase so called less lethal weaponry such as shotguns and beanbag projectiles and other weapons. This is very concerning. Especially as we are trying to move away from this sort of behavior. It was very concerning when it was brought to my attention that these two contracts were just executed. So, I want to first confirm that my understanding of the contract is true, that was something that was recently entered into. If yes, what is the purpose of these contracts and the training and the weapons that they are requesting?

**Warden Harper:**



Ms. Hallam, I will say that we did enter into a contract to help us comply with the referendum. I will not talk about this company in this public forum. If you would like to have further conversations about this, we can have it in an executive session, but we are in contact with the company to help us de-escalate situations and help us comply with the referendum.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Warden Harper, with all due respect, this is not appropriate for executive session. This is a public document. It is a contract that is being entered into with taxpayer money. This is not applicable for an executive session exception. So, I do think that it should be discussed now in our public meetings. Since this meeting does only happen once a month.

**Warden Harper:**

So, I will say this as I stated Ms. Hallam, we did enter into contract with the company to help us de-escalate situations and comply with the referendum. That is all I can talk about at this public meeting.

**Ms. Hallam:**

And your plan is to use shotguns and bean bag projectiles to de-escalate? You are de-escalating with weapons? I am a little confused as to that justification. can you elaborate?

**Judge Clark:**

So, I do not think he is going to do that. What I would propose is, Warden can you tell me the name of the company?

**Warden Harper:**

Correctional Special Applications Unit

**Ms. Hallam:**

Thank you for clarifying that. I would like to encourage the rest of the board members and any members of the public to please Google that organization and look at their website. I would then like to have a conversation at the next meeting on how the plan is to use these tactics in these weaponry as de-escalation because to the naked eye it seems like it is the exact opposite of that. I am very concerned about the safety of our incarcerated population. I know we talk a lot about safety at these meetings. These contracts are very concerning to me. Especially, in light of the referendum banning harmful "less lethal" weapons. I would like us to research and discuss this at the next meeting.

**Judge Clark:**

Everybody has the name. We can all review it and Warden I would ask if you could present something at the next meeting. If you need to confer with the solicitor about whether there is something that you cannot answer. I would like you to let us know in advance of the meeting so the board members know what they can ask. Thank you.

**Ms. Wagner:**

Judge Clark, may I just add one point to this as well?

**Judge Clark:**

Yes

**Ms. Wagner:**

If I could just ask for us taking this up at the next meeting, I have reviewed the contract documents and I share the very deep concern that Ms. Hallam articulated. Also, I would say, from my read I cannot comprehend how these organizations and these contracts entered into in this time period of July, I cannot see anything about de-escalation there. So, in addressing this at the next meeting, I think it would be particularly helpful to have some elaboration on how this is de-escalation because to me it is the opposite.

**Judge Clark:**

So, I think, this is not really part of the Warden's report. It should have been a part of new business, so all of us could have looked at the site before this meeting and had some idea. I think what would be good is for us to draft some questions and maybe the board meet in executive session without the Warden to talk about our review of the website and to pose some appropriate questions about this. Yes, Ms. Hallam?

**Ms. Hallam:**

I only recently found out about this not in time to get this on the agenda for this meeting. I do apologize for that. But I do think that now that I do know it would be remiss of me to not bring it up. I guess that brings up my second question because as a JOB I would like there to be a mechanism where these sorts of things come in front of us. Since we are talking about the health, well-being, and safety of our incarcerated population. It is our duty to ensure that they are well taken care of and we were never informed of this contract or that the warden was even looking for this sort of service. We were never informed that this contract had been executed. I would like there to be some sort of system where these sorts of proposals, when they involve the jail, especially the safety and well-being of the people in the jail, that they come before us before being executed. Even if not for a vote but for a heads up to us as the oversight body.

**Judge Clark:**

Thank you. I would ask all the board members to look at the website and whatever information you can glean. I will set up an executive session for us. I will send out an email just trying to get your availability, probably sometime next week and then we can discuss it.

**8. Deputy Warden's Report**

**Judge Clark:**

We will move to Chief Williams' report. Before she begins Chief Williams told me that there have been some comments from the public that they think her report is too long and too detailed. I find it very valuable, but I would ask the board after this meeting to give me some feedback on whether you think it is too detailed or what you think about it.

**Deputy Warden Williams:**

Thank you very much, your honor and the board. We updated the website and the current website numbers reflect that of our incarcerated individuals, 2,870 have received a PCR viral diagnostic test. Of those 358 or 12% have been found to be positive throughout the duration of the pandemic. We presently have 10 incarcerated individuals positive in the facility. These individuals are primarily from our intake housing unit to 9 out of the 10 over the last couple of days have tested as positive. We have had 2,507 negative tests and we presently have 2 pending tests. These pending tests are for individuals who tested positive with the rapid antigen tests and they did not have symptoms. So, we are using the PCR test to confirm those results since they were asymptomatic and positive for rapid testing. Unfortunately, we are seeing a much larger incidence rate in recent admissions to our facility, which is also reflective of the increasing rise of community cases as well. In the last month, we have not released any individuals that were known to be positive. The look back, in the month of July, 92 individuals were tested with the PCR viral diagnostic tests. Of those 92, all were negative. However, if you look at the website you will see that there were 2 positives in the month of July and the reason for the discrepancy in numbers is because we received 2 positive cases from other jurisdictions. We briefly talked about that last month. They were legally remanded to our facility while they were known to be positive and on isolation status. We maintained that isolation status but did not report them in our testing numbers, only are positive cases because we were not the test originator. We have temporarily ceased utilizing rapid tests. We have resumed this process with increasing risk and disease spread. We have completed 2,892 rapid antigen tests since April 12, 2021. There have been 18 positives, 2,346 negatives, and 528 refusals. That is not including today's tests. Today, out of as you know in abundance of concern and we wanted to make sure that we had kind of found all of the disease presence for our intake units, we did test with rapid antigen 2 full housing units. We did have 6 refusals. We did not have any more negatives from those housing units, but we did do those. Unfortunately, I was not able to calculate all

of those numbers in time for this meeting. For employees, we have had 348 staff report that they have been tested for COVID-19, with 140 positives and 208 negatives. We presently have 1 who is considered to be within their medical isolation period. So, 1 positive staff member and 1 that is still recovering from COVID-19, not believed to be infectious but dealing with their own health complications as a result of this.

We have maintained vaccines in the facility and we still maintain all 3. So, we have Moderna, Pfizer, and Janssen within the facility. We have supported the vaccination of over 1,000 incarcerated individuals. Since those have been ongoing, I do not have the exact number right now, which is why I am reporting it that way, but we will be updating the website to reflect those numbers to be more up-to-date. Of those that are presently incarcerated, and our count is 1,657, 789 or 48% of the individual have received their full series. So, either 1 dose or 2 doses. Of those presently incarcerated, 497 or 30% have been vaccinated and have also exhausted their two weeks post vaccination period. That is almost a difference of 300 that are still within that 2-week period, that will be considered to be fully immunized and vaccinated very soon. We have 60 individuals that are within their vaccination series. They are either awaiting their second dose of Moderna or Pfizer. And 76 additional individuals have applied to receive a vaccine. We have been sending reminders, especially with the increasing case counts in the community, that vaccines remain available and that is not just for the incarcerated individuals but also by employees. We have applied \$25 to the accounts of fully vaccinated individuals from the Incarcerated Individual's Welfare Fund with the exception of those completed since July 25, 2021. We are still working on getting those applied to every account. For employees, we have 730 employees and those that have received full immunization are 390 or 53%. I of course report on quite a bit more but I was not sure if we wanted to briefly pause in case anybody has any specific questions related to COVID-19 infection rates or vaccines.

**Judge Clark:**

The 53% that is vaccinated, was that the residents?

**Deputy Warden Williams:**

No, that is our employee.

**Judge Clark:**

Do you know what percentage of the residents in the jail are vaccinated?

**Deputy Warden Williams:**

So, 48% have received either 1 dose of Johnson and Johnson or both doses of the Moderna or Pfizer. But we consider only 30% to be fully vaccinated, meaning they have completed their series and they have also exhausted two weeks post vaccination.

**Judge Clark:**

Thank you. Does anyone have any questions right now for Deputy Warden Williams? Ms. Hallam?

**Ms. Hallam:**

Are you all or the Health Department or wherever you are sending your tests, are you testing to see if your positive cases are for the delta variant?

**Deputy Warden Williams:**

We have our PCR tests going to the Health Department for the initial processing of this specimen. My understanding is that they would have to send it to an alternative lab and that takes quite a bit of time to determine whether or not it is the delta variant. There are a few other variants that I think are present within Allegheny County. I have not received any confirmation from any of the recent specimens, but we have asked for the Health Department to provide additional support to us in further investigating that.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Okay and then last thing, how many positives did you say in the intake housing units? I think you said 4A and 4B.

**Deputy Warden Williams:**

Yes, 9 were from the intake housing units, 9 out of our present 10.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Okay, thank you.

**Judge Clark:**

Ms. Klein, did you have a question? Does anyone else? Thank you. You may continue Chief Williams.

**Deputy Warden Williams:**

Thank you. I have still been reporting on the individual counseling sessions. Last month, I reported that we did send the mockup or what was agreed with the vendor NaphCare for the behavioral health sessions and the recording of the number of minutes. We do not have an update as far as that being integrated within our system yet. They are still testing the functionality of that. We are hoping that will be in a future build and within the next couple of months it will be updated. However, the Psychologist has been manually tracking so that I am able to report to everybody within this setting. There were 164 individuals referred for counseling services within the month of July, with 12 individuals who refused services. Manual tracking of the average session length was approximately 38 minutes. Those that are not personally seen by the psychologist have access to other staff or providers in the building. They are able to address problems and stressors with a large multitude of health care and correctional staff.

Within medications for opioid use disorder, we presently have 31 individuals who are prescribed Buprenorphine. Throughout the month of July, 74 individuals were prescribed Buprenorphine. Though some of those individuals have since been released but they were able to receive their medication while they were with us. We have also worked with our pharmacy to make sure that they are additionally released with their medication in the event that they have a lag time to get reconnected to their community agency. These are in childproof containers. That was something that was additionally important to us for safety reasons. We have also been working with other correctional agencies, who have not been able to sustain the continuation of Buprenorphine due to whatever additional barriers they face. So if we have somebody who has multi-jurisdiction involvement, and I think we have talked about this in past meetings as well, we will work with those agencies to see if we can meet their legal needs, of course with the client's consent, through virtual means, if that is still a present option. If that is an option, we are doing those legal appointments through video arraignment so that they do not require transfer and we can continue to manage their Buprenorphine here. That has been restricted to facilities that cannot support continuation of those medications. Then hopefully they do not have to transfer and have a disruption in their care.

In new business, I typically provide the number of appointments for the medical appointments that are outstanding. For sick call requests with medical, we have 123 appointments with the longest waiting 19 days. So, we have had a lot of people actually reaching out for vaccine information. They want to speak to somebody about the risks and benefits, especially with the variant and the news coverage, about that might be the best choice for them. For SCI Mental Health or sick call request mental health, we have 38 appointments. For psychiatrist, we have also seen an increase of 321 appointments, with the longest waiting at 32 days. For mental health specialists, we have 5 appointments outstanding.

My final item of business is that we are excited, and we just very recently on-boarded a new Health Services Administrator to our institution. His name is Jon Sciulli. We are looking forward to his continual transition and additional leadership of other members of the health care department this month. That is all I have for my report.

**Judge Clark:**

Ms. Klein, did you have any questions or comments for Chief Williams?

**Ms. Klein:**

One of the things that we had recommended from our interviews with prior health service administrator was more in-depth onboarding process and I am wondering if any of that is going to be considered for this new employee?

**Deputy Warden Williams:**

That is being considered and it is even beyond being considered, it is being implemented. We are also going to be onboarding some addition. So, we are going to evolve this. I am getting a lot of feedback from them directly as to how that has facilitated their orientation or onboarding process. Then the recommendation was also that policies would be developed specific to the orientation program and I believe they are to be finalized by September 1<sup>st</sup>. So, I will be reporting on those next month as well.

**Judge Clark:**

Thank you. Mr. Pilarski? [Judge Clark then asks each member if they have any questions]

**Mr. Pilarski:**

No questions at this time, your Honor. Thank you.

**Sheriff Mullen:**

Nothing.

**Ms. Wagner:**

Thank you. My only insight here would just be a comment. I believe we need to continue to take up to this point of staff being vaccinated and especially as we have discussed at other points in this meeting, as even we consider going back to in-person setting and the question of when there might be visitation in the jail. I think it is very important for the jail and for county administration to very seriously consider mandating vaccination, particularly for the jail staff that is in direct contact with the incarcerated individuals.

**Judge Clark:**

Have there been any recent discussions or thoughts about changing the policy and requiring vaccinations?

**Warden Harper:**

Not at this time, your Honor.

**Judge Clark:**

Thank you. Hopefully, some discussions will continue about that because there is more than one variant. We hear a lot about the delta variant but as Chief Williams pointed out, that is not the only variant that is out there. I think everybody has heightened sensitivity about these issues. I would just ask that there be some continued discussions and maybe reconsideration of that. It may be because of union contract issues that it may not be possible, but I think in a pandemic, when there is a crisis, that things can change because of the need. So, I would just ask that those discussions continue. Ms. Hallam?

**Ms. Hallam:**

The first thing, Deputy Warden Williams, you said you hired John something. Can you repeat his last name and position? I missed that in my notes.

**Deputy Warden Williams:**

John Sciulli and Health Services Administrator is his position.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Then, we always get those staffing vacancy reports in our briefing packet for each meeting, I did not receive one this month. I do not know if it was just an oversight or we did not have one this month for some reason.

**Deputy Warden Williams:**

It is definitely an oversight. I will get that to the entire board and so it can be added to the minutes as well. My apologies.

**Ms. Hallam:**

It is okay. I appreciate that. Then the last question, you talked about the Buprenorphine supply for discharged incarcerated folks. How long does that last? Is it like a week supply or what?

**Deputy Warden Williams:**

3 days.

**Judge Clark:**

Anything else? Chief Williams, anything else that you want to report at this time?

**Deputy Warden Williams:**

No ma'am. Thank you.

**Judge Clark:**

Thank you again for your very thorough report. I personally find that the detail of her report is important, and I would like it to continue but if anyone on the board has a contrary position. She received some feedback from the public that they feel like it is too long and too detailed but the board asked for this information and she has done a great job at preparing it. So, if anyone has a contrary position let me know. Otherwise, I think we would like you to keep giving your very detailed information. It is greatly appreciated. I am sure that really the majority of the public also appreciates it as well.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Judge Clark, before we adjourn, I thought I was going to be able to ask a question under new business, but I realized that we already did the motions. Can I ask one question and I do not know who wants to answer it?

**Judge Clark:**

Well you can ask a question, but it is 6:21 and I said we would go 2 hours. You can ask this question and then I think we need to adjourn. I cannot do another long meeting. I still have work to do from my other job.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Absolutely. I promise just one. This is another one, since our last meeting, there was lots of coverage in the local media about it. There was a video that was circulated, and I hope the members of the board have seen it by now. A 20-year old woman was handcuffed and escorted by correction officers in a hallway. Then a bunch more officers joined it. They take her into an elevator and then the one correctional officer pushed the incarcerated woman in the elevator. That caused her to fall into the railing on the back wall and hit her head. They then tased the woman. Again, this is not hearsay. This video was circulated widely and documented by members of the local media. So, we already know that based off the numbers that the ACJ already has some of the worse use of force statistics in entire state. I know that this is being investigated and I know that this was referred to the US Attorney's Office, but I received multiple reports in the past about similar situations, where the person in question was not able to retain a lawyer or was not able to get video of their abuse. I am just wondering when something like this happens, whenever we are reading about it in the media and not hearing about it as members of the Jail Oversight Board, can we figure out a way that we as a board can investigate this because there is a very clear video of what happened? I am not going to ask the Warden to comment on it because I know he is going to tell me it is a pending litigation because there is a lawsuit

now. I am just wondering what we as a board can do when we see stuff like this? The lawsuit does not prohibit us from investigating. I am just wondering what we can do to find out why this happened? Why this corrections officer was not punished doing this to this woman while she was handcuffed? It is hard for me to know this was approved by the supervisors as in accordance with jail policy when it comes to use of force and hearing about these sorts of uses of force happening in other situations and not having these correction officers disciplined or training modified. What can we as a board do?

**Judge Clark:**

I think that is a discussion and we cannot have a discussion like this at the end of the board meeting. It is too lengthy. I think people can think about it. I think this is the kind of thing that the board may want to discuss in an executive session and come up with something, not to vote on it. I think right now we cannot have this discussion. I have not seen the video and so I have no opinion other than I feel that force should not be used in most cases unless it is absolutely necessary to ensure the safety of a person or someone else. As we had a presentation by Ms. Moss and Mr. Korinski, we need to make sure that we are providing the staff at the jail with other alternatives and learning in de-escalating. Other facilities, mental health facilities, and others have been trained in other methods of de-escalation that are effective in many cases. I think that is where we need to be as a board. Hopefully looking at all types of opportunities. We were presented with one today and I think we should all go look at and read Ms. Moss's report in detail. Then look up other options and come back with some recommendations about training that we want to be initiated in the Allegheny County Jail. I personally think it needs to be an ongoing process. It is never a one and done. We need to always be looking for new things that are better because today you might have this, but there might be something better out there or something in addition to. Maybe training does not necessarily look the same for every employee at the jail. It depends on what your job is, but it is clear that our use of the restraint chair is really high, higher than anywhere else and we need to address that. I think we are sort of on the right road to doing that. But I do not really think we can have this discussion right now. I do not know whether anyone else has seen the video, I have not seen the video.

**Ms. Hallam:**

I was not really trying to have the discussion right now; I apologize if that is how it came up. I guess I wrongly assumed that everyone had seen it on the news by now, but more so just to ask you how we should address this. I know really appreciate if the board got a briefing on how use of force situations are reviewed. Should I put this on the agenda for next month? That was kind of my question. I wanted to ask before we adjourn.

**Judge Clark:**

As I stated, anyone can submit agenda items. If it is something that somebody needs to report out on, it can't be the day before or right when we are doing the agenda, but you can always do that. We will put things on the agenda and some of them will require ongoing discussions and maybe, I hate to say, the formation of committees because we have too many committees already.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Judge Clark, the committees are great. They work.

**Judge Clark:**

They do work but there is only 9 of us and that is not very many people. That is issue. We are using outside people to help us because there is not enough of us and we all have other work that we have to do. I think when we scheduled the executive session if you want to talk about that too we can do that and then we can come up with a game plan. Anything else for the board today. If not, I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

**Ms. Hallam:**

Moved.

**Judge Clark:**

Alright I do not believe it needs a second, but Ms. Klein can second it. All those in favor?

**Others:**

Aye

**Judge Clark:**

Any opposed? Alright, we are adjourned. Everyone please stay safe. I will be contacting you at the beginning of next week to schedule our executive session. Thank you.

Kindest regard,



Chelsa Wagner



NAME	CONCERN
Malcolm Durrige	I saw on the Jail website that friends and family members are not allowed to record their video calls with incarcerated loved ones!! It says that "screenshots and the recording of video visitation is strictly forbidden. Violators will lose permanent access to video visitation and be unable to access the system." This punishes people for wanting to stay close to their loved ones. Imagine telling a child that they're not allowed to record video of their incarcerated parent singing them a lullaby, or telling a husband or wife that they can't screenshot a picture of their own spouse. This is a cruel and unfair policy and the Jail should change it immediately.
Natasha Clay	At last month's meeting I asked about how Jail staff have implemented the NCCHC's Suicide Prevention recommendations since October 2019. Just two days later, on July 3rd, a man named Martin Bucek died at the Allegheny County Jail following a recent suicide attempt at a local hospital. I do not know if Mr. Bucek died by suicide but until more information is released to the public it seems likely. This drives home the importance of the question in a devastating way-- hope the Wardens can give an in-depth overview of their suicide prevention measures this month, and detail their plans to make sure this never happens again. Very sincerely, Natasha
Mary Brown	What exactly is the point of the JOB when every time I turn on the TV, radio, or open my email or a website, I hear about the horrors of what is going on inside the ACJ? Where is Fitzgerald's outrage? Why do these horrors continue to unfold? Why haven't Sgt. Tucker and Warden Harper been punished for lying about what is happening on their watch? Does the JOB have any real power to end these atrocities?
Angela Howard	To the Wardens: I am outraged alongside Board members Hallam and Wagner that John Brady's death on November 20 of last year was never reported. It is shameful that it's taken more than 6 months and another death for his tragic passing to come to light, and it begs the question how many other deaths have gone unreported. I can't understand why the Jail would think it was not obligated to report the death of someone who was injured at the Jail and was still subject to court-ordered confinement when he died. What is ACJ's policy for notifying the Board (and public) of incarcerated people's deaths? Why was Mr. Brady's death kept secret?
Concerned Citizen	Hello to the Board-- Back a few months ago I was so happy to hear you all had contacted an expert in jail inspection and done a training with him. Has the Board had the opportunity to do an inspection yet? With the recent death of Martin Bucek it seems more essential than ever for the Board to see what's happening inside of ACJ. Thanks so much.
John Kenstowicz	For 5 years from 2007-2012, I worked as a therapist on Mercy's Community Treatment Team with Martin Bucek, who recently died at ACJ. At the time I worked with him, Marty received the highest level of care of mental health services, being seen twice a day. The team was concerned about his noncompliance with medications and his suicidal history. I would like to know how long after Marty was admitted to ACJ, did ACJ receive Marty's records from the community health provider? Was there a phone call between the community mental health provider and ACJ staff regarding Marty's care? Knowing Marty's history of noncompliance with medications, what precautions did the staff take to limit the risk of noncompliance with medications?. After Marty was found to be incompetent to stand trial, did the staff increase their frequency of contact knowing that this could be a trigger for suicide? If the JOB had a hired liaison on staff, does the Board believe that they would have received answers to questions such as these within a reasonable amount of time?
Rachel Linner	Thank you to Jail staff for posting a copy of a typical Staff Menu to compare with the Menu for incarcerated people. I don't know what is ACTUALLY being served but at face value it's clear staff get higher quality food. Staff meals include a daily salad bar with fresh vegetables; the closest incarcerated people get to a salad bar is a serving of romaine lettuce and salad dressing twice a week. On Wednesday the only vegetables served are candied carrots with lunch and corn with dinner. Staff get a choice of teas and lemonade and the only beverage listed on the incarcerated people's menu is just called "Drink Vitamin Fortified Bulk." Why do staff deserve better food? I think someone asked this in the past and the Warden didn't really answer.
John Thomson	How is it that Allegheny County Jail used the restraint chair 339 times in 2019, the taser 146 times in 2019, and the whole of Philadelphia didn't use either device at all in any of their jails? If these numbers don't indicate a systemic problem involving trigger happy corrections officers, I don't know what does! Every tax payer in Allegheny County should be outraged and ashamed!
Jere Krakoff	I was lead counsel in Inmates of the Allegheny County Jail v. Pierce, 442 F. Supp. 1368 (W.D. Pa. 1978), a class action lawsuit that exposed a broad spectrum of unconstitutional conditions and practices at the institution's former Grant Street location. Later, I litigated successful class actions against the Lawrence County Jail, the Beaver County Jail, the Northumberland County Prison, and the State Correctional Institution at Pittsburgh. These cases had two things in common: the egregious conditions and practices underpinning them resulted from the absence of meaningful oversight by prison boards or Commonwealth officials and cost taxpayers millions of dollars to remedy. At their core, they illustrate what happens when there is either superficial or no monitoring of an institutions. More specifically, they demonstrate that systematic, comprehensive, and ongoing review of institutional documents, inspections, inmate interviews, and questioning staff members as well as administrators are essential to prevent conditions and practices from falling below constitutional standards. In each of the above-referenced lawsuits, the existence of the offending conditions and practices were uncovered by comprehensively reviewing internal documents, inspecting the facility, and conducting interviews. Given the reality that prison boards are comprised of officials who have other fulltime responsibilities, the necessary monitoring cannot be adequately conducted by board members; it requires (in an institution as large as the Allegheny County Jail) a full-time auditor. In the final analysis, the proposed monitoring position will accomplish two essential purposes--assure that the Allegheny County Jail operates in a constitutional manner and, in the long run, save taxpayer money. Both are important objectives. It is my hope that County officials recognize this and take the necessary action to create and fund the position. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.
Janice Ackerman	I want to give an enormous THANK YOU to Mr. Korinski for his hard work researching commissary prices!!! Now that it's established that Summit is in violation of their contract, what can the Board and/or Jail do to end this financial exploitation of incarcerated people and their loved ones?
Concerned Citizen	How was a man housed in the acute mental health unit able to kill himself? Shouldn't that be one of the "safest" places? Martin Bucek was brought into the Jail hours after attempting suicide, surely he should have been under close watch, right? What went wrong here and what will the Wardens do to make it right to Mr. Bucek's family? Do they know that he had a son? Do they care? None of these questions are rhetorical, I hope Williams and Harper will answer them.
Alexandria Lee	I was so upset to learn that the Jail and its commissary providers have been over-charging incarcerated people for so long. Have the prices been adjusted since last month?
Michael Ginyard, Jr.	[submitted on behalf of Mr. Ginyard.] Mr. Ginyard has been experiencing severe nerve pain in his feet since June 2020, most likely due to diabetic neuropathy. Despite submitting at least 15 sick call requests between June and October 2020 he was not seen by the Jail's medical clinic until 10/13/20. He was told he has pre-diabetes and was prescribed metformin, but had to wait several more months before that prescription was actually filled. He is taking metformin now but isn't helping with the pain. At present Mr. Ginyard has yet to receive the quality medical care that he is constitutionally guaranteed. He wrote to the Oversight Board last year but never received a response; I hope the Board will contact him now and help if they can.
Chris Anthony	Has the Board been able to do a walkthrough yet?
Amber Riazzi	Hi, I was asking about pest control again last month. My issue is that the Warden says the exterminators do the entire facility every single week, while the contract only requires them to do the housing pods every other week. The Warden's insistence that Complete Pest Solutions is doing twice as much work for no additional fee rings false, especially when one considers that the Health Department found rat droppings during a recent inspection and that kitchen staff frequently report pest infestations. To put it bluntly, I think the Warden is lying. I don't think this issue can wait any longer-- I'm sure none of you would want your loved ones eating even a single meal prepared in a kitchen you've been told is swarming with rats and roaches.
In Memoriam	Martin Bucek (7/3/21) * Daniel Pastorek (11/26/20) * John Brady (11/20/20) * Cody Still (10/1/20) * Robert Blake (5/24/20) * Richard Lenhart (4/11/20) * Alfred Cox (12/30/19) * Timothy Pauley (4/11/19) * Edward Davis (1/28/19) * Frank Burkert (12/15/18) * Jeanna Rosenberger (11/6/18) * Dana Abraham (9/9/18) * Alison Taglianetti (4/27/18) * Ross Frye (9/22/17) * Joel Velazquez-Reyes (6/5/17) * Jamie Gettings (4/18/17) * David Black (4/10/17) * James Marasco (10/15/16) * Jeffrey Heil (7/7/16) * Thomas Callen (6/14/16) * John Orlando (3/13/16) * Timothy Leininger (5/21/15) * Monty Crawford, Jr. (5/21/15) * Timothy Haskell (4/14/15) * Frank Smart, Jr. (1/5/15) * Clarence Jewett, Jr. (12/26/14) * Justin Lamb (10/1/14) * and many more.
Ashleigh Coleman	At the June meeting, when asked about who prepares meals for incarcerated people vs who prepares meals for staff, Deputy Williams said that there are "different crews that provide meals because of the environment they are prepared in, different settings." At the July meeting, however, Warden Harper said that the same crew prepares both sets of meals and that they do so using the same facilities. Which is the truth?
John Brady	The Warden said recently that it'll be very difficult to implement the solitary confinement ballot initiative because it will be "taking a lot of tools out of our toolbox". I'd like to inform the Warden that although the Jail's 2020 average monthly population accounted for less than 8% of the statewide total, ACJ was responsible for just under 25% of all Restraint Chair incidents in PA county jails. Maybe Mr. Harper should ask literally any other jail warden for advice on how to use this "tool" less frequently. [all stats from the 2020 PA DOC "County Prison Extraordinary Occurrence Statistics." ACJ avg monthly pop = 1,847, state avg monthly pop = 24,089. ACJ Restraint Chair usages in 2020 = 314, total annual use = 1,278.]
Adam Thiel	A good way for the Board to get more information about food at the Jail could be for them to ask to see the Complaints that incarcerated people have made about food service. The contract with Summit says that they are meant to work with the Jail's Complaint Officer to resolve any issues so the Jail will have all those records. It could be good to get a sense for what issues in particular incarcerated people are having with the food, and see if there are kinds of complaints that come up a lot. Another good way would be to see pictures of the meals being served. Back in June the Warden said that he regularly gets photographs of these meals, so he could share those images with the Board.
Anon N/A	Does the Jail anticipate being in full compliance with the solitary confinement initiative by December? A friend recently went up in front of the PRC committee to discuss getting out of solitary and when he asked when they were planning to let him out a Sergeant told him "probably never." Is that the attitude of the Jail administration too? I need to know that by the end of the year the Restricted Housing Unit will be unoccupied. It's what the people voted for.
Lorenzo Rulli	What is being done to change the 23/1 lockdown it is very traumatic and inmates aren't getting any time out when there isn't enough guards or rec time.

NAME	CONCERN
Madeline McGrady	I work in social services and I continue to feel disturbed and outraged at the reports of practices and conditions inside Allegheny County Jail, in particular with regard to prolonged solitary confinement, lack of mental health care, physical abuse and humiliation, and inadequate food and medical care for incarcerated individuals. This abuse must cease immediately and a thorough, independent full-scale investigation done into the experiences of prisoners and their families with ACJ. Appropriate systems changes must follow. Improving mental health services and incorporating evidence-based information about the impacts of confinement, trauma, and abuse on the psyche into a therapeutic approach is a start.
Brian Englert	Now that the RFP is out for Rethinking the Allegheny County Jail Facility, as a jail employee I'm concerned our union didn't receive a copy of the RFP. Will our input be considered in decision making? We are absolutely stakeholders in this process as the jail doesn't run without us. Will we receive a chance to provide input? We interact with these folks everyday. We know the types of things they'd like to do when they get released. In my 10 years here I've seen millions of dollars in grant money flow into the jail, yet I see the same old programs. Why do we care now about apprenticeship programs when they were denied these for years? If tools were a concern why didn't they bring in programs like Code Academy (training to build apps)
Renee Hoffmann	Thanks to the Jail for posting its Segregated Housing report for June. The only reason listed for placing someone in segregated housing is "Safety." What exactly does that mean? Does that indicate that these people pose an imminent risk of harm to themselves or others? There are 30+ people on this list who spent 30+ days in segregation. One of them has spent a shocking 684 days in segregation. How can anyone be a constant safety risk for almost two years straight? How could a 68 year old woman be dangerous enough to place in total isolation for 30 days? What penological purpose could this possibly serve?
Garret Wassermann	I am very concerned about the poor humanitarian conditions in that jail that never seem to be resolved. For years there have been complaints. I have compiled a list of news articles online about the ACJ alleging poor food quality, poor heating in winter, lack of medical and mental health care, excessive force and brutality, lack of transparency, and poor administration such that employees are quitting; see for details the URL: <a href="https://garretwassermann.medium.com/allegheny-county-jail-warden-harper-should-resign-or-be-removed-from-office-84407a455426">https://garretwassermann.medium.com/allegheny-county-jail-warden-harper-should-resign-or-be-removed-from-office-84407a455426</a> . For these reasons, I am calling on Warden Harper to immediately resign, and if he so refuses, call on County Executive Fitzgerald and the JOB to take action to remove him & fix the problems.
Ashley Campbell	Why aren't cell being cleaned after inmates? Or inmates being tested for covid? Why aren't staff wearing mask?
Jane Doe	Was the union of the correctional officer's notified of this RFP proposal? And if so, who was notified about this RFP proposal? Will this RFP affect the current jobs of correctional officers while trying to re-purpose the jail? Also will there be outside contractors roaming the jail for re-purpose reasons? Will the unions of the officers have any input during this re-purpose stage? * Bonus question: Why do the uniform patches at the ACJ say "prison" if the facility is always referred to as a jail?
Mary Tamilia	Why is proper healthcare not given to inmates (ie mental healthcare, proper medication, therapy) ?