

The monthly meeting of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board, Thursday, October 7, 2021 held as a virtual conference at 4:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honorable Judge Kim Clark

Bethany Hallam

Stephen Pilarski for County Executive Rich Fitzgerald

Abass Kamara

Terri Klein

Judge Beth Lazzara

Chief Deputy Kevin Kraus for Sheriff Mullen (joined after roll call)

County Controller Chelsa Wagner

Others in Attendance:

Warden Harper

Deputy Warden Williams

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Rules

Judge Clark:

God afternoon everyone. Welcome to the monthly meeting of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board. Just to state the rules up front everyone in the meeting will be treated with dignity and respect. There is no exception to that rule. We would like to give everyone an opportunity to be heard at the appropriate time. we are going to start the meeting a little bit differently. We have received a public comment from **Elle H.**, who stated the following:

“Three people who were incarcerated at ACJ died in September: Vinckley Harris, Justin Brady, and a third person whose name has not yet been released. I think the Board should hold a moment of silence at this meeting to honor their deaths, or at the very least say their names so they are entered into the record. It's not right for their deaths to go unremarked.”

I think we should take a moment of silence.

Alright, thank you. I think that was a lovely way to start the meeting. Ms. Moss will not be with us today. She is not feeling well. We wish her a speedy recovery.

3. Community Corrections Reports

A. The Program for Offenders

Judge Clark:

We will start with corrections and then we will do the presentation *(due to Ms. Morris having a work emergency)*

Ms. Michelle Morris:

Thank you so much. I just basically want to say that our census in terms of our clients that are at our ACTA facility and our WHC facility have been increasing. Our numbers are really rising, and we are really glad about that. Right now, about 85% of our staff are fully vaccinated and 85% of our residents are fully vaccinated. We just had one of our staff receive her booster for Pfizer. So, we are working on starting to have staff receive a booster vaccine. Also, we just had our pre-audit on September 23rd and 24th. We did well with that, and we passed our audit.

Judge Clark:

Great. Thank you. Any questions?

B. The Renewal Center

Judge Clark:

Then can we hear from renewal?

Mr. Adam Zak:

Yes. Good afternoon. This is Adam Zach, reporting for Renewal, Inc. Yesterday, on October 6th, representatives from the Allegheny County Jail Collaborative conducted a focus group with six of our re-entrants at our Boulevard of the Allies facility. This in cooperation with the Department of Human Services. Their goal is to receive feedback from individuals residing in alternative housing and how the Jail Collaborative can improve services and support moving forward. We were informed that the meeting went well. They were very appreciative of the feedback they received and the willingness of the men to participate in this focus group. That concludes my report.

Judge Clark:

Thank you. Does anyone have any questions for Mr. Zak?

C. Electronic Monitoring

Judge Clark:

Thank you and last but not least Electronic Monitoring. I thought I saw Steve Esswein on. Are you there? Alright, I thought I saw him on earlier. We will skip that and will come back to Electronic Monitoring. *(Frank Scherer from Probation posted in the chat that he was having issues accessing the talk button via by phone. He said he will answer any questions via chat)*

2. Presentation – Erin Dalton, Director, Allegheny County DHS

Judge Clark:

We will go to Ms. Dalton's presentation. Erin Dalton is the Director at the Allegheny County Department of Human Services.

Ms. Erin Dalton:

Thank you for allowing me to present. I am going to share my screen and some slides. It is a short presentation, so we will have time for some questions after. I just want to give an update on some of the Human Services and Allegheny County Jail training efforts. We have worked with the jail for many years as folks know. We just heard about a focus group that we were doing to get feedback on alternative housing. We do that kind of work inside the jail as well. We also collaborate around training. It has certainly been harder during the pandemic and as things are hopefully getting better, we are kind of doubling down on some of our training efforts. I wanted to give an update. This is a particular type of training that DHS can work with our partners to offer. We see it as a bit of a layered approach with mental health first aid as kind of the first line of defense, first opportunity, that we want everybody in the jail to be trained in. There are people in the jail, jail staff, who are trained and certified in mental health first aid or who are able to do train the trainer but we want to make sure everyone is fully trained and that we have much more opportunity for a train the trainer type approach inside the jail. We are also working on, and again not new, but intensive, at least 4-hour, hopefully for all jail staff, verbal de-escalation training that we are working with partners to reformulate and finalize for post pandemic as we are coming out of the pandemic deployment. Then crisis intervention training, which is a far more advanced, detailed, and longer course. This is 40 plus hours. We will do some planning hopefully and

then roll this out as we get into next calendar year. We likely will probably not offer that to every jail staff but to many within the jail. Then we are going to be open for other ideas. You will see in a second, we applied for a grant from the Justice Department. If we are selected, we will be working with other communities on what might add to this effort, to this approach. I am certainly interested in hearing ideas from you guys as well. That is the basic presentation. I will go into just a tiny bit more detail about each. So mental health first aid is an 8-hour training. Many of you are familiar, certainly Judge Lazzara is. It provides basic education on how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorder, including risk factors and warning signs for mental health concerns and strategies for how to help somebody cope in both a crisis and non-crisis situation. It provides real tools for engaging someone who might be experiencing a panic attack, suicidal thoughts or behaviors, self-injury, psychosis, and so on. That is an 8-hour training and as I mentioned we are hoping to roll that out by the end of the calendar year to all jail staff beginning this month. We will start with Mental Health Department, Intake, Mental Health Pods and Segregation. Then we are going to be offering additional support and spots for a train the trainer opportunity. It is a 3-day training. That will give the jail more capacity to train themselves in an ongoing way. We have 5 ACJ staff who will participate in in that training. I believe that is in November, and we can continue to get folks trained so that they can train others. De-escalation training, again, not new but we are working on how we are going to roll it out this time. We are envisioning this, but it is still in the works, as a 4-hour training. We are in early discussions with the Crisis Training Institute at Western Psych. This kind of training would be a portion of, for example, the CTI's Comprehensive Crisis Management course. Regardless we will work with a very qualified partner to increase the confidence and intervention skills in crisis situations. So again that's why we think it would be helpful to all staff to maximize team effectiveness and cohesion in the midst of a crisis; understanding the impact of trauma and the importance of providing trauma-informed care; identify key factors in the safe resolution of crisis situations; enhance suicide awareness and provide intervention skills; and so on for folks at risk of suicide. This is something we are hoping to get finalized and rolled out to all staff by the by the end of the year as well. Then, as I mentioned, CIT has a much more intensive effort. It is been typically used with law enforcement and public safety officers, but this this type of training could also be used for corrections. It is a 40-hour training and builds on the mental health first aid base. Again, it is much more intensive. It brings best practices to jail staff to effectively intervene and de-escalate for people who have behavioral health symptoms. It includes focus on scenario-based skill training, which can be tailored to the particular and specific conditions in correctional settings and in the ACJ in particular. Then, as I mentioned, the county applied for a BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant to fund the support for planning and implementation of that CIT for corrections. But even if we are not awarded that grant, we will be moving ahead with planning and implementation. We are hopeful and think it would be good to partner alongside other jurisdictions, tailoring it to correctional and particularly jail situations. This is just a bit of the timeline, you see the mental health first aide, working on getting that done in October through December. Verbal de-escalation hopefully getting implemented, someone put this together made for me, so hopefully maybe we can be complete by November but that is a pretty aggressive timeline. So hopefully though by the end of the year, getting everybody trained. Then we will be working on more of the train the trainer type work for the mental health first aid. Along with the kind of planning for this CIT adapted to corrections and implementation as we go into next year. This is just a summary of everything I just mentioned. So, I will stop sharing my slides and attempt to turn on my camera to take any questions or comments.

Judge Clark:

Does anyone have any questions? Ms. Hallam?

Ms. Hallam:

I just wanted to thank you and everyone at DHS for taking the initiative on having an active role in training at the jail. Especially in regard to mental health crises. My question would be after the training is completed will there be any tracking done to see how the training has been implemented, how it is been used, anything like that?

Ms. Erin Dalton:

I think that is a good idea. One of the things that I want to make sure we have in place is ongoing tracking to make sure that we do not fall behind. So that it is the case that everyone is always trained, and we are doing refreshers as needed. We should definitely be tracking who is received it, last time they received it, making sure we are tracking certifications. We are happy to get feedback just like you know you heard we gather feedback at the alternative housing facility. We can gather feedback, certainly I know at the end of these courses there is the kind of satisfaction with the training and whether they think it will help them in their jobs. There are follow-up surveys we can do from that too and take a look at that. The University of Pittsburgh I think did that for the Bureau of Police for many years. So, there is a model for that, and we can take a look at whether that would work here.

Ms. Hallam:

Awesome. I am really excited to see how everything goes. Thank you again. If we, as a board, can be of any help whatsoever just let us know.

Judge Clark:

Ms. Klein?

Ms. Klein:

Thank you again, Erin, for doing that and including Western Psych. I think we are lucky as a community to have a world class institution and taking advantage of their skills. My question is, are you able to share the PowerPoint with us just so we could go back.

Ms. Erin Dalton:

Absolutely. I will get it over to Greg and Judge Clark.

Ms. Klein:

Thanks.

Judge Clark:

Any other questions? Alright, thank you Ms. Dalton. It is exciting. We are looking forward to seeing the result.

4. Review of Minutes from September 2, 2021 and September 20, 2021

Judge Clark:

The next item on the agenda is a review of the minutes. There were 2 sets of minutes that were sent out, the minutes from the September 2nd meeting and from the September 20th special meeting of the board. Again, much thanks to Ms. Carroll who does a yeoman's job at pulling it all together and getting it out to the board in such a timely fashion. At this time, I will entertain any additions, corrections, or a motion.

Ms. Hallam:

Moved.

Judge Clark:

Is there a second?

Judge Lazzara:

Second.

Judge Clark:

Any discussion? Any questions? All those in favor?

Others:

Aye

Judge Clark:

Any opposed? The minutes are approved. Again, with thanks to Ms. Carroll.

The board unanimously approved a motion by Ms. Hallam, duly seconded by Judge Lazzara, to receive the Jail Oversight Board Meeting Minutes from September 2, 2021 and September 20, 2021.

5. Old Business

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

Judge Clark:

At this time, we are going to go to old business and see if there is any update from the Incarcerated Individual's Welfare Fund subcommittee. Judge Lazzara?

Judge Lazzara:

Unfortunately, because of many scheduling conflicts among everybody and the fact that we had 2 board meetings this month, we had a hard time getting together as a subcommittee. We will certainly do a better job of it next month. I did receive an update on the Pitt survey. Actually, Brad Korinski was very kind to provide that update for me. So, I do not know Brad, if you just want to give that.

Mr. Korinski:

Hello Judge Lazzara. Hello Board. Brad Korinski, Public Information Officer of the IIWF. I had some really positive emails from the folks at Pitt, who are working really diligently in preparing the survey results. First of all, we had a really good response to the survey. I think a lot of credit for that goes the jail administration and the Warden, who really worked very diligently in getting the survey out. The Pitt School of Social Work was pleased with the detail of the responses. They will be putting together in the next month the results for the board to see. Then I expect there will be something that we will share with the public and the jail administration. From what I have seen thus far, I think it will be very constructive to give us good insight on how we can a better spend the IIWF monies. So, thanks to everybody involved. Again, they were very appreciative of the work that everyone in the jail did with them to help complete the survey and what they really found to be was unexpectedly very easy to do. So, all the hurdles that we had anticipated, I think the jail work very well to ease us through that. Thanks to everyone and look to have more on that shortly.

Judge Lazzara:

We certainly really appreciate all the work that that everybody did to get the survey done and we cannot wait to see the results. We think that it is going to be really important results that will help guide us as we move forward in terms of how that fund is used. So, we are very excited about it. I am sorry Terri I cut you off.

Ms. Klein:

No that is ok. I just wanted to add that Dean Farmer I think was surprised at the amount that got included in the free text space. It seems like the residents at the jail are really giving a lot of information in that she has had to

add people to help do data entry. We thought we would have the results by now. I think she was just kind of, I do not want to say overwhelmed, but unexpected with the amount of material.

Judge Clark:

Great. That is very exciting. A lot to look forward to. Does anyone have any questions for Judge Lazzara or any other of the members of the committee?

Ms. Wagner:

I just have to say how much I applaud Terri for really digging in and getting us all in this direction on this and all of this work. So, thank you Terri.

Judge Clark:

Anybody else?

Ms. Hallam:

Yeah, I just have a question. Do we know if there was anyone who was excluded from the opportunity to participate in the survey and if so for what reason? Anyone who wants to answer that.

Mr. Korinski:

Bethany, I know we were concerned about that. I do not believe that categorically there was. I cannot answer for all of the 1,600 residents who may have filled out a survey, if they did not get the chance or not but I do not think there was anyone intentionally excluded. I think the attempt was to get every single person doing the survey. Now whether that happened or not for various reasons, I do not know, but I think both jail administration and Pitt tried to get 100%.

Ms. Hallam:

Awesome. Thank you so much.

Judge Clark:

Thank you. Anything else Judge Lazzara?

Judge Lazzara:

We are looking forward to having a meeting as soon as we have some more information from Pitt. We will be working on that and our other pet project of the liaison position and will have certainly a lot more to report next month.

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

Judge Clark:

Thank you. Next, we will move to Warden Harper for an update on the policy for Polycom devices to be used for meetings with other providers. Warden Harper?

Warden Harper:

Good afternoon board. I want to apologize to you because I initially told you that the policy was going to be completed by this Jail Oversight Board meeting. We ran into some technical difficulties, so the policy is not completed. The issue is the scheduling portion of the policy. We were trying to come up with a way in which the

professional visitors can schedule the appointments from their computers and we are just having some difficulty. Hopefully, we can have that taken care of by the next Jail Oversight Board meeting.

C. Update on Plan to Resume Visitations in the Jail

Judge Clark:

Thank you. We will move to, is there any update on a plan to resume visitation in the jail? There were a few public comments that asked the question of when will visitation resume. Can you shed any light on that Warden?

Warden Harper:

We do not feel comfortable and having visitation in jail right now but as soon as we feel that it is safe, with consultation with the Health Department, we will resume visitation.

Judge Clark:

Ms. Hallam?

Ms. Hallam:

Is there anybody coming into the jail right now, like for any programs? Anyone outside of legal representation? Is there anyone coming into the jail?

Deputy Warden Williams:

We still have program service providers that have been employed by the facility that have worked throughout the pandemic, but we have not utilized all of the contracted partners or the volunteers we are used to. So, we still maintained some services, just in a very reduced amount, and we have been restricted either to the level gymnasiums or the housing units themselves.

Ms. Hallam:

Are any specific metrics being used? I know you said you do this in consultation with the Health Department. But are there any specific metrics, like when cases in the county go below a certain metric, when vaccination rates hit a certain number? Are there any specific metrics that we can be looking out for to know that jail visits will be resuming when we hit a certain point?

Deputy Warden Williams:

It has been fluid the entire time. I can say that we are trying to establish what that metric would be. As you have noted, and we have seen the case counts in the county are reducing. Vaccines are increasing. So, we are seeing that in our institution as well. We have a lower-case count in our institution, but it is only been about a week where we have seen those numbers. So, as we know with the incubation period that this is not enough of a timeline that we can make the determination to reduce restrictions but we are very hopeful as we continue to increase the vaccination that we are very close to being able to resume some of the normalcy in the institution.

Judge Clark:

Thank you. Any other questions or comments?

Judge Lazzara:

I believe that JRS is also able to come in to do in-person interviews with folks, especially if they cannot get the on the Polycom things. That has been quite helpful.

Deputy Warden Williams:

Just to confirm that, Judge Lazzara, you are absolutely right. Anybody who is assisting us in getting individuals into our Alternatives to Incarceration we have been working with, either through video or in-person visits.

Judge Clark:

Great. Thank you. Anything else?

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

Judge Clark:

Alright. Then I would ask Warren Harper is there any update on the plan regarding the solitary confinement ban ballot referendum?

Warden Harper:

What I would like to advise the board again is about our prohibition against using the restraint chair beginning December 5th. One of the things that we are going to do to ensure the safety of our inmates, and I want to give you guys some data before I do that. In 2020, there were 674 individuals placed in a suicide gown and 374 of those individuals were placed in a suicide gown in our intake department. The restraint chair was very important to the jail to keep these individuals safe. Starting December 5th, we will not be able to utilize the restraint chair. I want to advise the board again that we are purchasing padded cells. The padded cells will be utilized to keep these individuals safe. I just want to keep the board apprised about us purchasing the padded cells to keep these individuals safe. So far this year, in 2021, there has been 434 individuals that have been placed in a suicide gown. Out of the 434, 232 took place in our intake department. I just want to give you guys some data as to why we need the padded cells, since we cannot utilize the restraint chair. That is all I have on an update with the compliance of Chapter 205.

Judge Clark:

Warden, will the padded cells be in different places in the jail? Because you mentioned that there was a high number of folks placed in suicide gowns in intake. Will there be padded cells in intake and in other places in the jail or will they be put in one location?

Warden Harper:

We will have 3 padded cells located in our Intake Department and various units, such as our mental health unit and segregation units, where we are going to put other padded cells. Yes Ma'am.

Judge Clark:

Thank you. Did anyone have any questions? Ms. Wagner?

Ms. Wagner:

Thank you, Judge Clark, and Warden Harper. First, I think it is really helpful, Warden Harper, for you sharing with us some of those statistics because I think as we all are aware all parts of the referendum really did come about because of what was known publicly as a use of force problem in our jails. I think other than Mr. Korinski, who had come down to the jail to be able to view all of their restraint chair uses because that at the time was the only way that information was made available to us as a board. He took the assignment, thankfully, on our behalf, and went there and was able to view them to report back. I would just like to say, to the extent that we can continue this. It is very helpful for us to have the statistics and some of this context on use of force numbers in different areas within the jail. Again, I appreciate hearing some numbers and would certainly like to see more. I would also

just add just for one point of clarification that I think is important since our last meeting that when we heard from Mr. Rainey, who did talk about the restraint chair, I think it is really important to clarify that he was talking about it as a best practice, for lack of a better term, as it pertained to transport and not as it pertained elsewhere. I do not think that is an issue, but I thought it was an important clarification to make here. Thank you.

Judge Clark:

Thank you. Ms. Hallam, did you have your hand up?

Ms. Hallam:

I did. Thank you, Judge Clark. I just have a couple questions about the reporting mechanism that have already started for the solitary. The first thing is how do you track the duration of someone held in solitary? Do you complete a form for each day someone held in solitary? Do you track it electronically? If someone was in solitary for August and September, do you have a record of the number of days they were held there for each month? I am just kind of looking for a cumulative number.

Warden Harper:

We are tracking solitary confinement by use of our OMS system.

Ms. Hallam:

Okay, so it is electronic. Is it cumulative?

Warden Harper:

What does that mean, Ms. Hallam?

Ms. Hallam:

For example, if a person was in solitary for August and September, in your September report, are you putting that they have been in there for 30 days? Or are you putting that they have been in there for 60 days?

Warden Harper:

We are putting in the report the monthly totals.

Ms. Hallam:

So, one would have to go back each month in the report and try to match up the demographics from a person in the previous month to the current month in order to keep track of that?

Warden Harper:

We are just reporting the monthly totals, Ms. Hallam.

Ms. Hallam:

Okay, because in the June report, you were reporting cumulative data. I have noticed that has stopped and I am wondering why. For example, I have the June report in front of me, there is someone who was in there for 238 days and 3 hours. That is not all for just June. There is someone who was in there for 148 days and 13 hours, and 684 days and 19 hours. Those are cumulative numbers. Can you explain why you changed your reporting?

Warden Harper:

We changed the reporting in accordance with the referendum. What our understanding was that we were supposed to report the monthly totals. So, if you guys would like to have a cumulative total you could do just as

you said go month-to-month to find out exactly what is going on. But we changed it because we felt as though that is what the Chapter 205 stated.

Ms. Hallam:

Okay. Then my next question is about folks who are in lockdown or solitary. I feel like the whole jail is on solitary right now on 23 and 1 because of COVID but how many times was the entire jail or part of it in lock down due to Covid? The September report that was given by the jail says none. Is that true? Has the 23 and 1 for COVID lockdown stopped?

Warden Harper:

In accordance with the referendum it says got to be locked down for 24 hours. During the month of September there were no pods that were locked down for a total of 24 hours.

Ms. Hallam:

Okay. How many pods were there on a lock down for between 20 and 24 hours?

Warden Harper:

I am just going by what the referendum says. I cannot give you that response.

Ms. Hallam:

Okay. If someone is in 23 and 1, you do need to report that. Even if it is due to COVID. So how many people have been in 23 and 1 lock down due to Covid?

Warden Harper:

I think the report specified everybody that was in segregation for more than 20 hours in the cell by itself. That report tells you that.

Ms. Hallam:

Right and what am asking is for you to tell me how many people have been locked down on 23 and 1 in the month of September?

Warden Harper:

The September report tells you that Ms. Hallam.

Ms. Hallam:

And can you tell me how many people were in lockdown 23 and 1 for the month of September?

Warden Harper:

I would have to add those on the report up. I have not done that Ma'am. The report is on the website for you to see yourself.

Ms. Hallam:

Okay. So how many pods are not on a COVID lockdown of any sort right now? Are there any pods that have resumed normal out of cell time? And if so, how much time are they getting out of their cell?

Deputy Warden Williams:

We currently do not have any cell units that are on a quarantine or isolation status with the exception of our new admissions to the facility. Our intake housing units are still subject to the routine quarantine procedures. All other housing units right now are under normal operations. They are permitted to have 15 individuals and 2 incarcerated workers out at all times.

Ms. Hallam:

How many hours a day are all of the people on a pod allowed out of their cells?

Deputy Warden Williams:

It varies on the population for the housing unit Ma'am. If the housing unit has 40 individuals on it, they can continue to rotate their time out of cell as everybody is able to get out. It is difficult for us to provide that as the population continues to change.

Ms. Hallam:

So, the only people who are on an actual quarantine lockdown of any sort right now are the folks who are, if you could clarify it again, coming in from intake or in a specific quarantine protocol?

Deputy Warden Williams:

Yes. Every new admission to this facility is subject to their 14 days of quarantine. We do practice isolation for those that are first coming in until they received two negative tests within the facility as we were having so many new admissions from the community come in and test positive within days of being here. So, to keep them separate and reduce disease spread they have been on an isolation status. They are then reduced to quarantine. Once they have met their 14-day quarantine and have another negative test, then they are released to a general population status. We do still of course maintain isolation status for those that are known positive, known exposures until they have met their quarantine period, or have symptoms and have tested negative.

Warden Harper:

But I just want to clarify to make sure that we are clear, the September reports indicate all individuals that have been in a cell for more than 20 hours. That is every cell block at the Allegheny County Jail. That is what the September report is showing.

Ms. Hallam:

So you are saying that the reports that we have been getting, sorry I don't want to speak for everyone, the reports that I've been getting that folks are not getting more than three hours out of their cell at a time, those are false? Every single person except for the categories that you just mentioned: positive cases, confirmed exposure, or intake there is no one that is not getting at least 3 to 4 hours out of the cell a day?

Warden Harper:

I am saying that no one is getting more than 4 hours out of cell time is what I am saying.

Ms. Hallam:

But is everyone getting at least 3 to 4 hours out of their cell a day?

Warden Harper:

Everybody is at least getting an hour out of cell time and that is what the report is saying.

Ms. Hallam:

Right, but that was my original question is how many people were on 23 and 1. That would be the one hour out of their cell a day. You were saying that is not true and that most people are getting more than that. So, what I want to know is how many people are not getting at least 3 to 4 hours out of their cell a day?

Warden Harper:

I am not going to be able to give you those exact numbers, Ms. Hallam. What I can tell you is the report is showing everybody that was in segregation and that is every cell block.

Ms. Hallam:

Okay, thank you.

Judge Clark:

Any other questions or comments? Alright, thank you.

6. Public Comments

Judge Clark:

We are going to go to public comments now. I just want to thank everyone for the public comments and for your interest and concern about our residents who are residing in the county jail.

A. Terri Minor-Spencer

"How long has the youth been without Hot Water? And what are the plans to fix this inhumane issue?"

And

Kyna James

"The community has been informed that the youth does not have hot water. Hot water is not a privilege, it is a necessity. It is a part of every day hygiene, and with us on the verge of winter this should not be an issue. Do they not deserve the necessary basics in life? The community is asking that you fix this problem immediately. On another note the illegal voting by proxy on the Jail Oversight Board comes into question. The persons elected to oversee the operations in the Allegheny County Jail should be the only ones voting on matters pertaining to the jail. We are also still waiting on the independent investigator to be hired at ACJ. Will you tell us what is taking so long? Why hasn't anyone been hired?"

And

Adam Jones

"There should be no proxy voting. Also there should be hot running water at every facility at least during the shower time."

And

Sydney Allen

*"I am an alum of CMU's public policy program, and I recently learned that youth at ACJ told a community representative that their two immediate needs were activities and *hot water.* This is outrageous - the whole of the city has ready access to hot water and the fact that ACJ is failing to provide anyone, especially youth, with something so basic is completely unacceptable. Fix this!"*

Judge Clark:

There were a number of comments that dealt with the conditions in the jail. Specifically, there were a number of comments that dealt with a lack of hot water in the jail, particularly in the juvenile pod. I do not know, Warden, if you could comment on the situation with the hot water in the jail.

Warden Harper:

As with every house and building there are times in which you have water issues. Once these issues are brought to our attention, we work to address these issues. Activities on the juvenile pod, such as school, still continues. The jail does have hot water but there are times, just like in your own home, when you have maintenance issues, where you have to get maintenance to go in and fix it. That is just what happened. There was an issue. It was abated.

Judge Clark:

So, the hot water situation has been corrected. Is that correct?

Warden Harper:

Yes Ma'am.

B. Ryan Miller

"Has the jail been on 23/1 since March 2020? OR how much out of cell time are prisoners currently permitted? How does that compare to the past 18 months? When does the administration plan to lift out-of-cell time restrictions? When will visitations resume at the jail? When will outside programming, like education or volunteer / religious groups, be permitted to enter the jail again?"

Judge Clark:

I think there has been enough discussion about the 23/1. It has essentially some of the same questions that Ms. Hallam had but there are a couple of other questions. I think all of those questions actually have been answered in the discussion and as I stated there were a number of citizens who wrote about the resuming visitation.

C. T Smith

"I was recently incarcerated in the Allegheny County Jail for 26 hours, during my short stint in processing I was subjected to extremely unsanitary conditions, inadequate access to healthcare for sensitive groups of inmates and overwhelmed guards. Some inmates had been in processing for 2-3 days because their weren't enough healthcare professionals to complete the screenings. I was sometimes in a small cell with 10-15 people which was extremely unsettling during a COVID time. The conditions got so bad that while we were complaining to the guards, a female c/o empathized and begged us to instruct our families to call the news. Even instructing us on what to tell our families to say. The Allegheny County Jail is a liability to the taxpayer."

Judge Clark:

I know that in later in the agenda we have done some inspections and I am going to ask the board members who did go to the jail to share with their observations. There is no question in this comment, but I do not know whether the Warden or Chief Williams or anyone wants to make any comment on that. I was reading it because I thought it was an important comment to read.

Deputy Warden Williams:

I think it is important for us to provide a comment because there have been a volume of times when there's been a slew of new arrests that were not anticipating come in around the same time when we have a volume in intake that exceeds what we are typically used to. Those things absolutely happen. We do not control the rate in which individuals come into our institution. We do the best that we can as this happens. As a mitigation factor, we test individuals as soon as they come into the intake cell. So, we are completing a rapid antigen test then and there to make sure that if we have anybody who is symptomatic or potentially positive that we are making sure those individuals are separated out. We are also testing individuals in the back of intake as well once they have been booked if they are deemed that they were going to stay within the facility. It is a continuous flow. The intake staff

works exceedingly hard with a population of persons who are going through different levels of distress. It is not an enjoyable experience to come to incarceration. It is very stressful. People are very worried about what they may be facing in their own personal life, legal circumstances, they may or may not be intoxicated, or they may or may not be detoxing. I think that we have acknowledged throughout the last year and a half, at least, that there have been shifts when we have had staffing compromises due to our own quarantine or staff positive rates. At no point do I want to invalidate the experience that somebody may have had but I would state that is not the norm and the intake staff work exceedingly hard to make this area as safe as possible. I would object to the unsanitary conditions. We have incarcerated individual workers, who are also biohazard qualified, that have dedicated an enormous amount of their time to keeping that area as clean as possible. The cells are routinely vacated and cleaned extensively. We have brought in certain equipment called Bactronix machines that can do the disinfecting of these areas as well. So, I would like to dispute some of the terms that were used in that comment without invalidating the challenges that are faced in that area.

Judge Clark:

Thank you, Ms. Hallam?

Ms. Hallam:

Yeah, those specialized workers that Deputy Warden Williams mentioned that are trained in the biohazard and cleaning, are those specialized workers paid?

Deputy Warden Williams:

No, ma'am.

Ms. Hallam:

Okay, thank you for that.

D. Malcolm Durrige

"I would like to thank the Board for voting to cease the CSAU training. In the future, can the Jail submit proposed contracts to the Board for approval to avoid this kind of situation?"

And

Rachel Linner

"When are cell extractions necessary? It seems like there would be very few situations when a person needs to be physically removed from a cell immediately."

Judge Clark:

So, if we could hear from the Warden or Deputy Warden, particularly about the cell extractions. I think it would be important for folks to understand under what circumstances would cell extractions be necessary or warranted.

Warden Harper:

Cell extractions are done to ensure the safety of the inmate, others, and for the orderly operation of the facility.

Judge Clark:

Can you give us an example, so someone could easily understand, like when that actually might occur?

Warden Harper:

So, say, for example, you have an individual that is suffering from a mental health crisis in the cell. He smeared feces all over the place, urine all over the cell and he is refusing to come out the cell for any reason. Medical staff

supervisors that have tried to de-escalate the individual and get him handcuffed, so he can get the psychiatric evaluation that he needs and he refused to come in. Normally, what we would do is use chemical agents and 9 times out of 10 they will come out. But, you know, after December 5th, we will not be able to use the chemical agent. A cell extraction team will have to be formed to get the individual out and to get the individual the help that they need.

Judge Clark:

Thank you, Ms. Wagner?

Ms. Wagner:

Thank you and thank you Warden. I thought that example was also helpful. I would just love if you could even give us other examples because I think this is one of these issues that is really at the heart. When we are talking about where we have some limitations here because of not having access to data and stats, I think that understanding how the jail has been in different scenarios been using cell extractions is very important here. So, if you are willing to even site a couple more examples. I think it is a very good question from the public and I think this is really informative.

Warden Harper:

You got an inmate that has just come into our facility that has tried to harm himself, stabbing himself, and using something to stab and harm himself. He is refusing to come out for whatever reason because he is having mental health issues or having drug and alcohol issues. He is continuously trying to harm himself using whatever he is using. He is refusing to come out the cell with verbal commands. Therefore, we got to get a cell extraction team, that is fully suited up to protect the officers, to go inside the cell to restrain the individual.

Judge Clark:

Thank you, Warden Harper. Ms. Hallam?

Ms. Hallam:

Can you explain any situations that do not involve potential self-harm where a cell extraction would be used?

Deputy Warden Williams:

Again, this is related to mental health needs. Obviously, we cannot do on-site competency restoration. You require specific staff and or licenses to be able to do so. We will transfer individuals to Torrance State Hospital. These are individuals who have either not complied with medication or responded to treatment recommendations, who will need to go to another specialized center to receive those services. You may imagine that they may not be willing or interested in going for that. So, we have unfortunately had to extract individuals to get them to the appropriate setting for treatment. There are also some individuals who might be prescribed medications over objection. So when did deemed clinically appropriate, which in the in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requires 2 licensed physicians, psychiatrists, to cosign that it is in the patient's best interest to receive medications over objection as the basis of their treatment protocols. That may be another way that we would be providing cell extraction. As you can see a large number of the different examples that we have utilized to deal with the populations of those that are acutely mentally ill may be deemed incompetent to make decisions on their own behalf, or needing emergent treatment or attention due to their own self harm and behavior.

Ms. Hallam:

Are there any situations where you are using cell extractions where mental health is not a factor?

Warden Harper:

Absolutely. You might have 2 individuals in a cell that start fighting. So, one of the individuals is compliant and that individual being required to get on the box and cover your head. We ask the individuals that is not complying to come to the cell. They do not. So therefore, we may have the use the cell extraction team to get that individual. So just 2 individuals fighting and 1 being non-compliant or both being non-compliant.

Judge Clark:

Thank you. Ms. Wagner? Did you have another question?

Ms. Hallam:

I am sorry, one more thing. What is the standard wait time before you send this cell extraction team in? From the time you are made aware of an incident to the time the cell extraction actually begins. Can you give us a time frame on the ideal time that you wait before deploying that method?

Warden Harper:

You cannot give a time. It is going to be dependent upon the situation. If you got 2 individuals fighting each other, we have got to do what we have to do to protect those individuals. So, no we cannot give you a time.

Ms. Hallam:

Okay. There is no policy at the jail surrounding a specific period of time that you should wait before deploying a cell extraction?

Warden Harper:

Ms. Hallam, I just said there is no specific time. It depends on the urgency of the situation.

Ms. Hallam:

Okay, thank you.

Judge Clark:

Ms. Wagner?

Ms. Wagner:

Sorry, thank you. Just a follow up that I think might be helpful for us to understand this. I think the detail that you are providing Warren Harper is extremely helpful to all of us, as I mentioned before, but as you have continued as well. I would presume that there is a policy on our cell extractions. I am not sure in what form but some statistics of the cell extractions, reports and so forth. What I would like to ask is that, even if for next month to Judge Clark, if we might be able to entertain a short executive session where we would be able to review some of that information?

Judge Clark:

Well anything is possible, but I can say my calendar is really jam packed. We can talk about that and see if we can do that, but I do not know whether that is something that the Warden could just report on without having an executive session. I will talk to Warden Harper about that. If it needs an executive session, I will try to schedule it. If he can present a report for the board at the next meeting without that, then we can talk about whether he can do that.

Ms. Wagner:

I appreciate it. I would like to just see a way that we can view some of the reports that would be with respect to cell extractions. I was just suggesting an executive session because I know there is always a concern with any of the policies reviewed by us and how they are accessible to us.

Judge Clark:

I understand that part. I will talk to the warden about it and then we will see what we can set up if we need to. Thank you. Any other questions?

E. Daniel Jackson

“John Brady died in ACJ's custody in November 2020. Why didn't the jail report his death to the JOB? What is the JOB doing to ensure that all the people who die in ACJ's custody whether they are at the jail or after they are transported to the hospital are reported and investigated?”

And

Martin Bucek

“Martin Bucek died on July 3rd and the cause of death has still not been reported. The Medical Examiner completed the investigation weeks (if not months) ago. What happened?”

Judge Clark:

There were a number of comments about the deaths that occurred in the jail. I would just ask the Warden to talk about what happens when someone dies at the jail. I know that there does appear to be an investigatory procedure. How does that happen? Does the jail receive information back from the medical examiner on cause of death and whether that's something that the jail is permitted to release to the public or even to the board? If you could talk about that a little bit.

Warden Harper:

First of all, I want to send my condolences out to anybody's family members that have passed away at our jail and at our local hospitals. Of course, there is an investigation done by our county police anytime we have an individual that does pass away at our jail or at the hospital. So, an investigation is done. As far as notification from the medical examiner, you wanted to talk a little bit about that (*speaking to Deputy Warden Williams*)?

Deputy Warden Williams:

We do have communications with the Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner. I believe that I have reported in past meetings that we do not have the finalized report. Cause and manner are typically something that is not released by our entity but could be released by the Medical Examiner's Office. We do have a preliminary or provisional, but we are not permitted to state that because it is not finalized. I was able to say, because it was alleged that Mr. Bucek's death was a result of suicide, and I did report that it was not, even a provisional diagnosis at the time. It is very difficult for us, when we are not the owner of this, to be able to provide finalization, but if and when we can we certainly will. In your first part of the question you had also asked about the jail's reporting of individuals in our custody. I think it is very difficult to define. It seems like people want us to do something other than what we can legally do. So, if somebody is in our custody and we send them to a local hospital, and they are no longer within our legal custody. I am not speaking about the physical presence within our building, but they are no longer incarcerated. So they've not been in our legal custody anymore which is a determination made by the courts, not by us, we do not have the right to the protected health information of that individual and we do not have the right to report on that individual. When we have been able to, we have made report immediately with the details the circumstances as best we can. Always having deference to the next of kin being notified because we find that that is the most important notification that needs to be made. I recognize that there are

frustrations and there has been disagreement over the last several months and plenty of opinions and commentary but legally we release what we are able to.

Warden Harper:

I want to thank all of my employees, the health care team, and the correction officers, for just identifying individuals that need more extensive care than what we can do inside a jail. I want to commend all of my employees for the work that they do.

Judge Clark:

Thank you. Ms. Hallam?

Ms. Hallam:

You mentioned the term legal custody. Can you please define what you mean when you say legal custody?

Deputy Warden Williams:

Certainly. When our facility receives what is known as a 6A release, we no longer have legal custody of that individual, meaning that they are not considered an incarcerated individual anymore. So legally they are not on our count and they are not somebody that is recognized as an inmate or a remand to our facility.

Ms. Hallam:

Is that a court action that has to come from the Judge on that person's case or who can do that 6A?

Deputy Warden Williams:

Typically, the Judge assigned to that case. It could be any Judge though that issues that. It is a court order.

Ms. Hallam:

Is that the only thing and is that required in order to say that a person is released from the ACJ custody or are there other ways where they could be determined being released from custody?

Deputy Warden Williams:

To be a permanent release from our institution, we would typically receive a 6A in order to do that, but you could have a temporary release. We would absolutely report on those individuals who are a temporary relief because they would still be considered legally within our care.

Ms. Hallam:

Who determines a temporary release? Is that the court as well?

Deputy Warden Williams:

A temporary release, and there are many different circumstances, so I will provide one just to give example. It could be somebody who has multi-jurisdictional involvement. Perhaps they have charges within Allegheny County, Westmoreland County, and Washington County. They have not yet finalized their legal obligations in Allegheny County, but they are temporarily housed in Westmoreland County to deal with their legal obligations there. Another temporary release, just one more example, could be somebody who is in alternative housing. They are still considered to be incarcerated but they are not in our physical building they would still count as part of our legal custody.

Ms. Hallam:

So, I want to make sure I have this right. So, if they are on a temporary release from custody then you would report a hospitalization or death to us. But if they have a 6A where the charges were dismissed, or they were released or whatever it was from ACJ custody we would not get a report on that under any circumstances. Is that incorrect?

Deputy Warden Williams:

No, that is correct. One of the notifications within this last month with somebody who was hospitalized for a significant period of time related to COVID-19, who passed away. So that was reported. They were temporarily released but they were still legally our individual.

Ms. Hallam:

Okay. So, if there is another situation, someone overdoses at the jail, or has another medical condition, is transferred to a hospital where maybe a week later they pass away. Would we still get a report on that? I am trying to figure out when there are deaths or hospitalizations at the jail that we are not being informed of, and when there are deaths or hospitalizations at the jail that we are being informed of. If you could just kind of draw a clear line in that for me.

Deputy Warden Williams:

There are no deaths in the facility that you have not been made advised of. Any person who has been declared dead within this facility, that has been an immediate notification. I don't know how to say this in a different fashion other than there are people who may be released from our care, we have a quick release process, we are a central booking agency, people experience their preliminary arraignment here, they could be released, and within the next couple of days could be hospitalized. We do send individuals to the hospital, where the magistrate determines that they are a ROR or a non-monetary bond release, that do not have to come back to the facility. They are released. I do not have any outcomes on those individuals when they are not in our legal custody because I am not entitled to that information. I do not know how to give you the answer that you are seeking.

Ms. Hallam:

No, I mean, you pretty much answered it. I appreciate that. I would say my last question about this, is there ever a time where the jail requests 6A from the court or from a Judge? How does that 6A come about? Does the jail ever request it?

Deputy Warden Williams:

I have made many requests for releases for individuals who are more appropriate in alternatives to incarceration. Judge Lazzara could back me that she and I were discussing a case. This is not somebody who is at imminent risk but an alternative to incarceration would be appropriate. There are also times when there is somebody who is severely or critically ill. When somebody is incarcerated, and in the hospital, they are subject to reduced access to their family. If somebody is imminently or severely critically ill, we do find that it is appropriate if the courts are willing to consider that family be able to be involved without any supervision of law enforcement. That way they can continue to make those determinations. There have been a number of circumstances in which the jail has advocated for the release of individuals and we will continue to do so.

Ms. Hallam:

Okay. Thank you very much.

Chief Deputy Kraus:

This is Kevin Kraus from the Sheriff's Office. I just want to be clear. Once a resident of the county jail is sent to a hospital, we take custody of that person. They are still in primary custody of the county jail. I just want to clarify that.

Judge Clark:

Thank you.

F. Adam Jones

"There should be no proxy voting. Also there should be hot running water at every facility at least during the shower time."

And

Laura Perkins

"Voting by Proxy - It is my understanding that under Title 61, Section 1723, only the president of county council can send a designee to the J.O.B.; and that that designee should be the only designee with voting privileges. The County Executive, Controller, Sheriff, the two judges, and the three community members do not have the authority to send voting proxies. If a member of the J.O.B. is unable to attend a meeting and wants to send someone to observe the meeting, that person has the right to listen and comment just like any other member of the public. But the president of county council's designee is the only proxy that has the right to speak and vote at Jail Oversight Board Meetings. Can the President Judge confirm or deny this?"

And

Cecilia Torres

"My question is basically for Judge Clark: Why do you continue to allow certain members to send someone else in their place when the regulations clearly state that only the president judge (which currently is you) and the County Council President are allowed to send a designee? For you to continue to say that you will allow it because you have allowed it in the past is just not correct!! As the saying goes, "Two wrongs don't make a right"! You are doing a disservice to the residents of Allegheny County by not following the rules and by not holding members accountable to the regulations set forth by the Commonwealth of PA."

Judge Clark:

Then there were a number of questions and comments, which I will put under the heading of proxy voting. I will say the statute is pretty clear. There has been some history of people sending designees and for many years it did not seem to be an issue. I will say, a designee is different than a proxy. A proxy is, if I cannot attend a meeting and I know there is going to be a vote then in writing I could ask another member to vote for me. I cannot tell that person how to vote but I can ask that person to vote for me. That would be another member of the board. So if I had to miss the meeting and there was a vote, I could, for example, ask Judge Lazzara, "could you be my proxy on that vote?" There are no bylaws for this board. In most meetings, in many boards, typically, proxies are allowed for another board member to issue a proxy. That is different than a designee, who would sit for you. I had a previous stint on the board back when Judge James was the President Judge and I was his designee. There were many times historically that board members, and I would say that the public official board members, have had people served for them. So that is what it is. I have not felt a reason to change it. So that is the issue. That is all I can say about that, I mean that it has been historically that has happened for many years. No one up until recently has made an issue of it or asked to change it. So that is all I can say about it. Yes, Ms. Hallam?

Ms. Hallam:

Can you point to where in the statute that authorizes the Jail Oversight Board that it says that proxies are allowed?

Judge Clark:

There is nothing in there, but I would say, typically, for boards, unless there is a bylaw or something that says that you cannot have a proxy, many boards in meetings have proxies. We do it for Board of Judges meetings, for example, if the Judge can't be at a Board of Judges meeting, another Judge will give a written proxy that whoever is convening the meeting can review and understand that another member has that proxy right to cast a vote for that person. If I had asked Judge Lazzara to be my proxy, I cannot tell her how to vote. She has to vote however she wants to vote on the issue, but I could ask for a proxy. There is nothing in the statute that says it but there is nothing in the statute that says it cannot happen. That is all I am saying. Ms. Hallam?

Ms. Hallam:

Yeah, I would just like to point out that it does specify the 2 members of the board who were allowed to have designees.

Judge Clark:

What I am saying is designees are different than proxies. I could ask Ms. Klein to be my proxy. Another person that is on the board, I could ask to be my proxy. So, I could ask you to be my proxy. If I could not come to a meeting, I can call you or send you an email and say, "Ms. Hallam, I can't come to the meeting. I know that you have a motion that you are presenting on the floor. Would you be my proxy because I would like my vote to be cast?". I could do that. That is different than a designee. I am just making the distinction. We are using the word proxy when we mean designee. Those are 2 very different things. That is all I am saying.

Ms. Hallam:

I would just like to for the record say that I have read the entire statute that authorizes the Jail Oversight Board, there is no mention of proxies, whatsoever. I would argue that they are not allowed and just because of prior wrong actions allowing them, does not mean that they should continue in the future.

Judge Clark:

Well I disagree because reading Robert's Rules of Orders, I think proxies are appropriate, if another board member. So, I would disagree with that. I think it is different than a designee. If I have to miss a meeting, I might not want to send a designee, even though I guess I could send it designee. I probably would not but if I wanted to vote on that I would probably ask another board member to vote and be my proxy. That would make the most sense to me. Rather than asking a designee, someone who has never been to any one of these meetings to show up and then cast a vote about something that we may have been discussing for months. I would rather have confidence in the people attending these meetings to be my proxy. I am just answering the questions that are posed. Any other comments or questions? Thank you.

G. Mental Health/Food Comments and Questions

Judge Clark:

There were some questions that deal with mental health and there were some about the food. I am going to leave those for another part in the agenda, when we get to Chief Williams report and when we have some comments from the board members about the unannounced visits.

H. John Kenstowicz

"The apparent conflict between Warden Harper and some members of the JOB that has been amplified in the media boils down in part to who knows what is best for the jail. The JOB has the opportunity to fundamentally change this conflict by increasing their knowledge of the jail by hiring the liaison. The value of hiring the liaison is

not only based in resolving complaints, it is also based in the knowledge the liaison will develop talking with staff and residents and observing operations at the jail. The Board needs to take immediate action and hire the liaison to limit this ongoing conflict. Why can't the Board at least temporarily hire the liaison with funds from the welfare fund while they apply to foundations and government programs?"

Judge Clark:

I think we just have to work out the particulars. I did meet with folks from the Prison Society yesterday about the position and they had some really good ideas, but I have not had a chance to talk to Judge Lazzara about them yet. I will talk to Judge Lazzara about them, so that she can share those ideas with the committee and perhaps invite them to come to a committee meeting. That is all I can really say about that but that is a good question.

I. Richard Engel

"Are there social work services for those incarcerated? Is there anything from the warden to indicate that he is getting the message that the voters are seeking better treatment of people incarcerated in ACJ?"

Judge Clark:

I will ask Chief Williams or Warden Harper to comment.

Deputy Warden Williams:

Yes, there are social work services that are provided within the Allegheny County Jail in a number of different ways. We have position that are called health care social worker. That person is somebody who has been critically important to us. I know that she is gotten shoutouts in past meetings, that's Renee, who is helped with some of our placements of individuals for more appropriate in alternatives to incarceration like skilled nursing facilities or potentially Torrance civil commitments instead of forensic commitments. She works very diligently to do that. We have a discharge and release center. Although, those individuals are not all licensed social workers, that is what they are trying to do is connect them to services. We have discharge planners within the healthcare department. We also have mental health specialists, some who are licensed social workers, who are providing those services and support. Our caseworkers throughout the facility do far more than just liaison work between the courts. They are also assisting in identifying areas for support. Lastly, within our substance use department, as well as alternative housing, diversion coordinators, they are all connecting individuals to services as people are reintegrating into society to make sure that they have the support necessary to reduce any potential criminogenic behavior.

J. Reeshemah Page

"How do you send money to a inmate?"

Judge Clark:

Can you talk about how she could get money to someone who is incarcerated?

Warden Harper:

There are several different ways in which an individual can place money on an individual's account. We have the kiosk in the jail lobby, a money order can be sent through the mail with the DOC number of the individual to our mail office, you can also call 1-888-988-4768, you can also go online jail ATM. Individuals putting money on an individual accounts must be on the person visiting list. Any money order over \$100 will be held for 10 days.

Deputy Warden Williams:

The jail's website also has a particular section that is called inmate funds. So, if somebody was not able to write that information down, you can Google "Allegheny County Jail inmate funds". It will take you to the web page where it provides the instruction to do as the Warden just indicated.

7. President's Report

Judge Clark:

Thank you. I do not really have anything to report.

8. Warden's Report

Judge Clark:

We are going to go to the Warden's report at this time.

Warden Harper:

Your Honor, the thing I had to report to the board is that we are preparing the individuals that live in our facility for the election in November of this year. They have been notified about the election through the tablets. They have been given the date as to when they're supposed to have the registration forms in and absentee ballots in. Last year, 93 individuals voted in our jail. This year we are trying to have more than 93 individuals vote. That is all I had to report at this time, your Honor.

9. Deputy Warden's Report

Judge Clark:

Thank you. We will move to Chief Williams report at this time.

Deputy Warden Williams:

Thank you. I am feeling very badly because when we referenced social work services earlier, I failed to mention several key departments and I need to make right on that. We also have a reentry coordinated group that's Amy Kroll and her team, that are working very closely with individuals. Jack Pischke is our inmate programs coordinator. He also very much assists, and he has been one of the keys within the veterans' program as well. Then everybody who works in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, without them are juveniles in the facility would not receive the services that they are indicated, as well as the connection to the community. So, before I go into my typical report, I just wanted to make sure that I did not fail to mention those key players within the facility.

A. COVID Update

Deputy Warden Williams:

We will start with our COVID update. As typically, I will provide the infection rate. Right now, we presently have 2 individuals in the facility out of a population of 1,616 that are presently positive. One individual has been in our custody and the other was just admitted to our facility yesterday and tested positive immediately upon admission. We have 0 individuals presently in the hospital related to COVID-19. We have continued a large volume of rapid antigen testing, specifically during periods of the initial quarantine or isolation time, as well as offering those tests on housing units where we suspect or know there to be disease present. There have been multiple times within the last month where we have tested full housing units more than one time if there's been a positive case on that unit to make sure that we are reducing any opportunity for disease spread throughout the facility. In September alone, 4,501 rapid antigen tests were offered with 4,400 negatives, which is 98%, and 62 were positive, or 1% of

the population. Between both modalities of testing that we utilize, so the PCR, which is the diagnostic testing required for many transfers, as well as the rapid testing, we had 66 individuals unduplicated that tested positive within the last month. It is still a larger volume than we had hoped for but if you guys recall from last month it is a dramatically reduced number from what we were experiencing before. In total, since April 12, 2021, we have offered 11,929 rapid antigen tests with 11,030 being negative, 298 positive, and 601 that were refused. We continue to remain hopeful as we discussed earlier that are ongoing mitigation efforts, as well as vaccination efforts, will allow us to reduce some of the restrictions in that facility. Within our employee population, we have had 384 staff report that they have been tested for COVID-19 with 170 positive and 214 negatives. We currently have 4 employees who are in their recovery process and have not returned to work. The end of August throughout the month of September, we did begin testing all employees that had not demonstrated proof of vaccination at least one time a week. We have continued, as you can see, with our mask mandate to our congregate setting regardless of vaccination status. So, every person within the facility is still expecting to comply with that as well. In terms of vaccination efforts within the facility, we still have Pfizer, Janssen, and Moderna vaccines available every day. We do primary clinics Monday through Friday for staffing reasons. We have these vaccines available for both our employee base as well as those that are incarcerated in our institution. We have been able to support 1,500 incarcerated individuals in getting vaccinated. Unfortunately, our present count is only 770 of our current population, which is 48% that is fully vaccinated. We did have a much larger number but within the last week, which is a good thing, we have had 120 individuals who have exited. More than that actually. The count is 120 less than it was last week. We lost a large volume of individuals who are vaccinated to transfers. So, our total number came down. In the last month, we provided 32 Janssen, 60 Moderna, and 45 Pfizer vaccinations to individuals who are incarcerated. We are still applying the \$25 that you all have supported to their accounts once they are fully vaccinated with the exception of those that have been completed since October 1st. So, we are still running about a week behind in making those deposits. In terms of employees, on September 29th, County Executive, Rich Fitzgerald, announced that all employees, not just at the Allegheny County Jail but certainly within our institution, will be required to provide proof of vaccination to department management by December 1, 2021. At this time, out of the 603 county employed individuals, 356 have provided proof of vaccination, accounting for 59%. We have 8, or 1%, that have provided proof of partial vaccination and 239, or 40%, that have not provided any proof of vaccination. That comes from variations of job classifications throughout the entire institution. Would you like me to continue with my other reporting or do we have questions?

Judge Clark:

I think there are some questions on COVID. Ms. Wagner?

Ms. Wagner:

Thank you. Just a quick question, Deputy Warden. Could you give us the number corrections officers and other staff at the jail who do have direct contact with the residents at the jail?

Deputy Warden Williams:

Right now, I could not. I would also need you to maybe define that a bit more. I recognize the direct contact as anybody that has contact with an incarcerated individual, which would be every employee because we do have incarcerated individuals in our employee lounge. But if you meant those that are having continuous or sustained contact that would look differently.

Ms. Wagner:

I would define it generally as individuals who are in your accounting department, I would presume that those are not the individuals that we are most concerned about. I understand that as we approach December 1st, we are

concerned about everyone now and we are certainly concerned about everyone then, but I am asking more for the COVID exposure particularly for the residents.

Deputy Warden Williams:

Thank you for the clarification. I can certainly provide that at next meeting, but I would have to analyze the current data in order to do that. The parameters are helpful though.

Judge Clark:

Ms. Hallam?

Ms. Hallam:

Does the jail have a plan for any staff members that will not be vaccinated by the deadline, like if there is a mass exodus of ACJ staff members? Is there a plan being coordinated for what you are going to do for those who refused to get the vaccine?

Warden Harper:

We always are going to have a plan in place for situations like that. Yes ma'am.

Ms. Hallam:

Okay but do you have a plan that does not involve a lockdown of the jail?

Warden Harper:

There will never be a plan we have a mass exodus. Of course, the jail is going to be locked down, Ms. Hallam.

Ms. Hallam:

Are you working on another plan?

Warden Harper:

There will be no other plan that can be worked out if there is a mass exodus, Ms. Hallam.

Ms. Hallam:

Are you foreseeing a mass exodus?

Warden Harper:

I do not know, ma'am.

Ms. Hallam:

So as of now, I think you said 40% of staff is unvaccinated?

Deputy Warden Williams:

I did not say unvaccinated. It is 239 employees who have not provided proof of vaccination.

Ms. Hallam:

Is the requirement that they must provide the proof in order to be considered vaccinated...correct?

Deputy Warden Williams:

Correct.

Ms. Hallam:

Do you foresee any percentage of those who maybe are vaccinated and just have not shown you? I am just wondering, as the deadline approaches, if there is any sort of planning taking place, as opposed to just waiting to the deadline to see if you have enough staff members or not.

Deputy Warden Williams:

We will never wait until a deadline to take action. I think the ward did state that we are planning. We are extraordinarily hopeful that we are going to maintain a lot of our employees throughout this. We certainly recognize that there are some individuals who will choose not to comply with this mandate and are maybe seeking accommodation. As we continue to work towards this deadline, we will continue to find strategies to make sure that we can safely manage this facility.

Ms. Hallam:

Thank you very much.

Judge Clark:

Ms. Wagner?

Ms. Wagner:

Just a very quick comment. This is more for, I think, the public because as we all know within the county, and I applaud the county administration on this, where they implemented a program providing \$100 incentives for employees to provide proof of vaccination. I can only speak for the statistics in my own office, that turned out to be about 80% of the people who initially complied with that right away. So, I would presume, and I do not want to pay elongate this discussion unnecessarily, but I would presume that the county would have some stats, just generally. I am guessing that across the different departments, some are different, we certainly understand that. Steve, I do not know if you are able to speak with this, but you probably had pretty decent compliance just from that incentive plan. Would that be correct?

Mr. Pilarski:

Yes, Ms. Wagner, that is correct. We did see a lot compliance with that \$100 reward, for lack of better word, came forward. We also know that there are some individuals who have approached members of the department that they claim to have been vaccinated but they have not provided proof. As Chief William said, it is kind of a go on get on. They might have a very boisterous coworker they just rather not have to engage or something like that. They have to make a choice between now and December 1st whether they want to provide that proof of vaccination or not. I cannot speak to what those percentages may be, but we know some people have come forward and told us, "Hey I have been vaccinated. I just have not turned my card in because if I turn my card in and I am not wearing a mask, I get questioned. I would just rather not have to deal with that at work." Again, they will have to make that choice between now and December 1st. I am fairly certain that if I am vaccinated, I will turn my card in because it is either turn my card in or lose my job.

Ms. Wagner:

Thank you.

B. Update on Modification to Healthcare Record to Include Length of Individual Counseling Sessions

Judge Clark:

Thank you. Can we move to the next part of your report, Chief Williams?

Deputy Warden Williams:

Absolutely. I do not have an update on the build within the electronic health record to meet the requirements as far as the hours or the average length of time. However, our psychologists, in addition to providing direct care services, has been tracking her efforts. Within the last reporting period there were 182 individuals who were referred for counseling services, with 8 individuals refusing those service offered. Manual tracking of the average session length was approximately 37 minutes. Those that were not personally seen by the psychologist have had access to other service providers in the building to include mental health specialists, substance use counselors, psychiatric providers, other healthcare staff, and correctional staff.

C. Medication Assisted Treatment Update

Deputy Warden Williams:

Medications for opioid use disorder, I know that we have been talking about this for quite some time. Presently in the facility we have 42 individuals who are prescribed Buprenorphine, also known as suboxone. Within the month of September, from the 1st through the 30th, we had 99 unique individuals who were prescribed Buprenorphine. We have been working with other partner agencies, who have not been able to initiate these efforts. So if they have jurisdictional requirements in Westmoreland County, for example, and they can't have their medications for opioid use disorder continued, we have been working with those jurisdictions to do video sessions to try and ensure that we can continue their care so that it is not disrupted during transfer. We have identified a pharmacy, this was something we were working on last month, that can provide Sublocade to us. So, this is a specialty medication. It is the once monthly, injectable form of Buprenorphine. We are seeing more individuals from the community come in with this medication for a number of reasons. Taking a medication one time a month versus taking it daily is something that a lot of people have been seeking within the community. So, we do finally have a service provider that is licensed to give us that medication and we are currently revising our policies to make sure that we can prescribe and administer that within the facility. Additionally, we have an interested vendor that is licensed to provide methadone, that is assisting us in our expansion of methadone. Many of you know that this is the final key to the medications for opioid use disorder. We already provide Buprenorphine and have been. We have been providing Vivitrol since 2017. Although it is not a medication to treat individuals as an opioid replacement therapy, we have been providing Narcan since 2016 as well. We have made significant progress towards the expansion with Methadone. I cannot provide specific details at this time as we are still having these ongoing initial conversations with this vendor but during the next oversight board meeting, I will be able to.

Judge Clark:

Thank you. There were a couple of questions in the public comments about the medical and mental health.

Elizabeth Schongar

“During the review of the training program that the JOB rejected, COs administering medicine was described, apparently by force. This suggests the medicines have terrible side effects if people are willing to face coercion rather than take the medicines. Based on my experience and reading, this is often true of people who are prescribed major antipsychotics. From my own, my father’s, and uncle’s experience, there are the terrible side effects that impact almost everyone and begin almost immediately. And these drugs are often used in institutions to ensure compliance rather than to improve the mental state. How frequently are major antipsychotics prescribed? What % of forced medication involves major antipsychotics? Is this even being tracked?”

Deputy Warden Williams:

I reviewed that one that one. It also had included, in fairness to the person that submitted the comment, that there was some confusion related to COs administering medication. It was believed, I think, that that was something that was communicated. I find it exceedingly important that I correct that during this meeting. Correctional officers do not administer medication. The only persons that administer medications within the facility, are those that are licensed to do so. Qualified health care professionals administer medications. We do have some patients within the facility that are part of the keep on person protocols. So, they may have medications that are vitamins that they have within their cell and they are able to self-administer those medications without that coming from a health care provider each time they receive it. But correctional officers do not administer medications. They are, in fact, a part of every single medication administration process within the facility. All medication administration is observed to make sure that medications are taken and that they are not diverted. Anytime that a patient may require a medication over objection, the correctional officers help do that in the safest manner possible. The person asked major antipsychotics. I think that is a pretty subjective way to evaluate it because antipsychotics would be prescribed as a serious medication to treat a severe mental illness. One could argue that every antipsychotic that is prescribed is major. Some medications over objection are antipsychotics and some are not. Benadryl is a medication that may be prescribed in the IM form when somebody needs to be safer in their management. So maybe they are engaged in acts of self-harm. Benadryl might be one of the medications as prescribed, in addition to an antipsychotic, or perhaps a Benzodiazepine. Those are all clinical determinations that are made by a licensed prescriber, but we do not currently track how many of those are administered. I could pull that information from our electronic health record, but it is not something that is currently tracked.

Judge Clark:

Thank you.

Barb A Snell

“How are medications dispersed for those that need their medications every few hours? How do you handle type 1 diabetics? What about dietary restrictions? What is the ratio of patient to medical staff? What are the credentials of the medical staff? How are you handling sanitation not only during Covid but any time for those with immunocompromised diseases ?”

Deputy Warden Williams:

I really appreciated this question because it allows me to provide the public with a lot more information regarding the work that is done here. Many people do not understand the volume of medications that are administered in the facility. We have 1,616 incarcerated individuals presently. We have many healthcare staff that provide care. One of the questions was related to what is the patient versus medical staff ratio. Patient ratios are typically discussed within skilled nursing facilities, long term care facilities, and hospital settings. So, in an ICU you should not be assigned more than a certain number of patients. We do not have that same standard within the facility. We do however have units that have a higher level of acuity. We have a medical housing unit and right now we may have 11 individuals on that housing unit. At that time, we have a nurse that is assigned to that unit, potentially a certified nursing assistant, a medical assistant, and we would have an advanced practitioner or physician in that area. We would have mental health units that have acute patients and we would have a nurse on that unit as well. So, our patient to medical ratio is not the same as you would see in community settings. It is difficult for me to define that in a way that would be honest here. I hope that the context helps provide some response to that question. Additionally, one of those was how do we give medications for persons who need them every couple of hours. The large majority of the population is medically stable and is able to receive their medications either once a day or two times a day. If you require your medication at any higher level of frequency, you may have your

medication on your person, as we had discussed earlier, or you would be designated to the medical housing unit or acute mental health units, where you could have those administrations happened more frequently. Some people are ordered medications every 4 hours, every 6 hours, every 8 hours, or every 12 hours. Some people might be receiving IV medications that require that timeline to be done as well. We do have designated units to make sure that medication could be handled timely. For our type one insulin dependent diabetics, we have blood glucose checks that are ordered. It could be once, twice, three times, or four times a day. Then depending on the blood glucose reading the medications are provided as coverage to make sure that the individual is treated for any of their symptoms or health care needs that are happening. As far as dietary restrictions occur, we have a number of different medical diets that were determined by our health care staff and the vendor. If somebody is on a low sodium diet because they have cardiac needs, that is actually ordered by a practitioner. That order is then sent to the dietary company. No protected health information, simply that they are ordered a cardiac tray. Same could be for renal, diabetes, pregnancy, or a number of other conditions. We are able to also accommodate people who have allergies to certain foods in their dietary needs. I think I answered all of the questions that were asked. Sorry, sanitation, particularly those for him who are immunocompromised. As part of the federal consent decree, individuals who are immunocompromised have been single cell status. We also have cleaning supplies available throughout the facility. Hopefully, those of you who visited the facility recently can speak to the level of sanitation within the facility and cleanliness.

Judge Clark:

Thank you.

Ms. Hallam:

Judge Clark, I am on my phone now so you cannot see me, but can I ask a question?

Judge Clark:

Yes, you may.

Ms. Hallam:

I just want to know, I know that you said, Deputy Warden Williams, that corrections officers do not hand out medications, but do they administer COVID tests?

Deputy Warden Williams:

Corrections officers do not administer COVID tests to the incarcerated population.

Ms. Hallam:

Does anyone besides licensed medical professionals, administer COVID tests to anyone in the jail?

Deputy Warden Williams:

Yes

Ms. Hallam:

Can you explain those situations where that happens?

Deputy Warden Williams:

Absolutely. The Health Department came on site and trained a large volume of us, myself included, to complete the BinaxNOW rapid antigen test. We went through a training and certificate process. We had to complete

supervised testing, as well as doing readings of those tests. We completed an actual exam to become certified to complete the rapid antigen testing within the facility. We have some licensed health care professionals that complete those and others that are qualified in order to do so.

Ms. Hallam:

Okay and they are only giving it to other staff members. Am I understanding that correctly?

Deputy Warden Williams:

I have provided rapid tests to our incarcerated population, as have many other individuals who are qualified to do so.

Ms. Hallam:

Okay and then my last question is, if there is someone who is incarcerated in the jail that is complaining of not receiving their medication, what is the proper avenue to report that? Is that an email to you or the warden or like from me or is that something that the family reaches out to the jail? What is the proper avenue for that to happen?

Deputy Warden Williams:

There are a number of different ways that could be reported. If somebody is not receiving their medication their first line would be through the sick call process, or they could submit a complaint, or they could talk to the nurse that comes to the unit during any of the medication administrations to inquire about the specifics of that. There have been times when either family members, loved ones, supports, members of the board, or even the County Manager's office will receive reports where somebody states that they are not receiving their prescribed medications. Anytime we receive that information we can look into that and have a practitioner review.

Ms. Hallam:

Thank you.

Judge Clark:

Ms. Klein?

Ms. Klein:

Hi, I am referencing from the Warden's report, it is a Roman numeral 6, Health Care Services, under subcategory 3, Services. For clinic visits it says there were 0 clinic visits from 8/16 to 9/15. I am just confirming if that is really true or if that was an omission.

Deputy Warden Williams:

That is accurate, to a degree. I will say this, throughout the pandemic the way that we have provided the data has remained the same. So, the way that we have provided the services has not. Because we had a large volume of positive cases within the facility, we shut down movement to our physical clinic area. Therefore, we did not have any visits within the clinic. So, we did not feel that it was appropriate to report that we did clinic visits. However, we did have, in confidential settings, our practitioners, physicians, and nurses going to the housing units to make sure that meeting the treatment needs of the patients. I appreciate you picking up on that. It was not an omission. We did not transfer any inmates to our clinic area and that is why it is reported as 0.

Ms. Klein:

Thank you, just was wondering.

Judge Clark:

Any other questions or comments? I want to thank Chief Williams for a very thorough report as always. It is a lot of work to pull all this together for the meeting each month and we really appreciate it. I just want to, before we move on, to give a shout out to Mr. Kenstowicz, who gave me a suggestion about how to present the board comments, to save some of them for when they go with the report. I think it is a much better way that makes sense. I think we are able to actually get more of the comments in and more questions answered. So, I want to thank him for that suggestion.

10. New Business

A. Update on Unannounced Visits to ACJ

Judge Clark:

I am going to move to new business. As I stated at the beginning of the meeting, members of the board, so far, have made 2 unannounced visits to the jail. I would ask the board members who have participated in those visits to share their thoughts about what happened and what they observed with units or pods they saw. There were a couple of questions about the food and I save those for the presentations because I think we all went to the kitchen. I believe Ms. Klein ate food. I am going to start with her. Ms. Klein?

Ms. Klein:

Thank you. On September 8th, Councilwoman Hallam and I made a visit to the Allegheny County Jail for around 2 hours between the time of 10:30 and 12:30. Again, I have to thank Warden Harper who took us around absolutely wherever we requested and all the staff we interacted with were really helpful. We are very appreciative of the time we took from their doing work. Also, I cannot overstate how difficult it is for the Allegheny County Jail with COVID. How hard it is for the staff. How hard it is for the residents there. I saw staff people were completely masked. Incarcerated people were masked when they were outside of their cells. I also just want to give a shout out to the health department. On one of my visits in the restrictive housing unit an individual was very concerned about the risk of getting COVID and I asked if he was vaccinated. He said "no". I kind of probed a little further and said that the medical staff would be happy to come and talk to him about administering the vaccine. He said, "Oh no they came". He had concerns about the long-term effects, I think rightly so, he was advised by the health care team that we cannot promise about that. So, I just want to say that you did reach out to him and again I encouraged him to get the vaccine. We toured intake, restricted housing, juvenile pod, the kitchen, and I do not remember the pod number of an acute mental health pod for women. All pods of the facility were clean. We looked at showers and toilets. If anything was found inoperable, a work order was requested. The incarcerated individuals who work to clean the jail seemed really diligent and appreciate the work that they do. So just some what I thought were constructed constructive comments from the restricted housing unit were to provide a longer time to use tablets and to be able to have a video visit with their family on the tablets. Prior to COVID, a resident of 8F said that he was permitted one 30-minute family visit per week but now that he is not permitted a video visit. I was just wondering is there a reason why people on the restricted housing units can't get video? Sometimes they said there are long wait times for medical or mental health. The residents and ADA are issued 2 jumpsuits a week and shower twice a week. I personally would not be comfortable with only 2 sets of clean clothes weekly. I wonder, Warden showed me there is a whole stack, but I do not know why the regular procedure could not be 3 changes of clothing a week. Also, if residents were asking for 3x showers a week, and I understand with COVID precautions that could be difficult but wondering if that could be accommodated. Again, the juvenile pod was on isolation due to a positive COVID case. They were getting their homework delivered to their cells. Again, just what a difficult situation that just is for everybody. We toured the kitchen during prep. The food prep areas as well as

food storage were clean and orderly. All workers were masked and had hair coverings. I had lunch with the Warden. Lunch consisted of 2 chicken patties with gravy, 2 slices of white bread, baked beans, fresh green salad, and cake. The quantity of food I thought was completely adequate. I found the meal to be flavorful, albeit to my personal taste, salty but again salt is what makes food tasty. I just have to say I am disappointed that fresh fruit has been removed from the menu due to security concerns. The fruit delivered at breakfast is either applesauce or fruit cocktail. The kitchen has to prepare 200 special meals a day. I just want to acknowledge what a hard task that is. Kosher food is kept segregated. Again, I want to thank the Summit staff workers, Summit staff, and the Allegheny County jail residents who, I think, take pride in serving meals. One thing that I didn't know, which was interesting, was 2 sample meals from every meal are saved for 72 hours, in case there is a complaint of an issue with the food, so that meal can be sent to a lab to be tested. From the women's mental health pod, this I thought was a reasonable request, would be to ask if a psychiatrist could okay a tablet on a case by case basis. I got the idea that tablets were not permitted in that unit. The same resident asked why women are not permitted to work in the kitchen because everyone knows women are better cooks than men. But seriously, if women are not permitted to work in the kitchen then they are not eligible to be certified through the ServSafe Program. So, I am just putting it out there if that could be available to women. We received complaints about long time for medical appointments, to work on GED, and some difficulty accessing attorneys from the mental health. Last, we toured the intake it was less crowded than usual per the ACJ. We saw people in protective clothing who had been identified as suicide risk. There was 1 person who had been an intake for 3 days due to mental health issues and waiting for space to open up but that really seemed to be an outlier. Again, I just want to thank the staff at ACJ for our visit. That is all I have.

Judge Clark:

Thank you. Ms. Hallam?

Ms. Klein:

Thank you. I think Ms. Klein gave a pretty thorough explanation of our tour. We did eat the food. We toured the kitchen and intake. Just some things that I would add is it really was heartbreaking to see the children who were housed in the juvenile pod at the jail. I would say that is definitely the part of our visit that had the most lasting impression of me. That is not a part of the jail that I have seen before. In my opinion it is a part of the jail that should not have to exist. I asked every person on the pod, what can I do for you? Overwhelmingly, it was that they just wanted basic things, like hot water, which I am understanding now since our visit that has been resolved. Another was headphones, so that they can listen to their tablets. I would say another piece that I think is very important is going forward, with these unannounced jail visits, is that we should make a better effort to make sure that they are actually surprise visits. It was very apparent on our visits that the jail knew that we were coming and was prepared for our visit. I was even told by staff members in a specific area of the jail, you should have been here 2 days ago, and it was an entirely different environment. They knew you were coming. I think that that was my biggest takeaway, it was very apparent that it was not unannounced, it was not a surprise like it was intended to be. Other than that, I look forward to more frequent visits. Hopefully more visits that are truly as surprised and unannounced to the jail administration.

Judge Clark:

Thank you. I just want to say a couple of things and then I am going to ask Mr. Pilarski to talk about the visit that we had together, which was last Saturday. I would just say to the public, one of the things that we attempted to do is we felt like we should make visits at different times, which including a weekend, and so forth. I just wanted to have a couple comments so that people understand about the juveniles. It is heartbreaking to see the juveniles in the juvenile pod. I just want the public to understand, the juveniles that are in the jail are charged as adults. No

juvenile that is charged in a delinquency petition is housed at the jail because there is a statute that makes that illegal. There is an effort, through the recommendations of the Governor's Juvenile Justice Task Force, to change the law, so there would not be these "direct file cases". That all cases would start out as juvenile cases. It would be up to the District Attorney to petition and to prove that it is in the public interest to try a juvenile as an adult, instead of the other way around. Many of them are charged with homicide. So, they are in there for very serious offenses. There are other juveniles that are charged as adults, but they get bond, just like adults get bond. Many juveniles that are even charged as adults are not incarcerated anywhere because they have been released, either without any restrictions or with restrictions, but many of them actually are out on bond. I just want to throw that out there. Also, I think the thing that affected me the most at the jail is the overwhelming disproportionality of people of color in the jail. It literally smacks me in the face every time I see it. I think that is whether you are on the juvenile pod, or whether you are in the general population, whether you are in the mental health unit, or the medical unit. The number of black and brown faces in that jail is just overwhelming. I think that is true, pretty much, in corrections facilities both local, state, and federal across the United States. I am going to turn it over to Mr. Pilarski to talk about our visit on Saturday.

Mr. Pilarski:

Thank you, your Honor. We got there right before 9:00 o'clock in the morning. As someone who picks up every paper clip or every little piece of paper on the floor obsessively, I thought the jail was overall was clean. There are a few areas that could use a little touch up paint or something like that. Certainly, the elevator that gets used a lot, we commented about maybe needs some touch up paint. As Ms. Klein said, all the staff was cordial, all the residents we spoke to were all cordial, very engaged. Special shout out to Deputy Warden Smith who took us around and Captain Younger, who additionally spoke with us and answer questions while we are waiting to go around. We did go to see a med pass up on 2E. Again, there were inmates out in the general population pod. If I recall some of the inmates were out watching TV and others were walking around, but everything was orderly. The medical staff was passing them out. I did not see any issues. One thing I did note, as someone had mentioned earlier, one of the inmates that came up to Deputy Warden Smith and mentioned that he has been asking to see a doctor for over two months about an issue. I overheard it, so I just wrote down his DOC number. I wanted to follow up myself. I followed up in the middle the week and was encouraged that Deputy Smith had already followed up on the matter. I was told that individual in the last two months has seen the doctor at least 3 times on the matter. He was receiving multiple medications, but his issue was degenerative. I could speak to someone who is getting older and did a lot of things and did not really care much in my youth you get degenerative knee and elbow things. But he is receiving physical therapy and he has seen a doctor. I do not know what the miscommunication was or what not, but it was my understanding from talking with following up that he is receiving medication, he is getting PT, and seeing the doctor. It was encouraging that when asked, the staff did follow up on that and get back to the individual. We also went to the male/female mental health unit, the acute mental health unit, I think, for males, the juvenile pod. We did speak to all the juveniles. Some were out playing cards. I think there was 1 or 2 others on a tablet. Some of them were just having conversation. It is very disheartening to see. I think we looked at the list and there's a couple 14-year old's on there. That is very difficult to see. I go back to my kids and think at 14, my God. Again, that is tough.

Judge Clark:

I would just say this, the 14-year old's are charged with homicide. That is the only way that they can be in there because for the other offenses you have to be at least 15. So, they are charged with homicide. There are several that are from other counties. I guess they do not have facilities that can separate the juveniles by sight and sound. I think there is a few from Lancaster County, maybe Westmoreland County, and there are others. One of the things

that concern me when you looked at the race, I think there was only 1 juvenile on the juvenile unit who was not African American.

Mr. Pilarski:

That is my recollection too, your Honor. Again, nobody mentioned any problems with the juvenile pod. One of the mental health units we were on one of the individuals reading a book. We did go over and talk to him. We discussed the access to the books. He said he does not ever want for access. I think if I remember correctly, he is reading *The Outsiders*, but he said he is never had a problem having access to books or maybe for a brief time quite a while back. I did a quick count and there were over 30 books, there was probably another row or row and a half of books on the cart. I did notice there was a library/book cart on some of the other pods, I did not look at every pod. But the one that we did speak to said there is really no issue to access the books, so that was encouraging. We visited the kitchen and same thing as Ms. Klein said, it is a huge operation, much bigger than I had thought. I had never been in the kitchen before. While we did not eat on Saturday, I have eaten twice at the jail. When the Warden took me out on a date, and we have had meals twice at the jail. Certainly, I have tasted a lot worst food, I have tasted better food, but it is certainly edible. I did not have any issues at times when I did eat it. I thought the kitchen was clean. They were actually squeegeeing the floor as we were walking through the kitchen. We did talk to a lot of people down in the kitchen. We talked about their meals. We did talk about fresh fruit. They did, obviously, say how that could be a weapon, which is why fresh fruit is difficult. I know someone told us they actually use fresh apples for the applesauce. So that is a way to try to introduce fresh fruit. We talked about maybe some leafy greens and other vegetables to try to get a way to increase and access the vegetables, since fruit is so difficult. All the individuals that we spoke with said there is no issue with quantity or quality per se. They kind of said what I said, there has been a lot worse. They did talk about variety. Sometimes they would like maybe a little more variety and it was interesting, one of them said that it would be so nice daily to just have a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Sometimes that is all you want, just a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. So, even if daily they had some type of sandwich choice or something like that. We then went through the entire intake process. Sergeant Jarge was kind enough to help us. We went through step by step. I do not know if Judge Clark as ever seen it but had seen that at least one other time before. It was interesting again to put in into a different perspective to go on Saturday and go step by step in the process that they go through, specifically the COVID protocols and such. Nothing seemed out of order down there. Some of the people just came and they certainly had a different look on their face than the pods. Again, I did not see any issues. Certainly, nothing with cleanliness. As far as the surprise goes, all those guys watch the cameras. It is surprise until we pull in that parking lot. I think we got a "good morning" as soon as we walked into door, if you recall your Honor. I mean it is difficult. The surprise is over as soon as we pull in that parking lot. All those cameras see who is coming, so I am sure word passes quickly. Again, there was no major red flags I saw. I was encouraged by a couple of things, like the follow up with Deputy Smith and whatnot. Did I miss anything, your Honor?

Judge Clark:

No, I think you did a good job. The kitchen is overwhelming. It is a huge process. Now I can better appreciate when Warden Harper tells us about the number of meals because it is a nonstop production. By the time they do all the breakfasts, then during the lunches and dinners, it is just a nonstop production. The food looked okay. They were actually preparing the trays, so I could see how much food was going on each tray and it certainly seemed like an adequate amount of food. All in all, I thought things were pretty good. The pods were very clean, I thought, and I do not know, was a little surprised. I do not know what I expected but there was literally nothing on the floors. Some of them look like they had recently been painted. So there seems like there is some things trying to maintain. I think that there is a lot of wear and tear on the elevators. They use them a lot. In order to really paint them and do things they would have to shut some of the elevators down. So, it is complicated, but they work, and I think

that is the main major thing. Nobody is housed on an elevator. So, I suppose that is ok too. That is all I have. I just want to thank the members who went. We are hoping that every member of the board will make at least 2 visits to the jail. We will continue to report. I think we are required to file a written report, so we can talk amongst the board about how we want to do that. Do we want to wait until we complete a certain amount of visits and compile them or how we want to do it? But we will be required to file a written report, which is to be posted for the public to receive it and view it. Alright, thank you.

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

Judge Clark:

Then under new business we have some motions. Ms. Hallam?

Ms. Hallam:

Thank you, Judge Clark. The first is a motion to request money from the Incarcerated Individual's Welfare Fund to be put on the commissary account each person in the jail. As of my drafting of this motion there were 1,653 folks incarcerated in the jail, at \$50 for each person is a total cost of \$82,650. So, I would like to make a motion to approve.

Judge Clark:

Is there a second to the motion?

Ms. Klein:

Second

Judge Clark:

Ms. Klein. I think Judge Lazzara also, but you are on mute. All those in favor?

Others:

Aye

Judge Clark:

Any opposed? The motion is approved.

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 (1,653 individuals x \$50.00 = Total \$82,650).

C. 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. The next one is a motion to request money from the Incarcerated Individual's Welfare Fund to be put on the tablet accounts of each person. Again, 1,653 folks incarcerated in the jail, \$50 for each person, total cost of \$82,650. I would like to make a motion to approve.

Judge Lazzara:

Second

Judge Clark:

Any discussion? All those in favor?

Others:

Aye

Judge Clark:

Any opposed? The motion is approved.

The board unanimously approved a motion by Ms. Hallam, duly seconded by Judge Lazzara, to request money from Incarcerated Individual's Welfare Fund to be put on the tablet accounts of each incarcerated individual (1,653 individuals x \$50.00 = Total \$82,650).

11. Adjournment

Judge Clark:

Is there any other business for the board at this time? If not, I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Klein:

Moved.

Chief Deputy Kraus:

I second that motion.

Judge Clark:

Alright, we have a motion and a second. I think that was Chief Kraus. All those in favor?

Others:

Aye

Judge Clark:

We are adjourned. Thank you so much everyone. Please stay safe. We are not out of the woods with COVID. All of those out there, if you have not been vaccinated, I am begging you please get vaccinated. Thank you.

Chief Deputy Kraus:

I second that motion.

Judge Lazzara:

I third that one.

Judge Clark:

Good evening.

Kindest regard,



Chelsa Wagner

Jail Oversight Board Public Comments
October 7, 2021 Meeting

NAME	CONCERN
Rachael Neffshade	Justin Brady, Vinckley Harris, and an as-yet unidentified 48-year-old man have all died in the month of September 2021 while in the custody of Allegheny County Jail. Also, incarcerated people at ACJ are alleging starvation because the unpaid incarcerated kitchen workers that prepare food have frequently been put on lockdown due to COVID outbreaks. That leaves no one to prepare and serve food. What happened to the 3 people who died? Who will be held accountable for the barbarism happening at this institution? How will they be held accountable? When will the public get notice of ACJ making changes? Also, please fire the warden.
Jay T Walker	Can you speak to the quality of the food served within the jail?
Elizabeth Schongar	During the review of the training program that the JOB rejected, COs administering medicine was described, apparently by force. This suggests the medicines have terrible side effects if people are willing to face coercion rather than take the medicines. Based on my experience and reading, this is often true of people who are prescribed major antipsychotics. From my own, my father's, and uncle's experience, there are the terrible side effects that impact almost everyone and begin almost immediately. And these drugs are often used in institutions to ensure compliance rather than to improve the mental state. How frequently are major antipsychotics prescribed? What % of forced medication involves major antipsychotics? Is this even being tracked?
Elle H	Three people who were incarcerated at ACJ died in September: Vinckley Harris, Justin Brady, and a third person whose name has not yet been released. I think the Board should hold a moment of silence at this meeting to honor their deaths, or at the very least say their names so they are entered into the record. It's not right for their deaths to go unremarked.
John Kenstowicz	The apparent conflict between Warden Harper and some members of the JOB that has been amplified in the media boils down in part to who knows what is best for the jail. The JOB has the opportunity to fundamentally change this conflict by increasing their knowledge of the jail by hiring the liaison. The value of hiring the liaison is not only based in resolving complaints, it is also based in the knowledge the liaison will develop talking with staff and residents and observing operations at the jail. The Board needs to take immediate action and hire the liaison to limit this ongoing conflict. Why can't the Board at least temporarily hire the liaison with funds from the welfare fund while they apply to foundations and government programs?
Martin Bucek	Martin Bucek died on July 3rd and the cause of death has still not been reported. The Medical Examiner completed the investigation weeks (if not months) ago. What happened?
Concerned Citizen	Some members of the Board are concerned about the ban on pepper spray so I want to remind them of Howard v. Williams, a class action suit recently filed against the Jail. The plaintiffs report that COs often use pepper spray as punishment and then as further punishment refuse to let people decontaminate from the spray. That means people get pepper sprayed and then are not allowed to shower or change clothes for hours or even DAYS as it continues to burn. Pepper spray may be a useful tool in theory but in "practice" it is consistently used to torture people at the Jail. COs have proved again and again that they cannot be trusted to use it properly, and incarcerated people deserve to be free from arbitrary & punitive chemical weapons attacks.
Eliana B	I strongly feel that the Board should move ahead with hiring a JOB Liaison. After hearing from the Board and from Mr. Korinski, as well as from John Kenstowicz from the PA Prison Society [https://triblive.com/opinion/letter-to-the-editor-allegheny-county-jail-investigations-critical/], I am convinced that a full-time monitor has the potential to really benefit incarcerated people. I was a member of the public who was initially concerned because of the IWF funding, so I wanted to write back in to let the Board know it now has my support in this endeavor.
Cecilia Torres	My question is basically for Judge Clark: Why do you continue to allow certain members to send someone else in their place when the regulations clearly state that only the president judge (which currently is you) and the County Council President are allowed to send a designee? For you to continue to say that you will allow it because you have allowed it in the past is just not correct!! As the saying goes, "Two wrongs don't make a right"! You are doing a disservice to the residents of Allegheny County by not following the rules and by not holding members accountable to the regulations set forth by the Commonwealth of PA.
Ryan Miller	Has the jail been on 23/1 since March 2020? OR how much out of cell time are prisoners currently permitted? How does that compare to the past 18 months? When does the administration plan to lift out-of-cell time restrictions? When will visitations resume at the jail? When will outside programming, like education or volunteer / religious groups, be permitted to enter the jail again?
Reeshemah Page	How do you send money to an inmate
Richard Engel	Are there social work services for those incarcerated? Is there anything from the warden to indicate that he is getting the message that the voters are seeking better treatment of people incarcerated in ACJ?
Jodi Lincoln	Thanks to all the board members who rejected ACJ's contract with CSAU. My comment is compelling the JOB and ACJ to use a robust RFP system for the replacement de-escalation training. In addition to the CSAU contract being criticized for the content, citizens were also upset that this county contract using tax payer dollars to fund an expensive no bid contract. A robust RFP and bidding system will allow ACJ to select the most appropriate trainer to meet the goals of the legislation. I also encourage the JOB/ACJ to consult with experts in the field in creating the RFP so the goals and outcomes for the training are clearly communicated. ACJ staff doesn't just need training, it needs new policies and an overhaul on how it treats people.
Ashley Comans	I'm appalled to hear that PEOPLE, especially MINORS, are being held in the county jail facilities without adequate housing measures. It is unacceptable to hear there is no warm water or any activities for these young people. Our county jail is a hiding facility with the majority of those houses inside not convicted of anything. There should be immediate improvements to the living conditions of everyone inside these facilities. Why do we even need to be demanding this?
Sydney Allen	I am an alum of CMU's public policy program, and I recently learned that youth at ACJ told a community representative that their two immediate needs were activities and "hot water." This is outrageous - the whole of the city has ready access to hot water and the fact that ACJ is failing to provide anyone, especially youth, with something so basic is completely unacceptable. Fix this!
T Smith	I was recently incarcerated in the Allegheny County Jail for 26 hours, during my short stint in processing I was subjected to extremely unsanitary conditions, inadequate access to healthcare for sensitive groups of inmates and overwhelmed guards. Some inmates had been in processing for 2-3 days because their weren't enough healthcare professionals to complete the screenings. I was sometimes in a small cell with 10-15 people which was extremely unsettling during a COVID time. The conditions got so bad that while we were complaining to the guards, a female c/o empathized and begged us to instruct our families to call the news. Even instructing us on what to tell our families to say. The Allegheny County Jail is a liability to the taxpayer.
Barb A Snell	How are medications dispersed for those that need their medications every few hours? How do you handle type 1 diabetics? What about dietary restrictions? What is the ratio of patient to medical staff? What are the credentials of the medical staff? How are you handling sanitation not only during Covid but any time for those with immunocompromised diseases?
Sinan Dogan	The community is recent made aware of needs of the teenager population recently and currently in the ACJ. Hearing about two of these needs, activities to spend time and access to hot water, made me and my community concerned. Consistent social-cognitive stimulation and personal hygiene are not only fundamental human needs, but also central to children development as social, civic individuals. As a researcher and educator proudly serves the community and especially young people in the community at University of Pittsburgh, I invite Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board to take action to address these needs and provide the public with sound explanations about why these occurred.
Lorenzo Rulli	What is the current or any resolution to the insufficient meals in the ACJ? What if anything will be done to help with the lack of workers (inmates) within the jail? When will books be distributed. What is being done to make up for the loss of rec time because of COVID. Have enough tablets been secured and allocated for every inmate in acj. Finally what is being done for inmates on 5c to make sure they are getting visits with family.
Patrick Van Gorder	We need an independent investigation of conditions in the ACJ - the track record of alleged abuses and privations is long and growing longer. We know how difficult a situation COVID has created for all involved, but we must to better for some of the most vulnerable members of our city.
Adam Jones	There should be no proxy voting. Also there should be hot running water at every facility at least during the shower time.
Dominic denuzzio	I am writing to urge the ACJ allow hot water (clean and safe) as a basic right to the workers held in confinement at the jail. The right to hygiene should not be seen as a privilege and should be treated as a basic right. Regardless of someone's standing in society no one should be treated as less than human.
Alyssa Snyder	I'm very concerned about the lack of hot running water. Now that even younger people are housed at ACJ, it's essential for hygiene and sanitation to have hot running water. Please don't sentence these young people and others to death via inaction. Please provide hot running water to support hygiene, sanitation and to prevent the spread of covid-19 in such a confined space.
Amanda Casey	We need an independent investigator inside ACJ immediately. Everyone should have access to hot water and denying that to people inside of your prison is cruel and unusual punishment, especially in a crowded environment during a pandemic! You should be ashamed of yourselves!
Stephanie Myers	Allowing Jail Oversight Board (JOB) members to vote by proxy violates the language of the law that says citizen members can't be employees, must represent broad segments of the county population and be appointed by the county executive and approved by the council. I ask that illegal voting by proxy not be allowed for members of the JOB. I also want to express my support for hiring an independent investigator for the Allegheny County Jail. Lastly, reports of the lack of activities and hot water for the youth in the ACJ are deeply concerning. Hot water is a necessity, especially during Covid. I hope that ACJ officials take immediate take steps to protect the physical and mental well-being of the human beings housed in the ACJ. Thank you.
Laura Perkins	Voting by Proxy - It is my understanding that under Title 61, Section 1723, only the president of county council can send a designee to the J.O.B.; and that that designee should be the only designee with voting privileges. The County Executive, Controller, Sheriff, the two judges, and the three community members do not have the authority to send voting proxies. If a member of the J.O.B. is unable to attend a meeting and wants to send someone to observe the meeting, that person has the right to listen and comment just like any other member of the public. But the president of county council's designee is the only proxy that has the right to speak and vote at Jail Oversight Board Meetings. Can the President Judge confirm or deny this?
Susanna Deemer	I am a lifelong Pittsburgher, a supporter of the Alliance for Police Accountability, and a current resident of East Liberty. I was recently appalled to learn that certain fundamental amenities such as hot water are not available as a basic right for those incarcerated. Something like hot water should never be considered as a privilege or something someone can get if they behave in a certain way. The dignity of the people in ACJ needs to be respected. It is unacceptable and inhumane to withhold this basic right, and the ACJ should be ashamed that this is happening on their watch.
Terri Minor-Spencer	How long has the youth been without Hot Water? And what are the plans to fix this inhumane issue?

Jail Oversight Board Public Comments
October 7, 2021 Meeting

NAME	CONCERN
Mina Narayanan	Stop illegal voting by proxy on the Jail Oversight Board. The Allegheny County Jail should also hire an independent investigator to ensure that conduct inside the jail is appropriate. 35 teenagers in Allegheny County Jail have reported that they would like hot water and activities. Hot water is necessary for personal hygiene, which everyone should be able to partake in, and the jail should be a place where people can participate in rehabilitative activities. Please make these meaningful changes in the jail that will significantly improve the quality of life for those who are incarcerated.
Malcolm Durrige	I would like to thank the Board for voting to cease the CSAU training. In the future, can the Jail submit proposed contracts to the Board for approval to avoid this kind of situation?
Kyna James	The community has been informed that the youth does not have hot water. Hot water is not a privilege, it is a necessity. It is a part of every day hygiene, and with us on the verge of winter this should not be an issue. Do they not deserve the necessary basics in life? The community is asking that you fix this problem immediately. On another note the illegal voting by proxy on the Jail Oversight Board comes into question. The persons elected to oversee the operations in the Allegheny County Jail should be the only ones voting on matters pertaining to the jail. We are also still waiting on the independent investigator to be hired at ACJ. Will you tell us what is taking so long? Why hasn't anyone been hired?
Samantha A	Warden Harper mentioned at the special meeting that Joseph Garcia had been training COs to administer medicine. What kind of medication and why would COs administer it instead of actual medical staff?
Jesse Wozniak	The conditions our youth are subjected to at ACJ are appalling. Children asking for basic sanitary necessities such as hot water should have every member of the jail staff and oversight board deeply ashamed. We the community demand the hiring of a fully independent investigator immediately to fully investigate the conditions within ACJ and provide regular reports to the community, and we demand this board do its job by providing meaningful oversight of the jail and immediately improving the conditions experienced by those inside.
Sharron Boddy-Adedipe	The following is an excerpt from the Basic Principles of the Treatment of Prisoners; a document from the United Nations' Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. "All prisoners shall have the right to take part in cultural activities and education aimed at the full development of the human personality." Accordingly, ACJ must provide and address the needs and rights of all persons in its custody.
Sharron Boddy-Adedipe	The United Nations' Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner states the following excerpt as a Basic Principles of the Treatment of Prisoners. "Except for those limitations that are demonstrably necessitated by the fact of incarceration, all prisoners shall retain the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and, where the State concerned is a party, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto, as well as such other rights as are set out in other United Nations covenants." Accordingly, ACJ detainees/prisoners should have daily access to hot and cold running water.
Ronnie Cook Zuhike	Thank you for this opportunity to share my concerns electronically. I am a long time Pittsburgh resident, in my 70's and unable to attend in person. I have heard many concerns expressed about the treatment of incarcerated youth including lack of hot water and activities for young prisoners. Hot water for hygiene should be a right not a privilege. I have also become aware that Jail Oversight Board members may send others to vote for them by proxy. Is this accurate? I feel that the JOB should have an independent review procedure rather than just in-house. This is just common sense and for the common good of all. Transparency is required if we want citizens to support our government and institutions. Sincerely, Ronnie Cook Zuhike
Carol Nichols	Are there any other jails in the United States that don't use pepper spray, and what do they do instead?
Chloe Barone	How someone can be a 24/7 danger to themselves or others to the extent that they MUST be placed in solitary confinement for over a year? Shouldn't someone like that be sent to a psychiatric facility like Torrance to get more specialized help? Because they obviously require a higher level of care than ACJ can provide.
Rachel Linner	When are cell extractions necessary? It seems like there would be very few situations when a person needs to be physically removed from a cell immediately.
Alexis Mighty	A huge concern regarding the inmates not having hot water and providing activities for them during a pandemic.
Erin Lichtenfels	Mandatory vaccine for employees of the ACJ. Why aren't the inmates mandated to have the vaccine? They live inside the county facility they should be mandated to prove vaccine and/or receive the vaccine while being incarcerated. 7.5 millions dollars granted to the county for COVID. The employees wear masks, deal with inmates throwing urine and feces at them, spitting on employees, and when they get quarantined because of an inmate more than once, the law abiding employees lose their wages for 2 weeks. If you have the vaccine your granted 80hours of hazard pay. Officers have been quarantined multiple times in the last 2 years. Inmates get to do as they please, ipads, free meals, television, FaceTime, but it's their choice to get a vaccine.
Michael Slovak	Congratulations to the jail board for seeing through Harper's scam to hire that crazy Garcia guy. We the people voted for the referendum to make the prison less violent, but Harper hated that. So he got this hyped up military nut to bring more violence to the place. Then, Harper told the board that no no no, he brought Garcia in to do de-escalation, and teach love and respect. What crap. Anyone could see through that--except Fitzes buddies on the board. I am glad you women didn't buy it.
Marjorie Johnson	Warden Harper's reaction to the board's decision on the Garcia contract revealed him to be irrational and ill-tempered. He showed a disrespect for the board's legally constituted role and authority. How can the board have any confidence at all that he is someone who should be in charge of protecting the Constitutional rights of the residents of ACJ? Is the board going to discipline Harper or do what it should do and terminate him and seek a new warden more in keeping with contemporary penal policies and practices?
Garret Wassermann	Has Warden Harper resigned yet? If not, when will Fitzgerald take action to remove Harper and appoint a new warden? The human rights violations in the jail are still very concerning to me and need to be seriously addressed
Daniel Jackson	John Brady died in ACJ's custody in November 2020. Why didn't the jail report his death to the JOB? What is the JOB doing to ensure that all the people who die in ACJ's custody whether they are at the jail or after they are transported to the hospital are reported and investigated?
Erin Lichtenfels	Who on this board has ever worked a 16hour shift inside the facility? Who has worked 5 days of 16hr shifts? How many of the board members have gotten into a fist fight in the last month? Besides Bethany the ex-inmate. Who on this board is here to protect the employees? No restraint chairs or OC spray lead to MULTIPLE officers beating 1 inmate to comply, seems safer? Millions of dollars of medical bills of both sides. The restraint chairs and OC spray are to protect everyone. Hand to hand combat for some officers happens every single day of their career and you people have absolutely no regard for the staff safety. Staffing levels are dangerously low, when an employee gets murdered maybe you'll start to care about staff and their families.
Abhishek Viswanathan	I think it's unconscionable that you are not providing hot water to the people at ACJ right now. Especially when the jail is in the business of jailing young people trying to survive in a broken system that unfairly targets them. Please provide people with hot water immediately - it is a right! It is also important to have an independent investigator to oversee the operation of the facility. And finally, illegal proxy voting must stop at the Jail oversight board meetings. Show up for the meetings to be held accountable.
Concerned Citizen	Does the jail have a timeline for when they will resume in-person visits?
Emily Hannon	According to Bethany Hallam, the children incarcerated at ACJ are being neglected, lacking basic necessities such as hot water. I have also been in communication with loved ones of James Byrd who are concerned about his treatment while incarcerated at ACJ. He has been in solitary confinement for 3 1/2 years and this is ongoing despite Allegheny residents voting against solitary confinement on May 18. James Byrd was recently hospitalized for injuries which he claims were inflicted upon him by jail staff in retaliation for his advocacy for prisoners' rights. Byrd was hospitalized only days after participating in a podcast where he pointed out that Lauren K Williams, Chief Deputy Warden of Healthcare Services, does not have a medical degree.