

The monthly meeting of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board, Thursday, April 7, 2022 held in the Gold Room at 4:00 P.M.

Recording available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h48XJEi2GEO> (Each agenda item is time stamped for referencing the YouTube recording)

MEMBERS PRESENT

Judge Elliot Howsie

Bethany Hallam for Councilman Catena

Stephen Pilarski for County Executive Rich Fitzgerald

Terri Klein

Gayle Moss

Ryan Herbinko for Acting Controller Tracy Royston

Chief Deputy John Kearney for Sheriff Kevin Kraus

Others in Attendance:

Warden Harper

Chief Deputy Warden Beasom

Deputy HSA Dr. Brinkman

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Rules (0:00)

Board Chair Judge Howsie (0:00):

Meeting called to order, roll call was taken, and rules were recited. Judge Howsie requested that the public limit their comments to 8-10 minutes.

2. Presentation – Re-Opening of Re-Entry Services and Other Programing in the Jail (3:07)

Jenn Batterton, Manager of Special Initiatives, Department of Human Services:

DHS supports many of the contracts for the Re-Entry service programs that are provided in the jail, which Amy Kroll and her team oversee. These programs were significantly modified during COVID with services starting to resume back to normal over the past few weeks. The Re-Entry program is for incarcerated individuals that have a higher risk of recidivating and are in the jail for long enough to complete the courses but are available to other individuals as well. These folks receive service coordination support and a designated re-entry probation officer before and for a few months after release. They are also prioritized for the following programs that are provided through Mercy: Thinking for a Change, SAGE, Parenting and Relationship classes. DHS also supports the contract for AIU. These classes are offered in-person and in a group setting. This program was evaluated by the Urban Institute in 2014 and showed significant results in reducing recidivism for the individuals enrolled in the program.

Amy Kroll:

On March 22nd, the Re-Entry Center re-opened to in-person classes. Mercy is offering Thinking for a Change, Parenting and Relationship classes 5 days/week, 3 times/day, which is an increase in classes from pre-Covid. There were 68 individuals who started Thinking for a Change and 66 individuals for the family support program. These courses are twice a week for 6 weeks. Pods are kept together due to Covid (3 pods per day). Also, offering education classes: Pre-GED, GED, and Computer Literacy since March 28th. Batters Intervention program began April 8th through Wesley Family Services. HOPE is working on getting up and running again. All instructors of these programs are vaccinated. Next phase will bring back SAGE program, which is like a graduate program for Thinking for a Change. Also looking onto starting an Anger Management class and are open to more ideas. The jail will be bringing back the Pre-Apprenticeship program and Job Readiness but taking it slowly due to Covid.

There was further discussion regarding the program. The incarcerated individual requests to be enrolled in a class via their tablets or paper. GED requires testing. Parenting classes are reserved for parents or soon-to-be parents. Most classes have a waiting list between 50-60 individuals. A majority of the individuals enrolled in the classes are not serving sentences. There is a published report from DHS on the Allegheny County Analytics website regarding recidivism during Covid. It is a real benefit in providing these services within the jail to the incarcerated individuals that are court ordered to complete these programs rather than having to wait until they are released. The jail works with the community providers to allow continuity of care for the incarcerated individual to continue the program they started before becoming incarcerated, as well as continuing the program with the community provider after release from jail without having to start back at the beginning.

3. Community Corrections Reports (25:43)

A. Passages to Recovery (25:43)

Kevin Kordzi:

Passages to Recovery is relocating its residents and staff later this month from site on Fifth Avenue to the West Homestead facility. The West Homestead site is owned by Passages and the plan is to fully develop the site to expand drug and alcohol treatment services. The West Homestead site can house 52 clients. The client mix is individuals that are sentenced, diversion out of jail, diversion off the street, and self-referred.

B. The Renewal Center (30:43)

Adam Zak:

The Renewal Center is getting ready for the ACA (American Correctional Association) Audit, which is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday of next week. This audit typically takes place every 3 years.

C. Electronic Monitoring (31:49)

Frank Shearer, Director of Adult Probation:

Electronic Monitoring started the month with a population of 621 individuals. Throughout the month there were 32 completions. There were 6 cases returned to the jail for violations. Also, Electronic Monitoring has probation officers that work in the jail as part of the Re-Entry program. These officers begin to work with individuals a few months prior to their potential release date. Mr. Shearer also extended his gratitude for partnering with Jenn Batterton and Amy Kroll.

There was further discussion regarding the benefit of having Electronic Monitoring on site at the jail, which is starting back next week. The efforts made prior to the release of the incarcerated individuals is designed with a goal to keep them on the right path and prevent recidivism. Also, Electronic Monitoring fees are based on income, but no one will be turned down or taken off electronic monitoring for non-payment. It was suggested by Ms. Hallam to look into setting up a program through the county to help individuals who are unable to pay the fee.

Mr. Shearer will send the Probation with Restrictive Conditions Plan to the Board members to review prior to next meeting. The board will vote on the plan next meeting.

4. Review of the Minutes for March 2, 2022 (39:43)

The board unanimously approved a motion by Mr. Herbinko, duly seconded by Ms. Hallam, to receive the Jail Oversight Board Meeting Minutes from March 2, 2022.

5. Old Business (40:05)

A. Suicide Prevention Sub-Committee (40:05)

No update due to some board members not being present.

Warden Harper:

ACJ is requesting the National Commission for Correctional Healthcare to come back to the facility to review the updates made to the jail based on their recommendations.

Chief Deputy Beasom:

Seven of the ten suicide resistant cells are complete. The three remaining cells are all in the intake department, which they are unable to complete due to the physical make-up of the jail. All recommendations given by the NCCCHC, minus the physical changes, are complete.

B. GTL update on hours inmates have access to tablets (43:10)

Warden Harper:

Tablets are available to all incarcerated individuals from 8am-8pm, unless a medical provider deemed it is unsafe for them to have it. Warden Harper to provide update at the next meeting with number of tablets available for incarcerated individuals.

C. IIWF Report (45:05)

i. Update on survey with Pitt School of Social Work (45: 05)

Judge Howsie:

Update regarding survey from Pitt School of Social Work and an update from Erin Dalton will be provided at next meeting.

Ms. Klein:

Dean Farmer provided Ms. Dalton with a draft of the report and an executive summary. Ms. Dalton scheduled a meeting on April 29th to discuss the results. The committee is expected to receive a draft of this report on May 8th or 16th.

ii. Update on contract with PA Prison Society Liaison (47:19)

Mr. Pilarski:

There was a conference call for the subcommittee on March 24th to discuss the contract. Edits were made by Mr. Pilarski and sent to the committee on April 5th. The plan is to send the committee's final draft back to the Prison Society (and also the Jail Oversight Board) tomorrow.

iii. Update on compensation for work performed by incarcerated individuals at ACJ (49:27)

Mr. Herbinko:

There is no update at this time.

6. Public Comments (50:22)

A. John Kenstowicz (50:22):

Concerned about the Jail Oversight Board jail inspections are not being made available to public via a written report as per the statute. Recommends the board take the opportunity to grant the public access to the reports and provide true insight of the jail. (*JOB will discuss and provide follow up*). Another concern is the jail's compliance with the NCCHC recommendations but Warden Harper's comment regarding asking the NCCHC to come back to reinspect the facility has helped Mr. Kenstowicz's concern with staffing crisis affecting the compliance of these recommendations. Mr. Kenstowicz also commented on his concern for staffing issues. There was a total of around 103 staff vacancies in the jail reported last month (53 medical staff from the Warden's report and approx. 50 correctional officers as reported by Union President Brian Englert). Recommends the County Executive call for a task force to be formed regarding the staffing crisis at the jail. Also concerned that exit interviews are not continuously being conducted by the board since the motion was passed in December 2020. Suggested the following procedures: 1. Warden Harper provide the Board a list of staff members resigning, 2. The Board can decide who and how often they will provide exit interviews, with Liaison or third-party assistance, 3. Staff retention survey. 4. Marketing strategy, and 5. Financial measures. Concerned for staff, their families, and residents at the jail regarding excessive forced overtime.

B. Brian Englert (1:00:57):

Mr. Englert expressed his gratitude towards Ms. Kröll. He also thanked his officers and Nick Danger Public Relations. Concerned about staffing and forced overtime for the officers. Also concerned about the stress on the officers after medical incidents and unable to take breaks during work hours. Another concern is unable to get new uniforms for officers and the dangers with wearing loose uniforms. Suggested county contact Metropolitan Police Chief's Association to post job openings for the jail. States that they are the only department that does not have email access remotely. He believes he is being disciplined for talking about union matters and for coming to speak at meetings. Feels it is a bad environment.

C. Tanisha Long (1:11:07):

Concerned that the board is being selective on rules and enforcing them. Also expressed concern about the attendance, investment, and accountability of the Board members. Lack of transparency for the public. Commented on the number of individuals that have passed in the jail over the last 2 years and the lack of communication to family members from the jail on their loved one's health conditions. Concerned about incarcerated individuals not receiving medications on time and the board not questioning this among other things. Concerned about the safety of incarcerated individuals in the jail.

D. Public Comments via email (1:17:47): summarized by Judge Howsie. Judge Howsie reminded the public the public comment process. People need to be at the meeting prior to 4:00pm to speak in-person. If people are unable to appear in-person, they can submit a public comment online.

- i. **(1:19:20)** 13 deaths in the jail since 2020. Poor humanitarian conditions for incarcerated folks, poor working conditions for employees. Concern regarding the board taking the initiative to be more invested in the operations of the jail.
- ii. **(1:19:46)** Gerald Thomas, 26 years old, died on March 6th. He was injured at the jail. Family did not know what happened and were unable to see his body. Concern the medical examiner is biased by working for the county and not working for the people in the community. Concern about people not being informed about health issues of their loved ones. Another similar comment that dealt with deaths in the jail. Relatives are not being notified being informed that incarcerated individual is critically ill or died. Issues with people obtaining medical records despite having legal documentation. Lack of information being disseminated to loved ones.

Warden's Response: I cannot respond to specific incidents that happened in the jail but when medical emergencies take place in our facility, our employees perform life-saving measures until healthcare staff arrive to the scene. All deaths are investigated by the County Police. All individuals that enter our facility are required

to let us know who they want us to contact for emergencies. That is the only people we can contact, who the incarcerated individual has notated for us to notify. We cannot notify anybody but the emergency contact. We respect the wishes of our incarcerated individuals when it comes to who they want us to notify for emergency situations. For individuals that would like to get medical information for an incarcerated individual, they have to sign a release of information form. Once the release of information form is signed, then we will give that medical documentation to anybody that the incarcerated individual would like for the medical documentation to go to. My healthcare staff and all of my employees do a wonderful and superior job in maintaining health care services at our jail.

Further discussion regarding that intake is the only time the incarcerated individual is given the opportunity to sign emergency contact forms. Warden Harper is going to talk to the law department on how to get information to the board regarding results of investigations of deaths in the jail by County Police.

There were additional questions regarding the health of the incarcerated individuals, medical attention, which were addressed by Warden Harper's last response.

- iii. **(1:25:07)** Incarcerated individuals in the women's acute mental health pod are reporting that they are not receiving rec or that the recreation time is being restricted based upon the severity of their mental illness. Concern regarding the classification of the incarcerated individual's mental health condition. How you determine their restriction time and what those ranges are when people are being hand-cuffed to a table, being denied or limited recreation time?

Warden's Response: Incarcerated individuals living on mental health pods are designated a tier, which has been approved by a medical provider. The provider determines what tier these individuals are on. Individuals on tier 4 and 5 do not get any type of recreation time for their safety. Tiers 1-3 do get out of cell time.

Further detail was given regarding the tier process. Only individuals on the mental health pod are included in the tier process. The tier numbers can change for an individual after they are evaluated by the provider, AHN. It has been requested that AHN attend the next board meeting.

There was further discussion regarding concerns about medications being delivered on time. The jail is recruiting LPN's and RN's but is having a tough time due to incentives offered by competitors. Medications have been late but have not been missed according to Warden Harper. There was also a concern about ADA compliance within the jail. Warden Harper to provide answers regarding ADA questions at the next meeting.

- iv. **(1:30:20)** There were a number of comments regarding medication and medications being disseminated to incarcerated individuals in a timely manner. The Warden addressed that in the last comment.
- v. **(1:30:39)** How many days can an incarcerated person be kept in solitary confinement based on healthcare professionals' findings that confinement is necessary for medical reasons or to ensure the safety of others? How often does this assessment occur? Is there an appeal process? What is the average length that an incarcerated person is kept in solitary confinement? What is the longest duration an incarcerated person has been held for these reasons?

Warden's Response: The decision will be made by the healthcare provider and will decide how often the assessment is to take place. There is no appeal process, but the incarcerated individual can discuss it with the healthcare provider. There is no data on the average length an inmate is kept in segregation due to healthcare reasons. Also, there is no data on the longest duration an incarcerated person has been held in segregation for healthcare reasons.

Further discussion regarding the entire facility being on modified lockdown last month and how it relates to the referendum. Warden Harper informed the board that they incarcerated individuals were unable to receive 4 hours of rec time each day due to splitting recreation because of COVID. The jail administration is going to contact their legal department for advisement for the interpretation of the referendum.

The board approved a motion (4 Yea, 2 Nay) by Ms. Hallam, duly seconded by Mr. Herbinko, to have the jail present the Jail Oversight Board with a legal report at the May board meeting on whether or not the law department believe that the Warden's monthly reports are in compliance with the language of the referendum.

- vi. **(1:40:57)** There is a public comment regarding the belief that there are still weapons being used in the jail that are in violation of the ban and that people are being assaulted with these weapons. It is a huge liability for the county, and it is unacceptable. There have been lawsuits that have been filed.
- vii. **(1:41:30)** There is a public comment regarding staffing issues and Warden Harper's television appearance. Concern about staffing issues and the steps the jail is taking to address the staffing issues.

Warden's Response: Chief Beasom will report steps the jail is taking to recruit.

- viii. **(1:42:54)** There is a public comment regarding gift packs in the jail and people are not to buy them anymore.

Warden's Response: The jail is in the process of doing an RFP for the commissary services that should be coming out soon. There will be no gift packs until the contract has been awarded to the vendor.

There was a request for a copy of the RFP for commissary services. Warden Harper will let them know next week if he is able to provide a copy.

- ix. **(1:45:10)** There were a number of comments regarding the food. Saying the food is not compliant with nutritional standards. Has a dietician assessed the menu? Does anyone check the menu on a daily basis? Weekly? Monthly? Concern about rodents in the kitchen and other areas of the jail.

Warden's Response: Our food provider provides 3,200 calories/day for the incarcerated population. The food vendor's dietician ensures the nutritional requirements. The ACJ is exterminated twice a week. The Health Department has conducted inspections of the kitchen and deficiencies have been abated.

There was further conversation about the concern about rodents/pests in the kitchen. The jail is a million square feet and is right by the river. The jail will continue the extermination schedule with the vendor. Also, the menu items do change do to issues with getting products.

- x. **(1:51:56)** There was a comment from a young lady that was in the processing unit at the jail and was assaulted by an inmate. She was released after midnight (in the middle of the night). She saw people detoxing wrapped in trash bags and she was refused medical attention on a number of occasions.

Warden's Response: A video review was done, and all of the allegations made in this comment are not true. The video has been saved in case people would like to see it.

- xi. **(1:53:07)** There is a concern that people in the jail are unable to get books (mystery, non-fiction, books by African American authors, etc.). The concern is about the lack of specificity regarding books that are banned

and ones that are permitted. It is presenting an inconvenience for the family members purchasing books for their loved ones in the jail.

Warden's Response: Under frequently asked questions on our website, we have criteria on how to send books. We do not ban any mystery books, non-fiction books or African American books but we will not accept books that the jail feels will be a safety and security issue or books that have nudity, weapons, etc.

The Warden will work on putting more specific guidelines on the website.

7. Warden's report (1:57:37)

Warden Harper:

The jail is working on re-opening services that were paused due to COVID. In addition to the re-entry and educational programs, the jail has reinstated Chaplain services and incarcerated individuals out of cell time has increased from 10 to 15 individuals for split recreation. The plan is to move to full recreation on May 1st. The in-person social visits have increased from 30 minutes to 1 hour and they are extended to 7:00pm. Also, Correctional Employees Week is from May 2nd- 6th. Lastly, the jail has conducted exit interviews for the last 2 years. They can either have an in-person interview or an exit interview letter is mailed to their home. Over the last 2 years, 119 employees have retired or resigned, with around 17% completing the exit interview. Most common responses were that they received a better opportunity, they are furthering their education, overtime/work hours, and/or COVID-19 concerns.

There was further discussion on exit interviews. It was requested of Warden Harper to look into providing the board contact information for employees that have resigned. Also, there was discussion regarding CRU training. The Warden would like to discuss the certifications of the CRU trainer in an executive session. Warden Harper confirmed that only healthcare staff are doing medical assessments and administering medications. There are stationary dividers in intake for confidentiality.

8. Chief Deputy Warden's report (2:07:39)

A. Staffing promotions and hiring (2:07:39):

Deputy Warden Beasom:

Renee Madden was promoted to Deputy Health Service Administrator. David Gallagher was promoted to Sergeant. Josh Noullet and Gerald Crum to Captain. Current cadet class consists of 6 cadets. They are scheduled to graduate April 14th and available to start working on April 17th. The next 9-week training cadet class begins on April 25th with 11 correctional officer candidates. The physical agility test is scheduled for May 19th, 20th, and 21st. They are still compiling candidates for the test. Hiring efforts are in collaboration with HR, Marketing, and other partners. Advertising is done on LinkedIn, Facebook, Indeed, and other social platforms. There has also been digital and radio advertising. Indeed has been the biggest success with over 5,000 views of jail specific jobs over the last 4 months. JoinACJ.com has had almost 27,000 views over the last 2 years. There is a referral bonus for medical positions at the jail. In collaboration with Kane, the jail works with AHN, and other vendors and contract agencies to find RNs, LPNs, CNAs, and other positions. The jail is also participating in the virtual career fair that is next week. Correctional officer testing is now available online moving them through the application process more quickly. Correctional officers pay starts at \$22 and increases significantly over the first few years. They also have additional benefits.

B. COVID update (2:14:06):

Dr Brinkman:

Incarcerated Individuals: As updated on the ACJ website, 4,543 incarcerated individuals have received PCR viral diagnostic test, with 481 (12%) positive and 4,051 (88%) negative (for the duration of the pandemic). There is 1 incarcerated individual presently positive and 0 pending tests. There are no individuals currently hospitalized with Covid. Today's institutional count is 1,541. From March 1 – March 31, 2022, 1,251 rapid antigen tests were offered, with 3 (.2%) positive and 1,240 (99%) negative. Since April 12, 2021, 28,715 rapid antigen tests were offered, with 951 positive, 28,704 negative and 730 refused. Since the first positive case on April 6, 2021, there have been 958 positive cases.

Vaccination: ACJ is an authorized vaccine provider and clinics are held continuously with Pfizer, Moderna and Jansen vaccines stored on site. Thus far, the ACJ has supported vaccination of over 2,542 incarcerated individuals and provided over 473 booster vaccines. There has been an increase in interest in vaccinations within the incarcerated population with anecdotally would be contributed to the opportunity for in-person visits. Last month it was reported that 672 individuals received their full series and this month we have 802 (52% of incarcerated individuals, up 7% from last month). Juveniles are not required to be vaccinated for visitations.

This past month, the ACJ has had the lowest Covid positivity rate and the highest vaccination rate in the past year. The CDC requirements for reporting for Covid testing with only positive rapid antigen tests results needing to be reported. Beginning this Friday, the ACJ will start posting the information required for their reporting.

C. Medication Assisted Treatment (2:21:11):

Dr Brinkman:

The ACJ continues to provide medication treatment for opioid use disorder and alcoholism to treat incarcerated individuals by offering Naltrexone, Vivitrol, Suboxone and Sublocade. In March, there were 25 individuals prescribed oral Naltrexone, 1 being released to the community who received their Vivitrol shot. There were 87 treated with Suboxone and 11 were treated with Sublocade. Also, during the month, 98 unique individuals were prescribed Buprenorphine. There is continued efforts in contract expansion with Tedesco for Methadone treatment. They are currently developing implementation procedures, developed a process flow chart, and continue discussing staffing.

D. Tracking commitment to Torrance (2:25:35):

Dr Brinkman:

In March, there were 10 persons admitted and transferred to Torrance State Hospital. There were 10 new persons committed during the month. There are 11 who are waiting. The longest waiting is from April 2021 but has an admission date this month.

Additional discussion regarding the recent article about someone losing a limb during their incarceration. It was requested for Dr. Brinkman to provide the board with a number of persons that have lost a limb while incarcerated at ACJ.

9. New Business (2:27:19):

Ms. Hallam:

Motion to request money from the IIWF to be put on the joint tablet commissary accounts of each person incarcerated at the ACJ.

The board unanimously approved a motion by Ms. Hallam, duly seconded by Ms. Moss, to request money from Incarcerated Individual's Welfare Fund to be put on the commissary and tablet joint account of each incarcerated individual (1,550 individuals x \$100.00 = Total \$155,000).

There was a discussion regarding allowing a limited virtual option for board members to attend the meeting. Judge Howsie stated that everyone on the board (except Ms. Klein) was given the opportunity to weigh in on that option via email and the consensus was that everyone should appear in person given the obligation to the public.

10. Adjournment (2:30:28)

Chief Deputy Kearney made the motion to adjourn, duly seconded by Ms. Moss. The meeting adjourned approximately 6:30pm.

Kind regards,



Tracy Royston

April 2022 Jail Oversight Board Public Comments

Medical/ Health

Name: Garret Wassermann

Comment: The jail is now facing lawsuits for lack of healthcare treatment that allegedly lead to an amputated leg; people called in from Butler County Jail to talk about how poor the medical treatment was at ACJ. This is on top of years of reports about problems in the ACJ; 13 deaths since early 2020, poor humanitarian conditions for those held, and poor working conditions for jail workers. When will the JOB take these years of reports seriously and take action, including firing Warden Harper?

Name: Released Resident

Comment: I was recently incarcerated in the acj and thankfully, for my health and safety, also recently released. What I don't understand and hope can be answered and/or explained, is how are captains and sergeants doing the job of a medical staff by completing medical assessments in the intake area? It seems like that could result in a medical nightmare.. please explain this new process, what qualifications someone must have to fill this position, what qualifies someone for this position and if it's not due to lack of medical staff, why haven't corrections done them before? Ty Hoping for an honest answer

Name: Ashley Campbell

Comment: The Warden says incarcerated people sometimes don't get their meds or get them late. Only Pat Catena seemed worried about that. So I want to ask the Board: Do any of you take a daily medication? Do you need to take it every day? Could it put you at risk if you missed a dose? If not, do you know anyone who is in that situation? People with diabetes, for example, or people with seizure disorders. Or maybe you or a loved one has a mental illness and without medication things get really bad. How would you feel if you knew YOUR loved one was trapped in a place where they can't get the medicine they need to survive?

Name: Gerald Thomas

Comment: I hope all of you will read this article about the death of Gerald Thomas. He was 26 years old. He died on March 6th after being injured at ACJ and his family doesn't know what happened. His own mother has not been allowed to see her son's body. Please, please, please do something about this. The Medical Examiner works for Rich Fitzgerald and Steve Pilarski used to work in the ME's Office, can they use their sway with the ME to get that fixed? I can't imagine how much pain the family must be in. Can the Board and/or Mr. Fitzgerald initiate some kind of independent inquiry into the death? The family deserves that much. <https://pinjnews.org/medical-emergency-in-the-alleghey-county-jail-results-in-the-thirteenth-death-since-april-2020/>

Name: Kathleen Gough

Comment: In the past two years, at least 13 people have died at ACJ or soon after being transported from the jail to a hospital. Families have repeatedly reported that ACJ failed to promptly notify them that their incarcerated relative was critically ill or had died. Families also have been unable to obtain the incarcerated person's ACJ medical records despite providing to ACJ legal documentation confirming that they are the family member authorized to receive the medical records. What is the JOB doing to address these problems? And has any sitting JOB member spoken with a family member to confirm their criticism?

Name: Janet Jones

Comment: A few questions about the referendum's medical exception. How many days can an incarcerated person be kept in solitary confinement based on healthcare professionals' finding that confinement is necessary for medical reasons or to ensure the safety of others? How often does this assessment occur? Is there an appeal process? What's the average length that an incarcerated person has been kept in solitary confinement based on a medical reason or to ensure the safety of others? And finally what was the longest duration an incarcerated person has been held for these reasons?

Name: Rachel Gutierrez

Comment: I saw the story in the paper about Clayton McCray and was heartbroken. I'm so sad that incarcerated people aren't able to get the healthcare they need while they're at ACJ. We know the Warden and his staff are working very hard but it seems they're just stretched too thin to provide quality care to everyone. Warden Harper said at the last meeting "Give me more nurses," how can we ensure that this happens asap??? No one else should have to lose a leg!

Name: Concerned Resident

Comment: I was alarmed to hear at the last meeting that COs have been administering methadone and suboxone to incarcerated people! Are they trained for that?

Name: Elizabeth Schongar

Comment: How is the Jail Oversight Board going to get outside verification that the medical care in the Allegheny County Jail is brought up to standards? There have been reports of at least 2 deaths that could have been precipitated by beatings, especially the case where the spleen was ruptured. How is this being investigated? There is reason to believe that a broken wrist and a severe foot infection were not properly cared for. This also must be investigated by medical experts from outside the jail system. The warden has lost the confidence of the jail officers, and has refused to follow the spirit of the recent referendum. He has also contradicted himself. He should be fired.

Name: Ck Jones

Comment: My son along with 7 or 8 other people were rushed up to general population last week without seeing a nurse at all in intake. This has not been what has happened in the past, he has seen a nurse and mental health while in processing. Due to this his medical needs were not met and his medication was delayed for multiple days. I have heard this is now common and that this occurs frequently(not seeing medical in intake). When will the prison board do something about this? Does another death have to occur because care is not being provided in a timely manner? How and why is this ok?

Staffing

Name: Joe Wilson

Comment: On March 31, 2022, Warden Harper was interviewed on a television news network by Chris Moore. During the interview, Warden Harper spoke openly about ACJ's staffing levels and conditions at the jail. That was in stark contrast to the last several JOB meetings where Warden Harper has refused to answer the same questions claiming it would compromise the safety and security of the jail. Why is there a security concern in discussing this information at a JOB oversight meeting, but not when that information is broadcasted on TV and online to thousands of people?

Gift Packs

Name: Jasy Delgado

Comment: Dont know if this will be read at the JOB Meeting or the little secret one that's behind closed doors. Why aren't loved ones allowed to buy gift packs anymore? There used to be a selection of about 8 for the ACJ, and now there are 2- male and female hygiene packs and ONLY those two.

Public Comments

Name: Mary Johnson

Comment: With all due respect, your honor, but your statement last week that you didn't let people in the audience ask questions because they didn't follow proper procedures and you didn't read questions because people didn't get them in on time, was a blatant lie! The website shuts questioning down where you can no longer submit questions, therefore, no one can submit late. Just another lie the prison board tells. Could you please read all questions submitted because if you received them, they were submitted online

Name: Bailey Brown

Organization(s): The Human Race

Comment: I'd like to be in attendance in-person to deliver my comment which is likely to be ignored. I like many average people will still be at work at the inaccessible hour at which these meetings are held. Were I to show up late I can rest assured Judge Howsie would not grant me the opportunity to speak. By the way, the JOB of Delaware County has not 1 but 2 public comment periods during their meetings. How much longer are we going to be subjected to this misery? Relegating all important business to executive session beyond public eyes to circumvent the very purpose of this board? Shame on Fitzgerald, Shame on Harper, Shame on Judge Howsie, Shame on Allegheny Co. It is clear that you are not interested in change, or bothering to defend yourselves.

Food

Name: Myron Johnson

Comment: There's a lot of questions about meals at the jail, and Warden keeps saying they are excellent and meet dietary and nutritional standards. But how do we really know? Who is the dietician for ACJ? What does the dietician do? What standards, guidelines, or policies does the dietician use to determine whether the meals are nutritionally sufficient? Does the dietician assess each meal served to incarcerated persons at ACJ? How often does the dietician assess the meal's nutritional value? Does the dietician assess compliance? For example, does the dietician check the meals Summit/ACJ are serving at ACJ to confirm they comply with the dietician's standards/nutritional requirements? JOB should ask to hear directly from the ACJ dietician.

Name: Gladys Petrovsky

Comment: On February 26, 2022, the Allegheny County Health Department inspected ACJ's kitchen and found 16 health code violations. The inspector observed 4 live rodents, droppings in food products and cockroaches in the kitchen and nesting materials for pests. Bait stations had not been serviced in some time. ACJ has a pest control service and pays a lot of money for it. But it doesn't seem to be doing the job. How does ACJ track or investigate these reports? What have been the results of these pest investigations? And how does the Warden get the contractor to do an acceptable job?

Name: Janowitz David

Comment: Can ACJ post on its website the monthly menus for 2022 and going forward? At these JOB meetings, there has been a lot of back and forth from incarcerated persons claiming that the food at ACJ is inadequate and the warden and administration insisting that the food is high quality. I think the monthly menus and documents confirming the quality of the food would help address these concerns and put these claims to rest. Why not just post the menus?

Weapons

Name: Malcolm Durridge

Comment: Why is the Jail continuing to use the banned weapons they bought for CSAU training? It came up at the January meeting and no one has mentioned it since. I don't know how the Warden can say with a straight face that continuing to use these doesn't violate the ban. The Board voted to prevent the Jail from using those guns.....and yet the Jail is still using the guns. Come on. And it's not just that it goes against the Board's authority, it's also a HUGE liability for the County. I don't know if Judge Howsie knows this but a lot of lawsuits have been filed against jails because of injuries sustained from use of these exact weapons. See Rutsgi vs. Reams for a recent example. Does the County want to have to pay out millions of dollars?!?

Miscellaneous

Name: Adam Crowley

Comment: I'm glad County Council blocked Stickman's appointment. I know Terri Klein would never raise a fuss about this kind of thing but I really think she does a great job.

Name: Chloe Barone

Comment: I just wish the Board and the Jail could openly admit that there's a big problem that needs fixed urgently. It doesn't seem like anyone feels any urgency about it except Ms. Hallam. The reason the public gets upset sometimes is because it often feels like NONE OF YOU EVEN CARE. Some of you haven't done a walkthrough in the past 6 months, some of you have probably never done a walkthrough. I was watching Jail Oversight Board meetings for months before I even knew Abass Kamarra existed. He only showed up to vote against CSAU, after missing every single other meeting. And of course there are members who do show up but never say anything, so who knows if they're even listening. We just want to feel like any of you want to fix it.

Name: Pete Davidson

Comment: Why has ACJ been refusing to deliver to the incarcerated mystery books, non-fiction books, and books authored by African Americans that were purchased from ACJ's designated book seller? Can ACJ provide a list of the titles of the books ACJ has banned? I've spent a lot of time and money having to re-order books that met the jail's guidelines, but were still returned. A banned books list would save time for families purchasing the book since they would know which to avoid and save time for staff because there would be less books to return.

Name: Steve Smith

Comment: Incarcerated people on the women's acute mental health pod have reported that they are being denied rec or that their recreation is being extremely restricted based on the severity of their mental illness. They report that ACJ classifies an incarcerated person's mental condition and assigns

them a tier, which determines the restrictions for their recreation. Restrictions range from requiring the incarcerated person to be handcuffed to a table to recreating in a rec cage to being denied or limited recreation time. Is ACJ's tiered recreation system imposed on incarcerated persons without mental health conditions? Is it being implemented in general population or just on the mental health pods?

Name: Lacey E Anderson

Organization(s): Allegheny County Jail

Comment: I am highly disappointed with the police officer system at the actual processing unit. I first was assaulted by an inmate who was cleaning the floor and wanted me to lift up my shirt. I also was released well after 8pm which I was informed women were not released after 8pm. I was released at 12:30am in the middle of the night. I asked the officer at the desk 6 hours prior to see when I was going to be released. He told me I had to wait but all my bail paper work was on the desk. Also in holding cell a woman was wrapped in a trash bag while detoxing. Officer refused her medical attention any time he was asked to. I cannot believe this is how these officers allow so much disrespect happen to a human life that is just as equal as theirs.