

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

Recording available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56p08S9e6bQ> (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

M. Gayle Moss

Acting Controller Tracy Royston

Sheriff Kevin Kraus

Judge Beth Lazzara

Others in Attendance:

Warden Orlando Harper

Chief Deputy Warden Jason Beasom

Deputy Warden of Administrative Operations and Employee Development Blythe Toma

Deputy HSA of Behavioral Health Renee Madden

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

Judge Howsie (0:00):

Meeting called to order and roll call was taken. The rules for the meeting were recited.

Ms. Hallam stated for the record that Mr. Pilarski is an illegal designee as per the statute.

2. Community Corrections Reports (1:42)

A. Passages to Recovery (1:42):

Kevin Kordzi, Director of Residential Services:

Passage to Recovery have added additional services over the last month: a mental health support agency and a drug and alcohol support service. Also, in discussion with Peoples Oakland to provide services including housing, employment, among other things. Court ordered visitations with children have resumed for over the past month or so. Regular visits are in the process of being back up and running.

There was further discussion regarding COVID count at the facility. They have one staff member presently positive.

B. The Renewal Center (3:58):

Frank DeClair:

The pre-audit took place on June 13-17th as mentioned at previous meeting. Renewal was 100% compliant with all mandatory and non-mandatory standards, as well as exceeded some of the standards for the audit. The final report will be forwarded to the jail once received. New software for re-entrants tracking was rolled out this week. They are working out the bugs but are very confident in the new software. Also, the staff, as well as some of the

inpatient re-entrants, will be participating in the upcoming recovery walk. As for COVID, currently no re-entrants are presently positive with 1 staff member returning tomorrow. Staff is required to stay home for 10 days.

There was discussion regarding re-entrant's with outside employment. Due to new system there is a delay in that information, but last month it was believed to be around 75% of re-entrant's are employed, at the Center, as a whole, last month was above 80%. It was requested by Ms. Hallam for employment numbers to be presented at each meeting going forward. Also, discussion of garnishment of those wages. Currently, only 10% is collected for court costs and fines. Previously, 20% for room and board was also deducted from wages and 10% was deducted for mandatory savings. This change occurred a few months ago.

C. Electronic Monitoring (7:50):

No presentation provided.

3. Review of the Minutes for June 2, 2022 (8:03)

The board unanimously approved a motion by Ms. Hallam, duly seconded by Acting Controller Royston, to receive the Jail Oversight Board Meeting Minutes from June 2, 2022.

4. Old Business (8:23)

A. Suicide Prevention Sub-Committee (8:23):

i. Update on status of re-inspection from NCCHC (8:23):

Warden Harper:

The NCCHC will report to the jail on August 22, 2022 to do the reinspection.

Ms. Hallam requested the board be provided with a copy of the report, once finalized. The Warden stated the board would receive a copy.

ii. Update from Sub-Committee (9:13):

Judge Lazzara:

This is the sub-committee that the board is not sure who all are members of it. The member who was the chair is not longer a member of the board.

It was suggested that an executive session should be had to discuss the various committees in general. Making sure all necessary committees are formed, the scopes are well defined, as well as which board members are on them.

B. IIWF Report (10:19):

i. Update on survey with Pitt School of Social Work (10:19):

Ms. Klein:

The report got delayed due to COVID with Dean Farmer's group. The preliminary report was sent to Erin Dalton and Erin Dalton sent her comments back to Pitt School of Social Work. The final report is supposed to be delivered to Erin Dalton on July 20th. After Ms. Dalton reviews the report, she will send the board a copy, which will then be shared at the following monthly JOB meeting.

Judge Lazzara gave some background on the project. The Pitt School of Social Work has been contracted to survey the incarcerated individuals at the ACJ for their input on their needs and desires to provide suggestions on how to spend the monies in the Incarcerated Individual's Welfare Fund. One of the reasons for the delay in getting the report completed was the overwhelming response from the incarcerated individual's who participated in the survey.

ii. Update on Liaison Position (12:53):

Judge Lazzara:

As a reminder, this is a full-time position that would be advisory to the board and help to provide a real time assessment of what is going on at the jail. After discussions with PA Prison Society to subcontract the position, it was decided it would be best for the position to be internal. Sheriff Kraus offered his office to house the position. The JOB will supervise and direct the actual work performed by the liaison. Ms. Royston's office has done research on where to advertise and costs. The IWF will be providing a report to the board for approval that will have the details: where advertising will be for the position and a timeline of the hiring process.

There was further discussion to remind everyone that the position will be paid for out of the IWF initially with hopes that it will become a funded with the County or funded with grant money in the future.

Judge Lazzara presented the following motion on behalf of the IWF:

ALLEGHENY COUNTY JAIL OVERSIGHT BOARD
INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS WELFARE FUND SUBCOMMITTEE

MOTION

WHEREAS, on June 3, 2021, the JOB voted in favor of a Motion presented by the IWF Sub-Committee which authorized a Liaison position for the JOB in order to assist it in fulfilling its statutory obligations;

WHEREAS, on September 2, 2021, the JOB voted in favor of a Motion presented by the IWF Sub-Committee which mandated creation of a full-time salaried position of JOB Liaison, incorporated the proposed job description into the position, authorized a search to be conducted by the IWF Sub-Committee to fill the position, and authorized payment of salary and benefits not to exceed \$85,000 from the IWF, said salary and benefits to be subject to regular review by the JOB;

WHEREAS search and research efforts have been conducted by the IWF Sub-Committee to fill the JOB Liaison position, including extensive conversations with the Pennsylvania Prison Society (PPS), a statutorily authorized organization, since 1829, serving the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as an independent prison and jail monitor and ombuds;

WHEREAS conversations with the PPS were unproductive, and it was agreed by the JOB that the position of JOB Liaison would be recruited, hired, and maintained in a Department within the County;

WHEREAS the Office of the Sheriff of Allegheny County has agreed to maintain the position of JOB Liaison;

IT IS HEREBY MOVED that the JOB shall approve the creation of a full-time position of JOB Liaison within the Office of the Sheriff of Allegheny County. The JOB Liaison shall perform the duties of the JOB Liaison as described in the attached job description. The Office of the Sheriff of Allegheny County shall provide

administrative and supervisory support to the JOB for the management of the position. The JOB Liaison shall receive assignments and report findings directly to the JOB. Payment for the position shall be made from the IWF unless and until other funding sources, such as grants or budget line items, are approved for such payment.

IT IS FURTHER MOVED that the IWF Sub-Committee shall present to the JOB for approval a detailed plan for the recruitment and hiring of an individual for the JOB Liaison position. This plan will utilize multiple media to advertise and recruit for the position. It shall also set forth deadlines for advertising, review of resumes, and interviews. Upon the approval of the recruitment plan, the IWF Sub-Committee will implement the plan. Any costs of recruiting, such as advertising, shall be paid from the IWF. This recruitment plan shall be provided to the JOB for consideration and vote no later than the August JOB meeting.

Submitted: July 7, 2022

The board unanimously approved a motion by Judge Lazzara, duly seconded by Ms. Hallam, to the creation of JOB Liaison within the Office of the Sheriff of Allegheny County and the IWF Sub-Committee to present to the JOB for approval a detail plan for the recruitment and hiring of an individual for the JOB Liaison position.

iii. Update on compensation for work performed by incarcerated individuals at ACJ (19:52)

Ms. Hallam:

This week, Ms. Hallam received the number of hours worked by incarcerated individuals at the ACJ. There are 228 incarcerated individual's working in the jail, with around 125 being pod workers and the rest work in laundry, food, etc. They work an average of 8 hours every day. Ms. Hallam will forward the information she received to the JOB to have a further discussion at the next meeting.

There was further discussion on finding a tax attorney that specializes in employment taxation in corrections to discuss compensation for incarcerated individuals. Ms. Hallam said she would talk to her contacts at the PA-DOC and asked Ms. Klein to talk to her contacts at the DOC to find out what they do.

iv. Update on ADA compliance employee attending the meeting (22:13):

Warden Harper:

The ADA Compliance employee will not be attending the meeting.

There was further discussion on clarification on what was requested at the last meeting. Judge Lazzara reviewed the minutes from last month regarding the ADA Compliance person attending the meeting as well as Warden Harper providing a copy of the tier system be given to the board. To eliminate any confusion, Judge Lazzara requested the ADA Compliance person at the next meeting, as well as a copy of the tier system in advance. Warden Harper stated he would have the ADA Compliance Officer there if possible. He does not manage the ADA Compliance Officer but will ask them to come. Warden Harper would like to provide the tier system documents during executive session to avoid jeopardizing the safety of the facility.

Further discussion was had to determine exactly who the board would like to attend the next meeting regarding ADA Compliance. Ms. Hallam clarified that there have been multiple allegations that the jail is potentially in violation of the ADA through treatment of the incarcerated individuals as well as policies. Her understanding is there is a county employee that is in charge of ADA compliance for the county and that person was to attend this meeting. She further clarified that her personal opinion is that the tier system is in violation of the ADA. Mr. Bacharach confirmed that the law department reviewed the tier system and did not have any legal objection to the document. Ms. Royston requested Mr. Bacharach provide the board with contact information for the person at the law department that can clarify that the tier system was reviewed for ADA compliance. Mr.

Bacharach will check with the solicitor. Ms. Hallam clarified that the board is not looking for a legal opinion, the board wants to speak to the person/people who reviewed the tier system documentation for ADA compliance.

Ms. Royston offered as the secretary of the board to send any action items to the board and jail administration shortly after each meeting.

v. Update regarding Summit's dietician attending meeting (34:24):

Warden Harper:

Summit's dietician will not be attending the meeting. Warden Harper stated that the last meeting it was discussed that board was going to provide questions for the dietician to respond to.

Ms. Hallam requested contact information for Summit dietician to have them come to the meeting. Warden Harper agreed to provide the board with that information.

Mr. Pilarski mentioned that Ms. Royston did suggest at the last meeting to give the dietician questions ahead of time. Ms. Royston suggested they discuss that further and devise questions at executive session. Also, suggested if Ms. Hallam wants to check with their availability for next meeting and the board will have questions prepared for that time. Judge Howsie suggested the questions be prepared either way in case Summit does not come to the meeting and the board can still get answers.

vi. Update on RFP for commissary vendor (37:13):

Warden Harper:

The commissary RFP has been posted.

vii. Number of incarcerated individuals at ACJ waiting to go upstate (37:44):

Chief Deputy Warden Beasom:

As of Monday, current 300B's are 70 males and 2 females. There are 3 males currently serving county sentence and once paroled for those sentences they will be transferred upstate. There are 6 males with open cases. There are 36 males set for transfer to the state this month. The remainder are waiting on room at the state.

5. Public Comments (38:37)

A. John Kenstowicz (38:37):

Mr. Kenstowicz quoted a statement made by Warden Harper at last month's JOB meeting that "ACJ's death rate is at an average with the rest of the country as identified by the US Bureau of Justice Statistics". Mr. Kenstowicz referenced Table 16 of the US Bureau of Justice Statistics that county jails with a population of 1,000 to 2,500, the average rate of death is 179 per 100,000 people, which is 2 or 3 deaths per year. Since April 2020, Mr. Kenstowicz states the ACJ far exceeds that average. Mr. Kenstowicz expressed concern over staffing crisis, stating 13 correctional officers have recently left employment and 50% of recently hired officers have resigned. Forced overtime affects physical and mental health and stability of families. He is requesting the board conduct exit interviews as voted upon last year. Also concerned about the lack of information provided to board regarding deaths at the jail. Believes the board needs to know if the jail is complying with NCCHC standard procedures. Suggests the board request the NCCHC to assess compliance while the NCCHC is there in August. Also stated that as per state statute, Warden Harper is required to provide medical record's review to the board regarding deaths at the jail. States the HIPAA law does not restrict entities from receiving records of deceased individuals if they are providing insight.

B. Brett Amrhein (42:54):

Mr. Amrhein is a correction's officer and union steward. Concerned about the elimination of an officer on mental health pod 5f, providing inadequate supervision to the individuals on that pod. Believes this decision was made by someone without any mental health background and without consultation of the Suicide Prevention Team or officers on that pod. Feels the JOB needs to take more action and demand the jail administration puts the officer back on 5f. He believes this is causing individual's to be cleared to quickly and put in general population, creating a safety issue to that individual and others. Concerned of a hostile work environment due to multiple write-ups by administration. Also, believes video surveillance was recently installed to watch officers for policy violations. Concerned that they are not allowed to order pizza to help with morale for the officers that are forced to work overtime. Also mentioned the uniform shortage and how they were ordered to get hand me downs from retired officers or ones that do not fit. Believes they deserve a better work environment. Also, wanted to tell his fellow co-workers that he appreciates them and to keep up the good work.

C. Brian Englert (46:10):

M. Englert is president of the correctional officer's union. Came to the meeting to discuss understaffing, lack of uniforms, and safety issues. Upset that he is being written up every time he comes and speaks at the JOB meetings. Mr. Englert stated he attended the last County Council meeting and requested the hiring be extended to outside of Allegheny County and to offer a hiring bonus. Also mentioned concern with violations from food service report from February and employees who eat there were not notified. Concerned about Suboxone med pass. He stated the nurse does not stay to confirm the recipient took the medication. Mentioned he was told if he did not stay to confirm medicine was taken, he would be written up even though he is not trained in Suboxone pass. Also mentioned the uniform shortage and the recommendation for hand me down uniforms from retired officers. Mr. Englert stated forced overtime is number 1 complaint, then they only have one uniform that they have to wash in between their long shifts.

D. Jonas Moffat (49:44):

Mr. Moffat referenced the current press coverage on Judge Mariani, and how it relates to judicial ethics of the JOB. Mr. Moffat stated that last month someone had mentioned Judge Howsie received approximately 25% of his campaign from Mr. Rich Fitzgerald. Believes there is a conflict of interest for Judge Howsie, or appearance of impropriety, not holding Mr. Fitzgerald accountable for not attending meetings but does not allow the public to speak if they arrive 2 minutes after the meeting has begun. Concerned about the number of deaths at ACJ, as well as the physical, sexual, and mental abuse and feels there is no action from the board. He thanked Ms. Hallam for her support.

E. Juana Saunders (52:24):

Ms. Saunders is the mother of Gerald Thomas Jr. Concerned about the lack of medical care at the jail. Stated that her son requested medical care for 3 days before collapsing at the jail. Does not feel her son's death was a natural death as the jail states. Concerned that even if her son had received medical care that nothing would have been done due to the lack of medical staff at the jail. Mentioned other incarcerated individuals that she stated did not receive proper medical treatment within the jail when needed. Does not believe the medical care for the inmates is a priority to the Warden.

F. Tanisha Long (56:14):

Questioned Mr. Fitzgerald's attendance at the meeting. Upset with Warden Harper's comments regarding having less deaths in the last 2 years, stating that the ACJ is less populated. Ms. Long spoke with some incarcerated individuals coming out of the jail last week. Ms. Long states these people were only given 1 hour of rec time each day and that it is not good for their mental health. Concerned that individuals in mental health pod are not receiving books loved ones sent at all and are not being sent back to the sender. Questioned why the board is no longer receiving wait times for psychiatrists. Stated the last report was received in August 2021. Concerned that

the jail is not providing those numbers because the numbers are so high. Feels mental health should be a bigger concern at the jail than what it is.

G. Caroline Williams (59:02):

Ms. Williams came to stand for the Saunders' family. Her son is currently incarcerated, and she thanked Judge Lazzara for always trying to help her son. Her son tells her the food he is eating and how he is in the cell for 23 hours a day and it bad for their mental health. Ms. Williams is concerned because these individuals are human beings that may have made a bad decision. Ms. Williams had another son incarcerated previously that had mental health issues and she had to continuously call the jail as she stated they did not believe her. Her son is currently home but she feels his mental state is worse now than when before he went into the jail. She asked that the jail listen to the kids and that they need help.

H. Marion Damick (1:02:39):

Ms. Damick is concerned for the taxpayers of Allegheny County having to pay settlements for lawsuits against the jail and believes the person responsible should be held accountable. Ms. Damick believes Warden Harper and Mr. Fitzgerald are responsible. Ms. Damick would like her tax money to go to improve the county. Believes the board should be paying attention to these issues.

I. Jodi Lincoln (1:07:01):

Ms. Lincoln is concerned that for years family members and loved ones have spoken at board meetings regarding mistreatment at the jail and she believes there has been no improvement. Ms. Lincoln is a member of the Pittsburgh Prison Book Project. This project sends free reading materials to incarcerated individuals. She is currently working with Ms. Hallam to put a proposal together to expand the options for books in the jail. She is concerned with the screening process for books coming into the jail. Believes the published guidelines do fall in line with industry standards but does not feel the jail is following best practices when deciding what books are allowed. Recommends books that are rejected be returned to sender and notification to intended recipient with reason for rejection provided to both parties, implementation of an appeal process if not one already, and policies made available for everyone to review as well as transparency on rejected books. Requests clarification on "safety and security". Offered her services to help create the policy.

II. Ed Gray (1:11:34):

Mr. Gray provided a definition for "ethics and reiterated Mr. Englert in that they (employees of the jail) constantly are written up for "Code of Ethics" violations. He feels they are being written up by people that do not show a high amount of ethics. Also mentioned how important respect is within the jail and how he does not have a lot of admiration for his administration. Hopes the board can help make some changes to make the jail a better place for employees and incarcerated individuals. Mr. Gray is upset a he has watched many JOB meetings online and has not seen many changes within the jail.

III. Paul Fluitt (1:14:45):

Mr. Fluitt discussed his wife's situation on May 21st, she was incarcerated on a 72-hour hold for missing a court date. His wife had just had a baby on May 16th. Mr. Fluitt stated that she did not receive the medical attention she should have for being post-partum. His wife had to write to the Warden herself to get any type of medical treatment. Believes the board should look into the processes of people coming into the jail. His wife spent 5 days in the jail when she was supposed to be on a 72-hour hold. Mr. Fluitt stated that she was promised she was not going to jail but the judge refused to see her. Concerned that she almost died in the jail if it was not for outside sources putting pressure on the jail to get her medical attention. HE would like to board to look into making sure the incarcerated individuals are getting what they need.

There was discussion regarding no online public comments being submitted. Ms. Hallam stated that the court website did not update the July meeting and the comment session was never opened. Judge Lazzara assured Ms. Hallam that

Judge Howsie does not take care of updating the website. She requested that the public let them know if that happens in the future and they will get it fixed, as she feels it is important for the public to be able to submit their comments. Judge Howsie apologized to the public for anyone not able to submit a comment online as he was unaware that there was an issue.

6. Warden's Report (1:21:27)

Warden Harper:

Warden Harper first clarified the information that as provided to the board earlier today regarding deaths at the ACJ. He stands by his statement from last meeting that deaths at ACJ are significantly lower than national average. Chief Deputy Toma will be presenting an analysis to the board. On Wednesday, June 29, 2022, the jail lifted the mask mandate for employees and incarcerated individuals, with the exception of intake, medical units, intake unit, and during all health encounters. The jail is still providing split recreation and if COVID cases remain low, the jail will move to full recreation.

There was a discussion regarding the staffing issue on 5f that was mentioned in a public comment and whether another officer was going to be added, if that was how it currently was staffed. Warden Harper asked that not be discussed in public setting. Judge Lazzara requested a phone call with Warden Harper to discuss. It was further discussed that this would be added to executive session to discuss. Ms. Hallam pointed out that the refusal to address issues in a public setting due to safety issues is a misinterpretation of the Sunshine Act and that discussing these issues in executive session has zero accountability.

There was discussion regarding the RFP for Rethinking the Jail. Warden Harper will need to do research and will provide an update in the future. The board also requested a copy of the RFP that was just posted for Commissary provider for the jail. Deputy Warden Toma is going to request a copy from Purchasing.

There was discussion regarding maintenance in the jail, specifically air conditioning issues. Any maintenance issues are reported to the maintenance department. The warden was unable to provide specific information as to timeframes and occurrences associated with maintenance requests for air conditioning are being resolved. Ms. Hallam requested Warden Harper to provide information to the board regarding any air conditioning maintenance requests over the past few months.

There was discussion as a follow up from the public comment regarding books at the jail. The jail's mail department, currently 3 employees, that individually determines which books are allowed in the jail based of off the jail's policies. Once the book is rejected, it is returned to the vendor. No notification or reasoning is currently provided from the jail to the sender or recipient unless a request is made from the sender. The jail keeps record that a submission was denied but does not keep track of the book or the reason. Books are also denied if there is no receipt or the receipt does not identify who sent the book. Deputy Warden Toma will look into what is recorded when a book is rejected. Deputy Warden Toma does not believe there is a record of which books have been denied or that there is an appeals process.

The commission for tablet and phone accounts goes into the general fund, the commissary commission goes into the Incarcerated Individual Welfare Fund. Ms. Hallam requested the jail administration report back how much money is generated from the phone and tablet commission monthly and why it no longer goes into the Incarcerated Individual's Welfare Fund. Judge Lazzara recalls that it was done in a prior administration to help balance the budget but would still suggest someone look into that for further clarification.

There was a question regarding the booking fee. The revenue received from the booking fee goes into an account earmarked for the salary of correctional officers who work in intake. The jail was unable to provide information on who is assessed the booking fee.

Ms. Hallam requested that the Medical Director either attend the board meetings or be able to have a dialogue between the board and Medical Director. Warden Harper will look into that.

There was a discussion regarding the most recent solitary confinement report. The report shows the jail on full facility-wide lockdown through the month of June. Warden Harper explained that when the jail opened for full recreation in early May, the COVID cases increased dramatically, which prompted the jail to go on full lockdown to bring the cases back down. The jail is currently on split recreation. According the report, which Warden Harper confirmed, during the month of June, every person in intake was allowed out of their cell for at least for hours a day. Warden Harper reported that COVID cases have not gone up (at this time), since implementing voluntary mask wearing.

There was discussion regarding deaths in the jail. Ms. Hallam conducted research and found many jail oversight boards across the nation that do investigations of jail deaths and is wondering why information regarding ACJ deaths is not being handed over to the board. Warden Harper stated that the law department already told the board last month that additional information cannot be provided to the board due to pending litigation. Mr. Bacharach from the law department reiterated what the Warden stated and also that the law department believes it is prohibited by HIPAA. Ms. Hallam researched exceptions to HIPAA and believes the board falls under the exception for law enforcement as well as health oversight activities.

Ms. Hallam read the state statute for the jail oversight board, Title 61, Section 1724, subsection a and e. Ms. Hallam interprets this as the board should have access to anything the jail as access to, to be able to successful oversee the jail. Mr. Bacharach states that he does not believe the board has been denied records they are entitled to and the board has been provided with all that is allowed in regard to deaths at the jail. Ms. Royston suggested that the board put together a detailed list for an executive session of what they believe should have access to regarding records of deaths in the jail. Mr. Bacharach suggested Ms. Hallam, or the board email the Warden or the Solicitor when requesting more information. Ms. Moss suggested the executive session happen before the next meeting so that the board is able to give some answers to the public as well as satisfaction for the board.

Judge Lazzara requested that Warden Harper to add back into the Warden's report that is provided prior to the meeting the number of people waiting for mental health specialists, number of sick calls, and number of people waiting for a psychologist. To also include average wait times for each of those.

7. Chief Deputy Warden's report (1:54:00)

A. Staffing hiring and update on suicide prevention cells (1:54:00):

Chief Deputy Warden Beasom:

There were 8 cadets that graduated on June 24th and started work on June 26th. A new class started on July 5th, with 19 cadets that are scheduled to graduate on September 9th. There are 6 sessions scheduled over the next 2-weeks to complete the physical agility test.

Ms. Hallam requested the board be provided with the average number of cadets that start the academy but do not complete it, as well as how long they stay once they start working at the jail. Deputy Warden Beasom stated the jail HR may have that information.

Chief Deputy Warden Beasom stated the class sizes in the past have been typically less than 10 and with officers retiring or taking different jobs, the jail is always fighting an uphill battle. The jail has streamlined the hiring process to try to get more officers but is open to suggestions.

Deputy Warden Beasom also gave an update on suicide resistant cells. There are still 7 of 10 complete. The doors to those 3 cells were reinstalled the day before the meeting and the vendor will need to finish them. He is hopeful that will be completed by the next meeting.

B. COVID update and Jail's mortality rate (1:57:20):

Deputy Warden Toma (1:57:20):

With 3 loss of lives in 2019, based on the annual number of admitted population, based on average rate of 100,000 people, the mortality rate was 19. The US Department Bureau of Justice Systems reported a value of 179 over 100,000. This is 10 times less than what was reported by the Bureau of Justice. The jail had 3 loss of life in 2020, extrapolated over 100,000 people, was a mortality rate of 34, which was 5 times less than what was reported in 2019. In 2021, the jail had 6 loss of lives, was a mortality rate of 65, which is 3 times less than what was reported in 2019.

Ms. Hallam requested the board be provided a copy of this report. Deputy Warden Toma stated she will email the board a copy. The jail's report includes all incarcerated individuals who were in the legal custody of the jail, following the definition in the report from the Bureau of Justice. Ms. Hallam stated that the Federal Bureau Death and Custody Reporting Act requires the death to be counted if custody was relinquished for medical reasons only and that the individual would still be in custody if it was not for the medical reason. Deputy Warden Toma will review the methodology to see what definition was referred to.

Deputy HSA Madden (2:00:38):

The number of incarcerated individuals tested for COVID-19 during June 2022 was 1,897, and of those 24, or 1.7%, were found to be positive. There are currently 3 incarcerated individuals presently positive in the facility with zero hospitalizations due to COVID-19. There has been an overall positivity rate of 4.1% at the Allegheny County jail since the first diagnosed case of an incarcerated individual on April 6, 2020. Regarding employees, there have been 291 staff report positive throughout the pandemic. We presently have 6 individuals who continue through their recovery process and have not yet returned to work.

Vaccination: The ACJ has supported the vaccination of incarcerated individuals by providing over 2,875 total doses thus far. The ACJ has continued to store Pfizer and Moderna vaccine. Last month, there were 592 individuals reported to have their full series. This month there is 655 individuals, which is 42%, that have received their full series. This is up 4% from last month. During the month of June, 180 vaccines during a 4-day vaccine clinic.

C. Medication Assisted Treatment (2:02:26):

Deputy HSA Madden:

Regarding medications for opioid use disorder and the expansion of these efforts, the jail continues to provide medication assisted treatment options including Naltrexone and Vivitrol for the treatment of alcoholism and opioid disorder and Suboxone and Sublocade for the treatment of opioid use disorder. During the month of June, there were 27 individuals prescribed oral Naltrexone, with 1 individual receiving the Vivitrol injections prior to community release. During the month of June, 124 individuals were treated with Suboxone, and 19 individuals were treated with Sublocade. The jail continues in its contract expansion with Tadiso, its Methadone provider, and is actively developing the implementation of the Methadone services for individuals currently receiving Methadone in the community. Tadiso is working on filling staffing positions, with 7 currently in the onboarding process.

D. Tracking commitment to Torrance (2:03:38):

Deputy HSA Madden:

During the month of June, 3 persons were admitted and transferred to Torrance State Hospital. In June, 11 new persons were committed and there are currently 19 patients awaiting admission. The longest wait is from March 2022.

E. Tier 4 and Tier 5 (2:04:06):

Deputy HSA Madden:

As a reminder, tier 5 includes any patient who is actively suicidal or self-harming. Tier 4 is any patient who is at imminent risk of harming themselves or others. In the month of June, 1 individual was identified as tier 5 and 11 individuals who were identified as a tier 4. The duration of time that a patient is on a tier will vary, which can be from hours to days.

There was discussion regarding COVID testing. The jail is still doing rapid testing on individuals coming into the facility and get retested around day 7 or 8 with a PCR test.

A follow up conversation regarding MAT. The jail is currently is still providing continuations only of MATs. There is a possibility that they will be put on a different medication assisted treatment once they are in the jail.

There was a discussion regarding gender affirming care. The jail generally continues hormone treatments and mental health services. Deputy HSA Madden does not know the background off all of the mental health providers and was unable to say if any of them have a background in providing gender affirming care.

Additional conversation regarding COVID vaccines. The jail reports to the board anyone who has their full series when quoting number of individuals that are 100% vaccinated. The jail is still providing money from the IIWF for each dose, including boosters.

Ms. Klein expressed her concern about the jail giving up masks with the BA.5 variant. Warden Harper let the board know they did meet with AHN the Allegheny County Health Department to come up with the plan. It is optional and employees and incarcerated individuals can still wear the masks if they would like to. The incarcerated individuals that have court dates have been wearing masks due to them going through intake department to be transported to the courthouse.

There was discussion regarding the COVID dashboard on the ACJ's website. Warden Harper stated it is still on the website and was not moved.

8. New Business (2:11:00):

Ms. Hallam requested to discuss a few items before the motions. She mentioned that an email was circulated with Judge Howsie's intention to cancel the August meeting. Ms. Hallam read section 1727 of the state statute that the JOB has to meet once a month. Judge Howsie mentioned that he called the board members and 6 of the 9 members who had conflicts that would lessen the likelihood of them attending the meeting on August 4th, as there would not be a quorum. He also mentioned, historically under other Judge's tenure, meetings have been cancelled. Ms. Hallam believes that the board should not continue illegal practices just because it was done that way in the past. Ms. Royston agrees that the statute states the board is to meet at least once monthly and would not be fulfilling the legal obligation by canceling August's meeting. Ms. Royston believes that, as well as her motion she submitted, should be discussed in a public meeting. Judge Lazzara requested that the meeting be moved to later in August to satisfy their obligation. Ms. Hallam also stated that it is a violation of the Sunshine Act to act on agency business unless it is in a public meeting. Ms. Hallam wanted to remind the board that Judge Howsie is not the chair of the board and that he is Judge Clark's designee. She feels if he cannot attend, then Judge Clark should, or she should assign another designee. Ms. Hallam does not believe Judge Howsie can unilaterally decide and that there is no chair to the board.

Ms. Hallam is also concerned the Judge Howsie told her and Ms. Royston that they were not allowed to add a motion to the agenda. Ms. Royston stated that according the Roberts Rules of Order, if a board member presents a motion, it is required to be presented in public. Ms. Hallam and Ms. Royston continued with the motions they submitted to be added to the agenda.

Ms. Royston (2:18:45):

Ms. Royston has tried to get this motion on the agenda 3 times. The first time Ms. Royston was told conversations were held outside and no one agreed to it. Last month, the motion was submitted late. This month, Ms. Royston was told the logistics were unavailable, which she feels should have been brought up in public discussion. The software to provide this service is free of charge.

Motion that the Jail Oversight Board Members be allowed to attend meetings remotely, through Microsoft Teams or by phone, instead of strictly in person. There is no requirement prohibiting a virtual option, in the stature or otherwise, and instituting this option will only increase participation by board members. This option should be limited, with only 2 virtual options available per member, per year. This is the same option that County Council members have as well.

The board approved a motion (5 Yea, 3 Nay) by Ms. Royston, duly seconded by Ms. Hallam, to allow the JOB to attend meetings remotely, limited to 2 virtual options per member, per year.

Ms. Hallam (2:21:41):

The next motion is similar to the one presented last month, but in taking feedback it has been amended. These substitutions are already being recorded as per the jail's policy and Ms. Hallam would just like the board to receive the report as well.

Motion for the jail to notify the JOB members each month how many times the food served to incarcerated folks deviated from the posted menu. Notification will include detailed reasoning for the menu deviation(s) and what food was substituted.

The board approved a motion (6 Yea, 1 Nay, 1 Abstention) by Ms. Hallam, duly seconded by Ms. Klein, for the jail to notify the JOB members each month how many times the food served to incarcerated folks deviates from the posted menu, including reason for deviation and what food was substituted.

A. Motion for IIWF monies to be put on incarcerated individual accounts (2:25:01):

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 approved a motion (6 Yea, 2 Abstention) 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 (1,556 individuals x \$100.00 = Total \$155,600).

B. Motion for IIWF monies to be put on incarcerated individual accounts (2:25:01):

Judge Howsie:

Motion for the jail to forward to the JOB each Food Safety Assessment Report and any other inspections it receives from the Allegheny County Health Department within 30 days of receipt.

The board unanimously approved a motion by Ms. Hallam, duly seconded by Ms. Klein, for the jail to forward all inspection reports it receives from the Allegheny County Health Department to the JOB within 30 days of receipt.

Judge Lazzara (2:26:58):

Judge Lazzara had promised Ms. Hallam to provide statistics about the population of the jail and what they are being held for. These statistics are as of 4:30pm on July 6, 2022. There were 1,456 people at the jail, 105 people in alternative housing facilities, excluding any people with holds by the federal government. There are 86 people (6%) in the jail are serving a county sentence as a result of a new conviction. There are 331 people (23%) in the jail have a hold from an external jurisdiction. There are 616 people (42%) in the jail were detained by Allegheny County Probation. They are being detained for violating probation on a crime for which they have previously been convicted. Of the 616 people, 547 people (89%) were moderate or high risk to reoffend based on probation proxy risk score. The remainder being held for a variety of reasons, including violent felonies, awaiting mental health commitments or service plans, and other reasons related to their own safety or the safety of the community. There are 360 people (25%) in the jail are pretrial only, meaning they have no other reason keeping them in jail. Of these people, 1% screened as low risk to re-offend based on the Allegheny County locally validated pre-trial risk assessment without consideration of the seriousness of their offenses. There are 85 people (6%) in the jail are pretrial only on monetary bonds, with 9 of these individuals screening as low risk for new criminal activity and were all facing violent charges. All pretrial monetary bond cases are reviewed for possible bail modification. For comparison purposes, the ACJ population, excluding federal holds but including alternative housing facilities, on March 16, 2020, right before COVID, the numbers were 2,075. This number included 1,859 people at the jail and 216 people in alternative housing. As of July 6th, there is a 22% decrease from March 16, 2020 and alternative housing is a 51% decrease. Detainer population as of March 16, 2020 was 889, and was 616 as of yesterday, which is a 31% decrease.

Ms. Hallam requested Judge Lazzara to email her that information. Judge Lazzara agreed and offered to provide this information every month.

9. Adjournment (2:30:33)

Sheriff Kraus made the motion to adjourn, duly seconded by Ms. Royston. The meeting adjourned approximately 6:30pm.

Kind regards,



Tracy Royston