

Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board

Visit Report – Councilmember Bethany Hallam

Date of Inspection: October 17, 2025

Time of Arrival: 10:50 a.m.

Time of Departure: 3:15 p.m.

Purpose of Visit

I conducted an unannounced inspection of the Allegheny County Jail to follow up on requests and concerns from incarcerated individuals and their loved ones. My goal was to verify reported conditions, observe operations firsthand, and ensure that issues previously brought to the Jail Oversight Board's attention were being appropriately addressed by jail leadership and staff.

Narrative Summary

When I first arrived at the jail, I requested to watch a video of an altercation involving an individual in a wheelchair, several other incarcerated individuals, and a corrections officer. I had received a complaint from a loved one of one of the individuals involved, who expressed concern about discrepancies between their loved one's account and the jail's version of events. While the incident was difficult to see clearly due to the camera angle, what I observed on the video aligned more closely with the jail's account than with the narrative provided by the incarcerated individual's loved one. I spoke to the incarcerated individual about what I saw.

After reviewing the video, I went to 8E, the segregated housing unit. I spoke with several people there. One individual told me he had not been receiving his prescribed physical therapy while in segregation. Another person said he was waiting to be extradited to Illinois and was wondering what was taking so long. A third individual reported that ~~Sergeant Server~~ had made threats toward him. I was escorted through 8E by Unit Manager Gross, and I immediately shared these concerns with him. He said he would look into each of the issues I raised.

Next, I visited 6F, where the children are housed. I spoke with several of the young people there. One individual asked if he could get an SAT prep book to continue his studies. I brought this request to Unit Manager Roundtree, who said he could provide one. The children also raised concerns about a corrections officer who works on their pod. When I asked what I could do to help or what they needed, they said that while they didn't want him to lose his job, they felt he shouldn't be working on their pod because of his demeaning treatment of them. They were

otherwise very positive about the other officers and the unit manager, saying they felt supported overall.

Finally, I went to 4F and spoke with several individuals there. Unit Managers O'Brien & Judge were super welcoming and helpful in answering my questions. No major concerns were brought to my attention in that unit.

I left the jail around 3:15 p.m.

Reflections and Follow-Up

During this visit, I heard consistent themes regarding access to medical care, staff conduct, and the lack of responsiveness to individuals' sick calls and grievances. All of the Unit Managers I interacted with were receptive and indicated they would take action on the issues I raised.

I plan to follow up on the following items:

- Medical access: Confirm that individuals in segregated housing are receiving all prescribed medical and physical therapy services.
- Staff conduct: Review the allegations against **Sergeant Server** and the concerns about other officers to determine whether additional supervision, training, or reassignment is appropriate.

Submitted by:

Councilmember Bethany Hallam

Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board

Date Submitted: 11/20/2025
