

Allegheny County Jail

2025 Annual Warden's Report



Allegheny County Jail

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County of Allegheny

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County Executive

John Fournier

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Jail Oversight Board

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County Executive Sara Innamorato

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Allegheny County Bureau of Corrections

Warden Trevor Wingard

Chief Deputy Warden Lee Estock

Deputy Warden of Healthcare Services Holly Martin

Deputy Warden of Administrative Operations
& Employee Development Karen Kollar

Deputy Warden of Programs and Services Connie Clark



Jail Oversight Board Members and Allegheny County Citizens:

We are pleased to present you with the 2025 Allegheny County Jail Annual Warden's Report. As the following pages unfold, you will observe this past year was one of transformational growth for the jail, its employees, its residents and its many stakeholders, including the Jail Oversight Board. While many of these accomplishments were in the works prior to me assuming the role of Warden last January, I am proud to have played a role in facilitating progress and seeing initiatives come to fruition.

The ACJ continued to innovate in the field of corrections in 2025. We collaborated with the Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) for several new initiatives. This included expanding the jail's Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) program by opening Pennsylvania's first licensed Opioid Treatment Medication Unit, launching a Mobile Competency Restoration and Support Team (MCRST) that helps restore competency in individuals awaiting trial, and significantly increasing our re-entry and programming options.

Our dedicated staff members led to the creation of several new initiatives inside the jail, including our TAILS program that pairs shelter dogs with incarcerated individuals to help prepare animals for adoption and individuals for re-entering the community. We restructured the ways in which our leadership and supervisory teams operate by adding Unit Managers to each housing level, and we fulfilled our promise to communicate honestly and with better transparency with the Jail Oversight Board. We have devoted significant time and resources to leadership development and to overhauling the image of the ACJ. We will continue to bolster these initiatives in 2026 and beyond.

We are first and foremost a public safety institution, and we remained cognizant of security by establishing a "Security/Intel Team" office that ensures both staff and our incarcerated population a safe and professional place in which to work and reside.

In closing, we want to thank the ACJ employees who work diligently each day. Employment in a correctional facility is not always easy or rewarding, but we have worked hard to make every employee, staff member and contractor feel rewarded and recognized for the vital roles they fulfill at the ACJ. We have accomplished much in the previous 12 months, and we look forward to continuing to work with the Board in our quest to transform the ACJ into a nationally recognized correctional facility.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trevor A. Wingard".

Trevor Wingard
Warden

TREVOR WINGARD, WARDEN
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ACJ a short-term holding facility

The Allegheny County Jail (ACJ) is a short-term holding facility for the newly arrested and those held by a judge awaiting trial or sentencing.

It also serves individuals sentenced by a judge to a short (less than two years) term.

The mission of the Bureau of Corrections is to increase public safety in Allegheny County by providing care, custody and control of persons incarcerated, and to reduce recidivism through programs that help persons re-enter and succeed in society.

Built in 1995, the facility is a high-rise direct supervision jail located in downtown Pittsburgh. The facility has a bed capacity of 3,223. Two alternative housing providers can hold 236 individuals.

When law enforcement agencies bring an individual to the Allegheny County Jail, they are first searched for contraband and medically cleared by medical staff to determine provision of care prior to placement in the facility.

Next, the individual is identified and interviewed by Pre-Trial Services and Pre-Arrestment Diversion (PAD). Pre-Trial services make a recommendation to the judge for bail or detention. PAD, launched in January 2025, screens individuals who are brought into the jail and makes recommendations for community programs that can support their needs.

Pre-arrestment hearings take place with a judge where a determination is made for bail or confinement. If bail is recommended, individuals are then taken to the processing center where they are allowed to make phone calls and are held until bond is paid.

If the individual is to be confined to the jail, they undergo further medical evaluation and are provided a shower and clothing. Incarcerated individuals are then sent to a classification pod for further assessment. Based on classification status, they are transferred to a maximum, medium or minimum-security housing unit.

The Allegheny County Jail provides a variety of services for incarcerated individuals including healthcare, mental health, addiction recovery, education, re-entry, Foundation of HOPE pre-release program, substance use diversion, caseworker services, chaplaincy and alternative housing.

In 2025 ACJ, through a partnership with Allegheny County Department of Human Services, became the first jail in Pennsylvania to open a licensed Opioid Treatment Medication Unit. The jail also partnered with DHS and the Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania to launch the Mobile Competency Restoration and Support Team — a program that delivers critical services to individuals determined not competent to stand trial. It is the only mobile team in the state that offers both clinical treatment and psychoeducational support in a community-based model.

The facility also has a Discharge and Release Center where individuals are provided with bus passes, phone calls, medication, clothing, referrals and resources upon their release.

Old jail a Historic Landmark

Now a National Historic Landmark, the original Allegheny County Jail and Courthouse complex was designed by Boston Architect H.H. Richardson and was built by the Norcross Brothers between 1884 and 1886.

One of the most notable features is the “Bridge of Sighs.” The enclosed walkway, modeled after a bridge constructed in Venice in 1600, spans Ross Street and connects the Jail and Courthouse.

While trials are still taking place in the Courthouse, the Jail closed in 1995 and was replaced by the current facility along Second Avenue.

Between 1999 and 2001 the old jail was renovated and now houses the Court of Common Pleas Family Division.

A portion of the original facility was preserved and now houses the Old Allegheny County Jail Museum.

Administration leads ACJ on new path



ACJ welcomed a new warden in 2025.

Trevor Wingard came out of retirement from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and took over the helm of the facility in January.

Wingard entered the position with a solid knowledge of the “outstanding” things being done at the ACJ, but also had a bold vision of the areas that could use improvement.

Those areas included proper communication and leadership development.

Wingard promised to keep staff informed and took the lead by sending facility-wide emails himself.

Wingard also said he saw plenty of leaders on staff when he took the job. The goal, he said, was to identify those employees and ensure they are supported and placed in the best possible positions.

“We hope to continue to improve on everything we do and every service we offer,” he said.

Administrative staff changes

Estock named chief



Wingard’s first personnel change was to promote Lee Estock from Captain to Chief Deputy Warden.

Estock came to the jail after retiring as superintendent of SCI Pine Grove in Indiana County. Upon accepting the position, Estock said his efforts would always be for the betterment of the jail and its employees.

“Chief Estock is a proven leader, and I am pleased he will be taking on this new role,” Wingard said.

Clark promoted



In the warden’s first month on the job, Connie Clark was promoted from Assistant Deputy Warden of Programs and Services to Deputy Warden.

Wingard described Clark as being a “tremendous asset to the facility,” and said ACJ employees “are fortunate to have her.”

Clark started at ACJ in 2013 as the Administrator of Alternative Housing and Diversion. She was later named Administrator of Re-integrative Services in 2021 and Assistant Deputy Warden in 2023.

New Deputy Warden



Karen Kollar was named Deputy Warden of Administration in July.

Promoted from her position of Deputy Health Services Administrator, Kollar said she was excited about her new role and the challenges it presented.

In her new position, Kollar is responsible for human resources, business offices and project management.

Positions created

Unit Managers

The jail added another level of supervision with the addition of the unit manager position on each level. The warden brought the idea to ACJ from the state Department of Corrections and described unit managers as being “mini wardens.” Attaining the position of Unit Manager are Gerald Roundtree, Mat Olean, Ron Gross, Jamie Brickley, Eugene Judge, Jessica O’Brien, LaShaun Davis and Krista Byers.

All of the unit managers came from within the ranks of the ACJ.



ACJ’s Unit Managers

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Operations

Jail Population Manager



With support from grant funding and the county's Department of Health Services, Gary Copeland was named ACJ Population Manager. Copeland had worked almost four years as an Alternative Housing Coordinator at the jail before the promotion.

Copeland is working with the courts and probation representatives to take a close look at the jail's population and try to help determine where it is going and why.

Notable promotions

- Stephanie Frank was promoted from Captain to Acting Major.

In her new role, Frank oversees the Special Management Unit and other administrative duties.

- Michael Gillespie was promoted to Captain.

In his new role of Critical Incident Manager, Gillespie was tasked with implementing a major emergency plan to ensure ACJ has protocols in place if a major incident—such as tornado, massive flooding or blazing fire—would strike the area.

- Heather Greenawalt was promoted to Captain.

With extensive knowledge of the intake area, she is now in charge of that department.

Wingard described Greenawalt as “someone who can be counted on to get things done.”

- Seven new sergeants were recognized during the final Cadet Graduation ceremony of 2025.

Earning the promotions were Daniel Schonbeck, Payge Ferraro, Justin Villella-Casagrande, Miguel McKinley, Nicole Poloff, Gretchen Koken and Jamar Foulks.

- Nigel Trainer was promoted to the position of human resources manager. He joined ACJ as an HR generalist in 2022.

Safety and Security

An ACJ Office of Security and Intelligence was formed. Leading the unit is Bryan Joseph, who earned the new title of Captain of Security and Intelligence. Major Eric Hintemeyer said he has complete confidence in Joseph's ability “to complete this new mission.”

Juvenile Pod Improvements

The Juvenile Pod was freshly painted and updated, creating a more comfortable feeling for those staying there. Additional programming geared toward teenagers was brought to ACJ residents by Tre' Thomas of the Foundation of HOPE. Unit Manager Gerald Roundtree took charge of the pod. The winner of the 2025 Pennsylvania State Prison Society's Correctional Employee of the Year Award, Roundtree has made changes that are providing the juveniles a brighter outlook for their future.

Major Restructuring

The purview of the rank of Major at the ACJ has been more clearly defined with each being assigned a specific role — Major of Unit Management, Major of the Guard, Major of Specialized Housing and Major of Security/Intelligence Office. The change creates a clearer chain of command for all ACJ staff.

Updating Policies

Administration has formed a policy committee led by Dep. Karen Kollar and has started the process of updating ACJ policies to make them more clear and concise as well as up to date.

Improved Communications/Labor Relations

Administration has made a concerted effort to improve communications with ACJ staff, the Jail Oversight Board, ACJ residents, stakeholders, community partners and residents of the community.

Family Tours

Jail administration began offering tours of the facility to employees' families and friends. Those attending are able to visit an empty pod, administration area, employee lounge, educational area, chaplaincy and more.

Those attending are also able to ask questions of those who volunteered to lead the tours.

Recruitment efforts bring in new talent

Efforts to fill vacant employment positions at the Allegheny County Jail paid off in 2025. The county employed a total of 657 employees at the jail at the close of 2025, up from 616 in December 2024, which represents an increase of about 7 percent.

Those numbers include 101 employees in the medical field to close 2025 compared to 82 county-hired medical employees in 2024 – an increase of 23 percent.

At the end of 2025, the county had 556 employees in operations, compared to 534 in 2024, an increase of 4 percent.

A summary of recruitment efforts follows:

On-site ACJ tours

North Allegheny High School	Penn State Beaver	FBI Citizens Academy
Upper St. Clair High School	Point Park University	
AW Beatty Career Tech	Community College of Allegheny County	
Parkway West Career Tech	Penn West California of PA	
West Allegheny High School	Allegheny County Public Defender’s Office	

Talent Acquisition Recruitment Events

Pittsburgh Public School Counselors Visit ACJ	Seton Hill Criminal Justice Career Fair
W&J Lunch Visit	Recruit Military - Veterans Career Fair
W&J Career Fair	AW Beatty Career and Tech Career Fair
Stage AE Career Fair	West Mifflin High School Job Fair
Indiana University of Pennsylvania Criminal Justice Career Fair	
Goodwill of Southwest Pennsylvania Career Fair	



Cadet Success

ACJ held four cadet classes in 2025 that resulted in 80 cadets participating in the training program. As of Jan. 1, 51 of those candidates graduated.

That total does not include the Dec. 15, 2025 class which consists of 13 participants. That class will graduate on Feb. 20, 2026. For the year, the retention rate of those who graduated from the class is 86 percent.



Members of the ACJ medical staff and jail administration had plenty of reason to smile as ACJ earned National Commission on Correctional Health Care accreditation in 2025.

Medical continues major improvements

Allegheny County Jail's healthcare department in 2025 continued its mission of change, program growth, process improvement and increased collaboration with added focus on comprehensive healthcare.

This team once again came together to overcome many obstacles and move the department forward.

Personnel, Recruitment and Retention

- Increased attendance at job fairs and participation in recruitment efforts with the county.
- Filled a total of 48 county positions, compared to 34 in 2024. Forty of those 48 new staff members remained at the jail for at least a year for an 83-percent retention rate.
- Onboarded a full, five-person complement of EMS clinicians.
- Onboarded leadership positions of Deputy Health Services Administrator, Director of Substance Use Programs and Director of Nursing.
- Visited universities and schools, including Carlow University, Washington & Jefferson College, Wilkes University, Community College of Allegheny County, All-State Career School and Geneva College to present correctional medicine opportunities available to students.
- Conducted tours and presentations to students from the Institute for Research, Education and Training in Addictions (IRETA).



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Healthcare

- Grew student internship and clinical hour opportunities.
- Expanded the Allegheny Health Network (AHN) team by adding providers for mental health, substance use disorders and physical health.
- Participated in community volunteer events for Peoples Oakland.
- Onboarded full complement of Assistant Directors of Nursing (ADONs).
- Facilitated staff blood drive.
- Placed electronic monitors in staff areas to communicate upcoming events and important announcements.
- Implemented the Nurse Star of the Month program, a recognition initiative aimed at celebrating the exceptional contributions of nurses within an organization.
 - * This program involves a nomination process through which staff members can nominate a colleague for recognition based on specific criteria such as hard work, compassion, exceeding their regular responsibilities and their commitment to patient care.

The recipient of the award receives a small token of appreciation. While the program aims to acknowledge and reward outstanding nursing efforts, it is important to note that it can sometimes create a competitive spirit among staff. This program serves to honor and encourage nurses for their hard work and dedication to patient care.

Mental Health

- Created and launched the Diversionary Treatment Unit (DTU) to divert patients with a serious mental illness from typical restrictive housing units to a treatment-focused and mental health-managed unit.
- Hired two mental health professionals – Dr. Scierra Hill, a psychologist; and Behavioral Health Consultant Kyleigh Suesser, LPC – to help provide clinical modalities to patients with a serious mental illness.
- Conducted groups utilizing mental health registered nurses, mental health specialists and DTU staff.
- Continued treatment team meetings to support high-needs patients.
- Provided mental health and suicide prevention training to new employees in security training.
- In conjunction with the Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS), launched the Mobile Competency Restoration Team (MCRT) to offer competency restoration to patients otherwise court-ordered to Torrance State Hospital.
 - * This successful program diminished the wait time to determine competency for the jail's court-ordered patients. The restoration team works within the jail and consists of a mental health nurse, peer specialist, mental health therapist, competency support specialist, psychiatrist and Justice-Related Services (JRS) workers.
- Experienced significant growth by hiring several new professionals, including mental health registered nurses, mental health specialists and behavioral health rehabilitation specialists.
- Recruited and onboarded two additional psychiatric providers.
- Increased mental health programming with weekly mental health groups now available to support ACJ resident wellness. Staff are strategically assigned to acute units where they provide individualized, one-on-one support.
- Actively working toward full compliance with National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) standards for conducting sick calls, ensuring timely and effective mental health care.
- Healthcare leadership attended a meeting with the Downtown Court Project to present the Mental Health and Substance Use services offered to those incarcerated. The Director of Mental Health participates in bi-weekly meetings with this group to focus on improving collaboration between the community stakeholders and the Allegheny County Jail.

Mental Health Therapy

- Consolidated the mental health therapist workstations and appointment process to allow for dependable and repeatable patient access.
- Began offering therapy to all pods and populations, including Restricted Housing (RHU) and juvenile units.
- Assessed a total of 780 patients for treatment.

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ACJ medical staff joined other jail employees to take part in the Recovery Walk in Pittsburgh.

- Conducted 5,700 mental health encounters.
- Implemented evidence-based Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy in both individual and group settings.
- Attended trainings in Emotion-Focused Therapy (EFT) and human trafficking.
- The program created and distributed gender-specific mental health workbooks for all new patients.
- Began weekly clinical supervision groups for all mental health therapists and interns.
- One Licensed Social Worker (LSW) therapist progressed to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) after completing in-house clinical supervision.

Substance Use Department

- Offered training and presentations to both incoming employees and current staff to help educate about substance use and stigma reduction.
- Increased Substance Use Department (SUD) staff and expanded programming to other levels of the facility.
- Expanded programming to juvenile pods and has observed significant participation and treatment adherence.
- Participated in the Recovery Walk held in downtown Pittsburgh.
- Onboarded new SUD Director – Judy Acheson, LPC.
- Created handouts for the ACJ residents to increase participation in programming.
- Made educational staff presentations on changing trends in substance use.
- Expanded Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) services throughout the year.
 - * The ACJ continues to offer medication management for alcohol and opiate disorders. The jail offers both oral and injectable medications and offers a fully staffed and licensed methadone treatment program within the jail.
- Began methadone induction.
- Evaluated and updated withdrawal management protocols to include more frequent encounters for assessments and medications.
- Continued collaboration with community partners, including Unity Recovery and the AHN RIVER program to ensure patient support and continuation of care.
- Increased provider team to four.

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Healthcare

- Presented Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Study (MOUD) program training at the NCCHC Mental Health Conference in San Francisco, the National Conference in Baltimore and the National American Correctional Association conference in Denver.

Public Health

- Established monthly educational materials to share with all staff and ACJ residents. The material highlights health topics relevant to correctional settings, aiming to increase awareness, promote prevention and encourage a culture of wellness across the facility.
- Expanded infectious disease prevention and treatment services.
- Strengthened STI testing and treatment efforts, enhanced hepatitis C monitoring and increased vaccine administration for incarcerated populations.
- Increased vaccination access and coverage by providing more than 400 vaccines (influenza, COVID-19, hepatitis, pneumonia and shingles) to individuals in custody and new cadets.
- Enhanced collaboration with Allegheny County Health Department Laboratory (ACHDP).
- Improved communicable disease reporting and testing coordination by updating guidance and utilizing the ACHDP to expand testing capacity within the jail.
- Strengthened transgender health services.
- Expanded engagement with transgender individuals by implementing consistent tracking and administration of hormone replacement therapy to support continuity of care.
- Increased preparedness and response for emerging diseases. Public health staff attended multiple NCCHC webinars on measles preparedness within correctional facilities and developed a comprehensive Measles Action Plan for medical staff to ensure rapid identification and prevention of transmission within the facility.
- Successfully completed 340B program re-certification.
- Successfully completed 340V program re-certification, enabling continued access to discounted medications and expanded support for public health initiatives.
- Held on-site influenza and COVID-19 vaccination clinic for staff in collaboration with Giant Eagle Pharmacy with 45 staff participants.
- Strengthened community partnerships.
 - * As part of ongoing collaboration with key stakeholders, public health secured a generous supply of rapid HIV and hepatitis C testing kits from Penn State University. This partnership directly increased screening rates and improved early detection efforts within the facility.
- Worked with the juveniles and schools to update vaccination records to ensure compliance with the school district requirements.

Physical Health

- Improved collaborative efforts with partnering hospitals who receive jail patients. The jail's medical director and representatives from jail operations toured the receiving facilities of outside hospitals. During those tours, jail representatives met with hospital leadership, including doctors, discharge planners, security and more.
- Improved collaborative efforts with operations teams for more standardized medication times.
- Separated intake processes to allow for completion of more focused and in-depth screenings.
- Added EMS clinicians at intake to assist with triaging, screening and responding to medical emergencies.

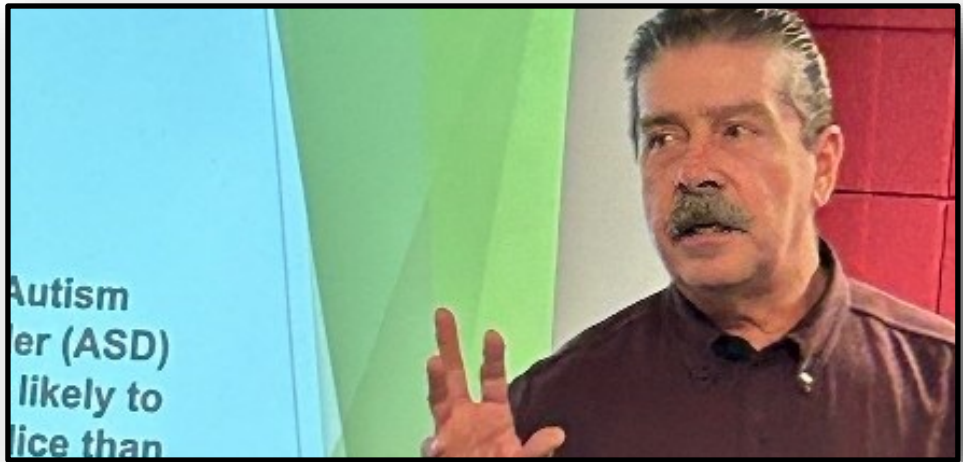
Training

- Implemented Star Center – monthly simulation training provided by AHN. This has been opened to all healthcare and operations staff.
- All officers and healthcare staff completed Crisis Response Intervention Training (CRIT), with 2026 goal to include all staff.
- Participated in online and in-person leadership training opportunities.

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Healthcare

- Participated in autism presentation with Autism PGH.
- Participated in AHN Grand Rounds - Caring for the transgender and gender diverse patients.
- Participated in infection prevention presentation from Pennsylvania Department of Health.
- Participated in webinars from NCCHC, ACA, ACNA, NIC and Relias.
- Participated in human trafficking information presentation by Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR).
- Three healthcare instructors completed 10 Basic Life Support (BLS) classes, which certified or recertified 23 county healthcare employees.
- Increased online services for healthcare staff and in-person training opportunities for competencies.
- Completed Year 1 of Project ECHO with a focus on substance use treatment in correctional settings.



Jesse Torisky, President and CEO of Autism Pittsburgh, presented a training program to ACJ staff in 2025.

National Commission on Correctional Health Care

- Medical Director Dr. Merry Demko, Deputy Warden for Healthcare Services Holly Martin, Staff Educator Candy Vazquez and Deputy Warden for Administrative Operations and Employee Development Karen Kollar received their Certified Correctional Health Professional designation.
- The Allegheny County Jail Healthcare Department received full NCCHC Accreditation.

Quality Improvement

The Quality Improvement (QI) department focuses on analyzing data, processes and outcomes, and how that impacts team members and organizational culture. The QI department worked to improve the organization in the following ways:

- Helped create a culture of respect where employees feel valued and respected, which boosts morale.
- Created smarter workflows by reducing unnecessary steps in processes.
- Promoted teamwork and shared purpose through educational presentations.
- Recognized and rewarded employee contributions (Welcome Committee).
- Created a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Department Manual.
- Created a CQI Department Standard Operating Procedure.
- Created a CQI Department Strategic Plan.
- Participated in greeting new employees in security training to assist with making the onboarding process a smoother transition.
- QI manager achieved Six Sigma White Belt certification and began focusing on creating lean departmental processes.
- Led HIPAA breach investigations, follow-ups and corrective actions to help foster a culture of privacy and accountability while ensuring compliance and risk reduction.

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The past year presented the healthcare team with numerous challenges and opportunities for growth. Our staff remains dedicated to serving and treating a complex and ever-changing population.

In 2026, we look forward to expanding the medical services being offered, providing specialized training and staff development opportunities and increasing collaborative relationships with higher education institutions.



The Rev. Dr. Tami Hooker, above, speaks during the annual Memorial Service during National Correctional Employees Week. At right, Bishop David Zubik presides over a foot-washing service.



Program opportunities expand in 2025

Chaplaincy and Pre-Release

The Foundation of HOPE Pre-Release program graduated 209 participants during 10 ceremonies in 2025. The ceremonies featured various special participants, including a violinist, guest speakers and performances from talented incarcerated participants.

Pre-Release has hosted many speakers at graduation ceremonies, most recently Terri Minor-Spencer, Founder and President of West End P.O.W.E.R and Aaron Thomas, Manager of Professional Development and Coaching at Allegheny County Department of Human Services.

A HOPE employee hosted a puzzle drive in the summer of 2025 at her church, bringing in hundreds of puzzles for the Chaplain's Department and Activities Department.

Twice-monthly Tai Chi classes began in May on the Pre-Release housing unit.

The Pre-Release program expanded the Financial Literacy course in 2025 to adapt to the interest of the participants and now includes topics such as "How to be a Millionaire" and "Chinese Money Secrets." The HOPE Pre-Release female program added "Financial Literacy" in December.

Pre-Release began the process of incorporating former juveniles who recently turned 18 into the program.

Pre-Release male graduates are holding a weekly mentoring/life skills class with current participants.

In February, HOPE Chaplaincy hired Rev. Dr. Tami Hooker as the jail's first staff chaplain. She provides confidential support to staff who are facing professional or personal challenges. Staff look forward to seeing her and many have established relationships with her.

Chaplaincy facilitated several celebrations for religious holidays and other events throughout 2025. In March, the team distributed ashes to the incarcerated population and staff in observance of Ash Wednesday. It also coordinated a visit from Diocese of Pittsburgh Bishop David Zubik for a foot-washing service on Holy Thursday. During Ramadan, which began in February, Chaplaincy coordinated with Trinity, the jail's meal provider, for the monthlong fast and an Eid-al-Fitr meal to commemorate the end of Ramadan in March.

In May, Chaplaincy assisted with the planning and facilitation of the annual memorial service during National Correctional Employees Week. Chaplaincy also participated in other events throughout the year where staff members offered prayers and support to the incarcerated population and staff.

The year concluded with Chaplaincy staff and volunteers packaging and delivering holiday care packages

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Programming

to everyone in the jail. The care packages contained candy, hot chocolate, notepads, pens and thermals. Chaplaincy also provided everyone in the jail with two Christmas cards with paid postage to send to their loved ones for the holidays.

In 2025, chaplains visited 8,937 individuals, provided religious services to 4,232 individuals, distributed 1,346 scriptures and answered 11,352 requests from the incarcerated population.



Contact Visits

The jail provides an opportunity for contact visitation for individuals who are housed on the program and worker housing units.

The jail held 869 contact visits with 1,667 visitors. Contact visitation for the juvenile population expanded from one-hour sessions to two-hour sessions. The jail partnered with Amachi Pittsburgh, which entertains and engages visitors prior to each visit. Amachi also provides crucial community resource support to the loved ones of those incarcerated.

Residential Placement Services

Based on orders from the courts, Residential Placement Services facilitated the transfer of 802 individuals to alternative housing and 245 individuals to substance-use treatment through the Diversion Program in 2025. These programs enable individuals to get the treatment and support that they need in community-based programming where they can connect with aftercare supports for continued care following release.

The Pre-Arrestment Diversion (PAD) Department launched in January.

The department conducts screenings of individuals who are brought into the jail and makes recommendations for programs in the community that can support their needs. The department utilizes evidence-based screening tools to identify areas of need. Those screening tools are the Texas Christian University Five (TCU-V) drug screen, the Ritvo Autism Asperger Diagnostic Scale Revised 14 (RAADS-14), and the Brief Jail Mental Health screen. These screening tools help to identify treatment needs for substance use, mental health and autism.

In addition, the team assesses general needs related to healthcare, housing, employment, education and access to transportation. In December, the department began developing diversion plans which can be presented to the arraigning judge. Peer support services are offered to eligible and willing individuals through Unity Recovery Services. Since the development of diversion plans in December, Unity has been able to meet with 32 individuals prior to being arraigned. Of those, 21 were successfully diverted from the jail. In 2025, a total of 4,712 new arrests were screened by the PAD Department. This program is supported by a Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant secured through our partners at the Department of Human Services.

The jail completes medical assistance applications for individuals prior to release who do not have medical insurance benefits. In 2025, the medical assistance program assisted 1,113 individuals with completing

Programming

medical assistance applications upon release. This service links individuals to medical benefits, which enables them to receive medications, substance use, mental health and medical treatment through community providers following release.

Population Management

The jail hired a population manager in 2025 with grant funding from the MacArthur Foundation and support from DHS. The population manager's overall goal is to work with stakeholders to reduce the jail population. This position is also working on streamlining processes to be more efficient and effective, and to get people released from jail as quickly as possible.

In 2025, the average daily population was 1,834. This is a 7 percent increase from the 2024 population. The total admissions to the ACJ in 2025 were 9,245 compared to 8,870 in 2024. The total releases from the ACJ in 2025 were 9,288 compared to 8,633 in 2024.

At the end of 2025, there were at a total of 890 pretrial detainees, 645 probation violators, 111 county sentenced individuals, and 70 with an external hold.

Re-Entry Services

In partnership with the Department of Human Services, new providers in 2025 began offering classes in the Re-Entry Center. Classes are conducted in closed groups of 15-20 individuals in the Re-Entry Center. Classes are four to six weeks in length and participants are given a certificate upon successful completion of the class. Classes are taught by providers from the community who also offer support and services following release.

Prison Society-Relationship Building & Maintenance Classes: This class is a blend of healthy relationship and skill learning and recognizing unhealthy relationships. This class will teach you to be a good role model for your children on what is a healthy relationship.

Amachi-Female and Male Parenting: This curriculum is an evidence-based, cognitive-behavioral parent management skills training program for incarcerated parents. Parents develop and refine social interactional skills they can use in all aspects of their lives and that will help them guide their children toward becoming positive, constructive adults.

Awaken Pittsburgh-Mind Training for Successful Re-entry: This class encourages the participant to take the opportunity to consider their own health and wellness needs and goals for a successful re-entry. The instructors will offer a range of tools for working with one's mind to increase personal awareness and power. Topics will include stress relief, building resilience, decreasing reactivity, healing trauma and living with intention. Participation and discussion are expected.

Renewal Inc. and ReCA -Recovery-Oriented Cognitive Therapy (CT-R) Course: CT-R takes a strengths-based approach and works with participants to activate adaptive modes of living, develop aspirations and engage in personally meaningful activities. Through targeted cognitive strategies, participants create their desired life and strengthen a positive belief system.

Reimagine Reentry-Job Training & Development: This class is designed to develop the skills necessary for success in the job market and workplace with the intention of breaking the cycle of unemployment



Ronele Thomas, Diversion Coordinator, and Tess Fiorentino, Treatment Services Coordinator, lead the way in the ACJ Re-Entry Center.

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Programming

and poverty that often intersect with incarceration. The program will prepare participants to connect meaningfully with post-release employment assistance resources.

In addition to the new contract providers, the following providers continue to provide re-entry classes in the Re-Entry Center.

ACJ Diversion Team-Harm Reduction Classes: This class introduces incarcerated individuals to harm reduction protocol regarding substance use dependence, overdose prevention, blood-borne pathogens, treatment and recovery/relapse prevention through a series of classes, experiences and training, thereby lessening the likelihood of disease, infection and/or death.

Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR)- Female Trauma: This is an educational group for survivors of trauma. Addiction and Trauma program offers gender specific Drug and Alcohol Education for women.

The program is a six-week education curriculum and meets for 90 minutes each week.

First Commonwealth Bank-Financial Literacy: This course aims to equip individuals with the knowledge and skills to manage their finances effectively, covering topics like budgeting, saving, investing, credit and debt management, empowering them to make informed financial decisions.

ACJ Chaplaincy- Grief Groups: Also known as a bereavement group, is a supportive forum where individuals who are experiencing grief or loss can connect with others who have similar experiences and share their emotions, coping strategies and stories in a safe and confidential environment.

Wesley Family Services-Batter's Intervention Program (BIP): The Battering Intervention Program is a series of 24 sessions (two sessions per week) taught to male inmates in the Allegheny County Jail. The program uses the Duluth Model.

The instructors work with the participants to understand the violence and abuse they have committed and how to change their behavior to prevent future occurrences.

PEACE: The goal of this program is to help participants explore the possibility of personal peace and discover their innate inner resources tools for living -- such as inner strength, choice, appreciation and hope. Each workshop includes several videos, time for reflection and accompanying reading material.

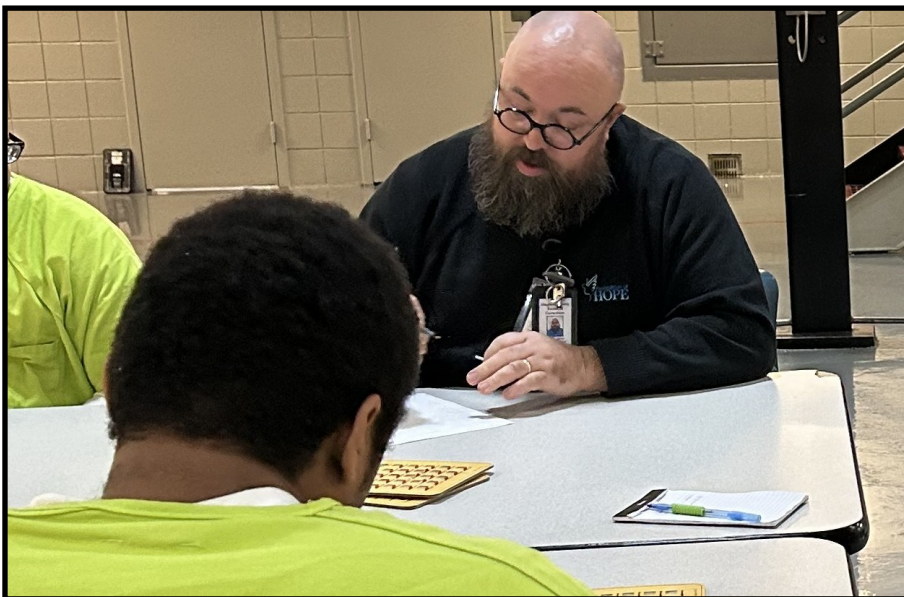
Activities and Resource-Based Coordination

In June, Activities-Based Programming began providing structured activities Monday through Friday on nine housing units. Activities-Based Programming conducted pre-survey questionnaires on each pod to ensure that activities being offered align with individuals' interests.

The program expanded to three additional pods in November. The program facilitated more than 500 activities and included more than 3,500 total participants in 2025. The program has partnered with local community agencies to speak with incarcerated individuals about the services and resources they provide.

Activities-Based Programming maintains and distributes entertainment supplies including Scrabble Slam, Monopoly Deal, Uno, playing cards, Pinochle cards, chess, checkers and dominoes to each of the housing pods. All eligible pods in the ACJ have received the list of supplies above.

Activities-Based Programming will continue to expand activities throughout 2026 with the goal of serving every pod in the jail.



Activities-Based Programming has brought activities such as Bingo, Uno and Scrabble Slam onto the ACJ pods.

Continued on Next Page

Programming

Resource-Based Programming has made significant strides in cataloguing the jail's library of nearly 5,000 books, which are organized and separated by genre. Each housing unit is supplied with a regularly updated book cart containing more than 50 titles. Individuals can request books be added to their book cart by sending a request through an internal request or through the tablet system.

Resource-Based Programming hosts a book drive on the second Monday of every month at the Foundation of HOPE's North Side location. The jail plans to expand the library and create a library space where individuals can come to check out books in 2026.

Job Training

Re-Entry provides job training opportunities including ServSafe (restaurant safety) inside the jail and hopes to increase training programs in 2026. Additionally, Re-Entry participants enroll in free training programs once released into the community.

These options include culinary, hospital environmental services, machining, bricklaying, CDL certification and other construction opportunities.

TAILS Dog Program

The TAILS (Teaching Animals and Incarcerated Lifelong Skills) program is a collaboration between Animal Friends and the ACJ as shelter dogs live at the jail and are taught basic skills to increase their adoptability.

The dogs come from many different situations and enjoy the constant one-on-one time with the individuals who are training them. While the dogs are at the jail, they learn basic commands as well as housebreaking and crate training.

The handlers working with the dogs also learn patience and empathy.

This program benefits the dogs and the handlers, while helping alleviate overcrowding at the animal shelter.



Discharge and Release

In 2025, the Discharge and Release Center assisted 4,556 individuals by providing resources for them upon their release into the community. The DRC distributed 4,054 bus tickets and 822 boxes of Narcan. The DRC sent referrals to community providers for 1,427 released individuals in 2025.

The Duquesne Law School Women's Group donated re-entry bags to the jail. The re-entry bags, which were distributed to females upon release, include shampoo/conditioner, feminine hygiene products, lip balm, combs, brushes, hair ties, snacks, socks, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

The jail hosted overdose prevention resource events in partnership with the Allegheny County Health Department during June and October.

The event took place outside the jail's visitor entrance. Community organizations and jail team members provided information on a variety of county resources to visiting family members and individuals released from the jail.

The jail hired an additional cashier in 2025 to expand office hours and ensure that individuals being released can obtain their funds. The jail also increased the amount of cash that individuals leave with to a maximum of \$50. Remaining funds are in the form of a check.

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Educational Services

The jail hosted graduation ceremonies in May and December and saw a total of 26 individuals earn their high school diploma or the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Secondary Diploma.

The jail continued its proactive efforts to provide voter education and registration opportunities in 2025. Through a partnership with League of Women Voters, Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP) and West End P.O.W.E.R, the jail hosted volunteers from the community to provide non-partisan education on the importance of voting and how to register to vote.

The jail submitted 233 voter registration applications and 260 absentee ballot applications in 2025. The jail had a total of 156 voters participate in the primary, special and general elections in 2025. The facility's proactive approach is unlike any other in Pennsylvania and is setting the stage to inspire other counties to get their incarcerated populations involved in the electoral process.

Community members can have books delivered to the facility for their incarcerated loved ones. In 2025, the caseworker team delivered approximately 1,000 books to the incarcerated population.

The education department hosted two open house events for loved ones to come into the jail to tour the education center.

Families met with each teacher, learned about what the students did throughout the semester in a parent-teacher style meeting, and students were able to show off their hard work.

After the tour and educational overview, yearly awards were presented to students who made significant educational strides throughout the year. The jail provided a luncheon, and students were able to celebrate with their families.



Joseph Tokar, supervisor of Adult Education and Workforce Development for the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, speaks during the December graduation ceremony.

Book Vending Machine



A book vending machine, presented by the Allegheny Library Association, is funded by a grant secured by Senators Jay Costa and Lindsay Williams.

In May, the Allegheny County Library Association installed a book vending machine inside the Visitors Lobby.

Visitors younger than 18 years of age are invited to receive a token from the officer's desk to exchange for a book from the vending machine.

The program is funded by a legislative grant secured by local state Senators Jay Costa and Lindsay Williams, who both attended the ribbon-cutting event for the machine in July.

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Veterans Services

The jail hosted several events for incarcerated veterans in 2025. These events brought community services providers such as Pittsburgh Hires Veterans, Partners for Work, Allegheny County Veterans Services, the Veterans Leadership Program, Semper Fi Mission and Veterans Place into the jail to educate veterans about how to connect with services.

Various organizations offered an array of services this year including employment services, resume building, career and self-empowerment skills, and a resource luncheon to celebrate Veterans Day.

The jail was recognized for its efforts to support incarcerated veterans and was asked to participate in a panel at the annual Veterans Conference in King of Prussia, Pa. The jail's representative had the opportunity to discuss Allegheny County's veterans initiatives within the jail, while also discussing broader issues that affect veterans in the criminal justice system. This conference provided an opportunity for professional networking and to share the amazing work being done in Allegheny County to support our Veteran population.

Language Access

ACJ developed a formal policy to ensure the jail provides language access to incarcerated people who don't speak English. Jail staff provided training on how to use translation services. Several commonly used forms were translated into Spanish, Nepali, Arabic, Chinese and Russian. Enhancing communication of the resources provided in the building has been the main focus.

The jail has strengthened the partnership with Casa San Jose, a local non-profit that creates a welcoming space and provides essential services, advocacy and support for Pittsburgh's Latino community. In 2026, the jail will continue to enhance staff education and expand community resources.

Inside Out

In 2025 Duquesne University and Penn State Greater Allegheny supported Inside Out programming in the jail. The Inside Out program brings together college students and incarcerated individuals to attend class inside the correctional facility.

Duquesne facilitated a class called Performing History Autobiography in Progress. The course used writing and performance to explore intersections of self and society. Every session is a spoken-word performance that brought together current and formerly incarcerated students, undergraduate and graduate students, and police officers. The class used theater as a shared space to move forward towards safety and justice.

Penn State Greater Allegheny facilitated a public speaking course. This course taught students how to conduct oral presentations by learning how to write, outline and deliver presentations and how to incorporate visual aids into the presentation.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

Narcotics Anonymous meetings resumed in the jail in February and take place every Tuesday and Wednesday evening on designated levels. Alcoholics Anonymous meetings expanded in 2025 and now occur on Monday on designated levels. Volunteers facilitate these weekly opportunities.

Video Complex

The video department provides connections between the incarcerated population and a variety of external entities both on the housing units and in the video complex. Through various methods, the department makes approximately 2,200 monthly connections for Allegheny County Courts, pre-trial services (assessments for drug and alcohol and mental health), court-ordered evaluations, Westmoreland County bench warrant hearings, other Pennsylvania county courts, and courts from other states.

In addition to court matters, the video department connects individuals for professional services including attorneys, community programs/placements, Children, Youth and Family services, telepsychiatry,

Programming

marriage licenses and more. The video complex also has interpretation services available via phone or video for the use by the facility. In 2025, the video department has seen an increase in the facilitation of telepsychiatry requests, behavior clinic evaluations, and the beginning stages of virtual telehealth visits. The department facilitated 25,251 connections for 2025.

In 2024, the video complex facilitated a total of 23,696 connections between the incarcerated population and external entities.

Caseworkers

The jail has 10 caseworkers that provide support to the incarcerated population. They focus on supporting the incarcerated population by connecting them to the courts, legal counsel and other agencies to empower and enhance the services we can provide. In 2025, the caseworker department expanded its knowledge through training and resource events while empowering the incarcerated population.

The ACJ's team of caseworkers have taken civil service to a new level by partnering with local agencies to assist the incarcerated population in exercising their right to vote. Together, the jail has registered more than 250 incarcerated voters this year and provided absentee ballots to any eligible voter in our care.

Caseworkers have grown their relationship with other county row offices (Courts, CYF and Public Defenders) by networking and creating new contacts. ACJ's caseworkers are in constant contact with the county probation office and Justice-Related Services/Human Services Administration Organization (HSAO) to enhance communication and care of our population. The caseworkers respond to requests from the incarcerated population via the tablet. The caseworkers responded to 43,866 tablet requests in 2025.



Deputy Warden Connie Clark, right, introduces ACJ Volunteers of the Year Lorraine Cross, from the Black Political Empowerment Project, left, and Amy Kleissas, from League of Women Voters, center.

Volunteer Banquet

In April, the jail hosted its inaugural Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. There are more than 150 volunteers that support the residents of the jail, and the jail is grateful for the contributions that each of them makes to support and educate the residents of the jail.

Amy Kleissas, from League of Women Voters, and Lorraine Cross, from the Black Political Empowerment Project, were honored with Volunteer of the Year awards. They have both been instrumental in the voter education and registration events at the jail. They provide educational information on the election process and they assist with answering questions for those registering for the first time. They coordinate, schedule and organize volunteers to come into the jail several times prior to each election. They have developed nonpartisan educational videos and voter education materials that are targeted to the jail's population.

Improved communications spread words of hope

As the new year began, ACJ administration stressed the importance of creating a more family-like atmosphere among staff. The goal — to break down the barriers between what was then referred to the “uniformed staff” and “non-uniformed staff” and make everyone working in the facility feel like they are part of the ACJ family.

Throughout the year numerous projects have started and groups have been formed to ignite that change.

Facility Newsletter

The communications staff worked to expand its one-page ACJ Bulletin into a multi-page ACJ Journal with the goal of including something everyone in the facility would want to read in every edition.

The new format includes stories about teams working together, historical pieces, the introduction of new employees and even some silly jokes and other features to lighten what is often a stressful day on the job.

Website blog

The communications team has also taken steps to inform the public and the press about new programs and happenings at the ACJ.

The news blog, posted on the jail’s website, has resulted in getting airtime for the arrival of a new book vending machine in the visitors’ lobby as well as the ACJ TAILS program. Another big hit on the blog is news and photos of Cadet Graduation Ceremonies.



Food Trucks

ACJ administration began scheduling food trucks to visit the jail parking lot so staff could add a little more variety to their meals.

While the food provided by Trinity Food Service earns great reviews, there’s something about getting out of the facility for a few minutes to order from a menu that can make jail staff feel like they have a slightly “normal job.”

JOB Collaboration

Jail administration and the Jail Oversight Board took strides toward working together in an effort to provide the type of services Allegheny County residents can be proud of.

The jail opened the doors for JOB committees to enter the facility and watch the ACJ operations in person. JOB members were able to view videos and talk freely with residents.

Members were even invited in to sample the same lunch that the incarcerated individuals were served on that day.

CARES

As for building morale by attempting to create a more family-like atmosphere, the CARES (Corrections Association for Relaxation, Entertainment and Support) Committee was formed.



CARES Chili Cook-Off winner Andria McCourt

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Committee, individual efforts aim to boost staff morale

The goal of the association is to “enhance employee relationships by providing outside opportunities for staff to socialize.”

The committee has already led efforts to help a coworker and his family who were injured in a vehicle accident, held a chili cookoff, sponsored a Steelers watch party and hosted a handful of holiday events.



Dep. Karen Kollar took part in a cornhole game on a volunteer visit to Peoples Oakland.

er ACJ staff through education aimed at assisting them in their current roles while preparing them for future opportunities.

Golf Outing

The Inaugural ACJ Golf Outing drew a huge crowd of jail staff to Moon Country Club this summer.

Organized by Unit Manager Mat Olean, 92 golfers participated in the event that raised more than \$3,000 to benefit others.

Approximately half of the money raised was delivered to Variety – the Children’s Charity. The charity, according to its website, works to empower children who are sick, disadvantaged or living with disabilities “to live life without limits.”

The other half was presented to a member of the ACJ staff – Sgt. William Sundry — who, along with his family, was involved in a serious vehicle accident. Olean has plans for a second annual golf outing in 2026.

Volunteer Efforts

ACJ staff, under the direction of Deputy Warden Karen Kollar, volunteered their services to help a variety of organizations and individuals throughout the community.

Places and events visited by ACJ volunteers included:

- Peoples Oakland in the Park Series: Helped the organization during picnics and a fashion show luncheon for their population.
- PGH Blues and Root Festival to benefit the Band Together Pittsburgh and Autism Pittsburgh organizations.
- Pittsburgh Recovery Walk.
- Blood Drive with the American Red Cross.
- Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh: Dental, Vision and Hearing Clinic.

Empowerment Committee

With a focus of working with human resources and training personnel to develop options for potential events such as an HR Symposium, the Empowerment Committee held its first meeting in November.

Events should start happening in 2026 as the committee’s goal is to create professional development learning opportunities while empowering



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ACJ celebrates Correctional Employees Week

The Celebration of National Correctional Employees Week — May 4-10, 2025 — was a special one at the ACJ.

Not only was new leadership taking the jail in a new direction, the facility was also celebrating its 30th anniversary. The jail along Second Avenue in Pittsburgh officially opened on May 12, 1995, as the old jail along Ross Street closed because of overcrowding.

Highlights of the celebration included recognition of employees who had reached anniversary milestones of 20 and 30 years, a cookout to celebrate all who work at the ACJ and the annual Memorial Service where jail officials honor members of the ACJ correctional family who have passed away.

During the Memorial Service, Warden Trevor Wingard thanked those who have dedicated their lives to working at ACJ.

It is the duty of ACJ staff to protect the lives and property of the residents of Allegheny County, he



County honors ACJ staff

Allegheny County Council, on May 6, 2025, proclaimed May 4-10 Correctional Employees Week in the county.

The proclamation read in part -- "The professionalism, dedication and courage exhibited by correctional employees throughout their demanding, and often conflicting roles, deserves absolute respect."

tasty side dishes for staff, including ice cream sundaes. The event included a dunk tank and visits from a variety of service dogs.

said. It is also the job of those correctional professionals to provide programming and education to the residents of ACJ.

And it is their responsibility to provide care, "sometimes lifesaving care," to those housed in or just entering the facility.

Not many people, the warden said, recognize just how much work is done by the hundreds of workers who come in and out of the ACJ each day.

ACJ administration showed its appreciation by hosting a cookout for all employees to close out the weeklong celebration.

Members of the ACJ administration team assisted the jail's food service provider, Trinity Services Group, in serving hamburgers, hot dogs and pulled pork along with plenty of

Little Library, Food Drive among new morale-building efforts

Staff Reading Materials

Maj. Stephanie Frank asked staff to bring in books to create a "Little Library" to provide reading material employees could read during their breaks. That library is up and running.

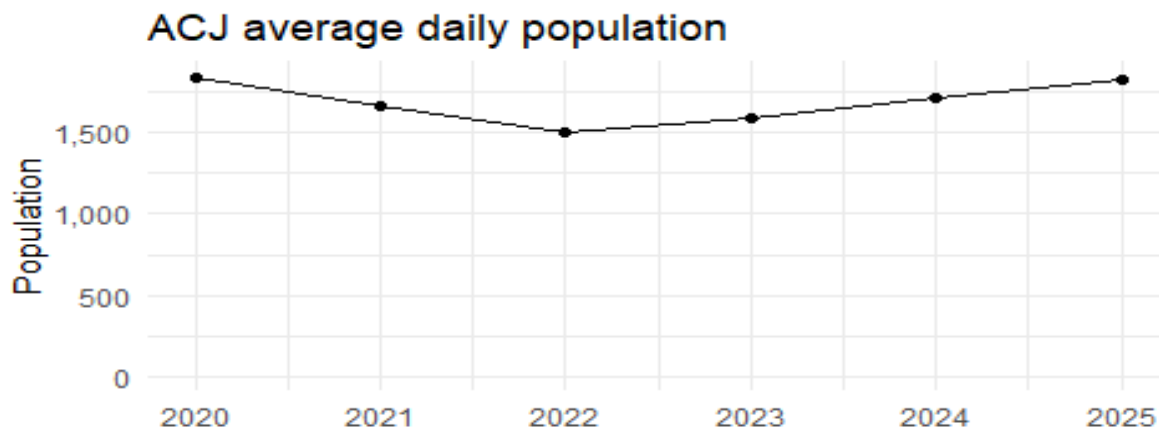
Food Drive

ACJ staff got into the spirit of giving this year as Maj. Frank organized a holiday food drive to benefit the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

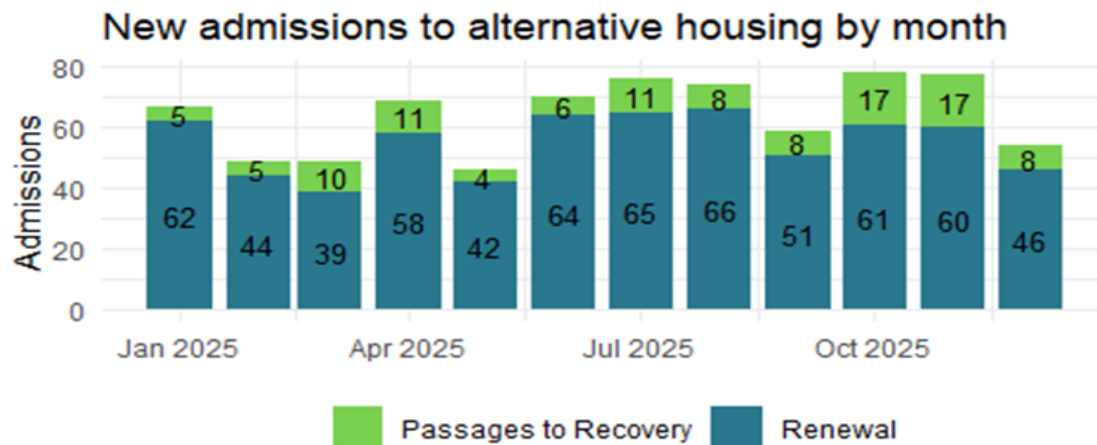
Jail employees donated more than 100 pounds of food and personal hygiene products during the month-long effort that were delivered to the food bank in December.

ACJ Population

ACJ average daily population: 1,834

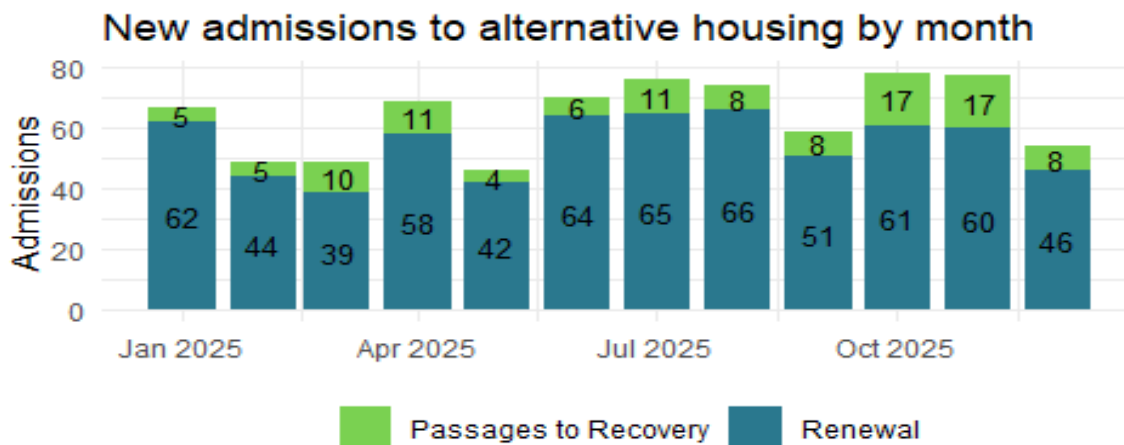


Total commitments: 9,268



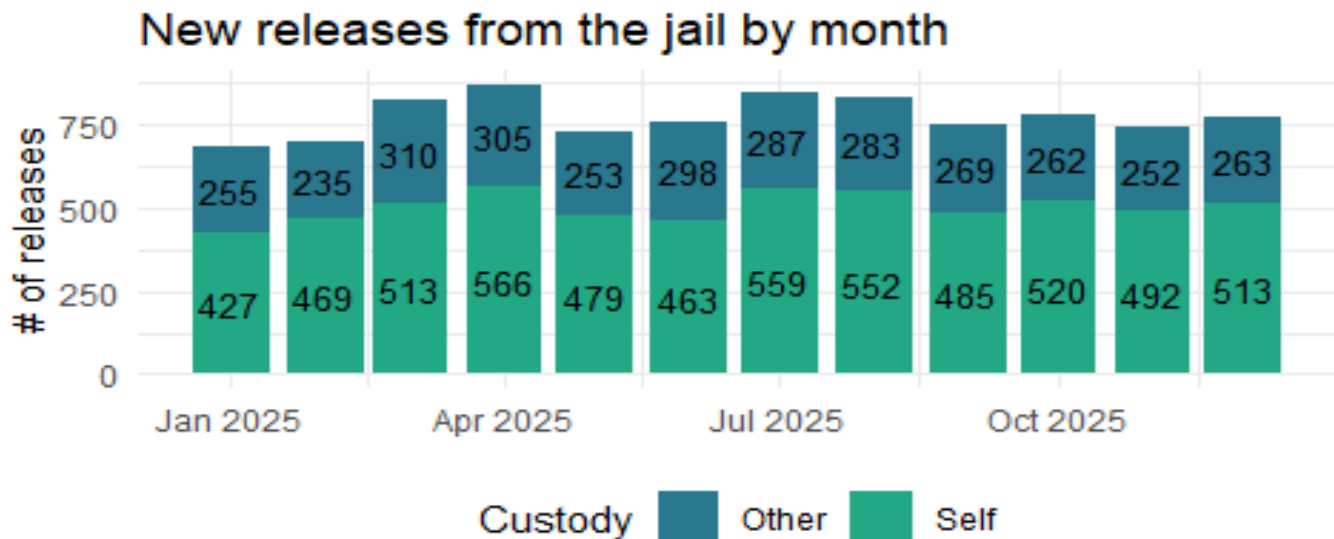
Total alternative housing admissions: 768

This total includes **658 admissions to Renewal** and **110 admissions to Passages to Recovery**.



Release Statistics

Total releases: 9,310



Average release time: 22.2 hours

The average release time concerns people released into their own custody who went through the Discharge and Release Center process. The time to release calculation begins when a clerk initiates the DRC workflow and ends when the person is released from the jail.

In 2025, there were **9,310 releases from the jail** — **6,038** of which involved **people released into their own custody** (other types include releases to rehabilitation programs or other law enforcement agencies). There were 896 cases during 2025 in which there was not a DRC workflow initiated between the person's commitment date and release date. This may happen if someone is released from alternative housing or under pre-trial electronic monitoring. All such cases have been excluded from this analysis.

Drug and Alcohol Diversion

Released to diversion: 236

In 2025, **236 people were released** to outside drug and alcohol diversion programs. As of December 31, there were **6 people in the jail awaiting release** to a program.

Medical Releases

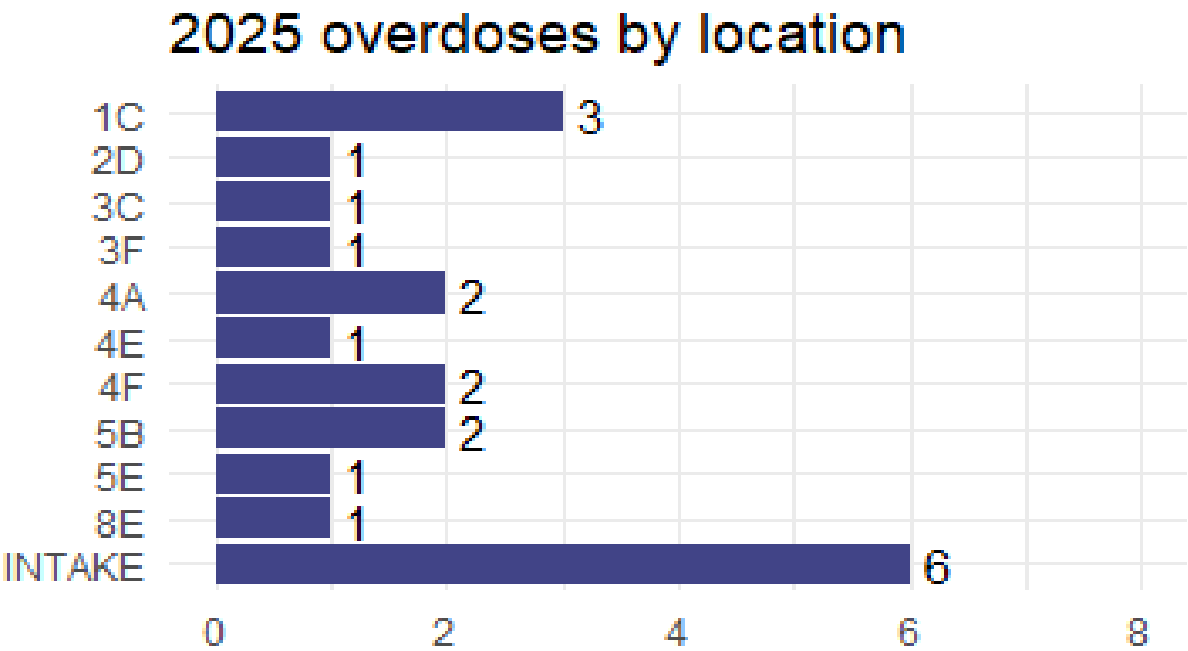
Medically-vulnerable releases: 43

The jail petitioned the courts for the release of **78 medically-vulnerable persons** in 2025. Of those, **43 have been released** and **35 remained in the jail** as of December 31.

Overdoses

Suspected overdoses: 21

There were **21 suspected overdoses** in the jail in 2025.



Ambulance Runs

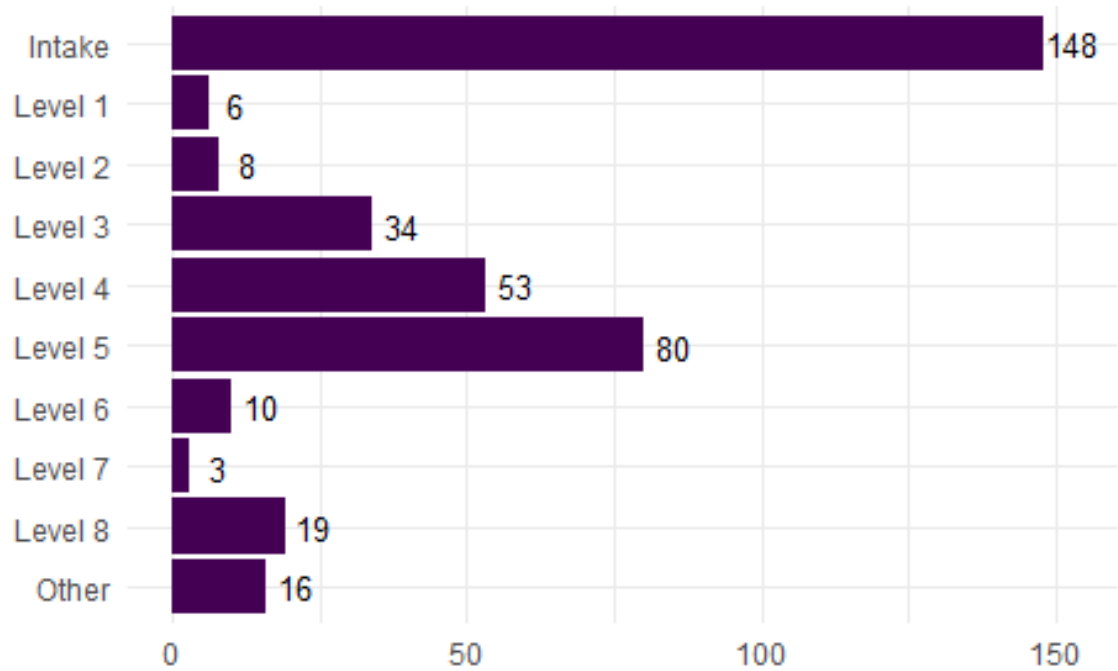
Total runs: 764

There were **764 people taken from the jail to the ER by ambulance** in 2025.

Uses of Force
Uses of force: 363

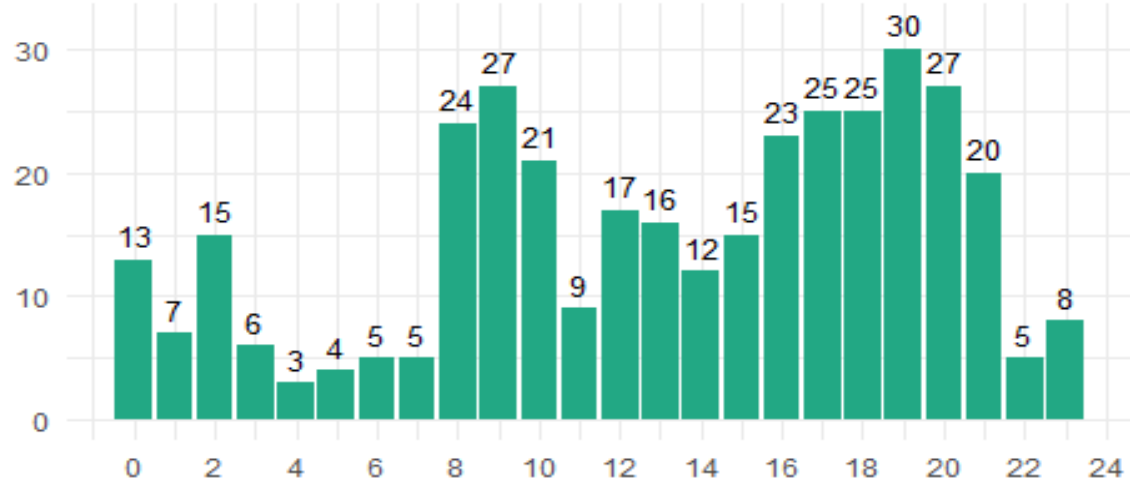
There were **363 uses of force** in 2025 that have completed the review process.

Uses of force by location



Uses of force occasionally take place across more than one location. When that happens, the sum of location totals will exceed the total number of uses of force.

Uses of force by hour



Employment

The number of county employees working at the jail **increased by 48** in 2025, while the number of contractors **decreased by 16**.

Net change in employment over last 12 months

