

Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board

Unannounced Inspection Report

Conducted by: Councilmember Bethany Hallam and Muhammad Ali Nasir (MAN-E)

Date of Inspection: December 9, 2025

Time: Approximately 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Escort: Captain Gross

Areas Visited

- Administrative / Segregated Housing (8E / "the Hole")
 - 6D (Women's Housing Unit)
 - 6C
 - 4A
 - 4D
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Administrative / Segregated Housing (8E)

Incarcerated individuals housed in administrative/segregated housing reported multiple concerns related to staff conduct, retaliation, and basic accommodations. One individual stated that despite being approved for a soy-free diet, meals routinely failed to meet this medical and dietary requirement. Several individuals described what they believed to be an excessive number of strip searches conducted by [REDACTED]. Individuals further reported that grievances filed through the formal process were being read by sergeants and that retaliation followed the submission of those grievances. Additional complaints included harassment by specific correctional officers, including [REDACTED] and the denial of visitation without clear explanation or due process.

6D – Women's Housing Unit

Women housed on 6D raised urgent and distressing concerns regarding medical care, medication administration, environmental conditions, and access to services. Multiple individuals reported that medications prescribed for nighttime use were routinely administered around 4:00 PM. One woman stated that her dosage had been increased without her consent and that she collapsed the week prior as a result. Numerous women reported that mental health

medications were frequently missing from the medication cart, with staff stating they would return but often failing to do so, resulting in individuals going without medication for days at a time.

We also spoke with a transgender individual who reported that their gender-affirming hormone medication was being administered in a manner inconsistent with the prescribing physician's orders. A woman diagnosed with stage IV metastatic breast cancer expressed significant fear and emotional distress, stating that she believed she might die in the jail due to inadequate medical care. She reported repeated sick calls with little response, the discontinuation of a long-standing prescription due to an unexplained expiration, and the failure to honor her prescribed special diet. She showed us the progressive reduction of her peanut butter allotment from two-ounce packets to a minimal soufflé cup which she stated left her hungry and physically weakened.

Women on this unit also reported being told conflicting information regarding dental care eligibility, with Jail Oversight Board minutes indicating eligibility for cleanings while dental staff allegedly stated that individuals must be incarcerated for one year to receive such care. We observed that the liaison request box on the pod appeared not to have been emptied in at least three weeks. Environmental conditions were also raised as a concern, with individuals reporting that the pod and cells were excessively cold due to cold air blowing through vents. Several women reported that books had been confiscated by the unit manager. Individuals on this pod requested that the Warden visit the pod directly to hear their concerns and ideas for improving living conditions, a request we relayed to Warden Wingard.

4A

Incarcerated individuals on 4A reported extremely cold living conditions, with Cell 222 identified as particularly cold. Individuals expressed serious concerns regarding the administration of Suboxone, stating that they were receiving a full day's dose at approximately 9:00 PM immediately before bedtime. Individuals reported that this practice caused negative physical effects and led some to divert medication in order to avoid withdrawal symptoms the following day. Concerns were also raised regarding hostile and unprofessional conduct by supervisory staff during the inspection.

4D

Individuals housed on 4D raised concerns related to religious freedom, legal protections, visitation, and staff conduct. Muslim incarcerated individuals reported that they continue to be denied access to group prayer and have not been provided access to an Imam to lead services. Multiple individuals stated that mail clearly marked as legal mail had been opened prior to being delivered to them, with one individual even showing us his envelope stamped "legal mail" that

had been opened by jail staff prior to him receiving it. Individuals also questioned why pre-COVID visitation levels, specifically an allotment of two visits per week, have not been restored. Additionally, we were told that incarcerated individuals witnessed [REDACTED] punch another incarcerated person, after which that individual allegedly received 25 days in disciplinary housing.

6C

Individuals on 6C reported persistent delays and barriers in accessing medical and mental health care. Several individuals stated that sick calls were not answered in a timely manner or went unanswered altogether. Reports were made of individuals not receiving prescribed medications or receiving them late. One individual reported falling after being denied access to their wheelchair, raising concerns about mobility accommodations. Others expressed confusion and concern regarding court hearings and detainers, stating they had not received adequate information about when detainers would be lifted or how their legal matters were progressing.

Summary of Concerns

The conditions observed during this unannounced inspection raise serious concerns regarding compliance with constitutional standards, basic human dignity, and the policies this facility has publicly committed to uphold. Several issues identified pose immediate health and safety risks and warrant urgent investigation and corrective action.

Report Submitted By:
Councilmember Bethany Hallam
Muhammad Ali Nasir (MAN-E)

Date: January 14, 2026