

Minutes of the Monthly  
Meeting of the  
Lancaster County Prison Board  
May 16, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Joshua Parsons at 9:15 a.m. in the Public Meeting Room at the Lancaster County Administrative Office Building.

Members Present: Commissioner Joshua Parsons, Commissioner Craig Lehman, Commissioner Dennis Stuckey, President Judge Dennis Reinaker, Assistant District Attorney Christine Wilson, Lieutenant Deputy Sheriff Michael Armer, and Controller Brian Hurter.

Others Present: Cheryl Steberger, Robert Wolfe William Aberts, Joseph Shiffer, Ashley Garcia, Cody Scheid, Charlie Douts, Tom Zeager, Helen Zeager, Larry George, Nathaniel Mixon, Dan Martin, Joseph Miller, Micah Metechile, Naeb Mengisteab, Aaron Hanna, Christina Fluegel, Peter Ireland, Patrick Prencipe, Skyler Munoz, Travis Fisher, Malachi Smith, Brendan Gardill, Matthew Wagner, Cory Little, Jaime Miller, Shirley Camacho, Louis Chirichello, Kim McDevitt, Stacie Dixon, Toni Warfel, Linda Kegerreis, Jonathan Fox, Kent Kroehler, Jon Singer, Todd Brown, Gretchen Gaudioso, and Diana Rivera.

District Attorney Craig Stedman and Sheriff Christopher Leppler were unable to attend the meeting.

Commissioner Parsons stated that the Prison Board met in executive session on Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 8:45 a.m. to discuss labor negotiations, litigation, and personnel matters related to the discipline, suspension, and termination of employees. Specifically, under litigation, the Board discussed the Rhinehart case.

Commissioner Stuckey moved to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2019 Prison Board Meeting. Controller Hurter seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Cheryl Steberger, Warden; Robert Wolfe, Deputy Warden for Operations; William Aberts, Major/Security Operations; Joseph Shiffer, Deputy Warden for Inmate Services; Cody Scheid on behalf of Tammy Moyer, Director of Administration; and Charlie Douts, Director of Facilities Management; gave reports on their areas of responsibility. All of these reports, including operations and statistical information, are posted on the County's website.

Cheryl Steberger, Warden, reported that the population as of this morning is 799. She reported that the average population was 847 in April 2018 and 809 in April 2019.

Warden Steberger reported that National Correctional Officers and Employees week was celebrated at the Prison last week. She thanked the Commissioners for coming out to the Prison the first day and reading the proclamation. She stated that the week consisted of food, games, prizes, and awards. Warden Steberger stated that the week was dedicated to the staff and to show how much they are appreciated.

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Warden Steberger reported that the Lock and Key Award was presented to Sergeant Louis Chirichello during Corrections Week. She invited Sergeant Chirichello to the podium. Sergeant Chirichello gave a short speech and said he was speechless and surprised to receive this award. He thanked the other departments and stated it was a team effort. Sergeant Chirichello received a round of applause from those in attendance.

President Judge Reinaker commented on the Prison's population. He reported on the population at surrounding county prisons: 1239 in York, 1264 in Dauphin, 1051 in Berks, 901 in Chester, and 844 in Lehigh. He stated that it is helpful to not only look at how our numbers compare to the previous periods of time but also how they compare to the counties that we usually look to when we want to know how we are doing at any given area.

Robert Wolfe, Deputy Warden for Operations, reported on staff training: two staff trained as Applied Management Application Course (AMAC) Instructors, two staff certified as Pepperball Delivery System Instructors and Armorers, three staff certified as Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Instructors, one staff certified as a TST-Train the Staff Instructor, 15 staff trained as Field Training Officer (FTO), three staff certified as Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Instructors, six staff trained in Drug and Human Trafficking, nine staff certified in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), 43 transport team members trained in restraint usage, three staff went to Texas for touch screen panel training, and all staff were trained in inmate status', stress, infectious disease, criminal justice, legal aspects, and gang intelligence and awareness.

Deputy Warden Wolfe reported that a new class of Correctional Officers started on April 29, 2019 and they will be fully trained and work on their own on June 14, 2019.

Deputy Warden Wolfe reported that staff has started spring cleaning at the Prison. He stated that the whole building will be thoroughly cleaned every Saturday.

Deputy Warden Wolfe reported that the body scanner was delivered on April 12, 2019 and was installed on April 18, 2019. He stated that the policy has been completed and approved by the Department of Environmental Protection and the County Solicitor's Office. He stated that Major Aberts, Lieutenant Secor, and Sergeant Jennifer Wingler received training as the administrators on the body scanner on May 2, 2019. Deputy Warden Wolfe reported that nine of the permanent post officers were trained as trainers on the unit. He stated that a site survey was done on May 7, 2019 and everything passed. He stated that Major Aberts received Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) training on May 13, 2019. Deputy Warden Wolfe reported that he sent the final paperwork to the Department of Environmental Protection and is waiting for approval so the rest of the staff can be trained on the body scanner and it can start to be used.

Joseph Shiffer, Deputy Warden for Inmate Services, reported that in April all staff were trained in the new suicide prevention policy.

Deputy Warden Shiffer reported that Quinn Shaffer, Inmate Services Specialist, and Gretchen Gaudio, Mental Health America, teamed up together and created a professional mental health recovery program for the inmates. He stated that the class meets once a week with about eight to twelve male inmates. Deputy Warden Shiffer stated that the goal is to pursue a female class with the same or similar curriculum.

Deputy Warden Shiffer introduced the new Inmate Services Specialist, Peter Ireland, in charge of the C-Main housing unit.

Deputy Warden Shiffer reported that the Jail Based Vivitrol grant was approved through the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). He stated that this will allow them to give two shots to inmates prior to their release in hopes of helping with their recovery as they go back into the community.

Deputy Warden Shiffer invited Matthew Wagner to provide an update on the reentry services program at the Prison. Mr. Wagner reported that two meetings were held in April with their community partners and providers discussing the different programs that they will be able to offer and how they fit into the reentry program. He stated that he has been working with Jen Kopple from the Homeless Coalition for one bed in the pilot program. He stated that Andrew Hinkel, Adult Probation & Parole, has been assisting him with finding potential candidates to help utilize that bed in Tabor Community Services. Mr. Wagner stated that he has had discussions with Michael McKenna, Tabor Community Services, about possibly getting more housing availability in Tabor for some of their returning citizens. He stated they have been working towards selecting a main provider to provide the reentry services and have been getting good feedback from the participants at the Lancaster County Reentry Management Organization (RMO) meetings. Mr. Wagner stated that he has been working with Adult Probation & Parole on identifying and selecting their first pilot group of candidates for the reentry program.

Deputy Warden Shiffer reported that they had their first referral to the Lancaster Behavioral Health Hospital yesterday. He stated that it was a long process of getting the agreements, policy, and procedures in place and they are excited to be up and running.

William Aberts, Major/Security Operations, reported the Officers of the Month for April: First Shift, Officer John Burke; Second Shift, Officer Robert Taltoan. Officers John Burke and Robert Taltoan were unable to attend the meeting.

Major Aberts read aloud all of the recipients of the awards that were given out during Corrections Week (see attached). Employees received a round of applause from those in attendance.

Cody Scheid on behalf of Tammy Moyer, Director of Administration, reported that the updated and approved Inmate General Welfare and Store Account policies have been placed on the Prison website.

Mr. Scheid reported that the Securus Kiosk team is currently on-site to begin the process of installing the kiosks. He stated the current projected go live date is June 18, 2019.

Mr. Scheid reported that on April 26, 2019, the business office staff went to a team building retreat. He stated that the event was focused on communication and learning different ways to communicate both internally and with other County departments.

Charlie Douts, Director of Facilities Management, reported that CGL has one vacant maintenance position.

Mr. Douts reported that there are various projects that the Warden has asked Facilities to review and obtain quotes.

Mr. Douts reported that the upgrades to the first elevator are almost complete, and the upgrades to the second elevator are expected to be completed in July. He stated that the control room upgrades are moving forward. He stated that an electrician is on site conducting prep work and he is awaiting schedule for delivery of equipment.

Larry George on behalf of Julie Holtry, Behavioral Health & Developmental Services (BH/DS), reported that the Lancaster Behavioral Health Hospital is now accepting referrals from the Prison.

Mr. George reported that the Transition to Community (TTC) program had one admission from the Lancaster County Prison since the last Prison Board meeting. He stated that there have been 12 admissions in 2019 and since its opening there has been about 30 admissions.

Mr. George reported that they will be reconvening the Suicide Prevention Committee to review the various initiatives and programs that originated in the Committee, and identify any service gaps that might remain within the multi-systemic approach. He stated that they have not had a meeting in about a year, and that the next meeting will occur sometime in June or July.

Commissioner Parsons reported that the last PrisonStat meeting was held on April 22, 2019. He stated that the Warden and her team will be working on scheduling another meeting in the near future.

In business from guests, Neil Ward, Have A Heart, commented on personal hygiene for the inmates. He stated that he was in to visit an inmate last week and the inmate informed him that because some of the inmates destroyed the nail clippers that they receive, the staff withheld them for a period of time. He stated that the nails on the inmates were getting quite long. Mr. Ward stated that he contacted Toni Warfel at the Prison and she immediately responded that the issue was taken care of.

Tom Zeager, Justice & Mercy, commented that he appreciates the progress that the Board has been making and that the Warden has been doing an excellent job.

Jonathan Fox, Have A Heart, requested that a written report from the reentry services department be included on the Prison website. Warden Steberger stated that there would be no problem with adding that to the packet every month.

Mr. Fox asked if a summary of the DOC inspection report will be posted on the Prison website as discussed in previous meetings. Warden Steberger stated that they are still working on putting the summary of the inspection on the website.

Mr. Fox commented on York County's prison population. He asked President Judge Reinaker if the population figures he mentioned in York County include the federal contracted. President Judge Reinaker stated that the figures do not include the federal contracted. He stated that York County's prison population was over 1,600 over five years ago, not including the immigration detainees, so even though they made progress their population is still higher than ours. President Judge Reinaker stated that there was a meeting held last week with the Bureau Institute project, which is a national organization that observes prison statistics. He stated that the group came to make a presentation here because they were impressed with how our population compares to other counties in Pennsylvania. President Judge Reinaker stated that he wants to follow up with the group to look at our numbers further to see where we can make progress. He stated that the group pointed out that if you compare our population increases over time to the increase in our population, our incarceration rate is higher than the population increase rate. He stated that he does not feel that we are in a position to say that we can just look at where we are today and say we met our goal and no further progress is to be made. President Judge Reinaker stated that he thinks we have done the heavy lifting but that does not mean that there aren't efforts that we can make in some areas to improve the way we do things.

Commissioner Lehman commented on President Judge Reinaker's statement regarding vigilance as it relates to the inmate population at the jail. He stated that we need to continue to be as efficient as we can when processing people through the facility and also through the criminal justice system in general. He noted that if you try to build a new jail when the prison population is high due to inefficiencies, the long-term prison population projections are going to result in building a replacement facility that is larger and more costly than necessary. Commissioner Lehman stated that because of the efforts of the President Judge, Warden, the Prison Board, and many others, we now have a more manageable jail population without negatively impacting public safety. As a result, we now have the opportunity to discuss a replacement facility that is appropriately sized, operationally efficient, and significantly less costly.

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Kent Kroehler, Have A Heart, commented on the population. He stated that two years ago Have A Heart suggested to look at a target of 800 for the Prison population and it was unthinkable at the time, but we have reached that goal.

Mr. Kroehler thanked the Warden and Deputy Warden Shiffer for allowing Have A Heart take a tour of the Prison last week. He stated that they will be scheduling future tours of the Prison and will be selective in who they invite to be exposed to the facility.

Commissioner Stuckey moved to adjourn at 10:01 a.m. Commissioner Lehman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Lancaster County Prison Board will be June 20, 2019, at 9:15 a.m. in the Visitation Room at the Lancaster County Prison.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian K. Hurter  
Secretary