



THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



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PRISON BOARD MINUTES

August 26, 2021

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair of the Prison Board Commissioner Josh Maxwell called the Prison Board Meeting to order on Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 10:05 AM at the Chester County Prison. In addition to Commissioner Maxwell, the following board members were also in attendance: Commissioner Marian Moskowitz, Commissioner Michelle Kichline, President Judge John Hall, and District Attorney Deb Ryan.

CALL TO ORDER

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

President Judge Hall made a motion to approve the Prison Board minutes from the last meeting on July 22, 2021. Commissioner Kichline seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried to approve the minutes from the July 22, 2021 Prison Board Meeting.

MINUTES APPROVED

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA

There was no public comment on agenda items.

PUBLIC COMMENT

4. OLD BUSINESS

There were no items of old business.

OLD BUSINESS

5. NEW BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

a. Monthly Report

Warden Ron Phillips presented the monthly update on the Prison for July 2021, noting that the average daily inmate population was 592, as compared to 562 in the previous year.

Monthly Report

The Warden noted that on July 31, 2021 there were 600 inmates, held for the following:

- County sentenced inmates: 116
- State sentenced inmates serving their sentence at Chester County Prison: 5
- 254 inmates held for court or preliminary hearing, 3% held on a Balance of Max, and 9% for miscellaneous.

The Warden reported that there were 5 juvenile offenders (1 Chester County, 1 Bucks County, and 3 Berks County) at the end of June 2021.

A total of 122 arrestees were brought in on Central Booking by 30 different agencies, approximately a 3% increase compared to July of 2020.

The Correctional Center for July had an average daily population of 28. Last year's average was around 18. Today the total is 34.

It was reported that there were 3 transports to the state correction facilities due to COVID restrictions. Currently, 27 are pending transfer.

There were 22 medical transports.

There was 1 Correctional Emergency Unit activations for a non-compliant individual.

There were 192 Video Conferencing Hearings, compared to 321 in 2020. This is due to the return to in-person visitation that was not possible in the previous year due to COVID restrictions.

The Warden reported the following medical updates:

- Inmates seen at sick call: 372
- Inmates on psychotropic medications: 237 (about 40% inmate population)
- Inmates on prescription or "over-the-counter" medications: approximately 237
- Inmates on suicide watch: about 37 inmates

The Warden reported the following mental health updates:

- Seriously Mental Ill Individuals: 46 (44 male, 2 female)
- Inmates at Norristown State Hospital (N.S.H.): 15
- Additional inmates awaiting a bed for treatment at N.S.H.: 0
- Inmates referred to the Mental Health Court: 1
- Court order received for commitment to N.S.H.: 1

It was noted that the Thinking for a Change program is back in session, with 6 individuals participating. The Stable Pathways program is also back in session, with 11 attendees. The GED program is planned to start back up in the fall.

The Warden stated that IFR and Bookkeeping fees are still suspended until further notice.

It was also reported that there were no cadets graduations from the training academy in July. There are currently 4 staff in training classes, and the Prison currently has 37 open positions. The Warden noted that the number of openings is comparable to neighboring counties, with 62 openings in Lancaster County at this time.

The Warden provided the following COVID-related statistics:

- Staff confirmed positives: 1 currently; 58 positive and 58 recovered since the beginning of COVID
- Inmate confirmed positives: 0 currently; 112 positive and 112 recovered since the beginning of COVID

Vaccine incentives were discussed, with the Warden noting that even with incentives the vaccination rate for both staff and inmates is plateauing.

b. Discussion

There were no items of discussion.

Discussion

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Moskowitz made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by President Judge Hall. Meeting adjourned at 10:23 AM.

ADJOURNMENT