

Prison Board Minutes
3/25/21 for the February 2021 Report

Members in attendance: Commissioner Josh Maxwell, Commissioner Marian Moskowitz, Commissioner Michelle Kichline, Judge John Hall, District Attorney Deborah Ryan, Sheriff Fredda Maddox and Controller Margaret Reif.

Other attendees: Warden Ron Phillips, Chief of Probation/Parole Chris Murphy, County Administrator Bobby Kagel, APO Section Director Rick Maninari, Chief Public Defender Nathan Schenker, Deputy Director of Treatment George Roberts.

Public attendees: Jeffery Martin

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Maxwell called the meeting of the Chester County Prison Board to order at 1:04 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Moskowitz, seconded Commissioner Kichline and carried to accept the minutes of the Prison Board Meeting of February 18 2021.

** Due to the Board participating via web Zoom or via telephone, approval of the minutes must be done by a roll call vote of the Board. Vote was complete and passed.*

III. Monthly Report

General/Prison Population Information:

Warden Phillips presented:

The February Report noting that the average daily inmate population was 595 as compared to 748 in 2020. This is approximately a 20% reduction in population from last year.

The Warden pointed out that on February 28, 2021 there were 588 inmates, the following were held for:

- a. County sentenced inmates: 100
- b. State sentenced inmates serving their sentence at Chester County Prison: 5
- c. Approximately 68% of the inmate population is held for court or preliminary hearing, 17% serving sentence, 3% are held on a Balance of Max and 11% miscellaneous.

The Warden reported that there were 5 juvenile offenders (2 Chester and 3 Berks).

The Warden stated that there were a total of 109 arrestees brought in on Central Booking by 32 different agencies and in 2020 there were 113 arrestees by 28 different agencies.

It was noted that the Correctional Center for December had an average daily population of 23. Last year's average was around 58. Today the total is at 27.

It was reported that there were 3 transports to the state correction facilities due to COVID restrictions. Currently 56 are pending transfer.

Medical Transports:

There were 20 medical transports. (5 emergency room)

Correctional Emergency Unit (C.E.U.):

There were 0 C.E.U. activations.

Video Conference:

There were 313 Video Conference Hearings. Compared to 197 hearings in 2020. This is approximately a 37% increase.

Medical:

The Warden reported the following:

- a. 331 inmates were seen at sick-call.
- b. 248 (42%) of inmates are on psychotropic medications.
- c. 230 (39%) of the inmates are on prescription or "over the counter medications."
- d. 36 (6%) of the inmates are on suicide watch.
- e. 0 medical denial.

Mental Health:

It was noted that there were 54 seriously mentally ill inmates (SMI), 49 males and 5 females.

It was reported there were:

- a. 11 inmates at Norristown State Hospital (N.S.H.).
- b. 0 additional inmates awaiting a bed for treatment at N.S.H.
- c. 0 inmates referred to the Mental Health Court.
- d. 2 court order received for commitment to Norristown State Hospital.

Inmate Programs:

The Warden reported that due to COVID the only active programs are juvenile educational through the Intermediate Unit. The Warden also reported that for the 21 and under program 1 inmate is on course to receive their high school diploma. The GED program has also picked back up and has 10 males and 2 female participates and Juvenile Education has a total of 5 participates.

As discussed previously regarding the GED Program incentive The Warden and Judge Hall after checking with some teachers and comparing with the community we came up with the following for those who participated in the program, they would receive enhanced earned time, preference for institutional employment, family phone contact at no charge to them it would be done through the counselor, and also an incentive to receive an approved paperback book for leisure reading. In the future we will be offering complimentary time on the tablets once that is introduced.

Finance:

The Warden stated that IFR and Bookkeeping fees are still suspended throughout the pandemic.

Staff Development:

6 cadets graduated from the training Academy in February. 331 attended weapons training and we currently have 25 open positions and 8 new hires starting on April 12, 2021.

New Business:

None noted

Updates:

The Warden provided COVID related statistics:

Staff confirmed positive: 47
Staff recovered: 43
Inmates confirmed positive: 92
Inmates recovered: 90

The majority of the positive inmates were housed in minimum security and are males. It was also noted that the majority became positive while incarcerated.

Warden Phillips told the Board the Intake process precautionary measures continue and that the rapid test would be incorporated into the current procedure. He also stated that PPES and cleaning all remained in effect, we are following all healthcare recommendations.

The Warden stated that as of today count is 612 and this time last year count was 728 about a 16% decrease.

The Warden informed the Board that due to Co-vid the Prison still struggles with hiring new employees and the current staff have low moral wondering why they are still waiting to receive notification of receiving the vaccine.

Commissioner Maxwell thanked the Warden for his patience during this pandemic.

Other Prison Board Matters:

APO Section Director Marinari gave a presentation for the re-authorization of the County Intermediate Punishment Plan. Rick gave detailed participation statistics of the plan. The Board had a collective discussion regarding I.P.P. and voted to approve the re-authorization.

Public Comment:

Jeffrey Martin inquires about the IPP Program and what it involves. Rick Maninari briefly gives details and a quick overview to Jeff. Mr. Martin continues to speak on behalf of his wife who is currently incarcerated at CCP about the different issues she is having with the Criminal Justice System. Chris Murphy asks Jeff to give him a call for options to offer help.

IV. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Kichline and seconded by Controller Reif and carried to adjourn the meeting at 1:25 pm.

** As noted earlier, due to the Board participating via web Zoom or via telephone, approval must be done by a roll call vote of the Board. Vote was complete and approved.*