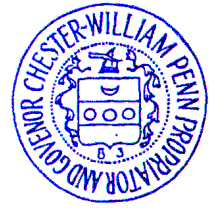




THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



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PRISON BOARD MINUTES

May 20, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair of the Prison Board Commissioner Josh Maxwell called the Prison Board Meeting to order on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 1:02 PM in Courtroom 1 of the Historic Courthouse. In addition to Commissioner Maxwell, the following board members were also in attendance: Commissioner Marian Moskowitz, Commissioner Michelle Kichline, President Judge John Hall, Controller Margaret Reif, Sheriff Fredda Maddox, and District Attorney Deb Ryan.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Judge Hall made a motion to approve the Prison Board minutes from the last meeting on April 22, 2021. Controller Reif seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried to approve the minutes from the April 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

Monthly Report

Warden Ron Phillips presented the monthly update on the Prison for April 2021, noting that the average daily inmate population was 596, as compared to 569 in the previous year.

The Warden noted that on April 30, 2021 there were 571 inmates, held for the following:

- County sentenced inmates: 124
- State sentenced inmates serving their sentence at Chester County Prison: 5
- Approximately 63% of the inmate population is held for court or preliminary hearing, 23% serving sentence, 3% held on a Balance of Max, and 11% for miscellaneous.

The Warden reported that there were 4 juvenile offenders (2 Chester County and 2 Berks County).

A total of 111 arrestees were brought in on Central Booking by 27 different agencies, compared to 59 arrestees brought in by 23 different agencies in 2020.

Prison Board Matters

The Correctional Center for April had an average daily population of 28. Last year's average was around 29. Today the total is 22.

Discussion

It was reported that there were 3 transports to the state correction facilities due to COVID restrictions. Currently, 40 are pending transfer.

There were 24 medical transports – 9 to the emergency room.

There were 0 Correctional Emergency Unit activations.

There were 370 Video Conferencing Hearings, compared to 163 in 2020. This is approximately a 56% increase.

The Warden reported the following medical updates:

- Inmates seen at sick call: 358
- Inmates on psychotropic medications: 220
- Inmates on prescription or “over-the-counter” medications: 232
- Inmates on suicide watch: 44

The Warden reported the following mental health updates:

- Inmates at Norristown State Hospital (N.S.H.): 11
- Additional inmates awaiting a bed for treatment at N.S.H.: 2
- Inmates referred to the Mental Health Court: 0
- Court order received for commitment to N.S.H.: 4

It was noted that the Thinking for a Change program will continue at the Correctional Center. It is still being looked at for Horse-Works to start again in the near future.

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

It was also reported that 8 cadets graduated from the training academy in April. There were 169 staff training classes, and the Prison currently has 24 open positions. The Warden noted that 5 positions will start on the upcoming Monday, dropping the open position count to 19.

The Warden provided the following COVID-related statistics:

- Staff confirmed positives: 2
- Inmate confirmed positives: 11
- A vaccine clinic was conducted, in which 65 staff and 135 inmates participated.

The Warden stated that as of today the count is 576, compared to 497 at this time last year. This is approximately a 14% increase.

Controller Reif noted that before COVID, numbers were in the 800s, and asked if efforts are being maintained to keep the numbers low. The Warden responded yes, giving credit to the COVID alternatives that have been working well and helping the effort.

Judge Hall noted that inmates' right to a speedy trial are being maintained, and that we do not have inmates sitting in jail due to not being able to be seen for a trial.

b. Other Prison Board Matters

There were no additional Prison Board Matters.

c. Discussion

There were no additional items of discussion.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kichline made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Judge Hall. Meeting adjourned at 1:18 PM.

ADJOURNMENT