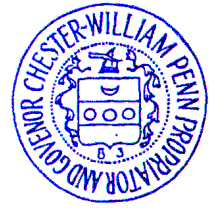




THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



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PRISON BOARD MINUTES

July 22, 2021

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair of the Prison Board Commissioner Josh Maxwell called the Prison Board Meeting to order on Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 1:03 PM 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 Sheriff Fredda Maddox.

CALL TO ORDER

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Commissioner Kichline made a motion to approve the Prison Board minutes from the last meeting on June 24, 2021. Commissioner Moskowitz seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried to approve the minutes from the June 24, 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 June 2021, noting that the average daily inmate population was 599, as compared to 501 in the previous year.

Monthly Report

The Warden noted that on June 30, 2021 there were 579 inmates, held for the following:

- County sentenced inmates: 112
- State sentenced inmates serving their sentence at Chester County Prison: 6
- Approximately 67% of the inmate population is held for court or preliminary hearing, 21% serving sentence, 3% held on a Balance of Max, and 9% for miscellaneous.

The Warden reported that there were 4 juvenile offenders (1 Chester County, 1 Bucks County, and 2 Berks County) at the end of June 2021.

A total of 119 arrestees were brought in on Central Booking by 26 different agencies, approximately a 3% increase compared to June of 2020.

The Correctional Center for May had an average daily population of 22. Last year's average was around 13. Today the total is 26.

It was reported that there were 2 transports to the state correction facilities due to COVID restrictions. Currently, 34 are pending transfer.

There were 29 medical transports.

There were 2 Correctional Emergency Unit activations for a non-compliant behaviors.

There were 403 Video Conferencing Hearings, compared to 217 in 2020. This is approximately a 54% increase.

The Warden reported the following medical updates:

- Inmates seen at sick call: 382
- Inmates on psychotropic medications: 138 (about 37% inmate population)
- Inmates on prescription or "over-the-counter" medications: 220
- Inmates on suicide watch: about 10% of inmate population

The Warden reported the following mental health updates:

- Seriously Mental Ill Individuals: 49 (47 male, 2 female)
- Inmates at Norristown State Hospital (N.S.H.): 14
- Additional inmates awaiting a bed for treatment at N.S.H.: 0
- Inmates referred to the Mental Health Court: 2
- Court order received for commitment to N.S.H.: 2

It was noted that the Horse Works programmed started back up today, and that the Thinking for a Change program is also back in session. Religious services will also be returning to the Prison in the coming weeks. The work release program is also expected to resume shortly at a reduced capacity.

The Warden stated that IFR and Bookkeeping fees are still suspended until further notice. Family and community visitation has resumed despite being scaled back due to COVID. Inmates are allowed one visitor once a week.

It was also reported that 4 cadets graduated from the training academy in June. There were 109 staff training classes, and the Prison currently has 26 open positions. The Warden noted that several interviews have been conducted. It was expressed that the number of openings is slightly high, compared to an average of about 17-21 openings pre-COVID. Potential factors about the increase in openings were discussed, such as industry competition with wages and sign-on bonuses being offered at this time.

The Warden provided the following COVID-related statistics:

- Staff confirmed positives: 0
- Inmate confirmed positives: 1

The Warden stated that as of today the count is 596, compared to 501 at this time last year. This is approximately a 16% increase. President Judge John Hall noted that compared to the same time in 2019, pre-COVID, those numbers were in the 700-800s. Chris Murphy, Chief of Adult Probation and Nathan Schenker, Public Defender, noted that the amount of parole violators has drastically decreased due to the accessibility COVID has created in allowing for virtual check-ins and eliminating the transportation barrier so many face when they are released.

Discussion

b. Discussion

Chris Murphy, Chief of Adult Probation, informed the Board that Adult Probation recently received a grant that provides funding to distribute cellphones to for those who are released and do not have access to a cellphone otherwise. It was noted that one of the many barriers for re-entry is a lack of means to communicate.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

7. ADJOURNMENT

Sheriff Maddox made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by President Judge Hall. Meeting adjourned at 1:28 PM.

ADJOURNMENT