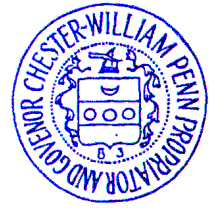




THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



COMMISSIONERS
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PRISON BOARD MINUTES

September 30, 2021

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair of the Prison Board Commissioner Josh Maxwell called the Prison Board Meeting to order on Thursday, September 30, 2021 at 1:01 PM in the Commissioners' Board Room. In addition to Commissioner Maxwell, the following board members were also in attendance: Commissioner Marian Moskowitz, Commissioner Michelle Kichline, Sheriff Fredda Maddox, and District Attorney Deb Ryan.

CALL TO ORDER

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Commissioner Kichline made a motion to approve the Prison Board minutes from the last meeting on August 19, 2021. Controller Reif seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried to approve the minutes from the August 19, 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 August 2021, noting that the average daily inmate population was 620, as compared to 604 in the previous year.

Monthly Report

The Warden noted that on August 31, 2021 there were 640 inmates, held for the following:

- County sentenced inmates: 110
- 280 inmates held for court or preliminary hearing, 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, 1 Montgomery County, and 1 Berks County) at the end of August 2021.

A total of 135 arrestees were brought in on Central Booking by 27 different agencies, approximately a 3% increase compared to August of 2020.

The Correctional Center for August had an average daily population of 33. Last year's average was around 21. Today the total is 33.

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

There were 23 medical transports, with 8 to the Emergency Room.

There were no Correctional Emergency Unit activations.

There were 282 Video Conferencing Hearings, compared to 313 in 2020.

The Warden reported the following medical updates:

- Inmates seen at sick call: 369
- Inmates on psychotropic medications: 241 (about 40% inmate population)
- Inmates on prescription or "over-the-counter" medications: approximately 257
- Inmates on suicide watch: about 51 inmates (8%)

The Warden reported the following mental health updates:

- Seriously Mental Ill Individuals: 45 (41 male, 4 female)
- Inmates at Norristown State Hospital (N.S.H.): 14
- Additional inmates awaiting a bed for treatment at N.S.H.: 2
- Inmates referred to the Mental Health Court: 1

It was noted that the Thinking for a Change and Stable Pathways programs are both back in session and running well. The GED program is planned to start back up in the fall. Video conferencing is also scheduled to resume for Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous groups next month.

It was also reported that there were no cadet graduations from the training academy in July. Approximately 38 staff members attended additional training classes this month, and the Prison currently has 48 open positions. The Warden noted that there is heavy competition in the community for openings due to the competitive pay, hours, etc. of potentially more desirable positions.

The Warden provided the following COVID-related statistics:

- Staff confirmed positives: 66 positive and 62 recovered since the beginning of COVID
- Inmate confirmed positives: 4 symptomatic currently; 117 positive and 117 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. Approximately 227 inmates have been vaccinated.

b. Discussion

There were no items of discussion.

Discussion

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Laurie Shannon-Bailey expressed concern about mental health service availability for inmates and asked the Board to consider increasing availability of those services.

Jeffrey Martin spoke to the Board regarding concerns about his wife's case.

There was no further public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kichline made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Controller Reif. Meeting adjourned at 1:23 PM.

ADJOURNMENT