



THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



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PRISON BOARD MINUTES

November 30, 2021

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair of the Prison Board Commissioner Josh Maxwell called the Prison Board Meeting to order on Tuesday, November 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, President Judge John Hall, Controller Margaret Reif, Sheriff Fredda Maddox, 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 October 28, 2021. Commissioner Kichline seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried to approve the minutes from the October 28, 2021 Prison Board Meeting.

MINUTES APPROVED

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA

There was no public comment on agenda items.

PUBLIC COMMENT

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

District Attorney made a motion to adopt the agenda. President Judge Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried to adopt the November 30, 2021 Commissioners' Meeting agenda.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

5. MONTHLY REPORT

Warden Ron Phillips presented the monthly update on the Prison for October 2021, noting that the average daily inmate population was 648, as compared to 630 in the previous year.

MONTHLY REPORT

The Warden noted that on October 31, 2021 there were 664 inmates, held for the following:

- County sentenced inmates: 117
- State sentenced inmates serving their sentence at Chester County Prison: 8
- Approximately 298 inmates were held for court or preliminary hearing, 143 were serving a sentence, and 22 were held on a Balance of Max.

The Warden reported that there were 8 juvenile offenders (1 Chester County, 1 Berks County, 1 Bucks County, 2 Lancaster County, and 3 Montgomery County).

A total of 99 arrestees were brought in on Central Booking by 26 different agencies, compared to 115 arrestees brought in by 27 different agencies in 2020.

The Correctional Center for October had an average daily population of 32. Last year's average was around 21. Today the total is 22.

It was reported that there were 2 transports to the state correction facilities. Currently, 40 are pending transfer.

There were 27 medical transports.

There were 4 Correctional Emergency Unit activations for non-compliant behaviors.

There were 187 Video Conferencing Hearings, compared to 382 in 2020.

The Warden reported the following medical updates:

- Inmates seen at sick call: 372
- Inmates on psychotropic medications: 260
- Inmates on prescription or "over-the-counter" medications: 257
- Inmates on suicide watch: 51

The Warden reported the following mental health updates:

- Seriously Mental Ill Individuals: 51 (47 male, 4 female)
- Inmates at Norristown State Hospital (N.S.H.): 13
- Court order received for commitment to N.S.H.: 1

It was noted that the Thinking for a Change and Stable Pathways programs are ongoing at this time, as well as the GED program. The Warden stated that the gardening program donated three thousand pounds of food this year, an all-time high that provided twelve thousand meals.

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

Discharge debit releases have replaced the discharge checks inmates typically receive in an effort to eliminate the delay of receipt through the mail service.

There were 48 staff members that attended additional training classes, and the Prison currently has 58 open positions. President Judge John Hall asked how to remedy this, to which the Warden shared that the constables and sheriffs have been approached for coverage on transports until the staff levels increase at the Prison.

Warden Phillips informed the Board that an inmate was found unresponsive in his cell earlier in the month, and unfortunately could not be resuscitated, and that the detective and coroner have taken over as standard procedure.

The Warden provided the following COVID-related statistics:

- Staff confirmed positives: 73 -- 71 recovered
- Inmate confirmed positives: 122 -- 122 recovered, symptomatic individuals awaiting test results

The Warden stated that as of today the count is 667, compared to 623 at this time last year.

6. DISCUSSION

There were no items of discussion.

DISCUSSION

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeffrey Martin informed the Board that he sent them documents related to his case, and expressed his displeasure with a recent meeting with the District Attorney's office.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no further public comment.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

ADJOURNMENT