

Minutes of the Monthly
Meeting of the
Lancaster County Prison Board
February 20, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Joshua Parsons at 9:15 a.m. in the Public Meeting Room at the Lancaster County Administrative Office Building.

Members Present: Commissioner Joshua Parsons, Commissioner Ray D'Agostino, Commissioner Craig Lehman, President Judge David Ashworth, District Attorney Heather Adams, Sheriff Christopher Leppler, and Controller Brian Hurter.

Others Present: Cheryl Steberger, Robert Wolfe, Joseph Shiffer, William Aberts, Tammy Moyer, Charlie Douts, Anthony Kern, Charlette Stout, Cody Scheid, Michael Wagner, Byron Gerner, Cole Adams, Erica Cawajal, Sharon Klepchick, Toni Warfel, Alecia VanDyke, Lindsey Ober, Briana Marquez, Kelly Ehrich, Neil Ward, Eric Kennel, Todd Haskins, Kent Kroehler, Jon Singer, Kim McDevitt, Stacie Dixon, David Cruz Jr., Jonathan Fox, Carter Walker, and Diana Rivera.

Commissioner Parsons stated that the Prison Board met in executive session on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 8:45 a.m. to discuss labor negotiations, litigation, and personnel matters related to the discipline, suspension, and termination of employees. Specifically under litigation, the Board discussed the Vasquez (5:18 CV 04999) and Cox (18-08525) cases.

Controller Hurter moved to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2020 Prison Board Meeting. Commissioner Lehman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Cheryl Steberger, Warden; Robert Wolfe, Deputy Warden for Operations; Joseph Shiffer, Deputy Warden for Inmate Services; William Aberts, Major/Security Operations; Tammy Moyer, Director of Administration; and Charlie Douts, Director of Facilities Management; gave reports on their areas of responsibility. All of these reports, including operations and statistical information, are posted on the County's website.

Cheryl Steberger, Warden, reported that the population as of this morning is 756. She reported that the average population at the Prison in January 2019 was 814 and was 724 in January 2020. She reported that on January 17, 2020 the population was 702, which was the lowest since 1995.

Warden Steberger reported that PrisonStat was held on January 23, 2020 and some of the issues discussed were reducing overtime, retention, suicide prevention, and reducing assaults both on staff and inmates.

Warden Steberger reported that she met with Jimmy Fannin Jr. with the Chaplains Corporation of Lancaster County and they will be on board to meet with the staff to

provide physical, emotional, and spiritual needs for the staff when an incident occurs at the facility.

Warden Steberger reported that Alice Yoder and Melanie Snyder from Lancaster General Health Penn Medicine will be offering trauma informed training to the staff.

Robert Wolfe, Deputy Warden for Operations, reported on staff training: one officer certified as a Hostage Negotiator, seven staff members attended the first 40-hour training for treatment vendor class, and 17 staff were certified in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT).

Deputy Warden Wolfe reported that the K9 Unit assisted in a shakedown at the Allenwood Prison yesterday and they found two cellphones in the maximum-security block in the penitentiary section. They also found a fake floor underneath a cabinet which had 29 packs of cigarettes. Deputy Warden Wolfe stated that there was over \$4,000 worth of cigarettes found.

Joseph Shiffer, Deputy Warden for Inmate Services, reported that there are now six staff members who are certified in Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) training. He stated that MRT is a program to assist inmates with their criminal thinking. He stated that it is a 12-step process with group sessions, and he hopes to begin MRT groups in about a month in the facility.

Deputy Warden Shiffer, reported that they took a tour of the Water Street Mission facility. He stated that they are hoping to be a part of the Prison's reentry services.

Deputy Warden Shiffer introduced the new Inmate Trustee Program (ITP) Specialist, Alecia VanDyke, to those in attendance.

Matthew Wagner, Reentry Program Manager, provided an update on reentry services. He reported that 35 participants have graduated from the pre-release program. He stated that 31 of those graduates have been released to either their home or a group home that has been approved by Adult Probation and Parole. Mr. Wagner reported that there are four inmates currently in a men's class.

Mr. Wagner reported that 15 individuals are in contact with Marisol Garcia, Reentry Services Caseworker, to provide them with support services. He stated that Ms. Garcia has found housing for eight individuals at recovery houses. Mr. Wagner reported that one out of the 31 individuals who were released has come back on a new charge. He stated that two individuals have relapsed and went to rehab. Mr. Wagner reported that Ms. Garcia is assisting two individuals with employment. He stated that all of the graduates have submitted their CompassMark applications for medical assistance before they are released, so their medical insurance is active. He stated that Ms.

Garcia is working with San Juan Batista Church to provide clothing, mentorship, and church groups for the individuals.

Mr. Wagner reported that they met with the Lancaster County Food Hub and reorganized a process for people to get clothing and food after hours.

Mr. Wagner reported that the Donegal Substance Abuse Alliance in Mount Joy is assisting Ms. Garcia with scheduling domestic violence classes in addition to mental health and drug and alcohol outpatient appointments.

Mr. Wagner provided an update on two grants. He reported that the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) grant is for a mobile reentry caseworker. This person would go out into the rural communities to help people with services that they may need. Mr. Wagner stated that the PCCD grant is \$150,000 for the first year and \$105,000 for the second year. He stated that the second grant they are working on is a collaboration between CompassMark and Cobys Family Services, which is an expansion of the evidence-based parenting services. He stated that Cobys would organize pre-release parenting services with the parents in the Prison which will continue when they are released. Mr. Wagner stated that CompassMark will have classes for the children, as well to help them rebuild their relationship with the parent.

William Aberts, Major/Security Operations, reported the officers of the month for January: First Shift, Officer Todd Waddell; Second Shift, Officer Ryan Stoltzfus; Third Shift, Officer Byron Germer. Officer Waddell and Officer Stoltzfus were unable to attend the meeting.

Major Aberts and Warden Steberger presented the Life Saving Awards to Officer Cole Adams, Officer Byron Germer, and Officer Ryan Stoltzfus. Due to the quick and appropriate response of these officers on January 11, 2020, an attempted suicide was not successful. The officers will receive a certificate, a plaque, and a pin which will be part of their uniform.

Major Aberts reported that the control panel project is at a standstill due to vendor complications.

Major Aberts reported that the camera project is continuing to progress nicely. He stated that IB Abel has begun to install the cameras in the facility and expects all the cameras will be operational sometime in March.

Major Aberts reported that meetings began with Facilities, Purchasing, and the vendors pertaining to the roofing projects at the Prison.

Major Aberts stated that interviews are scheduled for February 25, 2020 for the Captain position.

Tammy Moyer, Director of Administration, reported that they have submitted their application for the Act 81 funding. The Department of Corrections reimburses counties for every Level 4 or 5 offender who is participating in an approved work release program. She stated that Jon Collins, Work Release Administrator, and Joe Roschel, Community Service Coordinator, compile the data and complete the reports for this project. Ms. Moyer stated that they will receive a reimbursement of \$240,000 for this project.

Ms. Moyer introduced Sharon Klepchick to those in attendance. She was an Inmate Account Clerk who was promoted to the Fiscal Technician position.

Charlie Douts, Director of Facilities Management, reported that CGL is fully staffed. He stated that the outstanding work orders should now be completed faster.

Mr. Douts reported that some of the kitchen equipment has been ordered. He stated that they are working with Purchasing for the roof replacement, which has proceeded to the bidding stage.

In business from guests, Kent Kroehler, Have A Heart, encouraged the Board to schedule PrisonStat meetings quarterly and have better communication on dates of the meetings for the public. Warden Steberger stated that she will work on scheduling meeting dates and posting the dates for the public.

Mr. Kroehler encouraged the Board to appoint citizens who are not elected to the Prison Board when the 2020 census is over, and when Lancaster County will become a Class 2A county. Commissioner Lehman commented that he has been supportive of adding citizen representation to the Prison Board, but they currently do not have the statutory authority as a third-class county. He will ask Christina Hausner, Solicitor, to find out if the structure of the Prison Board will automatically change when the County becomes a Class 2A county.

Mr. Kroehler asked if the question "Do you want your clergy notified?" has been added to the admission process. Deputy Warden Shiffer stated that the question has not been added yet. Mr. Kroehler stated that the question should be asked at every admission and he would like to see progress on that.

Mr. Kroehler made a comment on the use of stackabunks. He stated that the use of stackabunks represents a failure of the facility, Prison Board, and Prison administration. He stated that it represents a failure to us and is a practice that says we are not providing a humane environment that is mission driven.

Warden Steberger commented that they have opened a large housing unit that has been closed since July to accommodate female inmates that have medical needs to keep them from using stackabunks.

Mr. Kroehler commented on building a new Prison. He stated that the current facility must be replaced, and we should not invest a lot of money for the next 25 years in the current facility.

Jonathan Fox, Have A Heart, asked the new members of the Prison Board what they see as their role on the Board.

President David Ashworth stated that his role on the Board is the voice of the Court. He stated that he emphasizes that all Court employees should be valued, trusted, and respected and that those standards are conveyed to all of the people that they deal with.

District Attorney Heather Adams stated that she is the voice of law enforcement. She stated that she hopes to bring more collaboration and involvement from the District Attorney's Office, especially with Mental Illness Substance Abuse (MISA).

Commissioner Ray D'Agostino stated that being elected Commissioner to oversee all facets of County government is to be the voice of the people and, with respect to resources, that they trust us. He stated that he wants to make sure that they are responsive and treat everyone with dignity and respect.

Commissioner Lehman moved to adjourn at 10:11 a.m. Controller Hurter seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Lancaster County Prison Board will be March 19, 2020 at 9:15 a.m. in the Work Release Room at the Lancaster County Prison.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian K. Hurter
Secretary