

Minutes of the Monthly
Meeting of the
Lancaster County Prison Board
May 18, 2023

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 John Trescot, President Judge David Ashworth, Sheriff Christopher Leppler, District Attorney Heather Adams, and Controller Lisa Colón.

Others Present: Cheryl Steberger, William Aberts, Joseph Shiffer, Kathleen Morrison, Carrie Kurtz, Jonathan Fox, Bob Devonshire, Peggy Lou Platt, Sue Wooley, Vernon Whitaker, Karen Whitaker, Gail Groves Scott, Christina Peddigree, Frank Letoski, Jenna Megalizzi, Sarah Sample, Jenna Delacruz, Kristal Abenshon and Sabrina Huss.

Commissioner Trescot moved to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2023, Prison Board Meeting. Commissioner D'Agostino seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Cheryl Steberger, Warden; William Aberts, Deputy Warden for Operations; Joseph Shiffer, Deputy Warden for Inmate Services; Kristal Abenshon, HR manager, on behalf of Arla Brown, Director of Administration, Bob Devonshire, Director of Facilities; and Lisa Colón, Controller gave reports on their areas of responsibility. All these reports, including operations and statistical information, are posted on the County's website.

Warden Steberger reported on the records audit. The facility conducts the audit twice a year. On April 26th, the records department held an audit of 765 inmate files. They did not find anything alarming or of concern in their audit. During the audits, they look for status changes, DNA status, and closeouts, to make sure everything is in order. Warden Steberger previously reported at previous prison boards when she took over seven years ago, the prison records department was in dire straits, as in, one example there was lack of organized files. The department is running well, very efficient, and always finding new ways to make improvements. She applauds Lieutenant Secor and his staff in the records department for a job well done.

Warden Steberger reported on the Crisis Intervention training (CIT). They have begun CIT training again. Kaylyn Wildberger from Adult Probation Parole organizes the training for the staff which is conducted at the training center. The training had stopped during Covid, but they were able to pick it back up running one class in 2021, one in 2022, and in 2023 they will be able to do three classes because their staffing is sufficient. Warden Steberger referenced Crisis Intervention Training, as it is something that is near and dear to her heart. She was one of the first individuals to be trained at F&M College in the

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Crisis Intervention Training. This allows her staff to learn de-escalation techniques, mental health guidelines and rules, medication, post-traumatic stress, and trauma. All those things are good skills to have under their belt. It's not just Correction Officers receiving the training but also, the business, and records offices, suppliers, and the treatment department because they are all in contact with inmates on a daily basis. There are currently 122 trained staff.

Warden Cheryl Steberger reported the average inmate population for April of 2022 was 761, for April 2023 it was 737. The warden has seen the population increase a little bit; it was 752 this morning at the jail. As the weather gets nicer, people are out and more visible to law enforcement. Warden Steberger expects the population to grow as the nice weather continues.

Warden Steberger reported on Corrections week which was held last week. She thanked the Commissioners for coming out and kicking off the event, reading the proclamation, and presenting it to a large group of the staff. They held family tours on Sunday, which had stopped during Covid. They had 196 family members come in to participate in the tours and see where their relatives are working. They received good feedback from the tours. It was a positive interaction with those who participated, and Warden Steberger enjoyed meeting the staff's family and friends. Warden Steberger also reported, on Wednesday, the prison had a Wellness Day where they had a meal catered for the staff, handed out awards, prizes, and gave them the chance to show appreciation to the staff for all they do throughout the year. One award is the Lock & Key award. Warden Steberger explained, the Lock & Key award is the highest and most prestigious award given to a Lancaster County Prison employee who is nominated by other staff and given to the Warden. She takes all votes into consideration, identifying the employee who possesses strong leadership skills and whose performance demonstrates teamwork and commitment and contributes to the prison's overall success. The person who received the award this year was Earl Mosely. Warden Steberger asked Mr. Mosely to come up to the podium. He was congratulated on a job well done. Mr. Mosely thanked the Warden and staff members for nominating him. He said they all work well together, the security and treatment units. He said it means a lot to receive the Lock and Key award.

William Aberts, Deputy Warden for Operations, reported the officers of the month for April: First Shift, Officer Kearnstyn Kepler; Second Shift, Officer David Riley; and Third Shift, Officer Jeremiah Kirchner. None were able to attend. Deputy Warden Aberts also reported on promotions. Sergeant Anthony Kipe was promoted to Lieutenant and will be assigned to the 8am-4pm shift. Lieutenant Kipe has been employed with the prison since July 2009. Sergeant Bradley Whittaker was promoted to Lieutenant and will be assigned to the 12am-8am shift. Lieutenant Whittaker has been employed with the prison since June 2018.

Deputy Warden Aberts reported on the Control Panel Project. As he reported last month, they have hit their 30-day mark. Deputy Warden Aberts is working through a list of items that have not been completed. The next step will be to move forward from that point once he gets the actual list composed and sent out.

Deputy Warden Shiffer reported on the Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT) Pilot Program. The pilot was started back in September of 2022 where they administer Subutex on a continued basis to inmates who come in with a current and valid prescription. There are currently 35 inmates on the line today for the Subutex program. Since the program began, they have served 112 inmates. Total participants this year is 81, in April they had 39. Deputy Warden Shiffer reported, after discussion at last month's Prison Board meeting, they did sign an agreement with ARS, the local methadone provider. The prison will be providing methadone on a continual basis if the inmates come in with a current prescription that's verifiable. The prison will continue providing the inmates with medication assisted treatment and that's part of the MAT program as well. Deputy Warden Shiffer also reported as of April, no one came in on methadone. Recidivism for the program to date is at 28.6%. Deputy Warden Shiffer stated that he expects the numbers to fluctuate, and he will continue to report on the program.

Deputy Warden Shiffer reported that the staff participated in the Reentry Coalition Reentry Simulation back in April and it was a success. Carrie Kurtz was the individual who organized it. The goal of the program was to get people to understand what barriers and what challenges people coming out of prison face when they are reentering the community, and the services they will need. The staff greatly appreciated the experience.

Deputy Warden Shiffer reported they have spoken in previous months about the Provider's meeting which was held in March at LCP. One of the concerns which was brought up by the providers is ways the new prison could assist them with their jobs and what changes they would like to see. A Provider's Listening Session will be taking place on Friday with those organizations. A group of forty people will be going out to the prison along with CGL staff and will be given the opportunity to ask questions and the staff at the prison will listen to any suggestions they have moving forward relating to treatment services within the facility.

Deputy Warden Shiffer introduced Christina Fluegel and announced she has been promoted to their Reentry Manager position. She has been at the Lancaster County Prison just shy of 15 years. In that time, she worked in Records, and seven years in the Treatment Department. Christina has a lot of experience with the courts, records, the reentry process, case management, and data collection for reentry. As part of new duties, she will be giving the reentry report for April.

Christina Fluegel, Reentry Manager, reported since the implementation of the program, the prison has had 217 participants successfully complete the program. In the 2022 fiscal

year, they had 131. In April they had twelve participants graduate, she appreciates the continued support of the county & community partners coming out to attend those graduations. The last graduation for seven females was held May 5th. There are currently seven males in class for this session that will be graduating next Friday. The recidivism rate at the present time at 90 days is 10.1%, 6 months is 18.9%, and at 3 years is 59.6% but that total population is only 47 of those 217 individuals. Ms. Fluegel looks forward to continuing with the program and working with the judicial staff, the county commissioners, the community, and other county agencies to see where it can take the Reentry program.

Ms. Gail Grove Scott asked Deputy Warden Shiffer what would stop the prison from initiating methadone or buprenorphine with patients who are leaving since it is the only intervention proven to reduce mortality by 50% for people with opioid abuse disorder? Deputy Warden Shiffer responded by explaining that right now the prison is in the pilot phase and trying to get all the pieces together. He also stated they are waiting on a potential grant from Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) so they can have funding, the ability, and the staff to run a full MAT program. Lacking those things are preventing them from moving forward at the present time.

Deputy Warden Shiffer referenced Earl Mosely and stated not only did Mr. Mosely have a good rapport with the inmates, but he is also very proactive. If an inmate comes in that is recidivated, Mr. Mosely will go meet with the individual immediately, and will start notifying team members of what the inmate is experiencing or how they are behaving at that present moment. It allows the staff to manage the inmate's behavior moving forward. He knows about the inmates intimately, he communicates with family members medical, so Mr. Mosely brings a lot to the table and the prison appreciates him very much. Deputy Warden Shiffer also wishes to recognize Ross Kauffman, an inmate's services staff person. He could not attend.

Kristal Abenshon, HR manager, on behalf of Arla Brown, Director of Administration, reported they continue to have one vacancy within the department and one employee on extended leave. In April, 54 inmates received barbering services with 19 designated as indigent. They continue their monthly policy review. For future topics, Ms. Abenshon invited those in attendance to contact Ms. Brown regarding any items they would like addressed.

Robert Devonshire, Director of General Services, reported they continue working with Deputy Warden Shiffer on the door access system. General services are working on the new facility as well. In April 2023, 25 work orders for the month. There are 449 work orders so far for 2023. There are 112 per month on average this year. Over the last five years the average was 147. The numbers continue to decrease as they get caught up as they can do more preventative maintenance and less reactive maintenance. If you refer to the chart, you will see in 2019, the workload was heavy as they were trying to

get caught up. The numbers are now closer to where they should be and he thanks the staff, and the guys in the maintenance shop.

Lisa Colón, Controller, reported the prison operating revenues and expenditures. The increase in revenue was \$752,580.00 from last month, that includes \$140,000.00 worth in grants that was received. Personnel Services, that was an increase of \$1.8 million dollars, supplies \$16,000.00, purchased services \$467,000.00, and Capital expenditures \$1,900.00 for a total increase in expenses of \$2,306,940.56. Mrs. Colón did respond to someone's question regarding why personnel services were higher last month according to where we were in the year. She explained one month had three pays in it and that would cause the personnel expenses to increase. Moving on to the Prison Maintenance reporting the supplies increased by \$14,609.00 and purchased services by \$98,377.00 for a total increase of \$112,987.16.

Warden Steberger reported they have five new recruits. She invited them to the Prison Board meeting so they can learn about the government and see how it works. Warden Steberger welcomed them all and wished them the best of luck.

Warden Steberger reported the county received a Request for Proposal for the design services for the new Lancaster County Correctional Facility in April. A review committee is currently reviewing those proposals. The county expects to have a team selected around the beginning of July though the timeline is subject to change depending on the needs of the county. CGL's planning group is working with the warden and her team at the prison and the LCC advisory committee to review programing documents. Deputy Warden Shiffer spoke about the meeting, the listening session for the prison provider's that will be held out at the Prison. We expect this review to continue over the next few months and once completed, the program will serve as a guide for that new design team.

Commissioner Trescot commented it is a slow part of the process as they are doing the evaluation for the design firm. They are reviewing the proposals as well as getting recommendations and making sure they have barometers set correctly for the design team to work well moving forward. Commissioner Trescot encourages people to comment on their website. He is asking other parts of the county to comment on what they are looking for in the new jail and they hope to get things moving a little faster coming into late summer, and fall.

Commissioner D'Agostino reported that at next week's Commissioner's Work Session there will be interviews of 3 architectural team candidates from the 4 proposals submitted. He also reported that the County has settled on the last remaining piece of property needed, the FOP lot, to make the new Correctional Facility site development work.

Jonathan Fox, Have a Heart, asked if the gentlemen from CGL could give a brief update on the progress of the project. Warden Steberger responded CGL would not have anything new to add that she has not reported on already.

Carrie Kurtz, Director of the Reentry Coalition, appreciated hearing about the Reentry simulation. Ms. Kurtz wanted to give more information on it. There were a total of 100 individuals who participated in the simulation and there were people from Lancaster EMS (LEMSA), including Mental Health America, the Factory, many members went to the simulation, with 16 stations. There were about 40 volunteers, and it was facilitated by Franklin County. They have decided as a coalition to purchase the simulation packet and anyone who was there knows there is a lot of things that come in the packet, plus, a power point presentation. It will be updated for Lancaster County because their presentation was relevant to Franklin County. The purpose of the simulation was not to make people feel warm, fuzzy, and sorry for reentry. The purpose was to be realistic and help them know how they can work together to make a seamless transition from incarceration back to the community, it takes everyone to do that. This impacts recidivism, it impacts the families, and it impacts community safety. So, when they can do it well, and have the seamless transition, and continue it through reintegration, they will have a better outcome for the entire community. There are other departments that would like to go through it because it gives them a bigger picture of what it's like.

Peggy Lou Platt, Justice Mercy, stated she was at the simulation, and it was fantastic. It was an eye-opening experience. It almost made her want to cry for the reentrance because she didn't realize how extremely hard it is and the simulation showed how many people can't keep up with the tasks to be successful outside of prison. She thanked everyone for the experience.

Jonathan Fox, Have a Heart, expressed concerns brought to him about the lack of narrative written transcript for the Prison Board minutes. He asked if the only minutes are the video or is there a written transcript of the minutes. Commissioner Parsons responded that there are minutes that are approved. Controller Lisa also responded that the minutes in question would not appear on the County website until they have been approved by the Board members. Mr. Fox directed a question to Judge Ashworth regarding bail, he asked if a person is on suicide watch if that would affect the individual's bail status. Judge Ashworth responded that the bail status can be addressed at any time. Whether the individual is on suicide watch, the prison addresses that. The judge did say, in the 24 years he has been on the bench, he has never had a bail petition before him that has included a question regarding suicide. If a bail petition did go before him, and it included a concern regarding suicide or at risk of committing suicide, they would take that into consideration. Warden Steberger also responded to the question stating if someone is bailed out and they are on suicide status, there is a requirement that someone from their mental health team access the individual before releasing them into the community.

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Commissioner Trescot moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:08 a.m. Commissioner D'Agostino seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The next meeting is June 15, 2023, at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Colón
Secretary