

Minutes of the Monthly
Meeting of the
Lancaster County Prison Board
September 15, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Joshua Parsons at 9:15 a.m. in the Work Release Room at the Lancaster County Prison.

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: William Aberts, Joseph Shiffer, Kim Wolfe, Arla Brown, Toni Warfel, Eric Kennel, Larry George, Jackie Pfursich, Carrie Kurtz, Kim McDevitt, Tim Stuhldreher, Karlee Shambaugh, Jenna Stonesifer, Kent Kroehler, Anne Weiss, Peggy Lou Platt, Neil Ward, Tom Lisi, and Diana Rivera.

Commissioner D'Agostino moved to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2022, Prison Board Meeting. Commissioner Trescot seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

William Aberts, Deputy Warden for Operations; Joseph Shiffer, Deputy Warden for Inmate Services; and Arla Brown, Director of Administration; gave reports on their areas of responsibility. All of these reports, including operations and statistical information, are posted on the County's website.

William Aberts, Deputy Warden for Operations, provided an update on staffing. Deputy Warden Aberts reported the current staffing complement: allotment of 229, current staffing of 175. He stated that 14 officers will start on September 26, 2022. He reported that a job fair will be held at the Clipper Stadium on September 28, 2022 from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Deputy Warden Aberts reported the inmate population this morning is 801. The average inmate population in September 2021 was 736.

Deputy Warden Aberts reported on the internal records department audit held on August 31, 2022. He stated they found some minor errors that have all been corrected.

Deputy Warden Aberts provided an update on the new prison project. As part of the needs assessment, CGL is interviewing 17 county agencies plus the Board of Commissioners to better understand challenges and opportunities with the facility project. CGL will consider the long-term, flexible needs when programming all spaces. CGL is analyzing data provided by the county to estimate bed projections. Their draft report should be ready for review in the coming weeks.

Planning for the move to the new facility involves identifying a transition team. CGL is providing guidance to the Advisory Committee and the Warden's team in identifying and appointing those individuals in the areas of communications, supply, and policy/procedure.

CGL is in the process of scheduling representative facility tours for late September as a bench marking exercise. Four members from the Advisory Committee will attend the tours and they include: Warden Cheryl Steberger, Bob Devonshire, Brett Zerphy, and Captain Thomas Jenkins.

CGL has tentatively scheduled a visioning workshop for late October to engage the Advisory Committee and key justice stakeholders to develop a consensus for essential project goals, guidelines, and principles that will be used in the future planning and programming phases of the project.

The Advisory Committee has scheduled a public listening session for September 21, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Public Safety Training Center. The meeting will last one hour. The listening session's goals are to communicate the need for the project and to build trust and transparency with stakeholders and community members by listening to their concerns and suggestions about the facility project.

Deputy Warden Aberts reported the officers of the month for August: First Shift, Officer O'Day Jackson; Second Shift, Officer Jeffrey Howell; Third Shift, Officer Mary Rigueur. Officers Jackson and Rigueur were unable to attend the meeting. Officer Howell gave a short speech.

Deputy Warden Aberts reported that he is currently working with the owner's representative for the new prison to provide the required information pertaining to jail statistics which will be required for the design phase of the new facility.

Joseph Shiffer, Deputy Warden for Inmate Services, reported that in-person religious services began on September 3, 2022. He stated that 65 individuals are currently in volunteer training to perform church services at the facility. He stated that they also have one on one minister visits and Bible studies. Deputy Warden Shiffer reported that Halal services have started in July.

Deputy Warden Shiffer provided a reentry services update. He reported that there are 106 participants in the Pathways Home program. He stated that four individuals received their GED, 15 are in rehab, and 36 individuals are employed. Deputy Warden Shiffer noted that there are currently 40 inmates receiving services within the facility.

Deputy Warden Shiffer reported that their core reentry class had 63 graduates to date. He reported a recidivism rate of 12% at 90 days and 38% at two years for the reentry

class. Deputy Warden reported that there are 54 participants in the drug and alcohol program and there have been four graduates since July.

Arla Brown, Director of Administration, reported that her department currently has one vacancy, and one staff member is on an extended absence.

Ms. Brown introduced former correctional officer, Jordan Cunningham, to those in attendance. Ms. Cunningham has joined the business office.

Ms. Brown reported that the Policy Committee has resumed their meetings and the first meeting was held on September 14, 2022.

Ms. Brown reported that barbering services for the month of September was scheduled on September 13, 2022 and 55 inmates signed up for the services.

Ms. Brown reported that the statistical information on the overall operations of the Prison is provided online with the monthly report.

Kent Kroehler, Have a Heart, asked for a follow up of breaking down the statistics into those who have been sentenced versus those who are awaiting trial. Commissioner Parsons stated that he remembers the request and the determination was whether it was possible within the system the Prison has. Ms. Brown stated that she will look into providing those numbers.

Commissioner Trescot provided an update on the new prison project. He stated that he met with the Berks County Commissioners on the progress of their new prison. He stated that they are six months ahead of us in the process.

Commissioner Trescot noted that the listening session on September 21, 2022, will not be the only session they will have. There will be other sessions held throughout the different phases of the project.

Controller Lisa Colón presented the financial report on the Prison as of August 30, 2022. Controller Colón stated that they are on target with the increase for personnel services of \$1.6 million. The supplies increased \$23,000 and \$940,000 for purchased services. The total increase was \$2.5 million from last month's report and 65% of the budget has been used for the year.

In business from guests, Mr. Kroehler asked if the members of the Advisory Committee will be made available to the public. He also asked who the chairman of the committee is. Commissioner Parsons commented that currently Commissioner Trescot is the chairman; however, each Commissioner rotates. He stated that the information for the Advisory Committee will be posted on the website.

Commissioner Trescot commented that there is an executive group within the Advisory Committee, and they include Larry George, Bob Devonshire, and Linda Schreiner to make sure communication is flowing.

Mr. Kroehler asked for a status of the public website on the new prison. Commissioner Trescot stated that he will find out at the Advisory Committee meeting tomorrow.

Mr. Kroehler asked who will be responsible for putting out the vision of the new prison. Commissioner Trescot stated that they continue to have discussions on what the vision is for the design of the new prison, as well as the operation of the new prison. He stated that the Warden and her team is looking more at the operation of the new prison and the Advisory Committee is looking at their vision and plan for the new prison.

Commissioner D'Agostino commented stated that it is a little premature to discuss the vision of the new prison without having listening sessions with the community.

Commissioner Parsons commented that each of the Commissioners has a vision, as well as the Warden, the staff, and the public and everyone that have expressed that over the years. He stated the biggest question right now is what the needs are and what the needs will be going into the future. Commissioner Parsons stated that they have moved in a systematic step by step approach for years to put the County in the position it's in now. He stated that the first step is the needs assessment.

Mr. Kroehler asked for a COVID update and an update on the attempted suicide at the facility. Deputy Warden Aberts commented that there are currently nine inmates that are on isolation status for COVID in the facility. Deputy Warden Aberts reported that there was an attempted suicide in the female unit of the facility. He stated that the woman was hospitalized and has since been released from the hospital and to the community. He stated that her injuries were not life threatening.

Neil Ward, Have a Heart, suggested that one more member from the community be added to the Advisory Committee. Commissioner Parsons stated that he will discuss that with the committee.

Tom Lisi, LNP, asked what data has been collected to make up the needs assessment. Deputy Warden Aberts stated that the information that was requested was extensive. He stated that they are looking at the inmate population, county demographics, and current charges within the inmate population. He stated that there is a lot of information that the committee was given that they are still sorting through to ultimately come up with a plan.

Mr. Kroehler asked how many members are in the Advisory Committee. Commissioner Trescot stated that there are 11 members in the committee.

Prison Board Minutes
September 15, 2022
Page 5

Commissioner Trescot moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 a.m. Commissioner D'Agostino seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The next meeting is October 20, 2022, at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Colón
Secretary