

Minutes of the Monthly  
Meeting of the  
Lancaster County Prison Board  
October 20, 2022

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

Members Present: Commissioner Ray D'Agostino, Commissioner John Trescot, President Judge David Ashworth, Sheriff Christopher Leppler, First Assistant District Attorney Todd Brown, and Controller Lisa Colón.

Not Present: Commissioner Joshua Parsons and District Attorney Heather Adams.

Others Present: Cheryl Steberger, William Aberts, Joseph Shiffer, Kim Wolfe, Arla Brown, Toni Warfel, Christina Fluegel, Louis Chirichello, Thomas Jenkins, Marcus Jones, Arlene Jones, Bob Devonshire, Larry George, Jackie Pfursich, Kathleen Morrison, Shayne Goodman, Kelly Rhoads, Carrie Kurtz, Karlee Shambaugh, Chris Young, M.A. Young, Kent Kroehler, Jonathan Fox, Jason Perkowski, Julie Kennedy, Eric Kennel, Anne Weiss, Peggy Lou Platt, Tom Lisi, Lydia Kovalchuk, and Diana Rivera.

Commissioner Trescot moved to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2022, Prison Board Meeting. Sheriff Leppler seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Cheryl Steberger, Warden; William Aberts, Deputy Warden for Operations; Joseph Shiffer, Deputy Warden for Inmate Services; and Arla Brown, Director of Administration; and Bob Devonshire, Director of Facilities 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 provided an update on staffing. Warden Steberger reported the current staffing complement: allotment of 229, current staffing of 190, making it 39 officers short at the facility. She reported that she has turned over the interviewing to the Deputy Wardens, Major Chirichello, and the supervisors.

Warden Steberger reported the inmate population this morning is 758. The average inmate population in September 2021 was 684 and 756 in September 2022.

Warden Steberger reported on the new prison project. Four county representatives (Warden Steberger, Toni Warfel, Bob Devonshire, and Brett Zerphy), along with four members of the owner's representative firm, CGL, toured two facilities in September – Franklin County Corrections Center in Columbus, Ohio and the Washtenaw County Jail in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The group shared with the Advisory Committee their overall

impressions of each facility and reiterated the positive learning experience and value from the visits. CGL prepared background material on each comparable facility if any Prison Board members are interested in learning more. Warden Steberger reported that there is a visionary meeting with CGL scheduled for next week. Meetings with the staff are also scheduled Tuesday-Thursday of next week with CGL being present.

Warden Steberger invited Marcus Jones to the podium to present him with the Life Saving Award. Mr. Jones performed the Heimlich maneuver on an inmate who was choking. Warden Steberger presented Mr. Jones with a plaque and a pin that will be part of his uniform. Mr. Jones gave a short speech and said that he appreciated the award and is accepting it on behalf of his peers. Mr. Jones received a round of applause from those in attendance.

William Aberts, Deputy Warden for Operations, reported the officers of the month for September: First Shift, Officer Ryan James; Second Shift, Officer Miguel Gonzalez; Third Shift, Officer Cole Adams. Officers James, Gonzalez, and Adams were unable to attend the meeting.

Deputy Warden Aberts reported that he continues to work with the owner's representative on the new prison project.

Deputy Warden Aberts reported that a meeting is scheduled on November 2, 2022, with the vendor to address the existing issues with the control panel project.

Joseph Shiffer, Deputy Warden for Inmate Services, reported that Coby's Family Services has been providing Seeking Safety classes in the facility. Seeking Safety is a therapeutic group that assists individuals who are dealing with trauma and drug and alcohol addiction. Deputy Warden Shiffer stated that they try to target those who have open Children & Youth cases, in order to assist them in making better decisions as parents.

Deputy Warden Shiffer reported that orientations began for Mental Health America. He stated that they are now offering support groups and the next step is adding some educational groups.

Deputy Warden Shiffer provided an update on the Vivitrol program. He stated that 32 injections were administered in September. Since January 1, 2022, 212 injections have been administered.

Deputy Warden Shiffer provided a reentry services update. He reported that their reentry class has had 75 participants so far. A female graduation class is scheduled for tomorrow. Deputy Warden Shiffer reported a recidivism rate of 14% at 90 days and 35% at two years for the reentry class. They continue to reach out to community

partners to gain their assistance in housing and other issues that are important for the participants' success.

Jonathan Fox, Have a Heart, asked for an update from PrimeCare. Deputy Warden Shiffer reported that there were 21 grievances filed with PrimeCare for medical and treatment issues. Nine of those grievances were submitted by two inmates. Deputy Warden Shiffer reported that PrimeCare is dealing with an influx of inmates with severe chronic care issues. He stated that over the past six months, approximately 50% of their population comes in with those chronic care issues. Deputy Warden Shiffer stated that PrimeCare deals with those cases diligently and professionally.

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

Ms. Brown reported that barbering services continue to run smoothly. In October, 52 inmates received services with 15 designated as indigent.

Ms. Brown reported that visitation continues to run smoothly. The updated visitation guidelines have been posted on the Prison website in both English and Spanish. Since telephonic scheduling of visitation, they asked that the individual call the day prior to the scheduled visit. This process is still in effect, with the change that for those wishing to schedule a Saturday visit, to call on Thursday in lieu of Friday. They will be printing the updated guidelines to hand out at the Prison.

Ms. Brown reported that at the end of September, a tablet inventory was completed by the investigator and the tablet administrator. The process took two days during which time the inmates did not have a tablet. When the tablets were redistributed, every inmate received a tablet and that would now be their assigned tablet. As of now, a tablet is issued to each inmate upon commitment, and they can make it their own with an option to purchase a subscription which comes with additional features.

Ms. Brown reported that the statistical information on the overall operations of the Prison is provided online with the monthly report. Ms. Brown noted that she is still working on the length of stay versus those awaiting trial report.

Bob Devonshire, Director of Facilities Management, reported on his areas of responsibility:

- They continue to assist Deputy Warden Aberts on the door access control system upgrades.
- They are working on the new prison project.

- There were 147 work orders closed in September, with 942 closed year-to-date.

Controller Lisa Colón presented the financial report on the Prison as of September 30, 2022. Controller Colón reported that revenues increased by approximately \$17,500. Expenses increased by \$3.5 million, which includes \$2.9 in salaries, \$99,000 in supplies, and \$525,000 in purchased services. Controller Colón noted that they are on target for the rest of the year.

Commissioner Trescot provided an update on the new prison project. He stated that they will continue to tour other facilities both new and old. The Advisory Committee continues to meet every Wednesday. Commissioner Trescot stated that they have received preliminary data on the needs assessment. He stated that the key point in this process is to have the needs assessment completed, which they anticipate in the near future. Commissioner Trescot reported that the website is in the final development phase for it to be up and running. He stated that the vision sessions are being held to discuss the data around the design of the new facility.

In business from guests, Kent Kroehler, Have a Heart, asked if the Advisory Committee has a budget. Commissioner Trescot stated that there is a budget for CGL and the travel funds for the Advisory Committee are paid out of the Commissioners' budget.

Mr. Kroehler asked if County employees who receive awards are published in the media. Commissioner Trescot stated that they are in the process of hiring a Communications Director for County government to address those issues.

Mr. Kroehler suggested that the registration to vote should be a part of the reentry program. He stated that the goal is to return citizens to the community in a better shape that they came in. Mr. Kroehler stated that when Have a Heart shared that idea for consideration, he was informed by Deputy Warden Shiffer that they reviewed that with the County Solicitor and was advised that the Prison should not do that.

Kathleen Morrison, Solicitor's Office, stated that the Prison currently provides information to inmates to educate them about their ability to get registered to vote. She stated that the League of Women Voters has offered to come in person to the Prison and speak to inmates individually, which raises some concerns as corrections staff would need to escort these individuals around the Prison which would take them away from their job duties. Ms. Morrison stated that they also would not want any inmates to feel pressured or for there to be the perception that inmates are being pressured to vote for a particular person, or to vote in general.

Warden Steberger noted that voting information is posted on the housing unit and on the tablets.

Deputy Warden Shiffer reported that 14 inmates registered to vote, and 13 absentee registration applications were submitted.

Mr. Kroehler asked if the reentry program can include a short segment on being registered to vote. Deputy Warden Shiffer stated that they have a limited time with these individuals and if they introduce politics into their limited time they will lose hours of instruction, where individuals cannot focus on improving their chances to be successful in the community. He stated that he is not willing to make that tradeoff for something that they have available on the housing unit for them to do as responsible adults on their own time.

Chris Young, resident, stated that he is here today to present a petition to the Board to encourage the District Attorney to begin a Conviction Integrity Unit. He noted that there are four counties in Pennsylvania that have started a Conviction Integrity Unit. Mr. Young provided an example of a case in Dauphin County where two kids found contents from a former county detective's briefcase that showed that a lab technician lied during trial, and someone was put in jail based on that information and was then exonerated. After that, Dauphin County begun a Conviction Integrity Unit. Mr. Young stated that he would like to see that happen in Lancaster County.

First Assistant District Attorney Todd Brown, District Attorney's Office, stated that District Attorney Heather Adams is aware of Mr. Young's petition and concerns and would have addressed this today if she was present. First Assistant District Attorney Todd Brown stated that he will relay Mr. Young's concerns to the District Attorney and let the decisions occur within her discretion. He stated that if Mr. Young has any information, documentation, and contact information, he can forward them to the District Attorney.

Carrie Kurtz, Lancaster County Reentry Coalition, commented on providing voting information to the inmates. She stated that when people are incarcerated, they are already overwhelmed and if you try to lump everything expected of them it would make them more overwhelmed. Ms. Kurtz stated that we have to stagger the opportunities and prioritize what is going to help them succeed. Example, if there is an issue of addiction than that's the focus that has to happen first. Ms. Kurtz stated that she is not against registering people to vote, but sometimes you do not have that much time with these individuals, and you have to decide what is important in that moment.

Mr. Fox commented that the point he is trying to make about PrimeCare's lack of reporting is that it has only happened when the new Chairman was appointed. He stated that in previous administrations, PrimeCare did report at the meetings. Mr. Fox asked why that is not the case now.

Deputy Warden Shiffer commented that he has been coming to the Prison Board meetings since 2009 and he has no recollection of PrimeCare giving a report at the meetings.

Warden Steberger stated that she has asked that PrimeCare not report at the meetings because then she would have to have every vendor report at the meetings. She stated that they have proven themselves and the Prison has trust and transparency with PrimeCare.

A few members of the public expressed concern that the website for the new prison is not ready and encouraged the Board to make it a priority to get the website up and running.

Commissioner Trescot commented that things moved a little slower than what they wanted. He stated that before they launch the website, they wanted to have some things ready like the needs assessment so the website would be more useful. Commissioner Trescot stated that they are closer to getting the website up and running and this will allow for public feedback and updates from the committee.

Commissioner Trescot moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:34 a.m. Sheriff Leppler seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The next meeting is November 17, 2022, at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Colón  
Secretary