

Minutes of the Monthly
Meeting of the
Lancaster County Prison Board
April 20, 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 Deputy Controller Kathy Kunkel.

Not Present: Controller Lisa Colón.

Others Present: Cheryl Steberger, William Aberts, Joseph Shiffer, Arla Brown, Kim Wolfe, Jackie Pfursich, Kathleen Morrison, Teri Miller-Landon, Anne Weiss, Karlee Shambaugh Cindi Feaster, Carrie Kurtz, Jonathan Fox, Bob Devonshire, Kent Kroehler, Neil Ward, Chris Hume, Margaret Platt, Michael Fitzpatrick, Kim McDevitt, Tim Stuhldreher, Peggy Lou Platt, Jason Perkowski, Todd Haskins, Kelly Rhoads, Chris Mahrel, Erin Duganitz, Sarah Haley, Sarah Sample, Jason Croad, Mark Wilson, Justin Hackler, Toni Warfel, Christina Fluegel, Thomas Jenkins, Carmen Simone, Gail Groves Scott, Christina Peddigree, Kelly Ehrich, Louis Chirichello, Kristal Abenshon and Sabrina Huss.

Commissioner Trescot moved to approve the minutes of the March 16, 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; Arla Brown, Director of Administration; Bob Devonshire, Director of Facilities; and Kathy Kunkel, Deputy 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 that as of last week there were eight grievances. They worked through those with the union and with the assistance of HR and the solicitor they only have one grievance as of today.

Warden Steberger reported the prison had a Providers' Network meeting at the Prison at the end of March. It was an opportunity for everyone to meet and learn about what services are being provided to LCP. There were approximately 50 individuals at the meeting. Some of the people who participated were the Treatment team, representatives from Mental Health America, Alcoholics Anonymous, Career Link, Race Project, Donegal Substance Abuse and Alliance, IU13 Pathways, Lancaster Drug and Alcohol Commission

and Compass Mark. BHDS was there representing: Compass Mark, Renew, Bethany Christian Services, School District of Lancaster, the Public Defender's Office, Blueprints, an addiction recovery service, and CRS. Warden Steberger thanked Carrie Kurtz, Director of Reentry Planning and Coordinator for the Lancaster Reentry Coalition. Ms. Kurtz assisted the Warden in organizing the meeting as well as Deputy Warden Shiffer, Arla Brown and assistant Kim Wolfe. Chief Clerk Larry George was also in attendance and spoke at the meeting.

Warden Cheryl Steberger reported the inmate population this morning is 709. In March of 2022, the average was 766. In March 2023, the average was 719. The Warden noted the state approved housing capacity at the Prison as 1,085, which is approved by the Department of Corrections (DOC).

Warden Steberger reported they were conducting a Prison wide search as of Monday. The Corrections emergency response team began the prison wide search, and they were still conducting the search Thursday. The Prison wide search is being conducted primarily for safety measures. The focus of the search is to find contraband, weapons, and drugs. Reports that have been received so far state they have only found nuisance items such as laundry and trash. Warden Steberger thanked Director John Bey from the Dauphin County Prison and Warden Tina Lutz from Lebanon County Prison for allowing their staff to assist with the search detail. It is nice for the staff to be able to network with people from other facilities and share ideas.

William Aberts, Deputy Warden for Operations, reported the officers of the month for March: First Shift, Officer Tyquan Bynum; Second Shift, Officer Elyizer Ortiz; and Third Shift, Officer Tanner Moyer. None were able to attend.

Deputy Warden Aberts reported on the Control Panel Project. On Tuesday, April 13, 2023, there was a walkthrough of the facility for vendors which took about seven hours to complete. Any issues with control panels were noted. Afterwards, a meeting was held where everyone sat down, and areas of concern were assigned to specific vendors to repair. There was a 30-day deadline put in the repairs. As the 30 days progress, everyone is to give an update on where they stand with their portion of the project.

Deputy Warden Shiffer reported on the Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT) Pilot Program. There are three medications consistent of the MAT program: Subutex, Methadone, and Vivitrol. The MAT pilot was started back in September 2022, and they are currently working through that. Deputy Warden Shiffer recognized Sergeant Fisher, who has taken the lead in coordinating the program with the medical department. They have worked closely together to develop practices, policies, and procedures for the MAT program. Currently there are 25 individuals in the MAT program. In March, they had 46 participants total. Since the beginning of the program, they have had 101 participants. As of today, methadone is provided to pregnant females, and there is an agreement with the

Lancaster Addiction Treatment Center (ARS) to expand that. More information will be provided once we meet and coordinate with ARS. Their goal is to provide additional MAT services with methadone. Regarding vivitrol, back in January it was reported there is a grant from the Pennsylvania Coalition of Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) and unfortunately the grant has run out. They are working with the medical department to provide vivitrol injections and there are further grants coming up in the spring. They are also working to access additional funds for that service.

Deputy Warden Shiffer reported on the LCCP Providers Network meeting held in March. That meeting sets them up for continued participation and coordination for all their services within the facility. They are creating a resource guide and information from the meeting to provide to all the partners or others seeking information. It will be a good resource with contact information, and everything needed to continue communication coordination.

Deputy Warden Shiffer reported there was an Inmate Services Staff Retreat on Tuesday which was successful. The goal of the retreat is to continually educate the staff and provide them with the tools they need to do a better job. They had LGH come in and provide education on opioid use disorder and addiction which the staff found to be very helpful. The medical department also provided updated information on policies and procedures the staff would need to improve in their jobs. There were team building activities and discussions on continuous improvement within the department.

Deputy Warden Shiffer thanked Justice and Mercy. On March 30, 2023, they had their Justice and Mercy Chocolate Cross Day. It was a success; the inmates and staff appreciate all the chocolate crosses as well as the visitors coming through. Deputy Warden Shiffer also thanked Tom Zeager and his wife for their participation and the volunteers as well.

Deputy Warden Shiffer reported on the reentry program update. The graduation class in March had five women. There was an additional graduation class of five men in the beginning of April. There is a total of 201 participants since the program began pre-Covid. In the past year, there have been 119 participants who went through the program. Recidivism rates at 90 days are running at 9.3 %, six months at 18.2 %, and at three years they are running at 61.4%. They are still working diligently to create the best program. The centerpiece of the program is a two-week intensive class run by neighbors coaching. They continue working hard to get post release case management and support. Deputy Warden Shiffer reported they have been meeting with Carrie Kurtz from Lancaster Re-Entry Coalition Coordinator (LCRC) in that effort.

Deputy Warden Shiffer mentioned at the last prison board meeting there was an open Reentry Manager position. The position has since been posted and taken down. They

have interviews scheduled for Tuesday, April 25, 2023. Deputy Warden Shiffer hopes to introduce the new Reentry Manager to the Board and the public by next month.

Arla Brown, Director of Administration, reported they continue to have one vacancy within the department and one employee on extended leave. In April, they continue their barbering services. They have 58 inmates who receive the service with 11 designated as indigent, which means no cost to them. They continue their monthly policy review. As reported in the previous month, they are continuing with their annual financial audit which is expected to be completed soon. For future topics, Ms. Brown invited those in attendance to contact her regarding any items they would like addressed.

Carmen Simoñe, Deputy Director of General Services, reported they continue working with Deputy Warden Aberts on the door access project. They are working on the new prison facility project as well.

Mr. Simoñe reported they have 97 work orders completed for March 2023. They currently have 324 work orders for 2023. Mr. Simoñe reported there are 108 work orders on average per month on average for 2023. They have 147 work orders per month on a 5-year average.

Kathy Kunkel, Deputy Controller, reported the actual expended to date for personnel services is 6.5 million, supplies \$295,660, and purchased services 1.9 million for a total expended to date of \$8,735,000 which is within the expense budget for 12 months. Since the last report, the increase in the revenue is \$23,950 and an increase in expenses is \$2,810,000.

Warden Steberger reported the Request for Proposals (RFP) for design services for the new Lancaster County Correctional Facility were due on April 12th. The county expects to have a team selected and engaged around the beginning of July. The timeline is subject to change, depending on the needs of the county. CGL's planning group is working with Warden Steberger and the staff at LCP to review programming documents. It is expected this review will continue over the next few months. Once completed, the program will serve as a guide for the design team to use in designing the facility. The project website, www.lccf-pa.com, will continue to be updated as they continue to progress on the project.

Warden Steberger reported at the last prison board meeting they were sending a team of four staff members out to Clark County, Nevada. CGL had suggested they go there and join the team. Warden Steberger sent Commitment Sergeant Onderdunk, Dave Riley, an officer of Permanent Post, a seasoned officer, Sergeant Whitaker line sergeant, and Toni Warfel, Supervisor of Inmate Services. One of the main things Warden Steberger had asked the team to observe their commitment area. There's a new concept in the intake area, that it is an open setting. The individual would sit in this open setting and watch TV, have use of the phone, wear a belly chain and based on the information gathered from

Ms. Warfel's visit, not be free to roam where they please, but they are not confined to a cell the way it is currently done now at LCP.

Warden Steberger invited Toni Warfel, Supervisor of Inmate Services, to speak about the trip to Nevada. Ms. Warfel reported the trip to Clark County was extremely eye-opening. They brought back a lot of ideas as far as dealing with their suicide status inmates and individuals with medical issues. The Prison had negative pressure areas and bunks that were solid plastic rectangles which were built into the cell. This prevented the inmates from climbing underneath and couldn't fit anything through the sides. Ms. Warfel reported they had small interlocks prior to getting to cells for individuals that are known to be violent. These cells allow you to see the inmate and engage with them on a personal basis without the risk of being assaulted. The staff there were incredible. A lot of that is attributed to the fact that they have almost 30 weeks of training. They have a unique setup where their prison is run by their police department. Their police department has both correctional staff and city officers, which gives them the ability to do extensive training. They receive a lot more resources than we might here in Lancaster County. Ms. Warfel reported they can do things we are not able to do with their inmates based on the different laws. Those were one of the most apparent differences, how they can handle inmates versus how we can because of the different constraints we might be under typically with different mental health laws. They have the same issues we see here, homelessness, and lack of housing opportunities in the community. It was a great experience and Ms. Warfel brought back a list of items that were given to CGL indicating what we want to pull from that experience. The count at the prison that day was 2800 but it could go a little over 3000. The resources that Clark County has are different from Lancaster County, so they are able to hire many more people. They have tons of staff and for areas where we might have only staff of one, they might have three or four. Because they have both civilians and individuals from the police department working there, their entire procedures are different.

Commissioner Trescot reported the Work Group continues. Mr. Trescot had some opportunities to speak with the Chief of Police as well as the MDJ's wanting to get more input on various people around the County who are going to be a part of the new jail project. As the Warden has mentioned, the next big step is having a designer and taking all the spacing needs, assessments, and the ideas from the trips that have been taken, with input from CGL and start turning that into actual designs so people will be able to see and work with it. So far there seems to be good communications, and there isn't a schedule for the next listening session. Commissioner Trescot would like to wait until they have a little bit more to talk about at the next one unless they get the designer on board. They appreciate everyone who comments on the website and brings their information in, as they continue to review it. The project schedule is flexible, and Commissioner Trescot thinks we're moving at a reasonable pace for a project this size.

Commissioner Trescot praised Michael Fitzpatrick, the IT staff and CGL for updating the website. They have read a lot of the comments and are reviewing them for consideration. He hopes people will find the website not only usable in terms of information but user friendly.

Commissioner Trescot reported the county has received four proposals for the design services. His understanding, after speaking with Ms. Linda Schreiner, the Director of Purchasing, is that there will be a process for the committee to review them and then have interviews here before the Board of Commissioners sometime in June so a decision can be made on the engagement of the design.

In business from guests, Ms. Platt from Justice Mercy thanked the prison for the Chocolate Cross Day, it was a wonderful event. There were a lot of comments from people that attended the event stating how awesome and accommodating the staff was. They expressed how much they enjoyed walking through the prison and interacting with the staff. They have no problem getting people to go volunteer at the prison, they must have a cut off because then they would have too many people & not enough inmates to see. It is a good problem, but they have people that are repeat visitors and wish to go every time. The minute Ms. Platt calls and states they are going to prison on a certain day she has the same people asking her to sign them up as well as new people. People will not sign up for luncheons, but they will sign up to go in and be with the inmates, serving the inmates and they enjoy that. Ms. Platt thanked everyone again for making this possible.

Neil Ward, Have a Heart, thanked the prison staff for all they do. It's a lot of work and he wants everyone to know how much it's appreciated, he recognizes that. Mr. Ward asked if there was a scheduled prison stat. Commissioner Parsons and Warden Steberger both answered there was not one scheduled, but they would get that out. Mr. Ward asked about the 3-year PREA Audit, he asked if it was possible to do it annually. Ms. Warfel stated that it's mandated by the standard that it goes every three years. The prison does internal audits themselves, on a monthly basis, but the PREA auditor comes every three years. Mr. Ward asked if it is more cost effective to pay overtime or have a full complement with benefits. And is that something we can provide in the future. Commissioner Parson's stated he thinks it is better to have a full complement because it's more regular and better overall. It doesn't always correlate to that because if one is doing more training they end up with more overtime. Regarding substance abuse and mental health, Mr. Ward stated he thinks everyone agrees the prison shouldn't be a treatment center. Mr. Ward asked what work is being done to eliminate the criminal justice aspect for people in jail for minor infractions. Commissioner Parsons disagreed that anyone is incarcerated for minor infractions.

Judge Ashworth stated that all treatment courts are available for visits. Neil Asked about highway details to pick up trash. The Warden stated we currently don't have the work

release population to do the work or employees to supervise. Judge Ashworth said that the Treatment Court participants don't require supervision, just verification of the work provided.

Jonathan Fox asked whether future prison board meetings could be held occasionally in the evening to have a different audience. Commissioner Parsons said that is a possibility especially as the County gets close in the development of the new prison. He noted that groundbreaking is scheduled in 2024 and opening in 2026 but interest rates, material costs and planning needs could factor into the schedule.

Mr. Fox stated that Meg Keller, of Have a Heart, developed some analysis with charts and graphs that Jonathan will send to the Board members for comment.

Gail Scott from Health Policy network attended the meeting to respond and question the methadone and vivitrol treatment programs at the Prison. She stated that the County needs to offer access to methadone from the opioid settlement. Commissioner Parsons stated they will review the opioid settlement allocation. New rules from the Department of Justice will enable better access and resources.

Ms. Scott stated that she was requesting to allocate funds to focus on reentry and evidence-based treatment. Judge Ashworth said the courts are very focused on evidence-based practices and access at reentry. Commissioner Parsons noted the inmates must volunteer for the treatment programs. He agreed education is important by bringing in staff from LGH and other health systems.

Commissioner Trescot moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 a.m. Commissioner D'Agostino seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The next meeting is May 18, 2023, at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Colón
Secretary