

Minutes of the Monthly
Meeting of the
Lancaster County Prison Board
April 21, 2022

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 John Trescot, Judge Leonard Brown, District Attorney Heather Adams, Sheriff Chris Leppler, and Controller Lisa Colón.

Not Present: President Judge David Ashworth and Commissioner Ray D'Agostino.

Others Present: Cheryl Steberger, William Aberts, Joseph Shiffer, Kim Wolfe, Christina Fluegel, Kristal Abenshon, Jamal Leath, Justin Hackler, Louis Chirichello, Irene Riley, Larry George, Bob Devonshire, Anthony Kern, Karlee Shambaugh, Kent Kroehler, Chris Tallarico, Stacie Dixon, Tom Zeager, Helen Zeager, Ann Weiss, Dan Nephin, Kim McDevitt, Carrie Kurtz, Tim Stuhldreher, Todd Haskins, Kelly Rhoades, Neil Ward, Peggy Lou Platt, Jonathan Fox, Shayne Goodman, Tom Lisi, Lydia Kovalchuk, and Diana Rivera.

Commissioner Trescot moved to approve the minutes of the March 17, 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; Cheryl Steberger on behalf of 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, reported that there are currently zero grievances.

Warden Steberger provided a COVID-19 update. She reported that there are currently zero cases with staff and inmates at the facility for the second month. She stated that they continue to resume their programming at the facility. Some of those programs are Bible study, chaplain services, reentry services, and drug and alcohol classes. Warden Steberger stated that work release and community service programs will open this Monday. She reported full block out for inmates will start in mid-May.

Warden Steberger provided an update on staffing. She reported the current staffing complement: allotment of 229, current staffing of 168, making it 61 officers short at the facility. Warden Steberger reported that 27 interviews were conducted in the month of March and 18 jobs were offered. She stated that there have been 97 interviews since

January 2022. Warden Steberger introduced the new Investigator, Justin Hackler, to those in attendance.

Warden Steberger reported the inmate population this morning is 768. The inmate population in March 2022, was 749 and 634 in March 2021. Warden Steberger noted that they have opened two housing units as there has been an increase in the population, specifically with female inmates. She stated that this morning there were 118 female inmates and usually the average is 100.

Commissioner Parsons commented that zero grievances are outstanding and thanked the staff at the Prison.

Commissioner Parsons noted that Prison Board meetings will start being held at the Prison periodically and the first meeting will be held in June.

Jonathan Fox, Have A Heart, asked how the Prison managed to operate with the shortage in correctional officers. Warden Steberger stated that her staff and the vendors working together to get things done are the reasons why they were able to manage.

William Aberts, Deputy Warden for Operations, reported the officers of the month for March: First Shift, Officer Brittney Gross; Second Shift, Officer William McCusker; Third Shift, Samantha Alvalle. Officers Gross, McCusker, and Alvalle were unable to attend the meeting.

Deputy Warden Aberts reported that the control panel project work has begun in preparation for the installation in C-2.

Deputy Warden Aberts presented the Certificate of Appreciation to Officer Irene Riley as she has gone above and beyond her job duties in attempt to make the housing unit she oversees as a positive environment. Officer Riley gave a short speech and said that she appreciates the Prison administration giving her the freedom of expression that allows her to give the inmates the same.

Joseph Shiffer, Deputy Warden for Inmate Services, thanked Justice & Mercy for the chocolate crosses provided for Chocolate Cross Day held on April 14, 2022.

Deputy Warden Shiffer provided a COVID update. Deputy Warden Shiffer reported that there were four COVID cases in March and currently zero cases in the facility. He stated that they continue to test upon intake and reported that there has been a total of 10,767 tests since the onset of COVID.

Deputy Warden Shiffer provided a staffing update for his department. He stated that his department is now fully staffed as of this Monday. Deputy Warden Shiffer stated that

the new Recreation Director and General Specialist is coming on board. He stated that the Drug & Alcohol Specialist has completed her training and will start running groups with the female population very soon.

Deputy Warden Shiffer provided a reentry services update. He stated that they are fully operating their reentry services. He stated that there were two graduating classes with a total of 16 inmates. Deputy Warden Shiffer reported that a male group will be starting this Monday. He stated that the Commissioners have extended their contract with Nabors' Coaching to continue providing the inmates with instruction and training for pre-release services. In addition, the Pathway Home Grant is continuing to operate with 46 participants in the program. Deputy Warden Shiffer reported that they will be engaging with other partners to reestablish the parenting groups with Children & Youth.

Deputy Warden Shiffer reported that a kitchen inspection was held last Monday and there were some findings that have been corrected. He stated that they were reinspected yesterday by the City of Lancaster and passed. He stated that there are a few projects that will take more time to complete, but overall, the inspector was pleased with their progress.

Deputy Warden Shiffer reported that there were 24 Vivitrol injections in March, which he believes, is the highest number they ever had.

Mr. Fox asked why PrimeCare does not report their medical statistics at the meetings, as they do at the Youth Intervention Center (YIC) Board meetings. Commissioner Parsons stated, as he has previously, that they do not have vendors report at the Prison Board meetings and if anyone has questions regarding the report, they can ask the staff.

Warden Steberger on behalf of Arla Brown, Director of Administration, reported that an employee who submitted her resignation for the file clerk position has rescinded it and the position will no longer be posted.

Warden Steberger reported that they are continuing with their monthly policy review meetings and will be reviewing their visitation policy and the job description for their K-9 officers.

Warden Steberger reported that the statistical information is provided online with the monthly report.

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

- CGL continues to be fully staffed.

- They continue to assist Deputy Warden Aberts on the door access control system upgrades.
- There were 89 work orders closed in March, with 201 closed year-to-date.

Commissioner Parsons, on behalf of Commissioner D'Agostino, reported on the new Prison work group. He stated that the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the owner's representative has been issued by the Purchasing Department.

Controller Colón reported that going forward, she plans to provide general updates on the Prison's budget process and their financial position at the meetings. She reported that the Prison's budget for fiscal year 2022 was \$29.9 million, which includes personnel allocation of \$21.1 million and operating budget of \$8.7 million. Controller Colón stated that she will create a report every month that will break down the expenses, such as personnel, supplies, budget services, and capital expenditures (if any). Controller Colón noted that this report will be included in the monthly report.

In business from guests, Kent Kroehler, Have A Heart, commented on the commissary and phone contracts. He suggested that the Board renew these contracts without the kickback portion, as he feels it is unjust to have families of the inmates pay for these high costs. He stated that the revenue comes from inmates who have to pay higher costs than the vendor would otherwise charge. Mr. Kroehler requested the Commissioners and the Board offer a simple rationale for why the County continues this practice.

Commissioner Parsons commented that Mr. Kroehler's point about reviewing the contracts to make sure they are fair and appropriate is reasonable. He stated that Mr. Kroehler requested that the Commissioners look at the phone contract before, and because of that they asked the vendor for a reduction of cost. Commissioner Parsons stated that they do have a responsibility for the care, custody, control, and to meet basic needs for the inmates; however, if they want things above those basic needs then they have the responsibility to pay for them and there is a cost to having a vendor and providing those services. He stated that the question then becomes how much do we provide and where is the cut off beyond the basic needs. Commissioner Parsons stated that the taxpayers are paying for people to be in jail, and he does not agree with raising taxes on the taxpayers to pay for extras. He stated that he believes they can have a reasonable discussion and probably come to a conclusion.

Mr. Kroehler commented that the issue is not the vendor making enough money or extras for inmates. He stated that the issue is the kickback. He reiterated what the rationale is for overcharging inmates, families, and friends in order for the County to get a commission.

Commissioner Trescot commented that certainly all contracts with vendors need to be reviewed when it is time for renewal. He asked what happens with the funds that go back to the prison welfare fund. Warden Steberger stated that there are two accounts: the prison welfare account and the store account. She stated that the prison welfare account can only be used towards purchasing of items for the inmates, such as chairs, recreation equipment, televisions, or fans. Warden Steberger stated that the money cannot be used for anything for a staff member. Commissioner Trescot stated that he agrees with Commissioner Parsons as it is a way to fund other things beyond what is the basic premise of what the Prison provides. He stated that he thinks there can be a reasonable discussion on what that amount of money might be per year or what is done.

Tom Zeager, Justice & Mercy, commented that he agrees with Mr. Kroehler about the kickbacks. He stated that this Board has made so many improvements over the years and appreciates the Controller saying she will provide more financial information for the Prison Board every month.

Neil Ward, Have A Heart, commented regarding John Choma's death. He mentioned that Mr. Choma had a lot of medical issues, and he feels that the community had failed him. Mr. Ward asked that going forward in the new Prison, how do we handle people like Mr. Choma who are chronically ill.

Mr. Fox commented regarding the medical statistic reports. He asked what the grievances are about, that are listed in the medical report. Deputy Warden Shiffer stated that he will look into it and get back to Mr. Fox. Mr. Fox asked for some background on the 224 psychiatric individual incidents in March 2020. He stated that he would like some narrative provided by PrimeCare every month to explain the statistics.

Peggy Lou Platt, Justice & Mercy, thanked everyone who participated in the Chocolate Cross Day and thanked the Prison for allowing them to come back into the facility.

Commissioner Trescot moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 a.m. Sheriff Leppler seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The next meeting is May 19, 2022, at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Colón
Secretary

