

Minutes of the Monthly
Meeting of the
Lancaster County Prison Board
August 17, 2023

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

Members Present: Commissioner Ray D'Agostino, Commissioner John Trescot, Judge David Ashworth, Assistant District Attorney Mark Fetterman, and Controller Lisa Colân.

Not Present: Commissioner Joshua Parsons, Sheriff Christopher Leppler and District Attorney Heather Adams.

Others Present: Arla Brown, Karlee Shambaugh, Eric Kennel, Chris Mahrer, Cheryl Steberger, William Aberts, Joseph Shiffer, Jennifer Nissley, Brett Cole, Neil Ward, Jonathan Fox, Kim McDevitt, Wayne Freeh, Matthew Thompson, Carrie Kurtz, Bob Devonshire, Frank Letoski, Kent Kroehler, Larry Goerge, Christina Fluegel, Kelly Rhoads, Kelly Ehrich, Justin Stoltzfus, Erin Duganitz, Mariah Minnich, Jessenia Agosto, Nicholas Casadonti, and Sabrina Huss.

Commissioner Trescot moved to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2023, Prison Board Meeting. Judge David Ashworth 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 Lisa Colân, 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 started her report by addressing the weather and heat conditions because much of the prison does not have air conditioning. The prison has air conditioning in the three blocks, not the entire facility. The staff continuously monitors those in the prison to ensure the health and safety of the inmates as well as their fellow staff members. The staff also ensure the inmates have time out of their cells with rotating the lock outs each day. Warden Steberger reported each inmate also receive a free pair of shorts from the commissary, using the kiosk to make the purchase. Each day large industrial fans are placed inside each housing unit. The roof exhausters are activated during the evening and early morning hours to disperse the heat. The prison recently purchased larger fans for the housing units, and they seem to be working out well and appreciated by both the inmate population and the staff. Warden Stebe

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rger reported she requested additional fans to be ordered because they had been advised by the vendor the price would be increasing drastically. They would like to prepare and have extra in the inventory to save some money. There are also cold drinks available throughout the facility for the staff and vendors.

Warden Steberger reported on population. Since there was no board meeting in July, the warden reported on population for June and July. In June of 2022, the average population was 759, June of 2023 it was 727. In July 2022, the average population was 761, and 729 in July 2023. This morning the count is at 787.

On August 1, 2023, Prison Stat which is a public meeting was held at the Government building. They openly discussed metrics and data on various topics, such as, overtime, use of force, hiring, suicide prevention, and the treatment programing. Various members of the team went up to the podium and they discussed their data and metrics for the last six months. Warden Steberger reported a few take aways from the meeting was, contraband, and continuously preventing it from entering the facility. Their numbers indicate that very rarely does that happen. The commitment staff is doing a wonderful job as intakes enter the building, of preventing contraband from getting any farther. It is being removed from the individual and not entering the facility. Warden Steberger reported if it is coming in, they want to catch it before it enters. The warden would like everyone to understand, when she mentions contraband, it is not just drugs, but can be a weapon as well.

Warden Steberger reported on use of force statistics. There is a report called the General Information Report, monthly which is a report sent to the state regarding statistics on use of force, and suicides. The prison realized they were not keeping their statistics the same way the state does. The formatting has been changed to align with the state's format. The next Prison Stat will be at the end of December of this year, beginning of January 2024. Warden Steberger brought in a class of eight correctional officers and wanted to welcome them, introduce them to the Prison Board and allow them to see how things are done at a public meeting.

William Aberts, Deputy Warden for Operations, reported the officers of the month for July: First Shift, Officer Stanley Johnson, Second Shift, Officer John Nicklas, and Third Shift, Officer Derek Trythall. None of the officers were able to attend. Warden Aberts reported last week the prison had Milestone recognition. Officer Jamie Neff was unable to attend so he gave him recognition at the board meeting.

Deputy Warden Aberts reported on the Control Panel Project. Deputy Warden Shiffer reported there is an agreement with Cyprium Solutions which was presented at the Commissioners meeting for approval to have Cyprium Solutions to complete the Control Panel Project.

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Joseph Shiffer, Deputy Warden of Inmate Services, reported on the Medicated Assisted Treatment Program (MAT). It started last September as a pilot. The prison has recently received a grant from Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), and they are currently on the planning phase of that grant in hopes of implementing the staffing needs in the fall. Since the beginning of the program, they've had 167 participants with 135 participating since January 1, 2023. As of this morning, they have 42 inmates on the MAT line which means they are in the program and will be getting their medication this morning. The recidivism rates at 90 days it is 14.5%, at 180 days it is 35.6%. As a part of the MAT Program, there are 11 participants receiving methadone and 13 participants receiving vivitrol.

Deputy Warden Shiffer reported he is very pleased the prison has been working on a project with Blueprints for quite some time. Deputy Warden Shiffer asked Ashley Kelley and Becca Moyer from Blueprints to stand up. He explained Ashley is the prisons Case Manager who will be going into the prison. She'll be assisting them with assessments, intake and doing some Drug and Alcohol evaluations as well as case management. She will also be assisting the inmates who do not have a court ordered stipulation for treatment and assisting the prison in getting those inmates treatment.

Christina Fluegel, Reentry Manager, reported on New Beginnings. They had their first class and are currently running their second class of the fiscal year. To date for this fiscal year, the prison had 6 participants successfully complete the program. From the start of New Beginnings 237 participants successfully complete the program. The recidivism rate at 90 days is 10.4% and at 3 years is 61.2%. This calculation only includes 49 participants of the 237 that have met the goal at this point. Ms. Fluegel reported there is a class that graduates tomorrow. Ms. Fluegel extended an invitation to all in attendance to attend the graduation which is being held at 12:00 p.m. at the Prison.

Deputy Warden Shiffer took a moment to mention additional steps the prison is making to help the inmates through the heat of the summer. Deputy Warden Shiffer reported the prison provides ice water and ice drinks with their meals. During block out, they have Cambros of iced water available for them.

Arla Brown, Administrative Director, reported they continue to have one vacancy within the department. Barbering services in July totaled 64, with 13 designated as indigent. In the month of August, 56 received barbering services with 19 designated as indigent.

The prison has their Title 37 which is the Department of Corrections bi-annual inspection coming up August 30, 2023. Ms. Brown reported initial results should be received by October. She wished to thank all those who helped as this is a team effort. Ms. Brown reported it is the 2024 budget season, and that it is due the next day.

If there is additional data that you would like addressed or included on this forum, please feel free to contact Ms. Brown.

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Robert Devonshire, Director of General Services, started off by welcoming the new recruits. Mr. Devonshire reported he has been working with Deputy Warden Aberts on the door access system upgrades. He continues to work with the new prison design facility as well.

Mr. Devonshire reported 190 work orders for the month of June 2023. They closed out 830 work orders for the year. Mr. Devonshire reported they have been averaging 138 work orders per month over 2023, and 153 work orders per month on a 5-year average.

Lisa Colön, Controller, reported as of July 31, 2023, total revenues, which covers June & July, revenues increased by \$331,878.26. Personnel services increased by \$3.7 million, \$94,000.00 for supplies, \$879,000.00 for purchased services, and \$43,000.00 for capital expenditures. Controller Colön reported the total increase of expenses is \$4.8 million. Controller Colön reported an increase in supplies of \$35,384.52, purchased services \$318,000.00, and capital expenditures \$39,000.00, for a total increase of \$392,661.51 for two months for the prison maintenance category.

Warden Steberger gave an update on the design team service. The selection of the design team is one of the most important steps that the Lancaster County Board of Commission will take in planning the new Lancaster County Correctional facility. The selection committee continues to process, and thoroughly review potential design teams, their credentials, and references to make an informed decision. Warden Steberger reported the intended schedule remains for the selection committee to provide additional information for consideration by the Board of Commissioners in the third quarter of 2023. This schedule is fluid and will continue to be tailored in the best interest of Lancaster County.

Warden Steberger reported she and her deputies will be traveling to Nebraska at the end of the month. They were invited by the Director at Lancaster, Nebraska as well as Douglasville, Nebraska to tour their facilities. At Lancaster, Nebraska, the director invited the warden and team to observe their mental health unit. The director states the unit is about 10 years old now and he would like her to see what they have currently and what they would do differently. Mental health is one of the big topics going into the design of the new facility. Warden Steberger stated commitment and intake would be other areas they visit while they are at the tour. Warden Steberger reported that, Wayne Freeh, of CGL will join her and Bob Devonshire on the visit to Nebraska.

Commissioner Trescot stated visiting other facilities, especially those recently built not 30 or 100 years ago, understanding the changes made to the design, specifically looking at the mental health aspect of it will benefit the new jail. Hopefully there will be ideas applicable to the current facility in the years waiting for the new jail to be built.

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Commissioner D'Agostino agreed. He is glad Warden Steberger and the other team are visiting other jails and looking at some of the things our county can do to increase the services they are providing and continue to actively reduce recidivism.

In business from guests, Neil Ward took to the podium to thank LCP staff for their ongoing work behind the scenes. New Beginnings graduation was a good learning experience and appreciates the county officials who participated and made it more meaningful. Mr. Ward spoke on reentry and other programs which have been offered. He found the knowledge about treatment programs moving because it gave him a view as to what the people go through when they are in the process of such programs. Mr. Ward asked if it would be possible for video to be done at the prison. Commissioner D'Agostino stated it would be difficult due to the area but would see what can be done. Mr. Ward asked for more information regarding an inmate being indigent. Warden Steberger explained what makes an inmate indigent and eligible to receive free barbering service as well as commissary.

Kent Kroehler, Have a Heart, spoke about the advancing technology contributions for the new facility. We are in an age for message change. He explained he had an experience with facial recognition technology which he feels would be beneficial for inmate control. Mr. Kroehler hopes the warden and CGL would consider this for their new prison. The mission statement uses two value words, humane and secure. There are numerous ways humane and secure are in conflict, one of them are strip searches. They are critical for security. Security always trumps humane. They are used for security; they are inhumane. Up to this point and mainly, within the last decade, we didn't have any other options. Mr. Kroehler explains then a scanner was installed in commitment and it's revolutionizing what is done in commitment and intake. Tennessee has just put scanners in every state facility. Scanners offer us a chance to reduce the inhumanity of strip searches. We need that on our docket, it will be expensive, but we need them in more than one unit. Mr. Kroehler estimated a scanner will cost about \$100,000.00 bringing the total cost for 10 scanners to \$1 million. The mission is to provide humane and secure environment. We need to watch how technology can bring those two words back into balance. Mr. Kroehler will be writing an email to the advisory committee to state new technology is obvious for this change to take place.

Jonathan Fox, Have a Heart, wished to confirm the next meeting would be at the prison. The board confirmed it would be held at the prison. Mr. Fox then asked Controller Colón about the amount spent on medical and Prime Care. Controller Colón let Mr. Fox know expenses are noted under medical, dental supplies and purchased services. Mr. Fox was reminded our staff gives all updates and can answer questions. Mr. Fox asked when there will be another public meeting regarding input on the design and function of the new prison.

Commissioner Trescot commented a date has not been scheduled yet. Commissioner Trescot explained we are waiting until after the architects are selected and contracted early next month. Once that happens, we can work on having public meetings again.

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Commissioner Trescot explained having public meetings before the architects have been selected doesn't seem beneficial. As Commissioner Trescot mentioned before, this will be a step-by-step procedure that will go through the basic design of the prison with input from CGL, from the site visits and input from individuals involved in making, current design standards.

Jonathan Fox questioned who the individuals were that were involved.

Commissioner Trescot commented by letting Mr. Fox know it was police, MDJ's, Have a Heart, suppliers, and other groups who have been involved by giving comments and feedback regarding the prison and the building.

Pastor Jason Rotowski, Manheim Township, asked if it was possible for the website to be updated with the places they visited and the people they have spoken to so they can generate more feedback from the public. He stated if they knew what was happening and what areas were explored that may generate additional ideas.

Commissioner Trescot commented Pastor Jason had good suggestions and they will make sure it gets included on the website.

Commissioner D'Agostino moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 a.m. President Judge Ashworth seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The next meeting is September 21, 2023, at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa K. Colön

Secretary