

Minutes of the Monthly  
Meeting of the  
Lancaster County Prison Board  
September 20, 2018

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

Members Present: Commissioner Joshua Parsons, Commissioner Dennis Stuckey, Commissioner Craig Lehman, Chief Deputy Christopher Riggs (left at 10:01 a.m.), and Controller Brian Hurter.

Others Present: Robert Wolfe, William Aberts, Joseph Shiffer, Ashley Garcia, Tammy Moyer, Charlie Douts, E. William Peters, Charlette Stout, Sue Lao, Arla Brown, Toni Warfel, Oswaldo Cora, Christina Hausner, Lieutenant Hersh, Neil Ward, Michael Baldwin, Brett Cole, Jon Singer, Eric Kennel, Emily Scordelis, Kent Kroehler, Kim Reichenbach, Carter Walker, Deb Lovett, Todd Haskins, and Diana Rivera.

President Judge Dennis Reinaker, District Attorney Craig Stedman, and Sheriff Christopher Leppler were unable to attend the meeting.

Commissioner Parsons stated that the Prison Board met in executive session on Thursday, September 20, 2018 at 8:45 a.m. to discuss labor negotiations, litigation, and personnel matters related to the discipline, suspension, and termination of employees. Specifically, under litigation, the Board discussed the Gatewood, Kiefer, and Stickily cases.

Controller Hurter moved to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2018 Prison Board Meeting. Commissioner Stuckey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Robert Wolfe, Deputy Warden for Operations, and on behalf of Cheryl Steberger, Warden; William Aberts, Major/Security Operations; Joseph Shiffer, Deputy Warden for Inmate Services; Tammy Moyer, Director of Administration; and Charlie Douts, Director of Facilities Management; gave reports on their areas of responsibility. All of these reports, including operations and statistical information, are posted on the County's website.

Robert Wolfe, Deputy Warden for Operations and on behalf of Warden Cheryl Steberger, reported that the population as of today is 919. He reported that the Warden had attended a mental health training, which she will report on at the next Prison Board meeting. He stated that members of the Prison administration met with Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) last week to discuss programs and classes that will be offered to the Prison staff and inmates. Deputy Warden Wolfe reported that Narcan is being issued to the Prison from the District Attorney's Office. He stated that the Prison just received 32 additional doses of Narcan.

Deputy Warden Wolfe reported that staff continues to conduct the weekly inspections and hold policy and procedure reviews every other Wednesday. He stated that they are getting ready for the inspection from the Department of Corrections (DOC) in November. He stated that a lot of improvements have been made during the past year.

Deputy Warden Wolfe reported on staff training: three staff were sent for Suicide Prevention Instructor training, two staff for CPR Instructor training, one staff member of the K-9 Team to a seminar in Washington D.C., two staff for Advanced Fire Emergency Response Team (FERT) training, and two staff to Glock Armorer School.

Deputy Warden Wolfe reported that he has been working with the Vice President of the company for the body scanners. He stated that the final paperwork for the body scanners should be completed today.

Joseph Shiffer, Deputy Warden for Inmate Services, reported that the monthly meetings with Norristown State Hospital are helping to coordinate and provide better services to individuals who are seriously mentally ill. He stated that this will help get them through their court proceedings more quickly.

Deputy Warden Shiffer reported that they are currently in the process of reviewing the applications for the Re-entry Services Manager position and interviews will be underway shortly.

Deputy Warden Shiffer reported that Toni Warfel is participating in the Offender Workforce Development Specialist training through the State Department of Corrections. He stated that this training will assist in developing evidence based programming for re-entry services.

Deputy Warden Shiffer announced that there was a suicide at the Prison on September 5, 2018 as stated by the Coroner's Office. He reported that the deceased was Kurt Strenck and there is still an open police investigation.

Commissioner Parsons commented that the suicide is currently an open police investigation and details cannot be discussed at this time.

Tammy Moyer, Director of Administration, reported policy revisions completed in the past month include Classification of Inmates, Suicide Prevention, and Range Operations.

Ms. Moyer reported that effective October 1, 2018 greeting cards will no longer be accepted through the mail in an effort to eliminate drugs and contraband entering the facility. She stated that only standard letters on regular paper will be accepted. She stated that the Prison will accept cards that are sent through Pigeonly.com, which allows friends and family to select greeting cards and postcards that have been pre-

approved by the Prison. Ms. Moyer stated that photos may also be added to the cards and postcards and the cost of postage is included.

Ms. Moyer reported that revisions were made to the Store Fund policy and distributed to the Board. She stated that the policy was also posted on the Prison's website.

Ms. Moyer thanked the District Attorney's office for supplying the Prison with additional doses of Narcan.

Ms. Moyer reported that friends and family may purchase holiday kits through the Commissary. She stated that information is posted on the Prison's website.

William Aberts, Major/Security Operations, reported the Officer of the Month for August: Second Shift, Officer Jared Botchie. Officer Botchie received a round of applause from those in attendance.

Major Aberts invited Corporal Louis Chirichello and Corporal Tracy Wingle to the podium to announce their promotion to Administrative Sergeant. Major Aberts and Deputy Warden Wolfe pinned them with their chevrons. Both received a round of applause from those in attendance.

Major Aberts invited Sergeant of Training Michael Hersh to the podium to announce his promotion to Lieutenant of Training. Major Aberts and Deputy Warden Wolfe pinned him with his chevrons. Lieutenant Hersh received a round of applause from those in attendance.

Major Aberts invited Correctional Officer Oswaldo Cora to the podium to announce his promotion to Administrative Sergeant. Major Aberts and Deputy Warden Wolfe pinned him with his chevrons. Administrative Sergeant Cora received a round of applause from those in attendance.

Major Aberts reported that there is Narcan being stored at different locations throughout the facility. He stated that they are working toward providing each supervisor with two doses to be carried on their person when on duty.

Major Aberts reported he continues to participate in facility inspections and the policy and procedure meetings.

Charlie Douts, Director of Facilities Management, reported that CGL has one vacancy and they are looking to fill that position. Mr. Douts reported that the Building B roof replacement started on September 10, 2018. He stated that they are getting ready for winterization of the facility.

Commissioner Parsons reported that the next PrisonStat meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 22, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room at the Lancaster County Administrative Office Building.

As a follow-up to the last Prison Board meeting held on August 16, 2018, Controller Hurter moved to approve the revised Prison Store Account Policy. Commissioner Stuckey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

In business from guests, Carter Walker, LNP, asked for a comment on the Kurt Strenck suicide. Commissioner Parsons stated that he cannot comment on anything at this point due to there being an open investigation.

Mr. Walker asked for clarification on the pending litigation discussed at executive session. Commissioner Parsons stated he will ask the County Solicitor if more detail can be provided.

Jon Singer, Have A Heart, asked the Board for a recommendation on building a new Prison. Commissioner Parsons stated that there is a need for a new Prison, as he has stated for the past two years, however, only after paying down the County's debt and when funding is available.

Controller Hurter commented that when the finances are in place, building a new Prison should be seriously considered. He stated that we need to address the needs of this facility for the time being and making sure the facility is safe. He stated that in the future if the County's financial situation allows, then we should consider looking at a new Prison.

Chief Deputy Christopher Riggs, on behalf of Sheriff Christopher Leppler, stated that Mr. Leppler has only been on the Board for nine months and is not in a position to make that determination at this time.

Commissioner Stuckey commented that he has already stated publicly that we need a new Prison at some point but we are not ready for that. He stated that he will not respond to Mr. Singer's emails or phone calls regarding building a new Prison, as the Board is not ready to make a recommendation.

Kent Kroehler, Have a Heart, commented on building a new Prison. He asked if the Board can explain the criteria that should be met before starting the process on building a new Prison.

Commissioner Parsons stated that the County's debt has been the primary focus before discussing building a new Prison. He stated that he does not have definitive dates or criteria yet. He stated that he appreciates the advocacy and passion from this organization, however, he is frustrated when statements are made and turned into something that is not accurate. Commissioner Parsons stated that building a new Prison is a bigger project than what has been done in recent history. He stated that the

Board has been working on setting the conditions to be capable to do that, which is why they have been aggressively paying down the County's debt.

Commissioner Lehman commented that trying to pigeon hole his colleagues is not going to get us to a new jail sooner rather than later and may make it harder to get to a new jail. He stated that being able to build support for a new jail will be a delicate process no matter how it is done. He stated that a modest first step is to find a location and until we do that we are not serious about building a new jail.

Mr. Kroehler asked if Correctional Officers are scanned when entering the Prison. Commissioner Parsons stated that Correctional Officers are subject to the same scan as everyone else who enters the Prison.

Commissioner Lehman thanked everyone who came to the Prison and shared a meal with him. He stated that the food is okay and is not a five-star meal and never will be. He stated that the meals are carbohydrate heavy and there should be a way to add more fruit and vegetables. Commissioner Lehman stated that he thinks as we move forward with a new contract for inmate meals, we should add more fruit and vegetables and less carbohydrates.

Commissioner Parsons stated that Deputy Warden Shiffer is looking at the new contract and we will continue to discuss adding fruits and vegetables to the meals.

Controller Hurter moved to adjourn at 10:05 a.m. Commissioner Stuckey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Lancaster County Prison Board will be October 18, 2018 at 9:15 a.m. in the Public Meeting Room at the Lancaster County Administrative Office Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian K. Hurter  
Secretary