

Minutes of the Monthly  
Meeting of the  
Lancaster County Prison Board  
October 18, 2018

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 Dennis Stuckey, Commissioner Craig Lehman, President Judge Dennis Reinaker, District Attorney Craig Stedman, Sheriff Christopher Leppler, and Controller Brian Hurter.

Others Present: Cheryl Steberger, Robert Wolfe, William Aberts, Joseph Shiffer, Ashley Garcia, Tammy Moyer, Cody Scheid, Charlie Douts, Jamal Leath, Paul Lott, Mark Wilson, Ben Lefever, Charlette Stout, Sue Lao, Arla Brown, Brian Secor, Bob Wolfe, Kim McDevitt, Toni Warfel, Mike Baldwin, Christina Flugel, C. Stevens, Sandy Heisey, Eric Kennel, Todd Brown, Stacie Dixon, Neil Ward, Elizabeth Auchenbach, Elisabeth Ciorroa, Todd Haskins, Kelly Ehrich, Kent Kroehler, and Diana Rivera.

Commissioner Parsons stated that the Prison Board met in executive session on Thursday, October 18, 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 Brown, Cox, Gatewood, Lausell, and Stickily cases.

Commissioner Stuckey moved to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2018 Prison Board Meeting. Commissioner Lehman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Cheryl Steberger, Warden; Robert Wolfe, Deputy Warden for Operations; 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.

Cheryl Steberger, Warden, reported that the population as of today is 905. She reported the average population in September 2017 was 879 and the average population in September 2018 was 913. She stated that they are working on closing the windows and giving out a second blanket to the inmates due to the cold weather.

Warden Steberger reported that she met with the staff at Have A Heart at the end of September to discuss issues such as food, medical care, library, religion, and phone calls. She stated that the meeting was very productive.

Warden Steberger reported that the records agreement has been finalized. She stated that they met with the correctional staff and the treatment staff and have reached an

agreement that the four correctional officer positions that were temporary in the Records Department have now become permanent. She stated that the review of these positions began in September 2016. Warden Steberger stated that a lot of work was put into improving the records area. She thanked Human Resources and the Union Officials for all their hard work during this process.

Warden Steberger reported that she met with Chief Berkihiser, Lancaster City Police Department, and several of his staff to build the relationship. They discussed the noise complaints of inmates yelling out the windows, central bookings, and new commitments.

Warden Steberger reported on the Kurt Strenck suicide. She stated that the Coroner's Office conducted an investigation and concluded the cause of death was passive hanging and the manner of death was suicide. She reported that the Lancaster City Police conducted a full investigation and notified the Prison administration on September 28, 2018 that the investigation is complete and that no criminal charges would be filed.

Robert Wolfe, Deputy Warden for Operations, 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.

Deputy Warden Wolfe reported on staff training: three staff were sent for a Battery Victim course, 13 staff for Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training, and two staff for training in Spontaneous Protection Enabling Accelerated Response (SPEAR). He reported that 99% of staff are certified in Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) and that they just finished the Range Certification and Re-Certification for the Transport Team. Deputy Warden Wolfe stated that 15 new members were added to the Transport Team.

Deputy Warden Wolfe reported that the paperwork has been finalized for the body scanners and will be on the agenda for the Commissioners' work session next month.

Joseph Shiffer, Deputy Warden for Inmate Services, reported that they continue to move through the process of hiring the Re-entry Manager position. He stated that interviews have been held the past few weeks and he is hoping to have a decision shortly.

Deputy Warden Shiffer reported that the 2-1 Drug & Alcohol program is now conducted on the second-floor mentor center. He stated that they are currently working on filling two of the three program positions. Deputy Warden Shiffer stated that they are continually improving this service for the inmates.

Deputy Warden Shiffer reported that staff were sent for training on Inmate Services. He stated the training was held at The Factory Ministries in Paradise, PA. Chuck Holt, President of The Factory Ministries, provided information and a tour of the church.

Deputy Warden Shiffer stated that Becky Sayeg, Drug & Alcohol Commission, and Kristen Varner, The RASE Project, provided education on Vivitrol and drug & alcohol services in the community for the staff. He stated that Teri Miller-Landon, Adult Probation & Parole, discussed evidence-based practices with the staff.

William Aberts, Major/Security Operations, reported the Officer of the Month for September: Officer Allen Cromley and K-9 Officer Kuiper. Officer Cromley and K-9 Officer Kuiper received a round of applause from those in attendance.

Major Aberts presented promotions mentioned last month for individuals who were not able to attend.

Major Aberts invited Correctional Officer Jamal Leath to the podium to announce his promotion to Administrative Sergeant. Major Aberts and Warden Steberger pinned him with his chevrons. Administrative Sergeant Leath received a round of applause from those in attendance. Administrative Sergeant Leath gave a short speech and stated that he is proud to work for Lancaster County Prison and it has been an honor to work with great staff members at the Prison.

Major Aberts invited Corporal Paul Lott to the podium to announce his promotion to Administrative Sergeant. Major Aberts and Warden Steberger pinned him with his chevrons. Administrative Sergeant Lott received a round of applause from those in attendance. Administrative Sergeant Lott gave a short speech and said he was thankful for the opportunity.

Major Aberts invited Sergeant of Records Brian Secor to the podium to announce his promotion to Lieutenant of Records. Major Aberts and Warden Steberger pinned him with his chevrons. Lieutenant Secor received a round of applause from those in attendance. Lieutenant Secor gave a short speech and thanked the Board and Prison administration for their support.

Major Aberts reported that each supervisor has been issued one dose of Narcan to be carried on their person when on duty and they are working on getting a second dose for each supervisor.

Tammy Moyer, Director of Administration, reported policy revisions completed in the past month include Emergency Notification and Personnel. She stated they had spent the day at the Public Safety Training Center finishing up the policies and procedures detailing their Emergency Response Plans.

Ms. Moyer reported that they submitted their State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) Grant on October 8, 2018, which will cover 100 inmates. She stated that the State reimburses the Prison for housing criminal aliens who have two misdemeanors or one felony. She stated that the funds were delayed last year due to computer problems, so this year they will receive an award for fiscal years 2017 and 2018.

Charlie Douts, Director of Facilities Management, reported that CGL has one vacancy and they are looking to fill that position. Mr. Douts reported that it will take approximately four to six weeks to complete the Building B roof replacement.

Larry George, Director of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services (BH/DS), provided an update on the Transition to Community (TTC) Program. He stated that the program has served 51 individuals released from Lancaster County Prison since its opening in May 2017. He stated that as of this morning the program is at its full capacity, which is eight. Mr. George stated that they expanded the program several months ago. He stated that to date there have been 41 individuals discharged from the program and 34 of them were successful discharges. He stated that they are working on trying to track longitudinal recidivism rates.

Mr. George reported that the Lancaster Behavior Health Hospital has not been able to accept Lancaster County Prison inmates since July. He stated that the facility is opening in phases with the general population unit opening first, which can accommodate 18-20 individuals. Mr. George stated that there are currently 16 individuals in the facility. He stated that an adolescent unit will be opening later in the year. He also stated that an acute unit will be opening sometime in the future. The current position of the Lancaster Behavior Health Hospital is that inmates requiring inpatient treatment will need to be housed on the yet-to-be opened acute unit. He stated that he plans to address this position with the facility's administration, noting that Lancaster General Hospital did not require such segregation. Of equally pressing concern is that LBHH has not provided a definitive timeline as to when the Acute Unit will be opened. A formal inquiry requesting such a timeline is imminent.

Mr. George reported that they will be having a Stepping Up Proclamation at the November 14, 2018 Commissioner's Meeting. The Stepping Up initiative is a national initiative of the National Institute of Corrections under the Department of Justice, and is essentially a collaborative effort between the service systems, such as Adult Probation and Parole, Behavioral Health & Developmental Services, and the Prison. Mr. George stated that the goal is to reduce the amount of individuals with serious mental illness who are incarcerated. He stated that one of the advantages on becoming a Stepping Up County is that we would have access to a national database and expert technical assistance on reducing recidivism for individuals with mental health issues.

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.

In business from guests, Kent Kroehler, Have A Heart, asked for an explanation of the Re-entry Manager position. Deputy Warden Shiffer stated that the Re-entry Manager will supervise the Re-entry Coordinator and the Re-entry Specialist Caseworker. He stated that the Re-entry Department will work collaboratively to address the re-entry needs of the inmates.

Mr. Kroehler asked for a mission statement of the Re-entry Department. Deputy Warden Shiffer stated that he would like to get the Re-entry Manager on board to be a part of discussion on a mission statement of the Re-entry Department. He stated that their goal is to get the best possible services for the inmates as they re-enter the community.

Neil Ward, Have A Heart, asked about housing for the inmates and how we accommodate inmates when they are released. Deputy Warden Shiffer stated that he has been working closely with the Coalition to End Homelessness to look at what our options are with their agency. He stated that federal funds are provided for that service in the County.

Commissioner Parsons commented that homelessness and having stable housing is an issue that has been ongoing for a long time. He stated that there are about 5,000 releases a year from the Prison and the Re-entry Management Organization (RMO) served about 60 individuals. Commissioner Parsons stated that whether or not the RMO is dealing with it, the issue of homelessness is going to be there. He stated that he thinks once this program gets up and running it will have a better chance of addressing the problem.

Deputy Warden Shiffer commented that the underlying issue to homelessness is to focus on cognitive based therapy, thinking for a change, and the evidence based practices to address homelessness for a long-term effect.

President Judge Reinaker moved to adjourn at 9:54 a.m. Commissioner Stuckey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Brian K. Hurter  
Secretary