

## **PRISON BOARD MEETING**

**January 23, 2017 10:00 AM  
Cumberland County Courthouse  
Carlisle, PA**

**Present:** Commissioners Vince DiFilippo, Jim Hertzler and Gary Eichelberger; Al Whitcomb, Controller; Sheriff Ron Anderson; Judge Christylee Peck; Earl Reitz, Warden; Jeff Ilgenfritz, Deputy Warden – Security; Mike Carey, Deputy Warden - Treatment; Janet Scott, Deputy Warden – Operations; Lawrence Thomas, Chief Clerk; Jennifer Hipp, Assistant Solicitor; Rebekah Finkey, IPP Program; Dana Best, Finance; Silvia Herman, MH Department; Jack Carroll, Drug & Alcohol Department.

**Call to Order:** Controller Whitcomb called the meeting to order.

**Public Comment:** Controller Whitcomb asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

**Approval of Minutes:** Sheriff Anderson moved to approve the Minutes of the December 19, 2016 meeting. Commissioner DiFilippo seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

**Commissary Report:** Judge Peck moved to accept the December 2016 Commissary Report. Sheriff Anderson seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

**Prison Expenditures/Central Processing Expenditures:** Commissioner Eichelberger moved to accept the December 2016 Prison Expenditures. Sheriff Anderson seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

**Warden's Report:** Warden Reitz presented the December report (see attached) stating that the average daily Prison population for the month of December was 449 with 437 being in house. The current population is 457 with 448 being in-house. There are currently 358 males and 99 females. There were 24 inmates enrolled in the Work Release Program. 4 inmates were removed from the Program for disciplinary reasons. There were 20 inmates enrolled in the Inmate Worker Program, 14 inmates enrolled in the Outmate Trusty Program. The Community Work Crew projects for December were Penn Township, Mount Holly Springs, Salvation Army, and South Middleton Township. 7 inmates were enrolled in the earned time program. 10 inmates were referred to inmate education; 9 males and 13 female inmates obtain their GED in December. The number of Risk Assessments completed during December is 25. There were 6 extraordinary occurrences to report for the month, with 6 uses of force. They are currently holding 13 females for Perry County, 1 male for US Marshal Service, and 1 male for Federal Bureau Prison. Commissioner DiFilippo made a motion to accept the Warden's Report. Commissioner Eichelberger seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

### **Increasing Average Daily Inmate Population Commission Housing Units S and T Staffing**

Chief Clerk Thomas introduced the power point presentation and explained an increasing inmate population affects several County Departments. The presentation exhibits multi-department collaboration in examining the issues. (see attached PowerPoint Presentation).

Warden Reitz reviewed the increasing inmate average daily population trend. With more inmates in the Prison, the risk increases that these people will need more advanced medical care than the Prison provides internally. Inmate transports to outside medical consults increase as a result, ie, pregnant female inmates, pregnant female inmates on methadone programs, orthopedic issues, cardiac issues,

etc. In-patient hospital stays are also a negative outcome. In most instances when an inmate is hospitalized, a Sheriff's Deputy and a Corrections Officer are assigned to guard duty, 24/7, while the inmate is hospitalized. This guard duty is mostly all overtime. A staffing scenario was presented to address the issues of additional inmate transports and hospital duties. Discussion also ensued about the options of opening additional housing units to accommodate the increasing inmate average daily population. Staffing scenarios were presented to open 1 or 2 inmate housing units. Dana Best reviewed the costs associated with each of the scenarios presented. She also reviewed the possible cost savings in overtime should 3 additional corrections officers be approved to assist with increasing inmate transports to outside service providers.

A question was asked that if additional staff were hired and the inmate population decreases, what will occur with those positions that were added. The response was given the Prison's turnover rate, staffing would be downsized and readjusted through attrition.

Rebekah Finkey reviewed some of the causes for the increase in the inmate average daily population. Criminal caseloads in all Criminal Justice Departments are increasing due to increased DUI arrests, crimes being committed due to the current opioid epidemic (drug crimes, property crimes, retail theft), longer length of stay in Prison for pre-trial detainees, parole violators. She reviewed several graphs displaying lengths of stay, County population growth versus the inmate average daily population, and caseloads, dockets and appeals.

Discussion ensued regarding the concept of pre-trial services and the use of the ORAS Risk Assessment Tools for reducing the number of pre-trial detainees in the Prison. Treatment needs could be identified for appropriate offenders which would then be referred to one or more of the Human Services Departments.

Silvia Herman opined that some folks with mental illness could be diverted from going to Jail if Crisis Intervention Training for Police would be expanded and offered more frequently.

Judge Peck had questions regarding pre-trial services and any funding requirements that would be incurred with that. Some dialogue ensued regarding what pre-trial services would entail and how it would be staffed.

Jack Carroll explained the benefits of PA participating in Medicaid expansion and the opportunities it provided for offering services to more clients, usually through Medical Assistance.

### **Other Business: 2 State Prisons Closing – Impact on the Camp Hill State Prison population and type of Inmates:**

Sheriff Anderson stated he had some dialogue with SCI – Camp Hill staff and they were not sure of what type classification of inmate they would be receiving should the PA DOC close 2 institutions. They thought maybe they would receive inmates with mental illness or inmates with long sentences. Either way there will be an impact to Cumberland County, for example, any crimes committed at SCI-Camp Hill are prosecuted in our Courts, the Sheriff's Office having to transport inmates from a further distance because they were transferred after committing a crime at SCI-Camp Hill, and any waits associated with getting a newly state sentenced person in to SCI-Camp Hill.

### **Executive Session to Discuss Security and Personnel Issues:**

Sheriff Anderson made a motion to go in to Executive Session at 11:32 a.m. Judge Peck seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

Judge Peck made a motion to advertise for the Deputy Warden – Security position and take any necessary steps to fill the position. Commissioner DiFilippo seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

Judge Peck made a motion to fill the vacant Correctional Officer position. Commissioner DiFilippo seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

Commissioner DiFilippo made a motion to recommend advertising for three additional Correctional Officers positions. Commissioner Eichelberger seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Crum  
Administrative Specialist