

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**MONTGOMERY COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**  
**Board of Prison Inspectors**  
**January 13, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The ZOOM meeting commenced at 8:30 a.m. with an Executive Session. Following that, the public session started with a Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** President Andrew Szekely, Vice-president Nancy Wieman, David Reed, Craig Browne, William Catania, Solicitor Brian Phillips and Secretary Richard Dresher. **Absent** Ted Baird.

**PRISON STAFF:** Warden Sean McGee, Assistant Wardens Marcy D’Orazio and Sean Smith; Majors Interrante, Berger, and; Captains Langdon and Zerr. **Administrative:** Gary Chesney, Kathy Brighter. **PrimeCare Medical:** Joe Lynch, P.J. McTiernan, Connie Szumski, Tiffany Morykan and Tom Weber. **County Office:** Maureen Calder, Solicitor’s office

**PUBIC IN ZOOM MEETING:** The public is invited to attend at the facility...when open to visitors again... or on ZOOM when meetings are held via that medium. None attended or watched.

**APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MINUTES:**

Motion to Approve:  
Catania

Second  
Browne

Board Approval:  
Unanimous

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Re-appointment of Warden Sean McGee:** A motion was made by Catania and seconded by Wieman to re-appoint Warden McGee for another year. Comments from Board members were very complimentary and recognized the fact that he has been working under very difficult conditions since taking office.

After polling the Board, the vote to re-appoint was unanimous. Warden McGee thanked the Board for their support.

**APPROVAL OF WAGES, INVOICES, AND MONTHLY REPORTS:**

Motion to Approve:  
Browne

Second  
Catania

Board Approval:  
Unanimous

**CORRESPONDENCE:** An email was received from Ms. Wendy Baur who represents the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation. It praised the MCCF Honor Guard on their professionalism and willingness to help others.

*She said that they helped make sure everything went smoothly at a ceremony for Correctional Officer Russell of Blair County who died in the line of duty. Special praise in the email went to MCCF Honor Guard member David Borsick*

**PRESENTATIONS:** None.

**PROMOTIONS:** None.

**RETIREMENTS:** None

**COMMENDATIONS:** None

## **WARDEN REPORTS:**

### **Warden McGee:**

o A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been effect between MCCF and the Chester County jail to house youthful offenders, charged as an adult, in CCCF. Law cannot house youthful offenders housed within sight or sound of adult inmates. Now, by a court order, such youths must be returned to Montgomery County. They are to be housed at the Montco Youth Center. On a case-by-case basis, after a hearing has been held every thirty days, it will be determined if they can be housed at MCCF.

Board member Catania questioned housing a youth charged with homicide at the Youth Center. It might require Correctional Officers to be detailed there. The issue is yet to be determined.

o Attended the swearing in of the new President Judge, The Honorable Carolyn Carlucci and new judge, Nicole Tate-Phillips.

o Mike Gordon, Chief Adult Probation and Parole Officer, is retiring and his position will be filled by Cathy Subbio, the Deputy Chief.

o "COVID starts the day...and COVID ends the day."

### **Assistant Warden Sean Smith** **Community Corrections Center**

*o **COVID:** In December, 218 staff underwent Rapid Antigen tests with 24 staff showing "positive." During the same period, 24 inmates showed "positive." Today, there are 45 staff out with COVID.*

*o Looking back, from March of 2020, when COVID first appeared ,to December of 2020, there was 155 staff "positives." From January 2021 to December 2021, there were 55. So far this year, there has been 64 staff testing "positive"...more than all of 2021. Cause is all of the variants and Delta strains.*

*o More Rapid Antigen tests to be received today.*

*o **Inmate Video Visits:** Overall, last year, 4,223 inmates signed up for video visits, however, only 1,830 were completed due to "no shows." Visiting was suspended for*

only a total of 15 days due to various emergencies

**o Population:** The inmate population as of meeting day:

|          | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>TOTAL*</u> |
|----------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| December | 758          | 79             | 837           |
| November | 762          | 80             | 842           |

\*Not all housed within the facility.

**o Training:** One hundred and sixty-one staff underwent 240 hours of training and 3 new officers trained for 168 hours.

**o Tours of the Facility:** There were none due to the quarantine.

**o Work Release:** No room and board was returned to the Treasurer. There was an average of 10 inmates on Work Release wearing GPS ankle bracelets and living in the community with officers monitoring their activities.

**o Community Farm Task Program:** There were 3 inmates on the farm.

#### **Assistant Warden Marcy D'Orazio**

##### **Programs/Administration/Finance/Operations/Female**

**o New Thresholds:** The County threshold for approving new contracts has been increased to \$21,900 and must be accompanied by a resolution signed by all Board members and not just reported in the Minutes. Solicitor Phillips is working on setting up signing via DocuSign to facilitate the process.

**o Administrative Dispositions:** A total of 16 inmates were completed during the month of December and the average length of sentence was 3.25 to 19.2 months.

**o Preliminary Hearing Video Waiver Program:** There were 196 ZOOM hearings including 184 Common Pleas and 12 District Judges. Such hearings are being held in multiple locations in the jail.

**o Professional Video Visits:** There were 514 video visits.

**o Veterans' Court:** There were 5 inmates in the program with no admissions, and 1 graduation.

**o Behavioral Health Court:** There were 37 participants with 1 admission and no discharges or graduations.

**o State Commitments:** SCI-Smithfield is the designated

*receiving facility for new state commitments. Inmates are sent according to a schedule. However, the January 11 and January 18 transfers were cancelled due to COVID. The next available dates are January 21 with 12 going up and February 14 with 8 going up. There are 17 inmates with no scheduled date to leave. Three females are awaiting a date for transfer to SCI-Muncy.*

**INSPECTION COMMITTEE REPORT:** *Staff completed inspections and reported back to the Board. The Warden and staff will confer and decide when and how Board inspections will resume.*

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** *None.*

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

The Honorable Carolyn Carlucci has been appointed President Judge for a five year term. In addition, Judge Wendy Rothstein has been appointed Administrative Judge for the Criminal Division. Due to COVID and the court being closed, but now reopened, there is a considerable backlog of cases awaiting trial. Assigned to help clear the backlog are Judges Carpenter, O'Neill, Ferman, Del Ricci, Branca, Walker, and Rogers.

**BOARD MEMBER'S AND OTHER REMARKS:** *None*

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** *Thursday, February 10, 2022*

**ADJOURNMENT:** *9:15 a.m.*

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:** *Richard J. Dresher*  
*Board Secretary*