

MEETING MINUTES
Montgomery County Correctional Facility
Board of Prison Inspectors
July 9, 2020

BECAUSE THE PRISON IS STILL UNDER QUARANTINE DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THE JULY BOARD MEETING WAS HELD VIA A **WEBEX** CONFERENCE CALL.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting commenced at 8:30 A.M.

BOARD MEMBERS ON WEBEX: President Dr. G. Andrew Szekely, Vice-president Nancy Wieman, William Catania, , Eileen Behr, David Reed, Ted Baird, Secretary Richard Dresher and Solicitor Brian Phillips. Absent: None.

PRISON STAFF ON WEBEX: Warden Julio Algarin, Deputy Warden Sean McGee, and Assistant Wardens Mark Murray and Marcy D’Orazio, Major Sean Smith, Captain Berger. Administrative Staff: Kathleen Brighter and Gary Chesney . PrimeCare Medical Staff: Todd Haskins, Joseph Lynch, and Kelly Ehrich.

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: No public requests to attend.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve the June minutes was made by Catania and seconded by Wieman. Board approval was unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- o At the June Board meeting, Warden Algarin confirmed that he would be retiring effective January 8, 2021. He requested Board acceptance and it was granted.

As a result, at the July meeting, the President asked for nominations from the Board for Warden Algarin’s replacement. Member Catania nominated Deputy Warden Sean McGee. Several Board members, and Warden Algarin, offered their endorsements with highly favorable comments...organization, professionalism, etc. An endorsement roll call vote was taken and the acceptance vote was unanimous.

A motion was then made by Wieman to officially consider Sean McGee as the next MCCF Warden. The motion was seconded by Baird and the Board vote was unanimous. A final appointment vote will be taken at the next Board meeting in August.

As a result, a motion was made to place the appointment of the next MCCF Warden as an action item on the August Board Meeting agenda. *A motion to approve was made by Catania and seconded by Wieman. Board approval was unanimous.*

o No bids were offered to be voted upon in July.

APPROVAL OF WAGES, INVOICES AND MONTHLY REPORTS FOR MAY

AND JUNE: A motion to approve was made by Wieman and seconded by Baird. Board approval was unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

PRESENTATIONS: None

RETIREMENTS: None

PROMOTIONS: None

COMMENDATIONS: None

WARDEN REPORTS:

Warden Algrin: The facility continues to take all recommended precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19...quarantine, masks, social distancing, constant sanitization, etc. A constant potential for spreading the virus is staff/inmates visiting other places...hospital transports, doctor offices, etc...and returning to the facility.

Only two staff are presently suffering from COVID-19 related illness. The inmate population is very slowly creeping back up.

Visitation is still being made by attorneys via video. Looking forward to returning to "new normal" with regard to allowing visitors and attorneys back into the facility.

Deputy Warden McGee – Programs Administration

o Administrative Dispositions: A total of 46 inmates were seen during the month of June. All 46 completed the process. The average length of these sentences was 5.05 to 16.65 months.

o Preliminary Hearing Video Waiver Program: There were 123 hearings via video conferencing and 64 via ZOOM. No inmates are being transported to a hearing. All hearings are being held by video conference or ZOOM. The on-call District Judge is officiating.

o Budget: The County Finance Department will be using a new system to forecast the 2021 budget. The system, called Open Gov, was already used last year for the capital budget process. As more information is received, the Board will be updated on the process.

o Professional Video Visitation: There were 368 professional video visits held during June. These include attorneys, Mental Health, JRS/Access Services, Family Services an RHD (drug and alcohol (assessments.)

o Live Attorney Visitation: It is planned that, on July 13th, attorney will be allowed to meet face-to-face with their clients in the non-contact secured visitor area within the facility. The use of the secure area will allow for continued COVID-19 mitigation within the facility.

o Inmate Video Visits: On July 1, video visits were opened to inmate family and friends. As of meeting date, a total of 158 visitors signed up for a visit. Due to the quarantine, visits are held in the trailer Information Center outside the main gate.

o Weekenders: There have been discussions with the courts about weekend sentences that have been suspended during the quarantine. Being considered is putting GPS ankle bracelets on weekenders that MCCF will monitor. Weekenders who want to participate in this program will serve their weekends as consecutive days under home confinement.

Assistant Warden Murray - Custody/Security:

o Population: The inmate population as of meeting day:

	<u><i>Males</i></u>	<u><i>Females</i></u>	<u><i>TOTAL*</i></u>
<i>July</i>	929	79	850
<i>June</i>	808	92	900

**Not all housed in the facility.*

o Training: One hundred and three staff members participated for total of 498 training hours. No Basic Training students participated in training. Seven new officers will start on July 13th.

o Tours of the Facility: There were no tours of the facility due to the quarantine.

Assistant Warden D'Orazio - Corrections Center & Female Division

o Work Release: No room and board was returned to the Treasurer. There was an average of 14 inmates on Work Release wearing GPS ankle bracelets with officers monitoring their movements. One inmate was disciplined for a violation of the GPS rules.

o Community Farm Task Program: Thirteen inmates participated.

o Veterans' Court: There were 20 inmates in the program with no admissions or graduations.

o Community Corrections Courtroom: There were no courtroom hearings due to the quarantine.

*o Behavioral Health Court: There were 64 participants
With no admissions or graduations.*

INSPECTION REPORT: *No inspections conducted.*

SECRETARY REPORT: *None*

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: *The meeting agenda was published and interested parties were invited to listen in. None did.*

BOARD MEMBER'S AND OTHER REMARKS: *None*

NEXT MEETING DATE: *Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 8:30 am.*

ADJOURNMENT: *8:50 a.m.*

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: *Richard J. Dresher*
Board Secretary