

MEETING MINUTES
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
Board of Prison Inspectors
July 14, 2022

***THE BOARD MEETING WAS HELD ON-SITE AT THE FACILITY AND
VIA ZOOM***

CALL TO ORDER: The 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 Nancy Wieman, Vice-President Craig Browne, David Reed, Julio Algarin, Ted Baird, Vernon Steed, Solicitor Brian Phillips and Secretary Richard Dresher. **Absent:** None

PRISON STAFF: Warden Sean McGee, Assistant Wardens Marcy D’Orazio, Sean Smith and Tom Berger; Majors Joseph Interante and Moyer; Captains Zerr, Baker and Majewski. **Administrative:** Gary Chesney, Brandon Craig, and Kathy Brighter; **PrimeCare Medical:** Todd Haskins, Joe Lynch, P.J. McTiernan, Connie Szumski and Kelly Ehrich.

PUBIC IN 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. Former Board President , Dr. Andrew Szekely, attended.

APPROVAL OF JUNE MINUTES:

Motion to Approve:
Algarin

Second:
Reed

Board Approval:
Unanimous

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

APPROVAL OF WAGES, INVOICES, AND MONTHLY REPORTS:

Motion to Approve:
Steed

Second:
Reed

Board Approval:
Unanimous

CORRESPONDENCE: None

RETIREMENTS: None

PRESENTATIONS: Former Board President, Dr. Andrew Szekey, was presented with a certificate in recognition and appreciation for his dedication and outstanding service during his 10 year tenure on the Board. He will be missed!

PROMOTIONS: Correctional Lieutenant Ronald Baker was promoted to Captain.

WARDEN REPORTS:

Warden McGee:

- o Met with County on June 28 with preliminary budget. In process of reviewing the overtime segment for future submission.
- o The County is receiving a number of funds and MCCF is submitting a request for about \$400,000 to cover some infrastructure needs.
- o Masking within the facility recommended, but optional in most areas of the jail with the exception of medical, quarantine and Intake.
- o A Philadelphia Inquirer article, "Addiction Medication in Pennsylvania Jails is Often Inadequate or Nonexistent" was distributed to the Board and discussed. It reported that inmates with opioid addictions are not always treated or treated properly for their addiction. MCCF was cited as one of the exceptions. In conjunction with PrimeCare Medical, inmates already on opioid treatment when entering the facility are continued, but also MCCF allows inmates to start taking addiction medications from jail to help smooth their transition when released. MCCF uses a \$150,000 grant from PCCD (Pennsylvania Department on Crime and Delinquency) and an additional extension grant of \$150,000 for this purpose.
- o The Warden distributed reprints of articles for Board review:
 - A NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) article stating that "1 in 5 in the U.S. Adults Experience Mental Illness Each Year."
 - A Pennsylvania Capital-Star article stating that "The imprisoned are living with mental illness. States are ill-equipped to help."
 - A MHIA (Mental Health in America) article, "The State of Mental Health In America."

Assistant Warden Marcy D'Orazio

Programs/Administration/Finance/Operations/Female

o Administrative Dispositions: A total of 13 inmates were completed during the month of June and the average length of sentence was 2.2 to 18.0 months.

o Preliminary Hearing Video Waiver Program: There were 415 *ZOOM* hearings, including 411 Common Pleas and 4 Preliminary Hearings. Such hearings are being held in multiple locations in the jail.

o Professional Video Visits: There were 503 such visits.

o Veterans Court: There were 6 inmates in the program with no admissions and no graduations.

o Behavioral Health Court: There were 28 participants with 2 admissions and 7 discharges.

Assistant Warden Sean Smith
Community Corrections Center

o COVID: So far this year, 96 staff and 255 inmates have tested positive. In the month of June, 2 staff and 35 inmates tested positive. There are currently 2 staff out and 1 in quarantine. In the inmate population, 96% of the positives are caught with the Rapid Antigen test and the balance with a PCR test.

o Inmate Video Visits: 442 inmates signed up, but only 187 visitors followed through.

o Work Release: No room and board was returned to the Treasurer. There were a total of 13 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 only 9 inmates on the farm due to the lower population causing a diminished pool of eligible inmates. The farmhouse can house up to 44 inmates.

o Community Corrections Courtroom: In June, Judge Ferman scheduled 43 Gagnon cases. Fifteen were continued, 5 cancelled, and 23 were completed. The judge complimented the MCCF staff operating the video for their expertise.

Assistant Warden Thomas Berger
Custody/Security

o Population: The inmate population as of meeting day:

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>TOTAL*</u>
July	791	103	894
June	789	90	879

*Not all housed within the facility.

o Training: There were 225 hours of in-service training and 497 pre-service hours for a total of 722 hours.

o Open Positions: There are currently 45 Correctional Officer openings. Between January and June, 232 applied, 177 were declined, 49 did not respond, 40 did not show up, and 26 were hired.

o Tours of the Facility: Twenty-three members of the Public Defenders office toured. The first tour since the COVID quarantine.

o Contraband: In the past month, there has been a decrease in the number of drug diversions within the facility, but an increase in the number of attempts to smuggle in drugs upon admission.

o Highlights of a Few Statistics: From 2017 to 2021, there was a 90% increase in SMI (Serious Mental Illness) inmates, with a 58% decrease in the inmate population. From January 2021 through May of 2022, there were 149 suicide attempts with zero successes.

INSPECTION COMMITTEE REPORT: Staff completed inspections and reported back to the Board. A vote was taken to approve their efforts.

Motion to Approve:
Algarin

Second:
Steed

Board Approval:
Unanimous

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Dresher reported that some explanations are repeated monthly in the minutes for the benefit of first-time readers.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: None.

BOARD MEMBER'S AND OTHER REMARKS: Nine

NEXT MEETING: Thursday August 11, 2022

ADJOURNMENT: 10:03 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: *Richard J. Dresher*
Board Secretary

DRAFT