

Prison Board Minutes
3/25/21 for the February 2021 Report

Members in attendance: Commissioner Josh Maxwell, Commissioner Marian Moskowitz, Commissioner Michelle Kichline, Judge John Hall, District Attorney Deborah Ryan, Sheriff Fredda Maddox and Controller Margaret Reif.

Other attendees: Warden Ron Phillips, Chief of Probation/Parole Chris Murphy, Deputy County Administrator Brianne Zanin, Assistant County Solicitor Michelle Barone, APO Section Director Rick Maninari, Chief Public Defender Nathan Schenker, Deputy Director of Treatment George Roberts.

Public attendees: None

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Maxwell called the meeting of the Chester County Prison Board to order at 1:03 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Controller Reif, seconded Judge Hall and carried to accept the minutes of the Prison Board Meeting of February 18, 2021.

** Due to the Board participating via web Zoom or via telephone, approval of the minutes must be done by a roll call vote of the Board. Vote was complete and passed.*

III. Monthly Report

General/Prison Population Information:

Warden Phillips presented:

The January Report noting that the average daily inmate population was 608 as compared to 737 in 2020. This is approximately an 18% reduction in population from last year.

The Warden pointed out that on January 31, 2021 there were 611 inmates, the following were held for:

- a. County sentenced inmates: 106
- b. State sentenced inmates serving their sentence at Chester County Prison: 5
- c. Approximately 65% of the inmate population is held for court or preliminary hearing, 17% serving sentence, 4% are held on a Balance of Max and 13% miscellaneous.

The Warden reported that there were 5 juvenile offenders (2 Chester and 3 Berks).

The Warden stated that there were a total of 138 arrestees brought in on Central Booking by 32 different agencies and in 2020 there were 120 arrestees by 28 different agencies.

It was noted that the Correctional Center for December had an average daily population of 17. Today the total is at 25.

It was reported that there was 10 transports to the state correction facilities due to COVID restrictions. Currently 42 are pending transfer.

Medical Transports:

There were 27 medical transports. (11 emergency room)

Correctional Emergency Unit (C.E.U.):

There were 2 C.E.U. activations.

Video Conference:

There were 382 Video Conference Hearings. There were 207 hearings in 2020. This is approximately a 46% increase.

Medical:

The Warden reported the following:

- a. 389 inmates were seen at sick-call.
- b. 258 of inmates are on psychotropic medications.
- c. 241 of the inmates are on prescription or "over the counter medications."
- d. 51 of the inmates are on suicide watch.
- e. 0 medical denial.

Mental Health:

It was noted that there were 54 seriously mentally ill inmates (SMI). 46 males and 8 females.

It was reported there were:

- a. 9 inmates at Norristown State Hospital (N.S.H.).
- b. 3 additional inmates awaiting a bed for treatment at N.S.H.
- c. 0 inmates referred to the Mental Health Court.
- d. 2 court order received for commitment to Norristown State Hospital.

Inmate Programs:

The Warden reported that due to COVID the only active programs are juvenile educational through the Intermediate Unit. The Warden also reported that for the 21 and under program 2 inmates participated and received their high school diploma. The GED program will be starting back up and will began on Monday Feb 22nd, there are at least 10-15 individuals who have signed up and this will be the first time we will be using video conferencing to conduct the class.

Finance:

The Warden stated that IFR and Bookkeeping fees are still suspended throughout the pandemic.

Staff Development:

6 attended weapons training and 6 cadets graduated from the training Academy in January. The Warden stated that we are currently interviewing 5-10 candidates. There are currently 25 open positions.

New Business:

None noted

Updates:

The Warden provided COVID related statistics:

Staff confirmed positive: 44
Staff recovered: 42
Inmates confirmed positive: 86
Inmates recovered: 85

The majority of the positive inmates were housed in minimum security and are males. It was also noted that the majority became positive while incarcerated.

Warden Phillips told the Board the Intake process precautionary measures continue and that the rapid test would be incorporated into the current procedure. He also stated that

PPES and cleaning all remained in effect, we are following all healthcare recommendations.

The Warden stated that as of today count is 587 and this time last year count was 748 about a 20% decrease.

Controller Reif asked if the Warden was able to find any information on inmates housed due to not being able to pay their bail.

Warden Phillips responded he took a look at a snapshot of February 16th on that day there were 594 inmates of those 237 approximately 48 were held on bail and no detainer, 95 of or 40% were held on bail and a retainer, 94 of 237 were committed on a bench warrant in which case bail would not be applicable. 50% are held on bail of \$50,000 or greater, 4 no bail which equates to maybe homicide charges, 2 are on 1 million dollar bail which they could have assault or drug chargers and 24 less than \$50,000 bail some with stipulations or conditions on a sentence.

Other Prison Board Matters:

None noted

Public Comment:

None

IV. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Moskowitz and seconded by Commissioner Kichline and carried to adjourn the meeting at 1:14 pm.

** As noted earlier, due to the Board participating via web Zoom or via telephone, approval must be done by a roll call vote of the Board. Vote was complete and approved.*