

BERKS COUNTY PRISON BOARD MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

The Berks County Prison Board met in a regular session on Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at 9:00 A.M. at the County of Berks Jail and via Microsoft Teams Meeting.

CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

The following members were in attendance:

Commissioner Christian Leinbach
Commissioner Michael Rivera
Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt
District Attorney John Adams
Secretary Sandra Graffius

The following members were absent:

Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht

The following County staff also attended:

Executive Assistant Jessica Blausner
Todd Haskins-PrimeCare
Solicitor Christine Sadler
Deputy Warden-Custody Jeffrey Schearer
Dr. Emily Scordellis- Prime Care
Warden Jeffrey Smith
Chief Deputy Warden Stephanie Smith

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the August 10th, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

JAIL SENIOR STAFF REPORTS

WARDEN:

INMATE POPULATION:

- Today's Population - 708
- Inmates sentenced to an SCI – 46:
Twelve of those inmates are scheduled to leave between now and September 20th. Thirty-four inmates are awaiting transport date to be scheduled.

PROJECT UPDATES:

- **Yard door replacements**
- **Roof conduit repairs**
- **Warehouse Door replacement**
- **Interior Jail Lights-** (50% completed)
- **Kitchen HVAC unit replacement**
- **Gutter repairs**
- **Sewage Pump at FCRC-**Waiting on parts to arrive.

CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS AT THE JAIL –

- The Jail team completed 3 rounds of Space Programming. Now tasked with reviewing the information to share with the steering committee.

CHIEF DEPUTY WARDEN REPORT:

Chief Deputy Warden Smith updated the prison board on the Vivitrol grant that will be out of funding this month. There are conversations with COCA about using the opioid money for Vivitrol.

The therapy dog named Skip was out for his first visit with staff last week. He will come out twice a month to visit with staff.

DEPUTY WARDEN OF CUSTODY'S REPORT:

- STAFFING:
 - 36 Correctional Officer vacancies
 - Five (5) cadets currently in the Academy
 - Next Testing 10/06
 - Next Academy start date of 11/23
- The new management system project started 8/29 and was successful.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Christine Sadler has no items for session.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Todd Haskins from Primecare introduced Dr. Emily Scordellis who is the director of the mental health program. The program starts at intake to the discharge process. Primecare also sets up mental health care after discharge.

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT FROM COMMISSIONER BARNHARDT

Commission Barnhardt updated the Prison Board on the status of new corrections facility. A town hall meeting and public outreach for Thursday, September 22, at 5:30 PM in the Commissioner Boardroom. Prison Board members are encouraged to attend. CGL is working on the final protocols for programing and financial modeling. Subcommittees have been formed for finance, operations and planning, and public outreach, public relations. There will be 15 minutes of presentation and 45 minutes of open dialog. The meeting will be virtual as well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Rivera and a second made by Sandy Graffius to adjourn at 9:18 A.M. The next Prison Board meeting will be held on October 12, 2002 at the Commissioner Boardroom and via Microsoft Teams.



Sandy Graffius, Prison Board Secretary