

**BERKS COUNTY PRISON BOARD MINUTES
BERKS COUNTY SERVICES CENTER
COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
SEPTEMBER 14, 2016**

The Berks County Prison Board met in a regular session on Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at 9:00 A.M. in the Special Operations Center at the Berks County Jail, pursuant to due notice to Board members and the public.

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 Kevin Barnhardt
Controller Sandy Graffius
District Attorney John Adams
Judge Scott Lash
Sheriff Eric Weaknecht

The following members were absent:

Commissioner Mark Scott

The following County staff also attended:

Solicitor Christine Sadler

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The August 10, 2016 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

JAIL SENIOR STAFF REPORTS

Warden Quigley reported the current inmate population of 1,047. She noted, for comparison, the 2006 average daily population was 1,325. One hundred two inmates were at the Community Re-entry center and 41 inmates were technical parole violators.

Warden Quigley stated five juveniles were currently in the facility. According to PREA standards, the juveniles are required to have sight and sound separation in the facility, so one officer had been assigned to supervise the juvenile inmates. Warden Quigley explained in late 2015 she reached out to the Chester County Warden regarding potentially housing Berks County juvenile inmates. The Chester County Warden agreed and a contract was produced. However, by the time the contract was sent for review, Chester County did not have the room to house the inmates. Recently, the Warden contacted the Chester County Warden for an update and was informed that additional space was available. Warden Quigley spoke about the potential savings of utilizing the Chester County agreement. Warden Quigley stated that the updated contract was being reviewed by Chester County and will be submitted to the Commissioners for approval as soon as it is available. Warden Quigley stated that she believes housing juveniles for even a partial month will be worthwhile. A discussion took place regarding potential additional expenses. Sheriff Weaknecht agreed that his staff will

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transport the juvenile inmates to and from Chester County. Commissioner Barnhardt and Commissioner Leinbach responded favorably to this agreement.

Warden Quigley updated the Board on the bail issues raised by Commissioner Scott at the last Prison Board meeting. She spoke about a project to gather risk factor information from the monthly data provided by Berks Connections and the Booking Lieutenant. The Warden and an officer on light duty had been working on this project with anticipation of gathering the information by the following month. District Attorney John Adams requested the number of inmates incarcerated for traffic citations only. The Warden agreed to look into that information.

Commissioner Barnhardt questioned if there was a program utilized nationally that can capture this risk factor information. Warden Quigley replied the UCM, Unified Case Management program through CCAP, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, once implemented, will provide more data and will have the capability to generate reports and charts easily. A discussion took place regarding changes to the bail process across the nation and bail concerns locally.

On behalf of Deputy Warden Stephanie Smith, the Warden reported that the first Mental Health First Aid training, which Deputy Warden Smith and a Sergeant are certified to conduct, will be launched for supervisory staff in September. PrimeCare staff was also invited to the trainings so communication is clear when responding to mental health issues in the Jail. Deputy Warden Smith's staff should be fully trained by the end of September in a new classification system, ORAZ, which is being utilized by the staff of Robert Williams, Chief Probation & Parole Officer. The hope is to use the same risk assessment tools that the Parole office is using to share information with ease.

Chief Deputy Warden Jeffrey Smith reported the staffing update: 11 correctional officer vacancies, 5 new hires set to graduate on November 4, 11 scheduled to go to psychological testing, a new academy is scheduled on October 12. Chief Deputy Warden Smith stated the Jail has increased staffing efforts and are trying to merge and shorten the academies to get the correctional officers on the floor faster. The next graduation is scheduled for November 30 and testing is scheduled for September 28.

Chief Deputy Warden Smith had one item to discuss for Executive session.

Commissioner Barnhardt inquired if the amount of applicants were shrinking. Warden Quigley answered that there was an influx of applicants. She added that the audience in the area had been saturated with local and nearby newspapers but the majority of the response came from the job marketing website Indeed.com.

Deputy Warden Russell updated the Board on the Professional Visitor Interview Rooms renovation project; the materials from the Home Depot have arrived and are on site. The materials from Colonial Electric have not arrived. Deputy Warden Russell stated that they expect to get the project started within a couple of weeks.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Item to discuss for Executive session.

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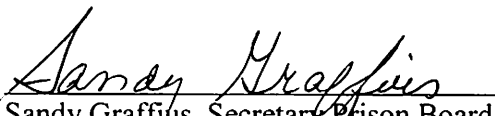
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COMMENTS FROM THE JAIL BOARD None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 9:14 A.M. into the Executive Session which adjourned at 9:51 A.M. The next Prison Board meeting will be October 12, 2016 in the Boardroom on the 13th floor of the Berks County Services Center.


Sandy Graffius, Secretary Prison Board