



# Correctional Facility

## BOARD OF INSPECTORS

Meeting Minutes  
January 12, 2023

**Michael Pipe**  
Commissioner / Chair

**Jonathan Grine**  
President Judge

**Mark Higgins**  
Commissioner

**Jason Moser**  
Controller

**Christopher Schell**  
Warden

**Melanie Gordon**  
Deputy Warden

**Glenn Irwin**  
Deputy Warden

**John Franek**  
County Administrator

**Kristen Simkins**  
HR Director

**Denise Murphy**  
Admin. Assistant

**Karri Hull**  
CJP Director

**Tom Weber**  
CEO, PrimeCare

**Cassandra Nichols**  
PrimeCare

**Alesha Weaver**  
PrimeCare

**Barbara Squires**  
CentrePeace

**Janet Irons**  
Prison Society

**Marie Hamilton**

**Brian Bortree**

**Ken Kline Smeltzer**

**Mark Kissling**

### I. Call to Order

- a. The Centre County Prison Board of Inspectors meeting was called to order by Commissioner Pipe at 8:01 am.

### II. Board Reorganization

#### a. Action: Elect Chair

- Commissioner Pipe made a motion to resign as Chair of the Prison Board of Inspectors and elect President Judge Grine as Chair. Commissioner Higgins seconded the motion. The Board of Inspectors voted unanimously to elect President Judge Grine as Chair.

#### b. Action: Elect Vice-Chair

- On a motion by President Judge Grine, seconded by Controller Moser, the Board of Inspectors voted unanimously to elect Commissioner Dershem as Vice-Chair.

### III. Public Comments

- a. No public comments.

### IV. Approval of Minutes

- a. On a motion by Controller Moser, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board of Inspectors voted to approve the minutes from December 2022.

### V. Monthly Reports

#### a. Mental Health

1. Amy Miller ..... 21
2. Crossroads ..... 27
  - Drug/Alcohol ..... 21
    - Male..... 13
    - Female ..... 8
  - Mental Health ..... 6
    - Male..... 6

▪ Female .....	0
b. COMPASS Program .....	31
▪ Male Group .....	18
▪ Female Group .....	13
▪ Graduation .....	5
c. Decision Points Program .....	1
▪ Male Group .....	1
▪ Female Group .....	0
▪ Graduation .....	1
d. WR / Community Reentry .....	21
▪ CentrePeace .....	9
▪ County Maintenance .....	0
▪ Facility Grounds .....	3
▪ Work Release .....	9
e. Facility Population Snapshot .....	184
▪ Centre County .....	122
• Unsentenced .....	71
• County Sent .....	44
• State Sent .....	7
▪ Tenant County .....	62
• Unsentenced .....	20
• County Sent .....	42
• State Sent .....	0
f. Data Collections End of Mo Snapshot (Pop varies due to report timing)	
▪ Centre County Unsentenced .....	63
• New Charge Only .....	37
• Prob/Parole Only .....	18
• Prob w/New Charge .....	8
g. Behavior Modification Status .....	15
▪ Tier 0: 4    Tier I: 0    Tier II: 1    Tier III: 0    Tier IV: 10	
h. Co-Occurring Disorder (Mental Illness & Drug Addiction) 32.6%	
▪ 33 out of 101 intakes – only 13 were on / had not refilled upon intake.	
i. Suicide Watch .....	17
▪ Suicide/Detox .....	6
j. Detox Total .....	32
k. MAT – New injections .....	1
▪ Injections prior to release .....	30
▪ Follow-up shots after released .....	7

I. PrimeCare Report (ADP).....	168
▪ Hospital .....	0
▪ COVID-19 Returning Citizen Test Results	
• Symptomatic Testing	
▪ Pending .....	0
▪ Negative .....	281
▪ Positive .....	2
▪ Recovered .....	113
• Asymptomatic Testing	
▪ Pending .....	0
▪ Negative .....	3770
▪ Positive .....	6
▪ Recovered .....	162
▪ Physician / PA In-house .....	118
▪ Medical Transports .....	9
▪ MH Clinician Individuals .....	287
▪ Psychiatrist .....	48
▪ MH Patients on Psych Meds.....	84
▪ Avg Daily Population.....	173
• Avg Patients with MH.....	113
▪ Category C ...	131
▪ Category D .....	19
▪ Mental Health Stability Ratings .....	184
• Category A .....	35
▪ Code A: No history of mental illness.	
• Category B .....	22
▪ Code B: Some history / not being treated.	
• Category C.....	96
▪ Code C: Mental illness / on medication.	
• Category D.....	16
▪ Code D: Severe mental illness.	
• Awaiting Placement.....	15
m. Grievance Report .....	36
▪ Grievable .....	7
• Found.....	2
▪ Refused .....	26
▪ Non Grievable .....	3
n. CBC Report .....	178

Commissioner Pipe noticed the increase in the Tenant County population. The Warden explained Schuylkill County brought two groups for housing. Mifflin County may be housing more individuals here in the near future.

Judge Grine asked if there is a transition period when the out of county inmates arrive. The Warden said a majority of the Schuylkill inmates like coming here and will work in the kitchen or other inside jobs.

Ken Kline Smeltzer asked if the out of county inmates are offered the same opportunities. The Warden said they are all offered the same programs, the only thing they are unable to participate in is the outside Community Reentry and Work Release. Deputy Gordon explained there is an agreement in place with Huntingdon County so they could pursue on grounds and CentrePeace clearance. It is harder for Schuylkill County with them being so far away. Judge Grine asked if they would be able to work maintenance or grounds. The Warden has had discussions with their courts, and they don't feel secure about letting them out. The Judge says he may reach out to them.

## VI. Old Business

### a. Recreation Alternative Committee

- Commissioner Pipe gave a summary of The Recreation Alternatives Committee. It will be led by District Attorney Cantorna and Controller Moser, partnering with the facility to make recommendations, and bringing in Community Advocates.
  - Revisiting and appreciation of how the facility was constructed.
  - Thoughts from the community regarding an appropriate level of outdoor recreation.
  - Facility compliance with the DOC.
  - Alternatives and other paths that may be available.
  - Reach out to other facilities to see what can be done within the guidelines of the facility.
- Controller Moser stated there should be an update at the February meeting. They hope to have the members identified and a plan to move forward.
- Ken Kline Smeltzer said several concerned citizens have been putting pressure on the board for over a year, he is happy they formed the committee.
- Mark Kissling repeats what Ken Smeltzer says. In addition to noting, although the jail is in compliance with PA Code, it's not actually going outside and that is a moral and human imperative. Mr. Kissling also asked if public comments could be added to last month's minutes for the record. Lastly, he wanted to add for the record, Marie Hamilton had an article in the CDT talking about her experiences in teaching and how the incarcerated would rush to the windows.
- Janet Irons wanted to share Nanci Rommel is the Prison Society representative for the Recreation Committee. She also echoes the

concern with her experience of the incarcerated rushing to the windows to see outside.

- Judge Grine is volunteering to be on the Recreation Alternative Committee. His main goal on his previous time on the board was to get people out on work release. He is willing to be on the committee and hear what the community has to say.

b. COVID-19 Correctional Facility's Operation

1. Programming

- Up to the Volunteers to decide if they want to come in the jail for do virtual programs.
- Reviewing (WRAP) Wellness Recovery Action Program

2. COVID 19 Vaccine

- 20<sup>th</sup> Clinic – Total 13 Vaccines
- 21<sup>st</sup> Clinic – 2<sup>nd</sup> Week in February.
- \$25 Incentive given for first shot.

- \* Deepest Appreciation to Michael Pipe for Prison Board of Inspectors member since 2012 and Chair since 2016.
- \* Employees Recognized Years of Service – Badge for 20, 25, & 30 Years of Service in a display case, in addition to gift certificates for each.
  - \* Brenda McKinley: 32 years
  - \* Kevin McCool: 32 years
  - \* Mike Shearer: 31 years
  - \* Dave Knepp: 26 years
- \* Retirement: Leonard Verbeck received a wooden flag plaque that has the corrections thin gray line. It will have his name and years of service.

VII. New Business

VIII. Monthly Reports

a. Criminal Justice Planning

- Submitting for a \$500,000 grant to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). The grant would expand the use of medicated assisted treatment and allow the Returning Citizens to receive treatment from the same continuous provider and will help reduce overdoses. The MAT will be available to all inmates at CCCF.

b. Prison Society

- Janet Irons says she appreciates the recognition, confidentiality, and openness so they are able to work with administration when needed. She believes that trust will continue, it has been embedded in the county through the leadership of Commissioner Pipe.

- Janet said the Prison Society advocates for the inmates and employees. She believes if they are valued and getting enough money, the facility will better be able to work as a team.

c. CentrePeace

- Barbara Squires expressed her appreciation to Commissioner Pipe and Warden Schell. She went on to say in 2021 CentrePeace only had 1,916-man hours, however in 2022 they were blessed with 6,693 hours. She also agrees with the article by Marie Hamilton, Barbara said how a lot of the workers would rather be outside when they are there.
- Warden Schell voiced his gratitude for Barbara taking over CentrePeace for Cathy.

IX. Announcements / Adjourn to Executive Session /Adjourn

a. Comments and thanks given to the Warden

- i. Judge Grine said he’s an excellent Warden and wishes him well.
- ii. Mark Kissling thanked the Warden for understanding the citizens and most importantly his service to the county.

b. On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Controller Moser, the Prison Board of Inspectors voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:48 am.

c. The Board of Inspectors were in an executive session concerning personnel issues from 8:48 and adjourned at 9:21 am.

X. Next BOI Meeting

a. The next Prison Board of Inspectors meeting will be February 9, 2023.

\*\* The regularly scheduled Board of Inspectors meetings will be hybrid-style meetings, with the option of attending in-person or remotely. The monthly meetings will be held in the Community Rm at the Centre County Correctional Facility at 8:00 am. \*\*

<https://bluejeans.com/385425615/1880>  
*Call* (408)419-1715 or (408)915-6290  
*Meeting ID* 385 425 615  
*Passcode* 1880 #

Respectfully Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

dam

Glenn Irwin, Interim Warden