

Minutes

MEETING OF BOARD OF INSPECTORS FOR THE POTTER COUNTY JAIL August 5, 2022, Gunzburger Building

CALL TO ORDER - Paul Heimel, Chair

ROLL CALL – Members Judge Stephen Minor, Andy Watson, Glenn Drake, Barry Hayman, Nancy Grupp, Paul Heimel, all present. Warden Angela Milford, present. Administrator Jessica Giebel, present.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS – Citizen Shena Martin asked the board to review mental health services in the jail and consider expanding and/or improving them.

MINUTES --

June 3, 2022; B. Hayman moved to approve; N. Grupp seconded; all in favor. A. Watson, who did not attend the June 3 meeting, abstained.

GUEST SPEAKER –

Keith Wentz, PCoRP; Jail Operations/Procedural Risk Management Assessment
Mr. Wentz discussed Phase 2 of PCoRP’s contracted risk management assessment, which will focus on HR/personnel policies and procedures in the jail. Attorney David Miller will conduct the review, which will pinpoint areas of concern and opportunities for improvement and updates. He also advised that a draft of the Phase 1 assessment, focused on operations and facilities at the jail, has been provided to the warden for review and will soon be delivered to the Board of Commissioners.

OLD BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS –

Update on contracting for telepsychiatry services in the jail.
Jim Kockler and Bryonna Mann/Potter County Human Services have been reviewing contract details with a prospective provider, Concern Behavioral Health. (A second provider, CenClear, also has an interest in providing services.) Warden Milford noted that there is a need for services in the jail, but multiple delays have been encountered in efforts to reach final contract terms. She said that a recommendation will be presented to the Board of Commissioners for review and approval in the near future.

On a related note, District Attorney Watson said the law enforcement community is overburdened and frustrated by the lack of available services for individuals with mental health issues who come into contact with police. By default, the jail is pressed into service as a last resort to ensure public safety. DA Watson and Judge Minor both said multiple agencies must work together to improve crisis response services in Potter County and relieve the burden on law enforcement and the jail.

Courts & Counties Collaboration/Re-entry Services Project

Judge Minor said a national consulting team is working with Potter County to develop re-entry services goals and provide technical assistance in achieving them. The county has many of the elements in place, but still lacks others, including data collection/analysis and access to mental health and addiction treatment services. The consultants are set to visit in the fall to meet with Potter County officials.

REPORT FROM WARDEN –

Warden Milford reported there are 46 inmates, including seven females who are housed in other facilities. The jail is also housing one inmate from McKean County. Potter County Maintenance Department has created a space in the basement for the jail nurse to attend to administrative functions. Alcoholics Anonymous has been holding meetings at the jail, but attendance has been low. Narcotics Anonymous has been unable to find volunteers to hold meetings in the jail. NA will be providing literature. Two inmates are working on a GED program. Two treadmills were recently purchased from Cowburn's Gym.

GENERAL DISCUSSION --

--Sheriff Drake expressed his opinion that the Board of Commissioners should consider eliminating the Jail Board system that was implemented in 2021 and returning to the system whereby the individual who is elected County Sheriff must also serve as Jail Warden. Both Commissioner Hayman and Judge Minor responded that it is premature to reach conclusions.

ADJOURNMENT – S. Minor moved; B. Hayman seconded; all in favor.