

**COUNTY OF DELAWARE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
JAIL OVERSIGHT BOARD
RESOLUTION NO 2020-1**

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR EXPANSION OF
TREATMENT FOR INMATES WITH OPIOID USE DISORDER**

WHEREAS, Delaware County and its residents face an ongoing crisis regarding the widespread addiction to heroin, fentanyl, carfentanyl, and other illegal or legally prescribed opioids, and the use of such opioids resulted in 155 fatal overdoses in 2018 in Delaware County alone;

WHEREAS, a significant portion of the population at the George W. Hill Correctional Facility (“GWH”) at any one time is dealing with an addiction to opioids, with 27% of commitments¹ to GWH in 2019 self-reporting opioid use, and with the actual figure potentially being even higher;

WHEREAS, the current treatment for opioids use disorder (“OUD”) at GWH, consisting of detoxification upon entry, Prep 1 and Prep 2 psycho-educational instruction, and the Vivitrol® pilot program launched in 2019 and consisting of no more than 17 participants at any one time during the year, while welcomed, is altogether inadequate considering the magnitude of the population at GWH with OUD and the life-or-death nature of this crisis;

WHEREAS, the Jail Oversight Board of the County of Delaware (the “JOB”) acknowledges the challenges of treating a population that is inherently transient and who face uncertainties with regard to their length of stay at GWH given its role as a county jail, but

¹ Excludes 37% of the commitments in 2019 for which there is no self-reporting data. The figure cited of 27% reflects the percentage of self-reporting commitments.

nevertheless views such challenges as addressable with a flexible model for treatment and a robust method for a “warm handoff” to treatment outside GWH when an inmate is released; and

WHEREAS, the JOB, under Exhibit D, Article C.20.D of the contract between the County of Delaware and GEO Corrections and Detention, LLC (“GEO”, or the “Provider”), effective January 1, 2019, “may request Provider to evaluate proposed changes in Provider's health care and treatment systems”;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Jail Oversight Board of the County of Delaware, Pennsylvania, that:

1. The JOB requests that GEO expand its evaluation of commitments to ensure as close to 100% evaluation of commitments as possible, with a particular emphasis on identifying commitments with OUD. Such a screening is required under the contract with GEO, per Exhibit D, Article C.30: “Provider shall perform a receiving screening on all new commitments to the Prison immediately following their admission to the Prison. Such screening shall...include as a minimum whether the Inmate is under the influence of or evidence of dependence on alcohol or drugs.”
2. The JOB requests that GEO ensure that all inmates with OUD (and other substance abuse issues that merit it) receive quality detoxification treatment when practically possible under the circumstances, given their expected length of stay. We understand that in 2019, only 838 of 1,650 commitments (or 51%) that self-reported opioid use in fact received detoxification.
3. The JOB requests that GEO immediately formulate a plan to expand treatment for inmates with OUD to include: (a) psycho-educational therapy made available for inmates with an expected shorter length of stay than current protocols; and (b)

medication-assisted treatment (“MAT”) to as great a portion of the population with OUD as is practical, including female inmates (the Vivitrol program is currently only available to male inmates), inmates without a sentence (approximately 75% of the prison population), and inmates for which Suboxone or some other form of MAT is more appropriate or desired.

4. The JOB requests that GEO work expediently with the Office of Probation and Parole, an appropriate liaison for the Court of Common Pleas, and outside treatment providers, with assistance by the JOB itself, to improve and expand the system for ensuring the greatest number of inmates with OUD are “handed off” into treatment upon release.

ADOPTED by the Jail Oversight Board of the County of Delaware, Pennsylvania, this 11th day of February 2020.

BY: JAIL OVERSIGHT BOARD



Kevin M. Madden, Chair

ATTESTED: 
ANNE COOGAN, County Clerk