

**September 21, 2021 MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF MANAGERS OF JUVENILE DETENTION**

PRESENT:	Kevin Madden, Chair	Joanne Phillips
	Marie N. Williams, Vice-Chair	Elaine Schaefer
	Chris Eiserman	Monica Taylor
	Candice L. Linehan	Chekemma J. Fulmore Townsend
	Nathaniel Nichols	

Call to Order. Mr. Madden called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments on Agenda Items. There were no public comments on agenda items.

Approval of Minutes. Mr. Eiserman motioned to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2021 meeting of the Board of Managers of Juvenile Detention, seconded by Ms. Schaefer. Motion carried unanimously.

Custody Report. Danielle DiMatteo, Director, Delaware County Juvenile Court & Probation Services reported there were nine (9) youth in custody as follows: two (2) in Montgomery County, three (3) in Bucks County, three (3) at the Aspire facility in Uniontown, PA, and one (1) in Abraxis. From March 19 through August 31, 2021, 53 youth were in detention for a total of 1,186 days of care. The per diems for those facilities ranged, on average, from \$305 to \$479 with a total cost of \$402,384.74 through August 31st. Fifteen percent (15%) were released on first listing with the balance remaining in temporary custody and subsequently released to their homes, another placement facility, or transferred to other detention centers. She reported that other counties are experiencing shortages of detention beds. She added that two juveniles were sent home with electronic monitoring last weekend for the first time after an armed robbery due to lack of detention beds for Delaware County. The numbers decreased significantly in 2021 over previous years consistent with a year-on-year downward trend.

Committee Reports.

Human Resource Committee: Ms. Schaefer reported that interviews for the director position will be scheduled with three of six people who submitted vetted applications. All Board members were invited to participate in candidate interviews.

Facilities and Contract Committee: Ms. Williams reported the committee did not meet following its first meeting as information continued to be gathered. Contracts will be reviewed by the committee as they become available.

2022 Budget Preparation. Ms. Schaefer indicated County Executive Director Howard Lazarus requested Board guidance on what should be included in next year's budget.

Discussion of Future Presentations. Mr. Madden explained the intent is to invite people with relevant experience to the Board's mission to make presentations. Potential presenters have been discussed and all Board members were encouraged to submit names for consideration.

New Business. Ms. Phillips underscored the importance of inventorying and maintaining records currently housed in the closed facility. The confidentiality of business and medical records must be preserved. Appropriate personnel should be identified to review records. Solicitor Shelley Smith will take responsibility for contacting the Attorney General's office for the purpose of accessing the facility and reviewing the records kept there. Ms. Schaefer noted the head of Personnel, Jim Kane, has resigned and previously served as the primary communications contact with the facility's former employees. Mr. Madden agreed to work with Personnel to ensure the continuity of communications.

Public Comments. (All relevant items.)

Alyssa Poole, head of the juvenile unit in the Public Defender office, commented their office receives questions relating to why a youth was being detained and how a particular facility was selected for their detention. Delaware County reached the contractual limit of filling two (2) of Montgomery County's 36 detention beds. The County has placed three (3) youth at the 36-bed Bucks County facility. The Aspire facility, which is five-hours away, has 12 beds and is housing three (3) juveniles from Delaware County. The Chester County Youth Center has not been used recently but has 60 beds with 12 of them designated for shelter care and has been experiencing staffing challenges. Ms. Poole expressed the need for greater transparency and more documentation on where and why youth are being placed in detention. Additionally, greater consideration should be given to community alternatives to placement in detention facilities. Mr. Nichols would like to hear from the Public Defender office on suggested improvement of care for juveniles. Ms. Poole indicated her office would consider making such a presentation to the Board.

Olivia Rosenberger, sole person responsible for social services in the Public Defender's juvenile unit, remarked that community needs for assistance is great in terms of helping juveniles, for example, with enrolling in schools, obtaining birth certificates or photo I.D.'s needed to get into school or obtain jobs, or opening a bank account. It takes money and a guardian to help them through the process and neither is especially plentiful. Their office needs more help in preparing youth to be successful in the community.

Chris Thomas, Morton resident, posed questions about juvenile armed robbery suspects living in the community with electronic monitoring and about one person named in an affidavit that led to the March closure of the detention facility and who continues to working as a County employee.

Board Member Comment. No Board member comments were offered.

Adjourn. Mr. Eiserman motioned to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.