

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

**PRESENT:** Kevin Madden, Chair  
Chris Eiserman  
Nathaniel Nichols  
Joanne Phillips  
Elaine Schaefer  
Monica Taylor  
Chekemma J. Fulmore Townsend

**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.** Ms. Schaefer motioned to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2021 meeting of the Juvenile Detention Board of Managers, seconded by Ms. Fulmore Townsend. Motion carried unanimously.

**Juvenile Court and Probation Services Report.** Danielle DiMatteo, Director, Delaware County Court & Probation Services reported there were two (2) youth in custody as follows: one (1) in Montgomery County, and one (1) at the Aspire facility in Uniontown, PA. She indicated one of the youths was in custody for 18 days in Montgomery County and was previously at Aspire for 25 days. Some youth who had previously absconded were apprehended while others were not, according to Ms. DiMatteo. She added other youth were in home detention while waiting for secure beds to become available.

**Delaware County Intermediate Unit (DCIU) Presentation.** Dr. Maria Edelberg, Executive Director DCIU, discussed the laws and regulations that will govern the Juvenile Detention Center should it reopen as a detention center or a treatment facility. She explained that Act 30 of 1997 included provisions for a residential center that pertained to the County's Juvenile Detention Center and which required that youth in custody be educated according to parameters set by the host school district. School districts typically contract with the DCIU to provide educational programs. The collaboration required close communication with the student's school district of residence to gather school records and curricular materials and involved facilitating a smooth transition back to the home school district, according to Dr. Edelberg.

Kim Mecca, Assistant Director, Student Services, DCIU, discussed pre-COVID educational activities at the detention center, including declining enrollment trends from 2010 to present date, a typical instructional day consisting of seven (7) 45-minute periods, and counseling services that were offered. She said students reported that going to school was the highlight of their day.

The speakers responded to various questions from Board members about data collection, detention center and treatment center models, and various barriers/challenges and opportunities in a detention center setting.

**Committee Reports.**

Human Resources – Ms. Schaefer reported that the new Director of Juvenile Detention would start on January 4, 2022.

Facilities/Contract -- Howard Lazarus, Executive Director, Delaware County, reported that a challenge in reaching an agreement with Chester County was that they too faced detention center staffing challenges. He explained Chester County was amenable to making space available if Delaware County could help them staff a 12-bed pod. He added that Chester County would reserve the right to not accept youth for placement based on behavior or special needs. Delaware County will pursue discussions with the Attorney General’s Office, according to Mr. Lazarus, for permission to potentially re-employ staff members to provide needed staffing at the Chester County facility. Additionally, he suggested that there should be discussions about potentially having a separate facility for young women placed in Delaware County’s care.

Mr. Lazarus explained that a contract hasn’t yet been drafted, prompting Mr. Madden to suggest that Board members provide collective input on what terms should be included in a contract/agreement. Board Solicitor Shelley Smith explained that Board members could have a virtual/online discussion about a contract as described by Mr. Lazarus. If a position was taken, Ms. Smith explained, the Board could operate in an advisory capacity to ratify a draft agreement at a scheduled public meeting. She added that Delaware County Council could subsequently vote on a contract subject to the advisory actions the Board was authorized to take.

Board members expressed a desire to tour the Chester County detention facility sometime after the new Director of Juvenile Detention started on January 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Lazarus reminded Board members that an architect had been engaged, who would prepare conceptual drawings for the Juvenile Detention Center that could include using part of it as a central processing facility physically separate and apart from a juvenile detention center. Ms. Smith reported that the PA Department of Human Services did not object to the County using the facility for the dual purposes being studied.

**Discussion of future presentations.** Mr. Madden invited Board members to suggest organizations that should be invited to make presentations at a public meeting. Mr. Nichols suggested Board members visit the Glen Mills campus with some members noting the facility had not yet been licensed.

**New Business.** Ms. DiMatteo reviewed the history of Delaware County’s day treatment centers in response to Dr. Taylor’s question on that subject. The centers were used as a step-down from 24/7 residential supervision to day supervision with the ability to go home with a monitor and the added benefit of additional community supports.

**Public Comments. (All relevant items.)** There were no public comments on relevant items.

**Board Member Comments** – Ms. Phillips inquired about the work location of the new Director of Juvenile Detention. Mr. Madden explained various options were being considered but that he would be working in the Government Center Building.

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