

Warden's Report
February 2023

Warden Laura Williams reported the following:

Infectious Disease Update:

On November 29, 2022, the CDC revised the previous guidance for congregate settings to include homeless service sites and correctional and detention facilities. Delaware County remains in the "medium" transmission rate. Requirements have been modified. Donning of masks remains optional within the facility. Masks are always available as it is strongly recommended that they are worn by staff and the incarcerated population in Intake, on Intake housing units and in the medical unit.

There were 78 incarcerated persons tested utilizing PCR tests in January with 5 positive infections. The total vaccination rate is 55% for the incarcerated population. There were no staff members out with COVID. There were no confirmed or suspected cases of Monkeypox within the institution.

Monthly Statistics –January 2023:

- Current population: 1,270 incarcerated persons
- There were 119 Weekender participants in January
- 19 were "first timers"
- 4 were female
- Total commitments in January: 547
- Total discharges in January: 522
- There were few instances when full recreation was not provided.
- 1/13/23 – 1/16/23 – 1 cell at a time recreation on Unit 6, security measures
- 1/16/23 – 1/27/23 – Unit 6 on tier recreation

Major Incidences:

On Saturday, January 21, 2023, an I/P was involved in a confrontation with another I/P which resulted in a stabbing. The stabbing required hospital transport. The individual was stable and has since returned to the facility. The institution was placed on modified operations with shakedowns/searches completed during the last week of January and the first week of February. On Tuesday, February 7th there was an erroneous release. The release was reported to the Media. The I/P returned to the facility on the 8th. On Sunday, February 12th there was a loss of life. The next of kin has been notified. The death is under investigation.

Safety:

There have been significant resources and efforts made to increase the standards of safety within the institution. Title 37, Chapter 95 outlines standards and expectations. The facility was found to be in compliance of all standards during the most recent inspection (with the exception of the Kitchen, which requires remodeling). From April 25th, 2022, until January 2023 there were 590 cells that had work orders for the replacement/repairs of locks within the facility. There are only 23 work orders that remain uncompleted. Enhancements to infrastructure and capital improvement initiatives will continue to support increased safety for all in the facility. Compliance with policies and procedures will also ensure the prioritization of safety expectations. A full facility search was conducted with the retrieval of 46 serious items of contraband, including weapons, narcotics and more.

Tablet Expansion: Video Visitation:

- Between the dates of 1/1/23 – 2/12/2023
- 6,023 video visits were completed on the housing blocks
- Systematic and staged approach as technology access is increased
- 12/19/22: SMU-A (Juvenile Males), Unit 4 and Unit 9

12/19 Video Visitation Pilot:

Unit	Days of the Week	Time 1	Time 2	Time 3
SMU A	7	830-1030	1130-1500	
9	7	830-1030	1130-1500	
4	7	830-1030	1130-1500	1930-2200

1/9/23: Unit 5 and 8 were added with SMU-A gaining an additional time period

1/9 Video Visitation Pilot:

Unit	Days of the week	Time 1	Time 2	Time 3
5	7	830-1030	1130-1500	
8	7	830-1030	1130-1500	
SMU A				1930-2200

- Week of 2/13/23: adding Unit 6 & 7
- Final phase will add Unit 10, then begin to expand times for video visitation functionality,

Cost Recovery Items:

Processing Fee	\$20,943.87
Damage to Prison Property	\$157.18
Medical Visits	\$718.44
Postage	\$19.10
Total Funds Recovered	\$21,838.59
Deposited to Inmate Welfare (under \$1.00)	\$2.53

Training Academy and Staffing:

Class 1222-A was a class of 10 Correctional Officers who were honored and sworn in by Honorable Judge Whelan on Friday, January 20th. Another class of 11 Correctional Officers will complete the academy on Friday, February 17th. A class began that included 1 Sergeant, Correctional Officers, Maintenance Staff and Healthcare Staff on Monday, February 6th. The next class will begin on Monday, March 6, 2023.

Employee of the Month:

Warden Williams has been accepting nominations for employees of the month and awarding 2 employees with recognition each month. Incentives include parking in the employee of the month designated space, recognition amongst staff and a certificate. February employees of the month were Senior Records Tech, Melissa Kahlbom, MIS Manager, Bryan Held and Correctional Officer Stacy Jones.

Seeking Additional Employees:

George W. Hill is seeking to fill vacant full-time positions as soon as possible:

Security Personnel:

- Correctional Officer
- Sergeants
- Intelligence Analyst
- Investigator
- Locksmith
- Sanitation Crewman

Programs & Support:

- Case Manager
- Substance Abuse Counselor
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Wellness Instructor

Administration:

- Chief Deputy Warden
- Contract Compliance Manager

Human Resources:

- Labor Relations Generalist
- Leave Administrator

Goal Setting for 2023:

Employment/Staffing:

- Increase retention/decrease attrition
- Reduce vacancy rates
- Continue investment in professional development
- Development of on-boarding and training for “non-security” roles
- Cross training opportunities with other county jail facilities

Facility:

- Kitchen renovation
- Replace the Roof/HVAC system
- Enhanced lighting
- Updated staff dining facilities
- Replace laundry equipment
- Development of Training/Firearms

Technology:

- Full implementation of PowerDMS
- Establishment of Wi-Fi infrastructure in the facility for enhance technology and efficiency of process
- Executing a contract with Guardian RFID and implementing facility side use of monitoring technology
- Convert the grievance proves on tablets for functionality
- Body scanner
- Camera surveillance

Population:

- Increase program availability and access to recreation equipment during out of cell time

Budget:

- Increase sustainability by finding alternative funding/revenue sources to support program expansion as well as operational needs

Programs/Services:

- Increase services for youthful offenders
- Increase psychoeducation to include parenting, relationships, job readiness, life skills (i.e. banking, interviewing)
- Increase partnerships with local universities
- Increase community engagement and stakeholders for ease of re-entry and re-integration

Training:

- Increase partnerships with other field of corrections leaders
- Increase utilization of APEX Virtual Reality Simulator and embed in annual in-service training
- Enhance the documentation/tracking/control of all completed trainings
- Increase certifications throughout a multitude of job classifications

Training Partnerships – H.E.R.O.

Mirmont Training Center provided a training session of H.E.R.O. (Helping Emergency Responders Overcome) on February 9th. There were 26 staff who had participated. The training discusses substance use disorders, culture of a first responder and becoming a healthy helper. The training assists in increasing skills to maintain and support the emotional safety of a first responder and directly confronts the stigma of seeking help. Help is out there, and no one should suffer alone. There is a local resource: VIPER (Valor with Integrity Program for Emergency Responders). 1-888-CARE.898 (227-3898).

Expansion of Medications for Opioid Use Disorders:

The contract for healthcare services was transitioned from GEO to Wellpath in March of 2022. In July of 2022, there was increased discussion between George W. Hill and Wellpath to expand medications for opioid use disorders. Wellpath has MAT services in approximately 130 prisons across the United States. The program expansion began with continuation of Buprenorphine (Suboxone) for those who had an established and verified prescription from the community. In the most recent phase of expansion individuals on a verified methadone maintenance program are continued with their medication assisted treatment. There were 60 individuals prescribed Suboxone (47 males/13 females). There are 3 individuals prescribed Sublocade (2 females/1 male) and 7 individuals prescribed Methadone (4 females/3 males).

Amendment to the Viapath Contract: There was discussion of the ViaPath contract to include an amendment. The amendment would include a data feature for I/Ps criminal cases but does not contain budgetary implications. Warden Williams asked for approval for the amendment to the ViaPath contract. Motion made by Controller Phillips to amend the ViaPath contract to include the data feature, seconded by Mr. Corson. Motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Warden Dele Faly provided key highlights for January:

Education Programs:

The GED Program continues to achieve. There were 6 GEDs earned in the month of January.

Flagger Training:

There were 30 incarcerated persons who earned a Flagger Training certificate in January. The Flagger certificate is accepted by Penndot and enhances the application process for a public roadway position in Pennsylvania.

Spartan Chemicals:

There were 13 I/Ps certified in Clean Safe through Spartan Chemicals in January.

Anger Management:

In January there were 48 I/Ps who had completed Anger Management.

Religious Services:

The second orientation session for the Faith-Based organization occurred on Friday, February 3rd. D.W. Faly thanked Chaplain Cokelia Dunn, Training Instructor Bennet and Compliance Administrator, Sarah Bowles for their attendance. Male catholic services will resume on Tuesday, February 21 at 7:30 pm for men in Nativity BVM (Legion of Mary). Friday afternoon at 1:30 pm for the females with Saint Thomas the Apostle and Nativity BVM. In-person religious services was provided to 303 I/Ps on January 11, 2023.

Alcoholics Anonymous:

AA is provided to the female I/Ps on Mondays' and the male population on is provided AA on Friday's.

Programs and Reentry Administrator, Kelly Shaw stated that there was a weekly creative writing course administered to the juvenile population on January 17th. The class provides a tool for self-expression and thinking skills. On January 23rd, the female population was offered a 90-minute financial literacy workshop. The workshop is supported by the Chester partnership for Safer Neighborhoods and Widener University. The curriculum is designed to enhance fiscal accountability regarding debt responsibility, investment, budgeting, and personal financial management. The workshop will be offered to the adult population bi-monthly.

February 1st was the start of collaboration with Maternity Care Coalition (MCC). MCC offers individual health, wellness and recovery support for pregnant women, postpartum mothers, and mothers with children under the age of two. Service also includes resources for clothing, diapers, toys, and cribs. This voluntary service will be available bi-monthly.

Project Success with the juvenile population kicked off on February 14th. The 4-week course discusses being an adolescent, alcohol, drugs/tobacco, relationships, and coping skills. Project Success is 1 of 3 courses Child and Family Focus Organization will be consecutively offered to the juvenile population. The courses include Life Skills Training, Teen Intervene.

In partnership with Delaware County Community College, the female population began a college course on February 7th: Introduction to Student Success 100. Student Success 100 is the first of multiple courses that will be offered to the I/P population at George W. Hill through Delaware County Community College and the Second Chance Pell Grant. Upon completion of the college course, students will receive 3 college credits and are official Delaware County Community College students. The students are entitled to matriculate into a course of study of their own choosing upon release. Currently there are 10 women enrolled in the course.

The course is funded through the Second Chance Pell Grant and supported by the effort and commitment of Dr. Richard McFadden Dean of Business, computing and Social Science Division at Delaware County Community College. Dr. McFadden was on site multiple times to answer questions and connect with staff. Delaware County Community College and George W. Hill Correctional Facility are committed to provide students the resources and tools for continued education success.