

Warden's Report
January 2022

Acting Warden Donna Mellon reported the following:

Current Population: 1,462

County Males: 1,297

County Females: 165

Lodgers: 41

Weekenders: 33

The average daily population in 2021 was 1,390. The population started to increase in June to the 1400's and from August to December the population was in the 1500's.

Total commitments in December-- 489

Total discharges in December - 576

Recidivism rate: 57%

Sarah Bowles will be joining the county team from GEO as the Compliance Administrator on Monday, January 24th. Sarah has extensive knowledge of Policy and Procedure and completes all documentation for the DOC, ACA and PREA audits. Between now and April Sarah will be completing the Policy and Procedure and Post Order books for the facility.

A complaint letter was received from the Delaware County Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. The letter raised issues with lockdowns, intake, maintenance, food service, staffing, medical and mail. All issues were addressed with Facility Administrator Walter Brick-Tripp. Staffing and maintenance continue to be issues within the facility.

GTL Update:

There were 564 video visits in December. In 2021 there were 7,225 video visits and remain free of charge. The video visit time has been extended to 2 pm. In-person visitation was cancelled on Thursday, December 30th due to safety precautions surrounding COVID-19. Inmate messaging on the tablets was turned on Monday, December 20th.

Video Visitation on the units should be piloted next week. It will be piloted on the Juvenile Unit and then the Vivitrol Unit once the heat is repaired.

Behavioral Health Update:

There were 3 residents on the Norristown State Hospital list that will be transported later during the week. There were 14 residents on the list who have incompetent evaluations but are awaiting orders or diversion. Ms. Mellon attended the December 20th Norristown State Hospital/Mental Health Court meeting. There were 64 residents discharged to inpatient treatment facilities in December.

Assistant Warden Kelly Shaw and GEO Program Director Joan Skurski continue to work on Narcan distribution. They are trying to procure enough Narcan to give to the discharged population.

Education Programs:

Contact teaching continues in small, same unit cohorts. In December, there were 37 GED tests administered with a 54% passing rate (20 students passed their module). There were 4 GED's earned. There were 295 GED test modules administered in 2021 with 32 GED certificates awarded. Ms. Mellon congratulated the instructors and test administrators. There were 42 students enrolled in GED preparation class. There were 11 participants in Work Place Essential Skills/Computer Literacy class and 8 students in the Flagger Training Program. There were 60 participants in PREP I with 15 completions. There were 24 participants in PREP II with 7 completions.

Treatment Programs:

There were 20 residents in the MAT Program (10 males/10 females). There were 5 graduates in December.

Ms. Mellon and staff met with Wellpath to discuss the COSA grant. On Thursday, January 27th Wellpath will meet with OBH to discuss the grant.

Maintenance Update:

The heat exchanger on Unit 10 A&D failed on Thursday, 12/16. A temporary heating unit was placed on the roof and became operational on Thursday, 12/23. The cost of the rental unit for two months is \$4,823.24. To place the heating unit on the roof with a crane, it cost \$14,274. GEO will pay \$7,500 toward the repair. The total cost for the county is \$11,497.24.

The heating system on Unit 2 failed on Tuesday, 12/21. The part needed for the system has been located and ordered. Hopefully the system will be repaired by the end of the month. The total cost for the county will be \$8,210. Both repairs would be deducted from the monthly GEO invoice once the repairs are complete.

Ms. Mellon is working with Marc Wooley from the Executive Director's office, Public Works, Facility Maintenance and the GEO Maintenance Director regarding the repair/replacement of the HVAC system.

Other:

Ms. Mellon's will be retiring from Acting Interim Warden on Wednesday, January 26th. Ms. Mellon appreciated the opportunity to return and work on the transition. Ms. Mellon wished everyone the best of luck moving forward. Mr. Madden thanked Ms. Mellon for her service to Delaware County and is grateful for all the work that she has done.