

Warden's Report
November 2022

Warden Laura Williams reported the following:

Infectious Disease Update:

In May 2022, the CDC had released updated guidance regarding COVID-19 and correctional facilities. Delaware County remains in the "medium" transmission rate. Requirements have been modified. Donning of masks is 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 113 incarcerated persons tested utilizing PCR tests in October with 4 positive infections. Currently there are 2 positive cases. There were 553 incarcerated persons who reported that they were previously vaccinated. The current vaccination rate is 45%. There are no confirmed or suspected cases of Monkeypox within the institution.

Monthly Statistics –October 2022:

- Current population: 1,292 incarcerated persons
- The Weekender Program resumed on October 22nd
- The Weekender list typically runs from Friday - Thursday
- Beginning 10/22 – 10/27 there were 12 individuals
- 10/28 – 11/3 there were 45 individuals
- 11/4 – 11/8 there were 64 individuals
- There were 35 individuals scheduled to return on Friday, 11/11
- Total commitments in October: 510
- Total discharges in October: 521
- Increased recreation opportunities have continued throughout the facility during the month of October on 1st and 2nd shift. There were few instances when full recreation wasn't provided
- 10/8/22 1st shift – 7C locked in after 1100 hours
- 10/12/22 2nd shift – 6C no recreation
- 10/13/22 1st shift – 5D and 8B no recreation
- 10/14/22 and 10/15/22 1st and 2nd shift – 6C one cell at a time recreation
- 10/18/22 2nd shift – Unit 6 – 4 cells at a time
- 10/29/22 – 10/31/22 1st and 2nd shift – 7A receives one cell at a time recreation
- Major Incidents: There was a Pod disturbance on Friday, 10/28 (7A)
- Maintained the number of Shakedowns/Pat Searches/Cell Searches were increased, as well as pat searches/cell searches and identified serious contraband 16 times in October.

Training Academy and Staffing:

There were 16 classes who had completed the Cadet Basic Training academy since the transition occurred. Class 922-A and 922-B graduated on 10/21 and 11/4. Class 922-B was sworn in by Honorable Judge Whelan on 11/4. There are two classes beginning in November. The first class will start on 11/14 and the second class begins on 11/28. There was one additional class added to finalize the year that will begin on Monday, 12/12.

Seeking Additional Employees:

George W. Hill is seeking to fill vacant full-time positions as soon as possible. Correctional Officers are hired with a \$2,000 sign on bonus, Director of Internal Affairs, Sergeants as well. Wellpath has vacant positions include a Mental Health Professional and Registered Nurses

Employee of the Month:

Warden Williams has been accepting nominations for employees of the month and awarding 2 employees with recognition each month. There were 2 employees honored and 1 supervisor honored in November. Compliance Manager, Sarah Bowles; Operation Technician, Dan Ryder and Operations Technician, Steve Young. Incentives include parking in the employee of the month designated space, recognition amongst staff and a certificate.

Veterans Day – November 11, 2022:

George W. Hill has 2 employees who are currently serving in the armed forces. Correctional Officer A. Crawford and Wellness Instructor, Greg Beadling. There are multiple staff throughout the ranks of the institution who have served in the military. Currently, there are 25 incarcerated persons who have served in the military. Warden Williams thanked the countless individuals who are providing service to Delaware County and is forever grateful for their service to the nation.

Voting at George W. Hill:

Early in the transition, the League of Women Voters (Delaware County Chapter) had reached out to assist George W. Hill in the Voting process. George W. Hill also partnered with Delaware County Bureau of Elections for resources. There were 201 on-site surveys completed by the I/P population. There were 96 incarcerated persons who had requested a voter registration form and a mail-in ballot. There were 105 incarcerated persons who were already registered and requested a mail-in ballot. Of the 201 requested mail-in ballots, 77 incarcerated persons had submitted completed mail in ballots (38%). Of the 96 persons who had requested voter registration forms, 32 had submitted and completed their voter registration (33%). The League of Women Voters provided training to staff. Voting registration and request for mail-in ballot forms are locate in the law library year-round.

Title 37 – PA Department of Corrections:

On October 27th the PA Department of Corrections and the annual inspection were performed. Pennsylvania Code Title 37, Chapter 95 articulates a set of standards and regulations (minimum) for County Correctional Agencies to apply their policies, procedures, and operations. Preliminary findings will be addressed in a corrective action plan, then a final report will be provided.

Commissary:

By November 20th “iCare” package will be added for friends and family to order for incarcerated persons. There will be 4 different bag sizes ranging from \$30-80. The schedule is still being established in which the additional packages will be offered. The bags include some items that are routinely available on commissary or other items that are not the facility menu.

Cost Recovery Items:

		YTD
Processing Fee	\$28,520.73	\$167,383.18
Damage to Prison Property	\$716.55	\$4,562.30
Medical Visits	\$755.67	\$3,143.24
Postage	\$44.30	\$266.50
Deposit to Inmate Welfare (under \$1.00)	\$4.70	\$29.00
Total Funds Recovered	\$30,041.95	\$175,384.22

Proposal for Holiday Gift Packages – Incarcerated Persons:

Warden Williams proposed to purchase items from Aramark to schedule a “gift packaging day” where facility staff and a group of volunteers will assemble the packages for distribution to the incarcerated population. Warden Williams is seeking to develop 1,400 gift packages that would be approximately \$7.94 per package. The Inmate Welfare Fund would be utilized as the funding source for this initiative. Total expenditure would be \$14,588.00. Motion made by Mr. Corson to support the allocation of the Inmate Welfare Fund expenditures. Seconded by Controller Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposal for Law Library Services:

George W. Hill Correctional Facility has two providers for legal/law library services, Lexis Nexis and Thomson Reuters/Westlaw. Lexis Nexis is available on the tablets. Thomson Reuters/Westlaw has been providing physical law books with a projected 2022 cost of \$193,906.00 from the Inmate Welfare Fund. Thomson Reuters/Westlaw proposed a 5-year agreement to provide online digital access via computer terminals and tablets. The 5-year contract cost per month would be \$8,333.40 with a 5% increase in years 2, 3, 4, 5. Total cost of the 5-year contract would be paid by the Inmate Welfare Fund not to exceed \$552,567.48. Motion made by Mr. Lazarus to approve the expenditure, seconded by Mr. Corson. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposal for Body Scanner:

Body scanners are the first line of defense in correctional institutions. The body scanners allow for contraband detection that may be concealed or internalized for any new commit or court return that were not detected during the pat search process. There are about 14 Pennsylvania county correctional institutions that have body scanners installed or are getting them installed. Total cost for the Tek84 Intercept Body Scanner would be \$142,500.00. Motion made by Mr. Corson to recommend that County Council approve a contract to purchase the body scanners. Seconded by Mr. Lazarus. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposal for Accountability/Monitoring Software:

Warden Williams presented a proposal for Guardian RFID. Guardian RFID provides electronic documentation that allows for increased consistency and compliance to record keeping. Guardian RFID would revolutionize the way that the facility documents tours, safety status, supply distribution, monitoring, administration of meals or medications and much more. This is a sole source item. Total cost for implementation, training, software and hardware would be \$150,100.00. Motion made by Mr. Corson to recommend that County Council approve a contract with Guardian RFID system. Seconded by Ms. Love. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposal for Incarcerated Person Payroll Review:

Incarcerated Persons in George W. Hill Correctional Facility have the opportunity to be reviewed for "employment" while incarcerated. Eligibility criteria for gaining a paid position begins with the case management department after the incarcerated person submits their interest. It has been over 5 years since the "IP Payroll" has been reviewed. The current weekly payroll is budgeted for \$3,480/week (\$180,960.00 annually). Worker positions include Cook, Baker, Sanitation Worker, Intake Runner, Tablet Runner and Barber. Warden Williams proposed a 20% increase to the overall payroll. It will increase the weekly budget to \$4,176/week (\$217,152.00 annually). The funds would be utilized through the Operating cost. Motion made by Controller Phillips to approve a 20% increase to the IP Payroll, seconded by Mr. Corson. Motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Warden Dele Faly provided the following report for October:

Education Programs:

There were 38 students enrolled in GED Preparation class in October with 28 GED tests administered. There were 3 GED's earned in October bringing the year-to-date total to 39.

Flagger Training:

The Flagger training course is taught in Accordance with PENN DOT guidelines and I/Ps must pass the final exam for certification. In October there were 10 I/Ps who had received flagger training.

Spartan Chemicals:

Spartan Chemicals offers programs that train individuals for keeping facilities clean and compliant. There were 16 individuals who had received certification for various modules.

Behavioral Health Update:

There were 78 referrals to inpatient treatment in October. There were 197 doses of Narcan distributed. There were 6 incarcerated persons awaiting 402 orders. There were 5 incarcerated persons awaiting transfer to Norristown State Hospital. There were 2 individuals on the diversion wait list.

Treatment Programs:

There were 96 participants in PREP I and there were 21 participants in PREP II. There were 57 newly enrolled PREP participants in October. There were 2 individuals enrolled in Behavioral Modification and 48 enrolled in Anger Management.

Religious Services:

In October there were 83 individuals who volunteered for Religious Services. There were 15 organization volunteers; 25 I/Ps for Religious In-Person Services and 129 I/Ps who attended Religious Services.

Thresholds:

There were 13 participants in Thresholds with 6 completions in October.

Law Library:

The Law Library provides leisure books, preprinted petitions to the courts, updated books, and treatises (Federal, State and Local Standards), legal search engine (Lexis Nexis) and voter registration materials. There were 256 residents who had requested service in October. There were 137 attendees; 14 for notary services and 10 residents for satellite services.

Wellness:

Wellness classes are offered to the Juvenile population 4 days a week. Wellness plans and exercise demonstrations are offered on a weekly basis. Board games and basketballs are replenished quarterly. There were 5 juvenile participants and 44 adult participants in October.

ViaPath Update:

ViaPath Technologies provides the incarcerated person population communication technologies to connect with friends and family to get free access to educational programming via tablet technology. In October there were 381 scheduled in-person visits and 428 scheduled video visits.

EDOVO Education Learning Management System: EDOVO offers over 20,000 hours of free learning content in academics, jobs in finance, health & recovery, arts & culture, Reentry, and spirituality. Post release, Re-entrants can continue progressing through the EDOVO Education Learning Management System. The post-release service of continued learning is of no charge. There were 68 completed EDOVO courses in October.

Reentry:

The Reentry Case Manager consults with sentenced incarcerated person population to determine community needs after discharge. An individualized packet of community resources is provided prior to release. In October, there were 18 sentenced releases. All 18 individuals had accepted service.

Inside Out Prison Exchange Program: Public Speaking:

The Inside Out Prison Exchange course is designed to introduce the principals of effective public speaking, implemented through the design and presentation through practice in message analysis and evaluation. There were 7 incarcerated learners in October.

General Election Voting Drive:

In partnership with the League of Women Voters and Delaware County Bureau of Elections, the population was provided the opportunity to register to vote and request a mail-in ballot. Voting surveys were distributed to the population and 201 has been completed.

Wellpath Services:

In October there were 1,332 sick calls and acute care performed. There were 3,180 visits for detox/withdrawal. There were 234 chronic care visits, 194 dental visits: 788 visits by Psychology and 562 visits by Psychiatry.

Reentry Coordinator and Programs Administrator, Kelly Shaw noted that through the support of the Public Defenders, the District Attorney and Probation and Parole officers, George W. Hill will be administering its first court stipulated Re-entry Program. In partnership with the University of Pennsylvania the facility will be executing the Goldring Reentry initiative, recognized as GRI. GRI was established in 2011 and is successfully administrated throughout the Philadelphia Department of Prisons. GRI is a continuum of care designed to bridge the service gap between jail and the community. GRI clients will work one on one with a Master of Social Work intern case manager on a weekly basis for approximately 3 months pre-release and 3 months post-release. GRI program directors toured the facility on Tuesday, October 25th. There were 5 Master of Social Work intern case managers assigned to the facility, with an anticipated end of November start date.

Monday, November 7th was the official start date of the First Step Program. The First Step Program is funded through the Pathway Home Grant and provides incarcerated persons supportive services pre and post release to successfully reenter the labor force. Grant funding will support the program over the next two years. There were 9 participants enrolled in the first cohort which will meet 5 days a week for the next 4 weeks. Workshops teach foundational skills, job readiness, employability, digital literacy, and job search strategies. Afterward participants will meet one on one with the behavioral specialist, career coach and business representative with an end goal of obtaining employment within a week of release.