

**BERKS COUNTY JAIL SYSTEM
PRISON BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

June 11, 2025

The Berks County Prison Board met in a regular session on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. at the Berks County Jail System and via Microsoft Teams.

Judge Lash called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

NOTICE:

Public comment will be accepted in person and through the Q&A function. Please include your first name, last name and municipality for all comments. Any comments without name and municipality will not be considered. Each citizen can submit one comment. Comment length is dictated by limitations of the platform being used (Teams Q&A). In person comments will be accepted first, followed by comments submitted virtually. The meeting comment period is limited to a total of 30 minutes including both in person and virtual comments. This time period may be extended at the discretion of the Board. Please be concise. Comments that are germane to County business will be read during the meeting and should not be considered to be interactive dialog with the Board. The County Solicitor shall be the final arbiter of whether a comment is germane and should be read. Any response to public comment will be done at the discretion of the Board.

The following members were in attendance:

Judge Scott Lash joined via Teams
Commissioner Dante Santoni, Jr.
Sheriff Mandy P. Miller joined via Teams
Commissioner Christian Leinbach
Commissioner Michael Rivera
District Attorney John Adams

The following members were not in attendance:

Controller Joe Rudderow

The following County staff were in attendance:

Warden Jeffrey Smith
Deputy Warden Bradley Roberts
Deputy Warden Stephanie Smith
County Solicitor Christine Sadler
Deputy Chief Clerk Jessica Blauser
Chief Operations Officer Kevin Barnhardt
Deputy Chief Operations Officer Larry Medaglia, Jr.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The May 14, 2025, meeting minutes were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No comments.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Jail Senior Staff members gave the following reports:

Warden Report

Today's Population – 716 including 2 Juveniles
(2 housed in Wayne County)

Year To Date:

Average Daily Population – 719 inmates (for May 2025)

Commitments – 1629

Total Discharges – 1597

Inmates Sentenced to an SCI:

24 inmates are sentenced to an SCI.

9 are ready to be transported to an SCI between now and July 3, 2025. 15 inmates are either awaiting a transport date or pending other charges.

Current state of affairs

The jail has discharged 6 individuals who had detainers issued by ICE in the past 30 days. Currently, there are 28 individuals at the jail with an immigration detainer.

In 2020, as a response to COVID, our telephone provider introduced a free communication program that offered a free 5-minute call per week to encourage connections during that time of uncertainty. Their commitment to the program continued for 5 years. The telephone provider notified us that they are changing the program. The change is going from a free call per week to a free call per month.

During that same time of uncertainty, the jail decided to provide the population with (2) free 15-minute video visits on their tablets per week. Initially, we planned to use the video visits to substitute in-person visitation for the safety of everyone.

Even after the restrictions were lifted, we continued to provide these free video visits to supplement in-person visitation. While the telephone provider may be changing their program, the jail plans to continue our video visits. Funding is through the inmate welfare fund (sourced through commission from phone, tablet, and commissary).

Deputy Warden

Custody Report

Staffing Update:

There are currently 12 Correctional Officer vacancies and 4 Sergeant vacancies. We have 2 CO in the Academy with a graduation date of August 20, 2025. The next testing date is June 25, 2025.

Deputy Warden of Treatment Report

Programming Update:

There are currently 86 D roster individuals in custody. This makes up 12% of the total population. The combined C and D active mental health roster makes up 60% of the total population. In May, 17 individuals were eligible for work release per their sentencing order. There was an average Trusty population of 27%, and 8 individuals were newly classified as Trusty.

The PennDOT ID Program received 64 referrals in May, processed 70 applications, received 20 products via mail and 19 vouchers.

As of May 31, 2025, four individuals were waiting to go to Norristown for competency and one is waiting to go for treatment. Two individuals are waiting to go to Wernersville. In May, there were three admissions to Norristown for competency restoration, none for treatment. There were no admissions to Wernersville. The individuals sent to Norristown for competency restoration waited an average of 26 days. There are currently 11 individuals at Norristown; 10 are there for competency restoration and 1 is there for treatment.

Operations Report given by Warden Smith

Project Update:

The tankless water heaters were installed on Units I, J, and K. The restrooms in the lobby and staff breakroom were remodeled. We are waiting for the flooring to be done. Due to the population, we were able to consolidate and close down L unit. We have maintenance personnel repairing and replacing any issues with lighting, plumbing, or security devices. A new freezer was installed in the main kitchen due to the old one failing. We are currently in the process of replacing the warehouse freezer due that having the same issues. We are experimenting with new fitness equipment for our population.

Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report.

Comments from the Prison Board

No comments.

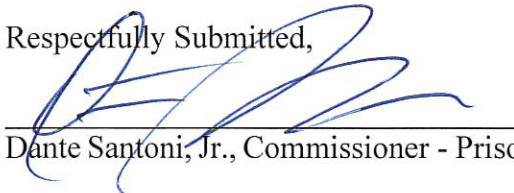
PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Judge Lash adjourned the meeting at 9:07 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dante Santoni, Jr., Commissioner - Prison Board Secretary