

**BERKS COUNTY JAIL SYSTEM
PRISON BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Location: Berks County Jail System and Virtual MS Teams
March 11, 2026**

Judge Scott Lash, Chair
Commissioner Michael Rivera, Vice Chair
Commissioner Dante Santoni, Jr., Secretary
Commissioner Christian Leinbach, Member
Sheriff Mandy Miller, Member
District Attorney John Adams, Member
Controller Joe Rudderow, Member
Christine M. Sadler, Esq., Solicitor

CALL TO ORDER – 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve the February 11, 2026, meeting minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Jail Senior Staff Reports:

Warden Report:

Population Update
Current Affairs

Deputy Warden of Custody Report:

Staffing Update

Deputy Warden of Treatment Report:

Programming Update

Deputy Warden of Operations Report:

Project Update

2. Solicitor Report:

3. Comments from the Prison Board

Next month's meeting, April 8th, will have a criminal justice presentation from key stakeholders.

4. Executive Session

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

2026 Prison Board meeting dates:

April 8th – Commissioners' Boardroom & Teams

May 13th - Commissioners' Boardroom & Teams

June 10th - Berks County Jail & Teams

July 8th – Commissioners' Boardroom & Teams

August 12th – Commissioners' Boardroom & Teams

September 9th - Berks County Jail & Teams

October 14th – Commissioners' Boardroom & Teams

November 18th – Commissioners' Boardroom & Teams

December 9th - Berks County Jail & Teams

2026 POPULATION SUMMARY REPORT

2026	ADP	1201 COUNT	ADMISSIONS	DISCHARGES	W/E	
		TOTALS	TOTALS	TOTALS	+	-
JAN	703	21,766	320	299	3	3
FEB	674	18,845	282	297	3	3
MAR					0	0
APR					0	0
MAY					0	0
JUN					0	0
JUL					0	0
AUG					0	0
SEP					0	0
OCT					0	0
NOV						
DEC						
Y/T/D	ADP	TOTAL DAYS	COMMITMENTS	DISCHARGES	WEEKENDERS	
	688	40,611	602	596	6	6

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

February 11, 2026

The Berks County Prison Board met in a regular session on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 9:00 A.M. via Microsoft Teams Town Hall, pursuant to due notice to Prison Board members and the public.

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

The following members were in attendance:

Judge Scott Lash
Commissioner Dante Santoni, Jr.
Commissioner Michael Rivera
Commissioner Christian Leinbach
Sheriff Mandy P. Miller
Controller Joe Rudderow

The following members were not in attendance:

District Attorney John Adams

The following County staff were in attendance:

Warden Jeffrey Smith
Deputy Warden Stephanie Smith
County Solicitor Christine Sadler
Chief Clerk Jessica Blausen
Chief Operations Officer Kevin Barnhardt

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The January 14, 2026, 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 – 682 including one Juvenile housed in Wayne County

Year To Date:

Average Daily Population – 703 inmates (for January 2026)

Commitments – 400

Total Discharges – 397

Inmates Sentenced to an SCI:

19 are sentenced to an SCI. 16 are ready to be transported to an SCI between now and February 24, 2026, and three are still awaiting a transport date or pending other charges.

Currently, there are 39 individuals at the jail with an immigration detainer. We have discharged 11 to ICE in the last 30 days

Current State of Affairs

The Yoga & Mural program is currently active, with significant participation and positive reception.

Deputy Warden Custody Report

Staffing Update:

There are 24 Correctional Officer vacancies and four Sergeant vacancies. The next academy begins on February 26, 2026, with six cadets and the next CO testing is scheduled for February 23, 2026.

Deputy Warden of Treatment Report

Programming Update:

There are currently 90 D roster individuals in custody. This makes up 13% of the total population. The combined C and D active mental health roster makes up 66% of the total population.

In January, 21 individuals were eligible for work release per their sentencing order.

There was an average Trusty population of 23 and 18 individuals were newly classified as Trusty.

For the month of January, the PennDOT ID Program received 24 referrals, processed nice applications, received ten products from PennDOT and ten vouchers.

As of January 31, 2025, two individuals were waiting to go to Norristown for competency and zero waiting to go for treatment. One individual was waiting to go to Wernersville. In January, one was sent to Norristown for competency restoration and waited 15 days for their bed; zero were sent for treatment. There was one admission to Wernersville who waited 210 days. There are currently nine individuals at Norristown; seven are there for competency restoration and two are there for treatment.

Operations Report

Project Update:

A new water meter is being installed this week at the bottom of the driveway. The downspouts on the mansion have been replaced. The stainless-steel cladding of the showers project is ongoing and still on track for being completed by the end of the year. The next session of in-service training for staff begins on February 17, 2026. Some of the topics being covered are PREA, Autism in Jails, Guardian and security updates.

2. Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report and no executive session is needed

3. Comments from the Prison Board

No comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Crystal Kowalski, Wyomissing, PA, requested the Prison Board to change the Jail policy on ICE detainees and release individuals without notifying ICE.

Judge Scott Lash, Prison Board Chair, commented on the orderly process the Jail staff follows, and noted that the Prison Board previously unanimously approved the policy change to cooperate with ICE and hold individuals with ICE detainees.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Judge Lash adjourned the meeting at 9:13 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Commissioner Dante Santoni, Jr. – Prison Board Secretary