

Warden's Report
August 2022

Warden Laura Williams reported the following:

Coronavirus Update:

Delaware County has been moved to a 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 98 incarcerated persons tested utilizing PCR tests in July with 6 positive infections. Currently there are 2 positive cases. There was an onsite vaccination clinic provided with only 12 incarcerated persons vaccinated. The current vaccination rate is 37%. There were 3 staff members who had tested positive in July. There are 5 staff members within their recovery process of COVID-19.

Current Population: 1,332 incarcerated persons (increase of 12 from last month's meeting)

Weekenders Program remains suspended under Administrative Order until 10/22/22

Total commitments in July: 590

Total discharges in July: 553

Recreation was completed on every housing unit/block every shift during the month of July with few exceptions:

- 7/5/22 2nd shift – Unit 8
- 7/7/22 2nd Shift – Unit 8
- 7/29/22 1st Shift –5B
- 7/31/22 2nd Shift - No units

The number of shakedown were increased from July to August as well as pat searches/cell searches and identified serious contraband 18 times.

Major Incidents:

There were significant power issues on Unit 8 as well as significant challenges with air conditioning on multiple units.

Staffing Updates:

Since the transition occurred, there were 10 classes that have completed the Cadet Basic Training Academy. Last month, class 0622 graduated on 7/15. The 11th class will complete the academy and will graduate with 9 officers on 8/12. The 12th class will complete the academy and will graduate with 4 new officers on 8/26. The 13th class will complete the academy with 11 new officers and will graduate on 9/9. A new class of cadets and support staff began training on 8/1. There is another class scheduled to begin training on 8/29. The remaining classes are scheduled to begin 9/26, 10/24 and 11/28/2022.

Seeking Additional Employees:

Full time employment opportunities are available, and George W. Hill is seeking to fill vacant positions as soon as possible. Correctional Officers are hired with a \$2,000 sign on bonus. George W. Hill is also hiring a Maintenance Technician for 2nd shift. Wellpath is hiring for positions including a Mental Health Professional, RN, a part time MAT Nurse, and LPN.

Employee of the Month:

Since the transition, Warden Williams has been accepting nominations for employees of the month and awarding 2 employees with recognition each month. However, this month it was not limited to just 2. August employees of the month are Fire & Safety Manager, Dan Dewar, LPN Serene Eaddy and Correctional Officer Eugene Jackson. Incentives include Parking in the employee of the month designated space, recognition among staff and a certificate.

Behavioral Health Service Review:

In collaboration with Wellpath, George W. Hill is going to work to increase the capacity of structured services to increase behavioral health outcomes. There will be increased individual and group therapeutic services provided and discussions regarding formal program expansion. Wellpath has already partnered to increase the services to provide medications for Opioid Use Disorder. Dr. Metzner is anticipated to provide a comprehensive facility review August 17 – 19th, 2022

Aramark – Dietary and Commissary:

Warden Williams and staff have been working closely with on-site management staff as well as corporate level representatives to ensure that services are provided in compliance with the contract. Some of the Commissary challenges include supply issues for item availability and delivery due to COVID-19. This further impacts the levels of credits that need to be applied to incarcerated persons accounts. Aramark is looking to increase the commissary menu. A manager is anticipated to start next week that will focus on applying credits within 1 week to all I/Ps.

Dietary challenges include supply issues that have contributed to a limited menu. Staff will work to implement a “seasonal menu” that may assist with the variation in the rotation schedule for special diets. Aramark has agreed to a “special meal” once a month. Last Thursday, hamburgers and French fries were provided at the request from I/Ps.

Education Programs:

There were 25 students enrolled in GED preparation class in July and 29 GED tests administered. There were 3 GED's earned in July, bringing the year-to-date total to 26.

Behavioral Health Update:

There were 69 referrals to inpatient treatment in July as well as 193 dosages of Narcan distributed. There were 8 incarcerated persons awaiting 402 orders. There were 17 incarcerated persons awaiting transfer to Norristown State Hospital. There were 3 individuals on the diversion wait list.

Treatment Programs:

There were 44 participants in PREP I and there were 12 participants in PREP II. There were 19 newly enrolled participants in July.

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 151 residents who had requested Law Library service in July. There were 124 attendees/15 notary services and 8 residents for satellite services.

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 July, there were 18 total sentenced releases. All 18 individuals had accepted service.

ViaPath Update:

ViaPath Technologies provides incarcerated persons communication technologies to connect with friends and family with free access to educational programming via tablet technology. There were 421 scheduled video visits in July and 361 scheduled in person 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. There were learning courses have been successfully completed in the month of May. 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 30 EDOVO completed courses in July.

Wellness:

The Wellness Instructor assists the incarcerated person population in developing and instructing an individualized physical recreation and wellness plan to support and maintain sobriety and an overall healthy lifestyle. In July, there were 7 juvenile participants and 30 adult participants.