

Warden's Report
December 2021

Acting Warden Donna Mellon reported the following:

Current Population: 1,524

County Males: 1,352

County Females: 172

Weekenders/Male: 30

Weekenders Female: 9

Total commitments in November-- 488

Total discharges in November -- 545

Recidivism rate: 59%

Administration Update:

On Monday, December 6th Lisa Mastroddi joined the county team as the Deputy Warden of Administration. Lisa is also the Transition Manager. Ms. Mastroddi's knowledge of the facility is invaluable as the prison transitions to the county.

Major Incidents: Sadly, a 51-year-old female inmate was found unresponsive in her cell on Friday, November 19th at 11:10 PM on a routine tour. Staff and medical responded and provided life saving measures. EMS responded and continued life saving measures, but the inmate was declared deceased at 11:45 PM.

GTL Update:

Video Visitation is from 9:00 am to 11:30 am, in-person visits begin at 12:30 pm each day. The last visits are at 7:30 pm. The Video Visits and in-person visits are scheduled online, two days in advance. There were 624 Video Visits scheduled in November. To date, there were 6,691 video visits scheduled and remain free of charge. Inmate messaging will begin on Monday, December 20th. Friends and family are charged \$0.25 cents per message sent.

We are still working on video visitation on the units. Unfortunately, it becomes complicated to monitor the visits due to staffing shortages.

Behavioral Health Update:

There were 2 residents on the Norristown State Hospital wait list that will be transported later in the week. There were 12 residents on the list who have incompetent evaluations but are awaiting orders or diversion. Ms. Mellon will be attending the next Norristown State Hospital meeting on Monday, December 20th.

Education Programs in November:

Contact teaching continues in small, same unit cohorts. In November, there were 31 GED tests administered with a 45% passing rate for the month. There were 4 GED's earned, bringing the year total to 28. There were 51 students enrolled in GED preparation class. There were 10 participants in Work Place Essential Skills/Computer Literary class.

Thresholds volunteers have received their yearly training and will begin teaching in January.

Treatment Programs:

In November there were 62 participants in PREP I with 15 completions. There were 39 participants in PREP II, with 7 completions. The MAT/Vivitrol Program had 13 (11M/2F) participants with 5 graduates. Currently there are 28 participants in the Vivitrol Program, with 15 males and 13 females.

Maintenance Update:

The new tray washer is operational. As of Monday, December 6th the facility had stopped using Styrofoam trays. The second tray washer will be operational by the end of January. The jail is working with Public Works regarding the heating system. Public Works will be sending out an engineer to review the heating situation regarding the air flow control system and the current HVAC system. They will provide a report on the next steps. Additional blankets have been ordered by GEO.

Other:

Assistant Warden Kelly Shaw saw to it that 2500 holiday cards were delivered to the inmates. To date, 329 cards have been returned. Postage is paid for through the inmate welfare fund. Family and friends can once again order Holiday packs for inmates. Information is posted on the units and the county website. Holiday packs may be ordered from December 15 through January 15, 2022.