

Warden's Report
June 2022

Warden Laura Williams reported the following:

Coronavirus Update:

There were 135 incarcerated persons were tested utilizing PCR tests in May with 1 positive infection. There were 175 new admissions in May who were fully vaccinated, there were 49 individuals who were partially vaccinated. There were 14 staff members who had tested positive. There is 1 staff member currently diagnosed with COVID-19. There were no vaccinations conducted during the month of May. A clinic will be scheduled in June.

Delaware County remains in “high transmission levels for COVID-19” The facility is abiding by recommendations to suspend in-person visits and volunteers currently. It will be reevaluated when transmission levels have decrease. On June 8th the DCHD announced a new COVID-19 testing site in the parking lot of the Delaware County Wellness Center at 125 Chester Avenue in Yeadon. They provide free walk-up and drive thru COVID-19 testing. Hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday’s from 8:30 AM – 3 PM; Saturday’s from 9 am – 1 pm. The site provides rapid antigen testing within 15 minutes and PCR testing with results in 24 hours or less. Appointments are not required but strongly encouraged. The site also provides COVID-19 vaccines as well as boosters. Please visit the Delaware County Health Department website for additional information.

Employees of the month for June:

There were two employees recognized for extraordinary efforts in June. Officer Allen Doue and Maintenance Technician, Joe Grosso.

Officer Allen Doue works diligently to increase safety standards within the facility. He has exceptional situational awareness and has been one of the individuals responsible for recovering large volumes of contraband throughout the facility.

Maintenance Technician Joe Grosso has been tasked with multiple projects as well as identify areas of opportunity within the facility. Mr. Grosso has been critical in the support of the new Director of Maintenance and has worked to assist in the training of another new maintenance technician. The maintenance department is still operating with vacancies and all staff have been dedicated to their duties.

Recreation was provided every day during the month of May. There were 3 total shifts in which recreation was not provided to the full population due to security incidences. The population was afforded recreation opportunities either during the day or evening shift on those dates, but not both shifts. The facility was increasing recreation to allow for the “full block” to come out of their cells. This was halted and reduced to tier recreation or half tier to be consistent with COVID-19 mitigation recommendations and measures.

Current Population: 1,281

County Males: 1,084

County Females: 146

Lodgers: 43

Total commitments in May: 537

Total discharges in May: 527

Weekenders Program is revoked from April 5th – July 21st

Major Incidents:

On Saturday, June 4th there was a loss of life on block 10A. A 34-year-old white man was found unresponsive in his cell. Despite efforts of on-site responding staff and emergency medical response teams, the individual never regained consciousness and was pronounced dead at 13:48 hours. Next of kin have received information related to this event. This incident is under investigative review.

Staffing Updates:

From Friday, April 29 – Friday, May 27th there were 39 officer who had successfully completed the Cadet Basics Training Academy and have been effectively added to the employee roster. On Friday June 17th there will be 8 more cadets graduate and join the rank of officer. Currently there are 13 officers in the cadet academy that started training on Monday June 6th. There are 21 cadets anticipated to begin training on Tuesday July 5th. Individuals continue to be recruited to join the ranks of George W. Hill Correctional Facility.

Education Programs:

There were 29 students enrolled in GED preparation class in May. There were 36 GED tests administered. There were 3 GED's earned, bringing the year-to-date total to 20.

Behavioral Health Update:

There were 59 referrals to inpatient treatment in May, as well as 289 dosages of Naloxone distributed. There were 6 incarcerated persons awaiting 402 orders. There were 3 incarcerated persons awaiting transfer to Norristown State Hospital. There were 4 individuals on the diversion wait list.

Treatment Programs:

There were 41 participants in PREP I and there were 22 participants in PREP II. There were 23 newly enrolled participants in May.

Thresholds:

There were 12 participants enrolled in Thresholds with 2 completions in May. Thresholds is a six-step program that serves both men and women with a seven-week decision making program organized into six complementary Micro (teacher-client) meetings in the Visitation Room.

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 283 residents who had requested Law Library service in May. There were 145 attendees/14 notary services and 10 residents for satellite services.

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 May, there were 9 juvenile participants and 38 adult participants.

ViaPath Update:

Video Visits continue to be offered. As of May 20th, in-person visits were suspended to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in the facility. The go live 1 to 1 implementation for tablets has been extended. Security staff have completed tablet training. The tablets have been provisioned to appropriate housing units and the access points have been replaced and are up and running. There were 449 video visits scheduled in May. There were 261 in-person visits. Video Visits continue to remain free of charge. Video Visits and in-person visits must be scheduled online, 2 days in advance/no more than 7 days in advance. In-person visits will be conducted between 12:30 pm and 8:00 pm, Monday thru Friday. Video visits will be available between 9 am and 12 pm.

The EDOVO Education Learning Management System is up and running on the tablets. It offers over 20,000 hours of free learning content in academics, jobs in finance, health & recovery, arts & culture, Reentry, and spirituality. There were 83 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.

Reentry:

In May, there were 16 sentenced incarcerated persons were released. All individuals who had accepted Reentry service and received an individualized resource packet, including 5 completions of the Compass application. Compass is public assistance for healthcare, food and nutrition which is activated the day of release. Community service provider Work Readiness Workshops are on hold, due to the uptick of COVID-19 in the community. The EDOVO learning system provides 70 career and finance courses.

Penn State Brandywine will be hosting a public speaking college course on site for the fall of 2022 semester. The program will include 10 college students and 10 incarcerated learners that will meet weekly on site to learn how to effectively public speak and craft presentations for a target audience. Upon successful completion of the course incarcerated learners will earn 3 college credits to Philadelphia Community College. Ms. Shaw thanked Mr. King for connecting the Reentry team to additional Reentry field experts. Ms. Shaw looks forward to further collaboration with the Reentry field experts.