

Warden's Report  
September 2022

Warden Laura Williams reported the following:

Coronavirus Update:

In May 2022, the CDC had released updated guidance regarding COVID-19 and correctional facilities. Delaware County remains in the "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 95 incarcerated persons tested utilizing PCR tests in August, with 6 positive infections. Currently there are 6 positive cases. Unit 9 is under quarantine status and will be reviewed 9/14. Visits have been temporarily suspended on this unit. The current vaccination rate is 40%. There were 11 staff members tested in August, with 4 staff members currently within the recovery process of COVID-19.

Monthly Statistics – August 2022:

- The current population: 1,324 incarcerated persons.
- The Weekender Program remains suspended until October 22 under Administrative Order.
- Total commitments in August: 598
- Total discharges in August: 598
- Increased recreation opportunities have been expanded throughout the facility. On Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, full housing units were provided with recreation throughout the day and evening shift.
- Major Incidents: There was a phone outage for approximately 4 days during the month of August. The outage prohibited opportunities to connect with family as well as order commissary. Gift packs/commissary were provided to the entire population as staff worked to resolve the issue.
- Maintained the number of Shakedown/Pat Searches/Cell Searches were increased, as well as pat searches/cell searches and identified serious contraband 12 times.

Training Academy and Staffing:

Since the transition occurred there were 13 classes who have completed the Cadet Basic Training Academy. Class 0822-A completed the academy and graduated on 9/9 with 11 new officers. A new class of cadets and support staff began training on August 29<sup>th</sup>. There was another class of cadets that began on Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. The remaining classes are scheduled to begin on 9/26, 10/10, 10/24 and 11/28.

Seeking Additional Employees:

George W. Hill is seeking to fill vacant full-time positions as soon as possible. Correctional Officers are hired with a \$2,000 sign on bonus, hiring for Sergeants and a Maintenance Technician as well. Wellpath is hiring for positions including a Mental Health Professional and Registered Nurse.

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. September employees of the month are: Correctional Officer, Mohammed Sowa-Turay; Case Manager, Michael Heneghan and Purchasing Coordinator, Zakiyyah Butler. Incentives include Parking in the employee of the month designated space, recognition among staff and a certificate.

Ice Cream Social:

Delaware County sponsored an "ice cream social" on Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. There was a Mister Softee truck on campus and employees were able to choose from a selection of options. The organization left behind frozen treats for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> shift staff for recognition.

Cost Recovery Items:

	August	YTD
Processing Fee	\$35,288.47	\$105,214.83
Damage to Prison Property	\$265.19	\$3,673.20
Medical Visits	\$694.36	\$1,711.74
Postage	\$46.70	\$196.97
Deposits to Inmate Welfare	\$5.72	\$18.59
Total Funds Recovered	\$36,300.44	\$110,815.33

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. The master list of available commissary items has been received. Aramark has solicited a list of items for I/P who have submitted additional requests and will be expanding the menu after final review. Aramark has also updated dietary menus to increase access to vegetables and fruit. During the past month, there was a “special meal” of personal pan pizzas were provided to the incarcerated population.

Tablet Systems – ViaPath (formerly GTL):

Tablets were distributed during the week of August 8<sup>th</sup> to increase the availability of tablets for 1:1 ratio. ViaPath is evaluating the next steps to determine how coverage (wireless connection) can be increased to provide in-cell coverage more consistently. ViaPath is evaluating the current utilization of the tablets with the programs/services are accessed the most to determine what should be made available. Warden Williams is evaluating the contracted costs and has met with ViaPath to discuss what options are most equitable.

Approval to Purchase:

Warden Williams sought quotes for Activity Centers, Pull up Bars and Visitation Chairs. Total cost for the Activity Centers and Pull Up Bars would be \$68,810.00. Total cost for the Visitation Chairs is \$36,807.40. Though the bid is more than the previous quote received, the preferred vendor did not follow the procurement procedure to submit for consideration. The purchase would be made through the Inmate Welfare Fund, which currently has \$3.88 million. Motion made by Controller Phillips to purchase the fitness equipment by utilizing the Inmate Welfare Fund, seconded by Mr. Corson. Motion carried unanimously. Motion made by Ms. Love to approve the purchase of the Visitation Chairs, seconded by Mr. Lazarus. Motion carried unanimously.

Behavioral Health Services Review:

Warden Williams noted that Dr. Metzner was contracted to provide a comprehensive facility and services review from August 17-19. Dr. Metzner has provided a summary of his experience and made recommendations to staff and is identifying areas for renovation and modifications to cells for “suicide proofing”; Adjusting the current staffing matrix within the healthcare contract to increase the availability of services and support relating to psychiatry and mental health needs; as well as additional training for specialized management units.

Professional Services Agreement – Deputy Miller:

Deputy Warden Michele Miller served as an Interim Deputy Warden of Security from 5/31-8/16/22. Deputy Warden Miller delivered services including a completed facility vulnerability assessment. Warden Miller also provided direct supervision and professional development for the Major of Security Operations, Major of Training Operations, Captain, Shift Commanders/Lieutenants. Deputy Warden Portillo began on August 8<sup>th</sup> and has worked side by side with Deputy Warden Miller to ensure that a transfer of duties would be properly managed. Deputy Portillo provides unique experience and has identified areas of opportunity since he has come on board.

#### Education Programs:

There were 20 students enrolled in GED preparation class in August and 34 GED tests administered. There were 3 GED's earned in August, bringing the year-to-date total to 32.

#### Behavioral Health Update:

There were 78 referrals to inpatient treatment in August as well as 202 dosages of Narcan distributed. There were 7 incarcerated persons awaiting 402 orders. There were 15 incarcerated persons awaiting transfer to Norristown State Hospital. There were 2 individuals on the diversion wait list.

#### Treatment Programs:

There were 76 participants in PREP I and there were 30 participants in PREP II. There were 82 newly enrolled participants in August.

#### 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 286 residents who had requested Law Library service in August. There were 121 attendees: 20 for notary services and 13 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 August, there were 17 total sentenced releases. All 17 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. ViaPath online visit scheduling was disrupted Thursday, 8/18 thru Wednesday, 8/24. During the lapse, in-person visits were accommodated. There were 391 scheduled in person visits in August with 379 scheduled video 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. 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 195 EDOVO completed courses in August.

#### 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 August, there were 16 juvenile participants and 33 adult participants.

#### Inside Out Prison Exchange Program Fall 2022 Semester:

Pennsylvania State University Brandywine hosts Public Speaking for Social Issues at George W. Hill Correctional Facility. The course is designed to introduce the principles of effective public speaking implemented through the design and presentation of individual presentations and through practice in message analysis and evaluation. In August there were 9 incarcerated learners.

#### Grant Opportunity Update:

Ms. Shaw reported that the Pathway Home Grant provides justice involved incarcerated adults with critical skill building and supportive services prior to and after release so they can re-enter their communities and the labor force. A kickoff meeting with EDSI Delaware County Workforce Development Board was held on August 18<sup>th</sup>. EDSI has extended offers for the position of Peer Mentor and Business Service Representative. A Peer Mentor will coach, guide and support pre and post release participants. The Business Service Representative will work with employers and provide work-based learning opportunities for the program.

Delaware County Workforce Development Board identified a Program Coach. The Program Coach will provide assessment and case management pre and post release. There has been a workspace identified at George W. Hill for a fulltime facilitator and are collaborating with EDSI and a referral for clients. The first cohort is expected to begin in October.

Delaware County Community College was chosen to participate in the Federal Pell Grant Program, identified as the Second Chance Pell Grant. The program will provide incarcerated individuals with access to high quality post-secondary education. Program staff met with Delaware County Community College, Dean McFadden, and associates. There was an official kick off meeting held on August 16<sup>th</sup>. In partnership with the college, George W. Hill plans to provide credited, non-credited and certificate course opportunities to provide a pathway to sustainable employment. Ms. Shaw is hopeful to have an outline next month. The goal is to have the course running during spring semester, 2023.

Ms. Shaw mentioned the Inside Out Program. The first public speaking class kicked off August 30<sup>th</sup>. There were 9 inside students (incarcerated learners) and 9 outside students (DCCC). At week 3 of the 2022 semester, feedback has been nothing but positive. Class is every Tuesday evening. Ms. Shaw thanked Mr. Madden for his support with the Inside Out Program.