

Public Safety Committee (DOC/Garner) Minutes
Regular Meeting – Sept. 3, 2019 at 5:00 pm
Newtown Municipal Center (Meeting Room #1)
3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT

Members Present: First Selectman Daniel C. Rosenthal, Warden Amonda Hannah, Neil Chaudhary, Bruce Clark, Jay Mattegat, Joy Previdi, Chief Viadero

Also Present: one member of the press

Absent: Patrick Reilly, Stephen Sedensky

First Selectman Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Public Participation: none.

Minutes: Mr. Chaudhary moved to accept the minutes of June 4, 2019. Warden Hannah seconded. Warden Amonda corrected paragraph one noting incident reports are eighty on average, paragraph two corrected the District Administrator's name to Scott Erfe and paragraph three corrected the administrative segregation to phase 2 & 3. All in favor of the minutes as amended.

Warden's Report:

The current population at the Garner Correctional Facility is 560 which includes 145 un-sentenced and 415 sentenced. There are twelve Level 5 inmates, eight are in the phase 2 & 3 program, housed in a restricted unit; the other four overall Level 5 inmates, with a mental health score of 4, are housed in Mental Health Units. There are 443 Level 4 inmates, 66 Level 3 inmates, 34 Level 2 inmates and 5 Level 1 inmates. There are 20 level 5 mental health inmates; these are acutely ill inmates housed in the infirmary. There are 252 Level 4 mental health, 85 Level 3, 138 Level 2 and 65 Level 1. Level 3 and below are general population inmates. There are 275 General Population inmates and 285 Mental Health inmates.

There have been 90 incidence per month.

Officer staffing is at approximately 85%; 18 cadets graduated on August 2 and are split between second and third shift. Two officers were transferred to the State Police, one officer transferred to another facility, three Lieutenants transferred out, two counselors transferred to a parole unit and a treatment officer transferred out. One Lieutenant transferred in and one treatment officer transferred in. Two Lieutenants, two Captains and three treatment officers were promoted. There was one retirement and one dismissal of a new officer on a test period.

Ms. Previdi commented that when the prison initially opened the Town was told there would never be Level 5 inmates. Warden Hannah explained that the Super Max facility closed housing units, the population decreased. Level 2 & 3 inmates required Administrative Segregation. It was decided that AS would be done at a different facility, as it would be more conducive or amenable to their treatment. There is specialized training for officers and supervisors dealing with Level 5 inmates. If the mental health score of a Level 5 inmate is a 4 it overrides the Administrative Segregation status and they have to be housed at Garner. Garner is the only facility in the state that houses mental health Level 4 inmates. Phase 2 & 3 get certain privileges. Level 5, Phase 3 inmates are being integrated back into general population; they get to eat in the day room and comeingle and recreate with each other. Phase 2 are always restrained, Phase 3 are not always restrained but are always escorted. They are all maintained within the housing unit; they do not intermingle with general population. Level 5 inmates can become Level 4 inmates and are have special monitoring and are scrutinized for six months. Inmates do not enter Garner at Level 5, they become Level 5 after committing a violent assault on staff or other inmates or cause a major disturbance. The majority of inmates in the program have assaulted staff. The majority of un-sentenced are mental health 4.

The inmates have not yet received tablets but a contract has been signed with a vendor. The goal is for each inmate to have a table. Inmates or family of inmates can purchase apps. The vendor will monitor all activity. They can email staff but will have no access to social media or outside emails. There will be a kiosk to charge the tablets and load updates. The hope is to keep inmates busy with the tablets to keep them from acting aggressively toward staff and other inmates. There will be an internal policy relative to the tablets. If placed in restrictive housing inmates will lose tablet privileges.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next meeting is December 3, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business the committee voted unanimously to adjourn their special meeting 5:26 p.m.

Susan Marcinek, clerk