



Fayette County Jail
McClellandtown Road
Uniontown, Pennsylvania
15401

Jail Board of Inspectors

Sheriff James Custer (Chair)
Commissioner Scott Dunn
Commissioner Vincent A. Vicites
Commissioner Dave Lohr
Judge Stephen Leskinen
District Attorney Michael Aubele
Controller Robb Rhodes

Minutes

Fayette County Jail Board of Inspectors

July 30, 2025, Regular Meeting

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Fayette County Jail Board took place on Wednesday, July 30, 2025. It was held in the Jail Conference Room at the Fayette County Jail, as well as virtually via ZOOM.

The meeting was **Called to Order** at 9:15 am by Commissioner Scott Dunn.

At **Roll Call**, the following members were present and constituted a quorum: Sheriff Custer, Commissioner Scott Dunn, Commissioner Vicites, Commissioner Harry Kaufman, District Attorney Michael Aubele entered at 9:30 AM during I.G.N.I.T.E, Judge Leskinen entered at 9:33 during personnel. Absent Controller Robert Rhodes.

Also present: Solicitor Jack Purcell, Adult Probation Officer Britt, Juvenile Probation Officer Leroy Townsend, HR Director Cristi Spiker, Jail HR personnel Mel Metts-Patty, Mary Over - Chief of Staff for Commissioners Vicites, Dunn and Kaufman.

Sheriff Custer led the **Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance**.

Public Comment on Agenda Items :

None

Approval of Minutes of June 25, 2025 Regular Meeting

Moved by **Commissioner Kaufman** and seconded by **Commissioner Scott Dunn** to approve the meeting minutes with noted corrections of June 25, 2025, Regular meeting.

Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Sheriff Custer	Aye
Motion Carried	4-0
Unanimously	

Approval of July 2025 Bills

Moved by **Commissioner Kaufmann** and seconded by **Commissioner Dunn** to approve **July 2025** bills.

Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Sheriff Custer	Aye
Motion Carried	4-0
Unanimously	

Warden Population Report for July 2025

Warden Lenkey reported that as of today, there are a total of **251** inmates, with **206** males and **45** females. **Five adult** inmates are currently housed outside of Fayette County with **One** male at Washington, **One** male and **One** female at Torrence, and **One** male at Somerset and **One** of their males here. We are also housing **One male** at Washington and **Two** of their females here. Also, there is **One** male juvenile at Lawrence County and **One** juvenile male at SCI Pine Grove and **One** male at Lawrence County. Currently housing 9 Male federal inmates (included in total inmate count)

Adult Probation - Intermediate Punishment Program Report

Adult Probation Officer Josh Britt reported that for the month of June 2025, there were a total of 263 active offenders on probation, resulting in 6,112 incarceration days saved. There were 43 electronic monitoring (EM) installations.

Juvenile Probation

Juvenile Probation Officer reported that there are currently 11 juveniles in placement, 3 electronic monitoring (EM) installations, and 1 juvenile on house arrest for pre-trial. 7 juveniles in detention.

Courts

Judge Leskinen raised a question regarding the transfer of inmates who are awaiting trial but have already received a state sentence. The main concern is determining when to send these inmates back to their home prison versus keeping them in the jail. The decision hinges on comparing the costs of maintaining the inmate in custody and the expenses involved in transporting them. A key issue is knowing how long these individuals will be held.

Commissioner Dunn expressed the need for a policy that would involve the Public Defenders' office to develop a strategy to address this concern. Additionally, there was a discussion about transporting inmates to the courthouse for meetings with their public defenders, with Sheriff Custer highlighting the difficulty in moving inmates solely for these discussions, noting that such meetings could efficiently take place at the jail.

CYS

Nothing new to report.

Drug and Alcohol

Brian Reese reported that the case management unit continues to do weekly assessments at the jail. On the outpatient side, there was some turnover, which resulted in an open position that should

be filled soon. The treatment supervisor has left, resulting in Brian currently handling all treatments. Eva Vanswearing has been promoted to lead counselor until Angela's replacement is found. DUI supervisor Bill Miller's wife tragically died and will be off for two weeks. Continuing with crins and crins in the jail. Nothing has been interrupted. Brian Reese reported that the case management unit continues to conduct weekly assessments at the jail. There has been some turnover on the outpatient side, resulting in an open position that is expected to be filled soon. The treatment supervisor has left, so Brian is currently managing the treatment aspect. Eva Vanswearing has been promoted to lead counselor until Angela's replacement is found.

DUI supervisor Bill Miller is currently off for two weeks due to the tragic passing of his wife. Despite this, all services, including CRINS, are continuing without interruption. If anyone needs to schedule a CRIN, they can reach out to Pam or Amy for assistance.

Looking ahead, International Overdose Day will be observed on August 28, and Melissa will distribute flyers with details next week. Additionally, a recovery walk is scheduled for September, with more information to be shared soon. Melissa also wanted to remind everyone that if anyone requires Narcan, Detera, xylazine, or fentanyl testing strips, they should feel free to contact her or Brian. Reach out to Pam or Amy, and they will schedule a Crin as needed. International Overdose Day will be held on August 28. Melissa will be getting out flyers with details next week. A recovery walk is scheduled for September. More details to follow regarding the walk. Melissa wanted to give a reminder if anyone needs Narcan, Detera, xylazine, or fentanyl testing strips, to reach out to her or Brian.

Old / New Business

Fayette County Community Action - Jessica Hajek-Bates

Received approval from the Department of Justice to launch the re-entry program starting in September. Positions will be posted today on the Community Actions Website, which includes a full-time Adult Education instructor and two case workers based at the jail. There are funds within the grant to bring in outside educators for classes. Details of the final contracts are still being worked on.

One provider will use virtual reality headsets for training, allowing participants to earn up to three job-specific certifications. Discussions are ongoing with a local college to provide basic college courses at the jail. We are currently assessing numbers and pricing to ensure it aligns with the grant's feasibility. Additionally, a local employer is set to conduct a week-long training for their new hires.

Jessica is hopeful that at the next meeting, there will be more information available about the contracted providers. The reentry strategic plan, led by the coalition at Fayette County Community Action, is ready for a final review with the nine category champions before submission. The aim is to present the final draft to the commissioners for approval at the September meeting.

Work release opportunity for Oak Grove Cemetery - Commissioner Kaufman

Commissioner Kaufman had a phone call with Mark Altman, the head of Oak Grove Cemetery, where Mark expressed that they are facing limitations in both funds and assistance. He inquired about the possibility of obtaining a work release program to help with maintaining the cemetery located next to the jail on Rt. 40. Commissioner Kaufman will provide Mark's contact information to the Warden for further follow-up. The Warden mentioned that this maintenance work would need to be carried out by the "trustees," individuals who have outside clearance. Warden

Lenkey and Commissioner Kaufman plan to discuss this matter in more detail during their upcoming meeting at the jail.

IGNITE

The warden indicated that I.G.N.I.T.E is currently on summer break. The summer semester was canceled due to vacations and time off from staff and community partners. Classes will resume in September and continue through December, marking a semester with the largest number of community members involved so far. Sheriff Custer shared that he attended the National Sheriff Conference in Florida last month with Warden Lenkey, Captain Eicher, and Deputy Warden Kern, where they were invited to present on the I.G.N.I.T.E program. Additionally, Sheriff Custer noted that the Fayette County Jail is on the brink of celebrating its very first GED graduate, with two inmates set to graduate. Warden Lenkey confirmed a graduation ceremony with cap and gown will be held, which will be semi-internal.

Personnel

Moved by **District Attorney Auble** and seconded by **Commissioner Dunn** to approve the **hiring** of Part-Time Corrections Officer, Travelle Stone, starting rate of \$20.00 per hour, effective July 14, 2025.

Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Kaufman	Aye
Sheriff Custer	Aye
Motion Carried	5-0
Unanimously	

Moved by **District Attorney Auble** and seconded by **Commissioner Dunn** to approve the **hiring** of Part-Time Corrections Officer, Talon Miller, starting rate of \$20.00 per hour, effective July 14, 2025.

Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Kaufman	Aye
Sheriff Custer	Aye
Motion Carried	5-0
Unanimously	

Moved by **District Attorney Auble** and seconded by **Commissioner Dunn** to approve the **resignation** of Full-Time Corrections Officer Michael Toner, effective July 23, 2025.

Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Kaufman	Aye
Sheriff Custer	Aye
Motion Carried	5-0
Unanimously	

Moved by **District Attorney Aubele** and seconded by **Commissioner Dunn** to approve the **resignation** of Full-Time Corrections Officer Eric Shipley, effective June 24, 2025.

Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Kaufman	Aye
Sheriff Custer	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Motion Carried	6-0
Unanimously	

Moved by **District Attorney Aubele** and seconded by **Commissioner Dunn** to approve the **resignation** of Part-Time Corrections Officer Olivia Kelly, effective July 24, 2025.

Commissioner Vicites	Aye
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Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Sheriff Custer	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Motion Carried	6-0
Unanimously	

Moved by **District Attorney Aubele** and seconded by **Commissioner Dunn** to approve the **resignation** of Part-Time Corrections Officer Eddie Bryant, effective July 25, 2025.

Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Sheriff Custer	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Motion Carried	6-0
Unanimously	

Moved by **District Attorney Aubele** and seconded by **Commissioner Dunn** to ratify the **promotion** of Part-Time Corrections Officer Michael Zuzak to Full-Time Corrections Officer, starting rate of \$22.00 an hour, \$45,760.00 annually, effective July 30, 2025.

Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Sheriff Custer	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Motion Carried	6-0
Unanimously	

Moved by **District Attorney Aubele** and seconded by **Commissioner Dunn** to ratify the **promotion** of Part-Time Corrections Officer Michael Hart to Full-Time Corrections Officer, starting rate of \$22.00 an hour, \$45,760.00 annually, effective July 30, 2025.

Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Sheriff Custer	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Motion Carried	6-0
Unanimously	

Moved by **District Attorney Aubele** and seconded by **Commissioner Dunn** to ratify the **promotion** of Part-Time Corrections Officer Joshua Odum to Full-Time Corrections Officer, starting rate of \$22.00 an hour, \$45,760.00 annually, effective July 30, 2025.

Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Sheriff Custer	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Motion Carried	6-0
Unanimously	

Executive Session

None

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Moved by **District Attorney Aubele** and seconded by **Judge Leskinen** to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Sherif Custer	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Motion Carried	6-0
Unanimously	

Meeting adjourned at **9:52** a.m.