



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
August 27, 2025, Regular Meeting

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Fayette County Jail Board took place on Wednesday, August 27, 2025. It was held in the Commissioners Conference Room at the Fayette County Courthouse, as well as virtually via ZOOM.

The meeting was **Called to Order** at 9:19 am by Sheriff James Custer.

At **Roll Call**, the following members were present and constituted a quorum: Sheriff James Custer, Commissioner Scott Dunn, Commissioner Vince Vicites, Commissioner Harry Kaufman, Controller Rob Rhodes, Judge Leskinen entered at 9:25 AM, and District Attorney Michael Aubele entered at 9:26 AM during the Juvenile Probation report. *Note: District Attorney Mike Aubele was in and out during the meeting and didn't participate in any votes.

Also present: Solicitor Jack Purcell, Warden John Lenkey, Adult Probation Officer Britt, Juvenile Probation Officer Leroy Townsend, HR Director Cristi Spiker, Jail HR personnel Mel Patty, Fayette Drug and Alcohol Melissa Farris, 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 July 30, 2025, Regular Meeting

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Kaufman** to approve the meeting minutes of July 30, 2025, Regular meeting.

Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Sheriff Custer	Aye

**Motion Carried
Unanimously**

5-0

Approval of August 2025 Bills

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Kaufman** to approve the **August 2025** bills.

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

Warden Population Report for August 2025

Warden Lenkey reported that as of today, there are a total of **237** inmates, with **197** males and **40** females. **One** male at Washington and we have **One** of their male inmates and **Two** females here; **One** male and **One** female being held at Torrence; **One** male at Somerset and we have **One** of their male inmates here; **One** male juvenile at SCI Pine Grove; **One** male juvenile at Lawrence County; **Eight** male Federal Inmates, which are included in the total inmate count.

Commissioner Dunn questioned about the billing for the Federal Inmates and whether we have received a payment yet. Warden Lenkey stated that a check was just deposited into the account for the first month of holding Federal Inmates.

Adult Probation - Intermediate Punishment Program Report

Adult Probation Officer Britt reported that for July 2025, there were a total of 260 active offenders on probation, resulting in 6,245 incarceration days saved. There were 65 electronic monitoring (EM) installations, and 18 disconnects.

Juvenile Probation

Juvenile Probation Officer Townsend reported that there are currently 12 juveniles in placement.

Commissioner Dunn sought to inform the board regarding the county's own juvenile facility. A tour of the facility was conducted a few weeks ago, and it has undergone significant renovations, resulting in an appearance that closely resembles a new building. The facility staff are in the process of hiring a director and anticipate that the facility will be operational by either September or October. Furthermore, Uniontown High School will be providing virtual educational services for juveniles placed at this facility.

Courts

Judge Leskinen had nothing new to report.

CYS

None present

Drug and Alcohol

Director Melissa Ferris reported that case management services are currently being maintained at the jail. Plans are underway to expand these services to include additional recovery support and treatment, as adequate staffing has now been achieved. She announced that International Overdose Awareness Day will occur on August 28, 2025, with an event organized to commemorate individuals who have lost their lives to overdose. The program will feature two speakers who will share their experiences regarding the loss of loved ones to addiction, concluding with an individual who will present their personal recovery story to convey a message of hope. Director Ferris expressed her gratitude to the Commissioners for allocating funds from the Opioid Settlement Fund to facilitate this event, along with the associated recovery walk. The recovery walk is scheduled for Tuesday, August 23rd, to avoid conflicts with other walks taking place on Saturdays in August and September. The event will be hosted at Yough River Park, with registration commencing at 5:00 PM and the walk beginning at 5:30 PM.

Old / New Business

Nothing new to report

IGNITE

Warden Lenkey reported that the upcoming fall semester will be the largest in the institution's history, drawing significant interest from community members eager to participate in the IGNITE program. The scheduling process is currently underway, accommodating two different banks that wish to engage during this period. This semester is particularly intensive, necessitating substantial preparatory work, with classes set to commence on September 23, 2025.

Sheriff Custer subsequently introduced the Vehicles for Change initiative, which is part of Community Action. It was highlighted that Jessica Bates from Community Action secured a federal grant for the Vehicles for Change program, which has recently partnered with the National Sheriffs' Association. This initiative will incorporate virtual reality training, enabling inmates to acquire certification as mechanics and to perform tasks such as oil changes, brake jobs, and tire replacements. This program will mark a significant milestone, as we will be the first correctional facility in the state to implement it.

Warden Lenkey extended appreciation to Heartland Fabrications, a barge construction company in Brownsville, PA, for its collaboration with the jail. They have established a second-chance program, embodying the belief that every individual deserves an opportunity for redemption. Representatives from Heartland Fabrications will visit to provide training and showcase the onboarding process for prospective employees. We are actively exploring options for integrating virtual reality and identifying suitable tools that can be utilized within the jail environment for this training.

HR Director Cristi Spiker noted that while the IGNITE Program effectively equips inmates with various vocational skills, there remains a challenge once they are released, as many struggle to secure employment and may revert to behaviors that led to their incarceration. To address this, Cristi proposed that the County establish ten part-time positions designated for IGNITE graduates, akin to the existing roles within the organization. Upon successful completion of the interview process, these individuals would be recommended for immediate integration into the County payroll following their release. We intend to collaborate with a local bank to facilitate check cashing for these newly employed individuals.

Once reintegrated into the workforce, they would no longer require a guard presence, as they would be treated as standard employees under ordinary employment protocols. In instances of underperformance, the standard termination process would apply. To ensure their success, we would exercise meticulous oversight regarding their assignments for a period of 90 days. Commissioner Dunn emphasized that if these individuals demonstrate consistency, reliability, and a strong work ethic, the County will provide a letter of recommendation to further support their employment endeavors. Warden Lenkey remarked that this initiative would be a pioneering endeavor within the County. It is noteworthy that the funding for payroll associated with this program would be sourced entirely from a grant, thereby presenting no financial burden to the County.

Personnel

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Kaufman** to ratify the **hiring** of Part-Time Corrections Officer, Jessica Bowers, at a starting rate of \$20.00 an hour, effective August 18, 2025.

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

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Kaufman** to ratify the **hiring** of Part-Time Corrections Officer, Charles Conner, at a starting rate of \$20.00 an hour, effective August 18, 2025.

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

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Kaufman** to ratify the **hiring** of Part-Time Corrections Officer William Carpeal at a starting rate of \$20.00 an hour, effective August 18, 2025.

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

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Kaufman** to ratify the **hiring** of Part-Time Corrections Officer Austin Haught at a starting rate of \$20.00 an hour, effective August 18, 2025.

Commissioner Vicites	Aye
Commissioner Dunn	Aye

Sheriff Custer	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Motion Carried	6-0
Unanimously	

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Kaufman** to ratify the **hiring** of Part-Time Corrections Officer Aaron Piszczek at a starting rate of \$20.00 an hour, effective August 18, 2025.

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

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Kaufman** to ratify the **hiring** of Part-Time Corrections Officer Antonio Allen to Full-Time Corrections Officer, starting rate of \$20.00 an hour, effective August 18, 2025.

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

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Kaufman** to ratify the **hiring** of Part-Time Corrections Officer Antonio Allen to Full-Time Corrections Officer, starting rate of \$20.00 an hour, effective August 18, 2025.

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

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Kaufman** to ratify the **promotion** of Full-Time Corrections Officer Karley Domen to Sergeant, starting rate of \$25.94 an hour, \$53,955.20 effective July 30, 2025.

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

Executive Session

Moved by **Sheriff Custer** and seconded by **Commissioner Vicites** to enter Executive Session at 9:52 a.m. to discuss personnel issues.

Commissioner Kaufman	Aye
Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Controller Rhodes	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Motion Carried	6-0
Unanimously	

Moved by **Sheriff Custer** and seconded by **Commissioner Vicites** to leave Executive Session at 10:12 a.m. and return to Regular Meeting session.

Commissioner Kaufman	Aye
Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Controller Rhodes	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Motion Carried	6-0
Unanimously	

Upon returning to Regular Session, Sheriff Custer reported that 1 personnel issue was discussed with the following actions being taken:

Moved by **Commissioner Dunn** and seconded by **Controller Rhodes** to approve personal leave of absence for Kris Upole effective August 29, 2025, through December 31, 2025.

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

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Moved by **Controller Rhodes** and seconded by **Commissioner Vicites** to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Dunn	Aye
Commissioner Kaufman	Aye
Judge Leskinen	Aye
Sheriff Custer	Aye

**Motion Carried
Unanimously**

6-0

Meeting adjourned at **10:13** a.m.