

Allegheny County Juvenile Detention Board of Advisors

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 16, 2026 | 4:00 PM

Location: Human Services Building

Call to Order

Dr. Mulvey called the meeting to order.

Attendance

Board Members present: Dr. Edward Mulvey (Chair); Hon. Jennifer McCrady; County Executive Sara Innamorato; Starry Joy Ray (Controller's Office designee); Dr. Terri Dilmore

Board Members Not in Attendance: Kristy Trautmann (Secretary); Hon. Tiffany Sizemore; Dr. Kathi Elliot; Cheyenne Tyler; Richard Garland

Quorum not present.

County Representation: County Manager, John Fournier; Interim Department of Human Services Director, Alex Jutca; DHS Senior Liaison Juvenile Detention, Raymond Robinson

Approval of Minutes

Quorum was not present to approve May 2026 meeting minutes.

Updates and Reports

Follow-Ups from May Meeting

Response to board questions about safety protocols associated with UPMC health services:

- UPMC provides safety response training but they do not use physical interventions at Highland. If a physical intervention would be needed for safety reasons, Adelphoi staff would the intervention.
- There are no cameras in exam rooms, which are used for both physical and behavioral health. Future renovations will include dedicated behavioral health space.

Response to board question about parental notification when youth are transferred to another facility:

- Probation informs parents when youth are en route. The provider notifies parents upon arrival.

Response to inquiry about community partnerships:

- Adelphoi open to having a process, within existing space and capacity limitations. Mr. Robinson will propose a process for initiating and coordinating new community partnerships.

Response to inquiry about educational continuity:

- Probation collects and shares educational records when youth are transferred into the facility. Parents are responsible for student re-enrollment in school when they return home. Schools aren't always expediently processing re-enrollments, which is a concern.

Facility Operations

- No staff vacancies as of June.
- Family visits: 21 (May), 15 (June).
- Eight reportable incidents in the two-month period, including staff injuries (2), one (1) fire alarm, medical transports (2, with one youth being admitted for further assessment), and a multi-youth altercation requiring police involvement due to significant property damage (3).

Senior Liaison Observation (Robinson)

Seven monitoring visits to Highlands were conducted since last JDAC meeting. Highlights of the observations include:

- Adequate staffing and supervision
- Physical plant issues: damaged interior doors, plumbing problems, temporary shower outage, gym roof leak (now resolved).
- Youth environment: generally positive demeanor; occasional distress after phone calls or court hearings; food quality concerns.
- Youth Listening Session (with the Customer Experience team): mixed feelings about safety, desire for more recreational activities, staff help review orientation materials, concerns around strip-search process (conducted in a trauma-informed manner for safety and security), visitation limitations (minor siblings not currently permitted due to Adelphoi concerns about liability).

Board Discussion and Questions

- Question about the neutrality of having the Liaison conduct youth listening sessions, suggestion to have a third-party conduct the youth interviews.
- Concerns raised about food sufficiency; Robinson reported quantity adequate but youth complaints about quality.
- Questions regarding the practice of having Adelphoi staff outside of the exam door during behavioral health appointments. This is a safety and security practice.
- Inquiry into ability to disclose categories of staff terminations; Adelphoi lawyers advised not to share details about terminations. Robinson to follow up with Adelphoi: Can they provide a summary of voluntary vs involuntary termination?
- Question about tracking costs of repairs completed by Facilities; Office of Management and Budget tracks data and works with DHS to bill appropriate costs back to the state.
- Discussion on referral processes following medical and behavioral health assessments; UPMC Adolescent Medicine provides continuum of care after discharge.

Unfinished Business

Committee update

- All members agreed to serve on a committee, and assignments have been made.
- Committees will meet prior to next board meeting.
- Per bylaws, committee meetings do not constitute official meetings of the JDBA. No decisions will be made or votes taken in committee. Committees will be reporting out consensus of committee to the board.
- Adelphoi will have a representative on each committee.
- Committee members can decide who the other community representative should be.

New Business

Contract Renewal Discussion

- County proposes a 5-year extension of Adelphoi's contract to align with construction timeline and licensing requirements.
- State feedback indicates a new facility must operate incident-free at 60-bed capacity before licensing can shift back to the county.
- A question was raised about whether an RFP should be issued before renewing the Adelphoi contract. Discussion: there is a small pool of qualified operators and

Adelphoi was the only entity to respond to the initial RFP. Board members voiced differing views on whether to pursue a competitive process.

- Board will revisit and vote on resolution at upcoming meeting.

Facility Naming: It is confusing that the facility is referred to sometimes as Shuman and sometimes as Highlands.

- Official name of the facility is Shuman Juvenile Detention Center.
- Adelphoi holds the license for programming under “Highland Juvenile Detention Center at Shuman.”
- Any renaming would need to follow the county ordinance which outlines the process for formal request and committee review.

Construction Update from the County Manager

- Roof work caused temporary gym closure; now resolved.
- Major construction bidding is closed; awards are expected to be announced next week.
- Groundbreaking for the next phase of renovations is planned for August.

Public Comment on General Matters

- More than 50% of youth have an IEP; how are Extended School Year services provided? AIU is the educational provider who must follow student IEPs, including requirements for ESY; court oversight ensures compliance.
- The Allegheny Analytics online dashboard sometimes shows a census higher than the bed count. This discrepancy can be explained by discharges/admits. A youth can be discharged in the morning and another youth admitted later in the day, leading to both being counted that day.
- A concern was raised about staff terminations; are performance/behavioral problems documented so future employers would be aware.

Next Meeting

September 2, 2026, 4:00 PM, DHS Human Services Building, Liberty Room

NOTE: The September meeting was rescheduled from its previously published date.

Adjournment

Meeting ended