



**NEW YORK CITY  
BOARD OF CORRECTION**

**June 10, 2025**

**Public Meeting Minutes**

**ATTENDEES:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dwayne C. Sampson, Chair  
Helen Skipper, Vice Chair  
Robert L. Cohen, M.D., Member  
Hon. Barry A. Cozier (Ret.), Member  
Jacqueline Pitts, Member  
Felipe Franco, Member  
Lauren Stossel, M.D., Member  
Jude Torchenaud, Member

**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION (DOC)**

Lynelle Maginley-Liddie, Commissioner  
Fritz Frage, Senior Deputy Commissioner  
James Boyd, Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Operations  
James Conroy, Deputy Commissioner of Legal Matters/General Counsel  
Patrick Gallahue, Deputy Commissioner of Public Information  
James Walsh, Deputy Commissioner of Security Operations

Nell McCarty, Deputy Commissioner of Programs and Community Partnerships

James Saunders, Deputy Commissioner of Health Affairs

Ned McCormick, Associate Commissioner of Facility Operations

Kathleen Zadzora, Assistant Commissioner of Health Affairs

Jenelle Bazil-Charles, Director of Strategic Partnerships of Intergovernmental Affairs

Mark Pauley, Deputy Director of Strategic Partnerships

Carlos Collado, Operation Security Investigation Unit

### **NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS – CORRECTIONAL HEALTH SERVICES (CHS)**

Patsy Yang, Dr. PH, Senior Vice President

Carlos Castellanos, Chief Operations Officer/Deputy Executive Director

Nancy Arias, RN, Chief Nursing Officer/Deputy Executive Director

Nicole Levy, Director, Communications & Intergovernmental Affairs

Jeanette Merrill, Sr. Assistant Vice President, Communications & External Affairs

Zachary Rosner, Chief of Service, Medicine

### **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Chaplain Dr. Victoria A. Phillips, Visionary V Ministries and JAC

Michael Klinger, Brooklyn Defenders

Christopher Boyle, NYCDS

Natalie Fiorenzo, NYCDS

Camila Rueda, Legal Aid Society

B. Hefter, Legal Aid Society

Alex Lesman, Legal Aid Society

Ryan Acquattro, Freedom Agenda

Sunil Tohan, Legal Aid Society

Psalm Lawrence, Brooklyn Defenders

Tessa Spear, Freedom Agenda

### **Approval of June 10, 2025 Meeting Agenda**

Chair Dwayne Sampson called the meeting to order with a quorum of members present.

An item to vote on a new Vice Chair was added to the agenda. Chair Sampson then requested a motion to approve the agenda of the Board's June 10, 2025 meeting. Upon being moved and seconded, the agenda was unanimously approved. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

### **Approval of the May 13, 2025 Public Meeting Minutes**

Chair Sampson requested a motion to approve the draft of the public meeting minutes of the Board's May 13, 2025 meeting. Upon being moved and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

### **Public Comment Period – People in Custody**

Six comments from people in custody were played. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

### **Executive Director Update**

Executive Director and General Counsel Melissa Cintron Hernandez shared condolences with the families of Department staff who have passed since the May meeting.

As of June 9, 2025, the approximate total census of people in custody is 7,645, a 1.37% increase since May 12th. As of June 9th, the census numbers by facility were as follows: BHPW (59), EHPW (6), EMTC (1,738), GRVC (1,018), NIC (308), OBCC (1,618), RESH-ESH (146), RESH non-ESH (317), RMSC (439), RNDC (1,169), and WF (824).

Executive Director and General Counsel Cintron Hernandez noted that the Board has shared a draft of its report titled *Assessment of NYC Department of Correction's Lock-In and Lock-out Procedures* with DOC and CHS for an opportunity to review and respond. The final report will be publicly available

on June 23, 2025, along with any written public-facing responses received by the agencies.

[See this portion of the video here.](#)

### **Ad Hoc 6A Work Release Program Review Committee Update**

Board Member, and Chair of the 6A Work Program Review Committee, Lauren Stossel shared a brief update. Board Member Stossel stated that the ad hoc committee was created last meeting, May 13, 2025, to evaluate the program and provide recommendations for optimizing releases. Since the Board's last meeting, the committee has requested documentation from the Department to assess criteria. Board Member Stossel stated that no further Board action is needed at this time; a full report and recommendations will be presented at a future meeting. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

### **Request for limited three-month variance from BOC Minimum Standard § 1-11(e)(1)(i) (regarding all incoming non-privileged correspondence)**

DOC's Senior Deputy Commissioner Fritz Frage presented the Department's request for a limited variance regarding incoming mail. The Department seeks to be able to open and inspect all incoming nonprivileged mail outside of the individual in custody's presence in the newly opened mail screening trailer on Riker's Island. This variance request has been heard in public meetings prior but has not been approved by the Board. Senior Deputy Commissioner Frage stressed the dangers of drug-soaked paper and argued that the main goal of this variance is to increase safety and security. He stated that the Department has provided the Board with more documentation demonstrating the reliability and credibility of the testing technology. Senior Deputy Commissioner Frage also reiterated that Department staff would not be reading the mail during this process. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Board members asked DOC staff questions and voiced individual opinions about the correspondence variance request. Board Member Cohen voiced concern that the variance would increase distrust between Department staff and people-in-custody, as those in custody would not believe their mail was

being kept private. Board Member Cohen also voiced concern that the larger issue with drugs in the facilities is related to Department staff smuggling contraband into the facility at entry points. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Board Members Skipper, Pitts, Stossel, Cozier, Cohen, and Franco asked questions and/or voiced opinions related to determining the success of this variance if it were to pass. These concerns were mostly related to data accuracy and a lack of a control group in this ‘experiment,’ especially because drugs can enter the facility through multiple different avenues. Board Member Franco also had questions regarding the steps involved in getting mail to the intended person-in-custody without delay. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Board Member Skipper voiced in favor of exploring another method that General Counsel James Conroy shared during a response to another question: having Department staff walk around with mobile copiers to have people-in-custody watch their mail get opened and then receive a printed copy of it. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

The Board heard in-person and virtual public comments about the Department’s correspondence variance request. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Executive Director and General Counsel Cintron Hernandez read the variance request in its entirety. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Board Member Pitts moved the variance for a vote, and Vice Chair Skipper seconded it. Board Member Franco then suggested adding conditions to the variance. General Counsel Cintron Hernandez then read all proposed conditions. Board Member Franco proposed to add an additional condition that limited mail screening to half or less of the facilities, with the other half of facilities focusing on limiting contraband from staff and contractors through entry points. Board Member Cohen proposed to add two additional conditions: all people-in-custody would be granted access to fentanyl test kits and all Department staff would be screened upon entry to facilities. Board

Member Stossel proposed to remove all conditions related to false positivity data tracking. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

There was no motion to add these conditions, so the vote on the variance continued with no conditions attached. The variance request went to a roll-call vote and failed. Board Member Pitts voted in the affirmative, Board Member Torchenaud and Chair Sampson abstained, and Board Members Stossel, Cohen, Cozier, Franco, and Skipper voted against the motion. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

**Status Update regarding immediate compliance with BOC Minimum Standard § 3-02(c)(5) (sick call)**

DOC's Deputy Commissioner of Health Affairs James Saunders stressed the Department's desire to avoid returning to a paper-based system for sick call. Deputy Commissioner Saunders stated that the clinic production dashboard remains the Department's solution to Board concerns, and the completion date remains the end of the calendar year. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Board members asked DOC staff questions and/or voiced concerns. Board Members Cohen, Cozier, Stossel, and Skipper raised concerns about relying solely on phones for sick call requests, as phones are not always accessible to people-in-custody, and Department staff do not always report sick call requests. They highlighted that multiple pathways to access and report sick call need to be available. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

General Counsel Cintron Hernandez read a draft resolution letter stating that the Department is in violation of § 3-02(c)(5) (sick call). This draft outlined tasks the Department would have to comply with if passed. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

The Department offered comments in response, and Board members then asked additional questions. General Counsel also stated that CHS holds the Board's stance that the Health Triage Line (HTL) is not the sick call process. Ultimately, the Board decided not to entertain the draft resolution this meeting. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

### **Status Update on the operations of the SMU in OBCC**

DOC's Associate Commissioner of Facility Operations Ned McCormick provided an update on the SMU, emphasizing staff trainings and accesses afforded to the people-in-custody housed in this unit. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Board members asked DOC staff questions about SMU operations. Board members also raised concerns that the SMU mimics restrictive housing. Board Member Cohen suggested Department staff utilize the clinic next to the unit instead of the further clinic that is being used right now. There was also discussion about school offered to young adults under 21, with celebration for the 57 individuals graduating next week. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Board Member Cohen asked if there was a draft resolution related to the SMU due to concerns over its operations. More discussion between Board members and Department staff ensued, but the Board decided to not entertain a draft resolution this meeting. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

### **Status Update regarding the RESH-Annex**

DOC's Senior Deputy Commissioner Fritz Frage declined to make a presentation and fielded Board questions instead. Board Member Skipper requested information about timelines for male individuals' access to services, such as recreation, to limit the disruption of services provided to female individuals housed at RMSC. Board Member Stossel also asked questions about staffing the RESH-Annex. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

### **Status Update regarding CHS' plan for providing health services to the population housed in the SMU**

CHS' Chief Operations Officer Carlos Castellanos stated that CHS follows the Department's status of the SMU as a General Population unit. Therefore, CHS manages health services in accordance with General Population standards. Chief Operations Officer Castellanos stated that CHS would manage health

services in accordance with restrictive housing standards if the SMU was reclassified as a restrictive housing unit. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

### **Public Comment**

The Board heard in-person and virtual public comments from Michael Klinger, Natalie Fiorenzo, Victoria A. Phillips, Camila Rueda, Kayla Simpson, Asha Ramachandran, and Alice Militaru. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

### **Board Vote on Vice Chair**

Chair Sampson took nominations for Vice Chair, and Board Member Cozier moved the nomination of Vice Chair Skipper to continue serving as Vice Chair. This motion was seconded and unanimously passed. Vice Chair Skipper will continue to serve as the Vice Chair of this Board. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

The next public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday July 8, 2025 at 1:00 pm.