



New York City Board of Correction
June 25, 2024 Public Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES

MEMBERS PRESENT

DeAnna Hoskins, Vice Chair
Robert L. Cohen, M.D., Member
Hon. Barry A. Cozier (Ret.), Member
Felipe Franco, Member
Jacqueline Pitts, Member
Joseph Ramos, Member
Helen Skipper, Member
Jude Torchenaud, Member

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION (DOC)

Francis Torres, First Deputy Commissioner
Patrick Benn, Deputy Commissioner of Facilities and Fleet Administration
Frank Dwyer, Deputy Commissioner of Public Information
Nancy Savasta, Acting General Counsel
Sonya Harvey, Assistant Commissioner
Tamika White, Deputy Warden of Administration and Operation
Chelsea Chard, Senior Policy Advisor
Mark Pauley, Senior Policy Analyst
John Carlo Bautista
Annais Morales

NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS – CORRECTIONAL HEALTH SERVICES (CHS)

Patsy Yang, DrPH, Senior Vice President
Jeanette Merrill, MPH, Director of Communications and Intergovernmental Affairs
Carlos Castellanos, Chief Operations Officer/Deputy Executive Director
Nancy Arias, RN, Chief Nursing Officer/Deputy Executive Director
Bipin Subedi, Chief Medical Officer/Senior Assistant Vice President
Nicole Levy, Director of Communications and Intergovernmental Affairs

CORRECTION OFFICERS' BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

Antoinette Anderson, Correspondence Secretary

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Alex Lesman, Legal Aid Society

Alex Nandullall, The Bronx Defenders
Carmen Pineiro, The Bronx Defenders
Catherine Flores, The Bronx Defenders
Andre Watson, The Bronx Defenders
Elena Miralles, The Bronx Defenders
Christoper Guzman, The Bronx Defenders
Chaplain Dr. Victoria A. Phillips, Visionary V Ministries
Marilisse Marin Logo, Office of the Public Advocate
Jeffrey Severe, Office of the Public Advocate
Natalie Meltzer, New York City Council
Jeremy White, New York City Council
Daniel Diaz, Office of Management and Budget
Leilah Miller, Office of Management and Budget
Scott Paltrowitz, HALT
Victor Pate, HALT
Marion Phyllis Cunningham, HALT
Casey Dalporto, NYCDS
Barbara Opotowsky, NYC Bar Association
Rachel Sznajderman, NYCDS
Natalie Fiorenzo, NYCDS

Approval to Preside over June 25, 2024 Meeting

In the absence of the Board's Chair, Vice Chair Hoskins asked for a motion to approve her presiding over the board meeting. Upon being moved and seconded, a majority of members approved this motion. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Vice Chair Remarks

Vice Chair Hoskins called the meeting to order with a quorum of members present. Vice Chair Hoskins recognized the appointment of newest board member Helen Skipper, thanked former Board Member Jacqueline Sherman for her service to the Board over the past six years, and welcomed the Hon. Barry A. Cozier (Ret.) to the Board. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Approval of June 25, 2024 Meeting Agenda

Vice Chair Hoskins asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the Board's June 25, 2024 meeting. Upon being approved and seconded, the agenda was approved unanimously. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Approval of the May 14, 2024 Public Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Hoskins asked for a motion to approve the draft public meeting minutes of the Board's May 14, 2024 meeting. Upon being moved and seconded, the minutes were approved unanimously. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Executive Director Update

BOC Executive Director Jasmine Georges-Yilla provided updates on items discussed at previous meetings, beginning with food pantry issues at GRVC. Under the direction of the Board's Director of Public Accountability and Oversight, BOC monitors assigned to GRVC conducted a brief assessment of several housing areas from March 15, 2024 through March 24, 2024. Additionally,

the Board's Executive Director requested updates on the EMTC recreation yard and thanked DOC leadership and staff for their efforts in reopening this area. See this portion of the video [here](#).

The Board shared condolences with the loved ones of Department members of service who passed. See this portion of the video [here](#).

As of June 23, 2024, the approximate total census of people in custody is 6,454. By facility, as of June 23: BHPW (49), EHPW (6), EMTC (1,507), GRVC (967), NIC (268), OBCC (1,378), RESH (160), RMSC (385), RNDC (1,042), and WF (687). See this portion of the video [here](#).

The Board is conducting comprehensive heat monitoring in the City's jails this summer to ensure the safety and well-being of people in custody and staff. The Board's monitoring efforts began on May 31 and will continue through August 30. The Board has launched a heat monitoring dashboard that will be updated every Monday. The dashboard is located here: [BOC Heat Monitoring Dashboard](#). The Board intends to release their findings in a report in October 2024. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Vice Chair Remarks and Updates

Vice Chair Hoskins asked the Board for committee updates. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Vice Chair Hoskins moved to a vote on the Board's final rules on Local Law 42 of 2024 as required by City Council. Prior to a vote, Executive Director Georges-Yilla provided a summary on the final rules, which are posted on the Board's website and can be accessed [here](#). Based on feedback from the public, the Board added language directly from the local law with particular emphasis on 14-hour lock-out requirement, the nature of emergency lock-ins, out-of-cell programming, and individualized assessments for all incarcerated persons before being placed in restraints. See this portion of the video [here](#).

The Board's final rules also closely align with the language of the local law that a person may only be placed in de-escalation because that person poses a specific risk of imminent danger to staff, themselves, or other incarcerated individuals. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Regarding due process and restrictive housing placement hearings, the Board acknowledges people in custody must be notified of their right to a legal representative or advocate, their right to remain silent, and their right to attend their hearing. The defense attorney of the charged person must be notified of the hearing. The advocate or legal representative may appear virtually and privately confer with the charged person, and the Department must provide a non-exhaustive list of legal representatives and advocates to the person in custody 48 hours prior to a hearing. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Vice Chair Hoskins moved for a vote on the final proposed rules. Upon being moved and seconded, Board Member Cohen read a statement on the impact of solitary confinement on incarcerated persons. Board Member Pitts offered additional considerations on the local law. Board Member Torchenaud provided more context on solitary confinement based on his experience in another jurisdiction. Vice Chair conducted a roll call vote and the rules passed unanimously. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Department of Correction Updates

DOC's First Deputy Commissioner, Francis Torres, announced the appointment of Sherieann Rembert to Bureau Chief and Chief of Staff, Charlton Lemon to Assistant Chief of Security, Ayinde Williams to Associate Commissioner, and Ned McCormick to Associate Commissioner. See this portion of the video [here](#).

On June 7, DOC held a graduation ceremony for 77 correction officers and a promotion ceremony for 50 Captains. See this portion of the video [here](#).

A. Plan for implementing the requirements of Local Law 42 of 2024

- i. Nancy Savasta, DOC Acting General Counsel, stated the administration reached out to parties involved in the litigation and wrote to Judge Swain to seek relief from the immediate implementation of the local law. DOC continues to meet with the Monitor to discuss local law 42. See this portion of the video [here](#).

B. Update on Food Pantry Issues at GRVC

- i. Tamika White, DOC Deputy Warden of Administration and Operation, stated DOC has reviewed the Board's concerns and have conducted their own internal review. In response to the Board's findings, housing areas at GRVC were instructed to perform self-assessments of the food pantries and supervisors were instructed to tour and inspect food pantries. The pantries are first sanitized and will be deep cleaned. Work orders have been submitted for inoperable equipment or equipment in need of repair, with the goal of all work to be completed by the end of June. See this portion of the video [here](#).

C. Status of EMTC Recreation Yard

- i. Patrick Benn, DOC Deputy Commissioner of Facilities and Fleet Administration, announced the construction at the EMTC recreation yard is complete and the EMTC yard has reopened. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Correctional Health Services Updates

A. Variance request on Minimum Standard § 2-05(b)(2)(i-ii) – Psychotropic Medication

- i. Bipin Subedi, CHS Chief Medical Officer and Senior Assistant Vice President, sought a six-month renewal of a longstanding variance for patients who are prescribed psychotropic medication and seen every two weeks by medical staff. CHS requests that patients be seen by healthcare staff every 28 days opposed to current practice of every 14 days. Board members held discussion on the requested variance. There was no public comment on this variance. Upon being moved and seconded, Vice Chair Hoskins and Board Members Cohen, Franco, Cozier, and Torचनाud voted in favor of the variance. Board Members Pitts, Ramos, and Skipper voted against the variance. The variance was approved with a majority vote. See this portion of the video [here](#).

B. Variance request on Minimum Standard § 3-04(b)(2)(i-ii) – Tuberculosis Screening Process

- i. Bipin Subedi, CHS Chief Medical Officer and Senior Assistant Vice President, sought a six-month renewal of a longstanding variance for tuberculosis testing. This variance seeks blood testing as opposed to skin testing for patients. There was no public comment on this variance. Upon being moved and seconded, the variance was approved unanimously. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Correction Officers' Benevolent Association Updates

- A. Staff concerns or comments regarding the implementation of Local Law 42 of 2024
 - a. Antoinette Anderson, Correspondence Secretary, stated the banning of punitive segregation jeopardizes the lives of correctional officers and staff who work inside correctional facilities. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Public Comment

The Board public comment from Chaplain Dr. Victoria A. Phillips (Visionary V Ministries) Natalie Fiorenzo (NYCDS), Rachel Sznajderman (NYCDS), Jay Edidin (WCJA), Kayla Simpson (Legal Aid Society), and Daniele Gerard (Children's Rights). See this portion of the video [here](#).

Board of Correction Updates

According to the Rules of Procedures, the Vice Chair shall serve for a term of one year, commencing the first day of July and terminating on the 30th day of June subsequent to the election of a successor. Vice Chair Hoskins proposed a motion to nominate Helen Skipper as the Board's next Vice Chair, starting July 1. Upon being moved and seconded, Helen Skipper was approved unanimously to serve as the Board's next Vice Chair. See this portion of the video [here](#).