



**NEW YORK CITY  
BOARD OF CORRECTION**

**FEBRUARY 11, 2025 PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dwayne C. Sampson, Chair  
Helen Skipper, Vice Chair  
Robert L. Cohen, M.D., Member<sup>1</sup>  
Hon. Barry A. Cozier (Ret.), Member  
Felipe Franco, Member  
Jacqueline Pitts, Member  
Joseph Ramos, Member  
Jude Torchenaud, Member

**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION (DOC)**

Francis Torres, First Deputy Commissioner  
James Conroy, Deputy Commissioner of Legal Matters/General Counsel  
James Boyd, Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Operations  
James Saunders, Deputy Commissioner of Health Affairs  
Kevin Doherty, Deputy Commissioner of the Facilities Maintenance & Repair Division  
Patrick Gallahue, Deputy Commissioner, Public Information  
Kathleen Zadzora, Assistant Commissioner, Health Affairs  
Allie Robertson, Executive Director, Intergovernmental Affairs  
Jenelle Bazil-Charles, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Intergovernmental Affairs  
Precious Jaggernaut, Intergovernmental Affairs

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

Patsy Yang, DrPH, Senior Vice President

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<sup>1</sup> Board Member Cohen partially attended the meeting. Due to extraordinary circumstances, Board Member had difficulty participating virtually.

Carlos Castellanos, Chief Operations Officer/Deputy Executive Director  
Nancy Arias, RN, Chief Nursing Officer/Deputy Executive Director  
Zachary Rosner, Chief of Service, Medicine

**CORRECTION OFFICERS' BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION**

Antoinette Anderson, Third Vice President  
Vanessa Quinones, Bronx Borough Trustee  
Claudia Suarez, Correction Officer

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Chaplain Dr. Victoria A. Phillips, Visionary V Ministries  
Natalie Fiorenzo, NYCDS  
Barbara Opatowsky, NYC Bar Association  
Nathaniel Evans, Public Advocate  
Keith McKay, WCJA

**Approval of February 11, 2025 Meeting Agenda**

Chair Dwayne Sampson called the meeting to order with a quorum of members present. He requested a motion to approve the agenda of the Board's February 11, 2025 meeting. The agenda was unanimously approved by Chair Sampson, Vice Chair Skipper, and Board Members Cozier, Franco, Pitts, and Torchenaud.

**Approval of the January 16, 2025 Public Meeting Minutes**

Chair Sampson requested a motion to approve the draft public meeting minutes of the Board's January 16, 2025 meeting. Upon being moved and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved by Chair Sampson, Vice Chair Skipper, and Board Members Cozier, Franco, Ramos, Pitts, and Torchenaud. See this portion of the video [here](#).

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

No comments from people in custody were played during the public meeting. See this portion of the video [here](#).

### **Executive Director Update**

BOC Executive Director Jasmine Georges-Yilla shared condolences with the families of Department staff who have passed since the November meeting.

As of February 10, 2025, the approximate total census of people in custody is 6,784. By facility, as of February 10, BHPW (51), EHPW (8), EMTC (1,646), GRVC (883), NIC (269), OBCC (1,564), RESH (169), RMSC (400), RNDC (1,110), and WF (681).

Regarding the meeting agenda, the Board was informed only days before the public meeting about the opening of a restrictive housing unit called the Special Management Unit (SMU) located in OBCC. The Board added this topic to the agenda item to obtain more information from the Department regarding the unit's operations.

The Board also included Sick Call as an agenda item due to DOC's failure to address compliance with the Board's minimum standards at the January meeting. The Board seeks to understand how the Department currently documents and tracks requests made by people in custody to DOC staff to be escorted to the clinic. Additionally, the Board requested updates on the proposed "sick call dashboard" and "clinic production dashboard."

Another follow-up item on the agenda was recreation access. In February 2024, the Board questioned DOC's efforts to address complaints regarding limited indoor and outdoor recreation time (BOC Minimum Standard § 1-06), particularly at EMTC. DOC subsequently implemented a pilot at EMTC subdividing the yard into four sections to expand access, significantly reducing the number of complaints regarding access to recreation at EMTC.

However, the Board continues to receive complaints asserting lack of recreation across the Island, particularly at RNDC. Last year, DOC informed the Board that it would expand the pilot of subdividing recreation yards across Rikers Island, starting with RNDC. However, the Board continues to receive complaints regarding lack of access to recreation. The Board now seeks an update on this initiative. See this portion of the video [here](#).

### **Department of Correction Updates**

Deputy Commissioner Saunders provided an updated on the Department's plan for sick call tracking. He informed the Board that the "sick call dashboard" would now be labeled

as a “shared scheduling system.”

He reported that DOC and CHS IT teams participated in a phone call to discuss the necessary steps to build the shared scheduling system. Through this system, the Department will transition from paper sick call sign-up sheets to an electronic sign-up system.

The Department committed to providing a timeline for the shared scheduling system at the March meeting. See this portion of the video [here](#).

### **Department’s Special Management Unit (OBCC Annex Pilot)**

James Conroy, General Counsel, did not have prepared statements regarding the Special Management Unit (SMU).

Board members expressed their strong disapproval with the Department’s decision to exclude from discussions before opening the unit. They highlighted concerns about the Department’s operational deficiencies and lack of preparedness for the SMU’s launch.

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

### **Department’s Status of Improving Access to Recreation**

Deputy Commissioner Kevin Doherty (Facilities Maintenance & Repair Division) provided updates on the Department’s plans to expand and improve recreation yards beyond EMTC.

The Department has identified and repaired recreation yards at OBCC and RESH.

At RNDC, the Department has developed a plan to enhance recreational spaces at 2 North. See this portion of the video [here](#).

### **Department Correction and Correctional Health Services Joint Updates**

Deputy Commissioner Saunders and CHS Chief Operations Officer/Deputy Executive Director, Carlos Castellanos, provided updates on the joint clinic production dashboard.

DOC and CHS IT teams are assessing which data points will be most useful for both agencies.

Senior Vice President, Patsy Yang, clarified that the clinic production dashboard is intended to track scheduled appointments.

First Deputy Commissioner Torres committed to providing a timeline for the clinic production dashboard’s implementation. See this portion of the video [here](#).

### **Correction Officers’ Benevolent Association**

Antoinette Anderson, Third Vice President, introduced an officer who shared her frustration about working in a high-classification housing unit, where she was assaulted. The officer expressed concerns that leadership is listening to officers’ experiences.

Third Vice President Anderson provided the total assaults on staff since January 2025. She then provided three specific examples of recent attacks on correctional staff. See this portion of the video [here](#).

### **Public Comment**

The Board heard in-person public comment from Natalie Fiorenzo (NYCDS) and Veronica Vela (Legal Aid).

The Board heard virtual public comments from Eileen Maher (Vocal New York), Daniele Gerard (Children's Rights) and Michael Klinger (Brooklyn Defenders). See this portion of the video [here](#).