



**NEW YORK CITY
BOARD OF CORRECTION**

MAY 14, 2024 PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dwayne Sampson, Chair
DeAnna Hoskins, Vice Chair
Robert L. Cohen, M.D., Member
Jacqueline Pitts, Member
Joseph Ramos, Member
Jacqueline Sherman, Esq., Member
Jude Torchenaud, Member

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION (DOC)

Lynelle Maginley-Liddie, Commissioner
Francis Torres, First Deputy Commissioner
James Boyd, Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Operations
Patrick Benn, Deputy Commissioner of Facilities and Fleet Administration
Frank Dwyer, Deputy Commissioner of Public Information
Jeremiah Johnson, Acting Deputy Commissioner of Training and Development
James Saunders, Deputy Commissioner of Health Affairs
Kyle Archie, Assistant Commissioner of Operations Research
Sherrie Rembert, Assistant Chief of Administration
Nancy Savasta, Acting General Counsel
Mark Pauley, Senior Policy Analyst

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Anisah Sabur, HALT Solitary Campaign
Chaplain Dr. Victoria A. Phillips, Visionary V Ministries
Mary Buser, Jails Action Coalition
Jennifer J. Parish, Urban Justice Center/Jails Action Coalition/HALT
Mary Lynne Werlwas, Prisoners' Rights Legal Aid Society
Daniele Gerard, Children's Rights
John Griffin, NYCD
J.L. Hilaire, NAN
E.J. Hernandez, Freedom Agenda
Courtney Gross, NY1
Oliver Daus, Jails Action Coalition/HALT
Candie, HALT
Barbara Opotowsky, NYC Bar Association
Jeffrey Severe, Public Advocates Office
Rachel Sznajderman, NYCDS
Michael Klinger, Brooklyn Defender Services
Natalie Fiorenzo, NYCDS
Claire Lamitie, NYCDS

Approval of May 14, 2024 Meeting Agenda

Chair Dwayne Sampson called the meeting to order with a quorum of members present. Chair Sampson asked for a motion to approve the agenda of the Board's May 14, 2024. Board Member Sherman requested an amendment to add the Board's Rulemaking Committee to the agenda to ensure the Board's compliance with the Council's Local Law 42. Upon being approved and seconded, the amended agenda was approved unanimously (Chair Sampson, Vice Chair Hoskins, and Board Members Cohen, Ramos, Pitts, Sherman, and Torchenaud voted in favor). See this portion of the video [here](#).

Approval of the March 12, 2024 Public Meeting Minutes

Chair Sampson asked for a motion to approve the draft public meeting minutes of the Board's March 12, 2024 meeting. Upon being moved and seconded, the minutes were approved (Chair Sampson abstained; Vice Chair Hoskins and Members Cohen, Ramos, Pitts, Sherman, and Torchenaud voted in favor). See this portion of the video [here](#).

Chair Remarks

Chair Sampson acknowledged and thanked former Board Member Rachael Bedard for her service to the Board of Correction. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Executive Director Update

BOC Executive Director Jasmine Georges-Yilla provided updates on sick call procedures pursuant to the Board's minimum standards and plans to improve its operations. The Board's Research team received data from DOC and will engage the Department and CHS in reviewing the preliminary results that will be shared in a later public meeting. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Regarding linen and uniform exchange, the Board continues to monitor personal hygiene concerns raised by people in custody, staff, and outside agencies. Oversight efforts has led to the Department's distribution of personal hygiene products across various facilities. However, the Board has not received updates on essential equipment that are in need or repair or replacement across all correctional facilities. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Additionally, as a reminder, people in custody, members of the public, and DOC staff may submit complaints to the Board concerning jail conditions or access health and mental health care in NYC jails by calling 212-669-7900 or by sending a fax to 212-669-7980. Complaints may also be filed on the Board's website (<https://www.nyc.gov/site/boc/index.page>), people may mail a letter to the BOC office located at 2 Lafayette Street, Suite 1221, New York, NY, 10007 or people may also visit the BOC office in person to file a complaint. DOC staff may also raise concerns with BOC monitors while they are touring the jails. People in custody may submit public comment to be played at public board meetings by calling and leaving a voicemail at 212-266-4320 (English) or 212-266-4321(Spanish) at least one week prior to the Board's public meeting. See this portion of the video [here](#).

The Board shared condolences with the loved ones of Department members of service who passed. The Board also expressed condolences to the family and loved ones of Mr. Roy Savage. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Board Member Cohen offered condolences to a long-time Prisoners Rights attorney. See this portion of the video [here](#).

As of May 1, 2024, the approximate total census of people in custody is 6,310¹. By facility, as of May 1: BHPW (52), EHPW (7), EMTC (1,389), GRVC (958), NIC (274), OBCC (1,432), RESH (159), RMSC (370), RNDC (1,001), and WF (666). See this portion of the video [here](#).

The Board's Committee on Deaths, Near Deaths, and Serious Injuries issued its latest report on May 3, 2024. The report includes the Special Investigation unit's findings and

¹ This number reflects an approximate total count for people in custody. The actual total census for people in custody is 6,308.

recommendations regarding the deaths of Chima Williams and Manuel Luna, two deaths that occurred in January 2024. See this portion of the video [here](#).

BOC staff continue to examine and monitor the Department's compliance with the Board's rules on the Elimination of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment Standards. See this portion of the video [here](#).

BOC Monitoring and Research teams will monitor jail conditions between Memorial Day and Labor Day to assess DOC's heat mitigation policies and procedures. The Board will publish its findings in fall 2024. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Vice Chair Update

Vice Chair Hoskins informed the public that the Board's Rulemaking Committee drafted proposed rules as required by City Council's Local Law 42 of 2024. The proposed rules will be published in the City Record on May 16, 2024. The hearing on the proposed rules will be held on June 17, 2024. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Executive Director Georges-Yilla read the resolution for the proposed rules. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Upon being moved and seconded, the resolution for the proposed rules were approved (Chair Sampson abstained, Vice Chair Hoskins, and Board Members Sherman and Torchenaud voted to approve). See this portion of the video [here](#).

Chair Sampson announced BOC's public meeting will be moved in consideration of the rulemaking requirements. The BOC June public meeting will be held on June 25, 2024. See this portion of the video [here](#).

People in Custody Public Comments

Recordings from people in custody were played. Watch this portion of the video [here](#).

Department of Correction Updates

Prior to DOC updates, BOC Executive Director Georges-Yilla provided context on substantive issues raised by BOC to DOC. The Board has asked the Department to provide updates on the implementations of the Board's recommendations regarding deaths in custody. Specifically, the Board has asked the Department to address recommendations concerning timely notifications of deaths and other reportable incidents, increase in number of the staff assigned to the video monitoring unit, scheduling of recertification trainings, improvement of medical escort practices, frequently scheduled regular contraband searches, removal of all cell window obstructions, and timely and accurate documentation of relevant in electronic rather than paper logbooks. See this portion of the video [here](#).

- a. Commissioner of the Department of Correction
 - i. Commissioner Lynelle Maginley-Liddie thanked the Board for its recognition of DOC's members of service who have passed. Commissioner Maginley-Liddie informed the Board of DOC's programming and staff recognition initiatives. See this portion of the video [here](#).
- b. Updates on BOC Deaths Report
 - i. DOC's Assistant Chief of Administration, Sherrie Rembert, stated the Department has implemented the Board's recommendations, with emphasis on access to medical care, contraband interdiction, response to overdose incidents, reforming or improving basic correctional practices. DOC and CHS will conduct collaborative reviews following any deaths in custody. See this portion of the video [here](#).
 1. Board Member Cohen questioned the implementation of body scanners at the entrance of DOC correctional facilities. See this portion of the video [here](#).
 2. Board Member Sherman inquired about the Department's methods for tracking after successful detection of contraband. See this portion of the video [here](#).
 3. Vice Chair Hoskins asked if the Department would create a unified system and best practices to ensure all staff are scanned when entering correctional facilities. See this portion of the video [here](#).
 4. Board Member Pitts requested clarification regarding the Department's scanning procedures. See this portion of the video [here](#).
- c. Update on the Department's Staff Recruitment
 - i. Board Member Torchenaud inquired about the Department's recruitment numbers and attrition. Commissioner Maginley-Liddie and Acting Deputy Commissioner of Training and Development, Jeremiah Johnson, provided updates. See this portion of the video [here](#).
- d. Update on Recreation Staffing Concerns at RNDC
 - i. Assistant Chief Rembert stated it was not only a staffing issue but also an infrastructure issue. In response to the Board's findings, the Department has worked across several of its divisions to review whether commingling is an option. See this portion of the video [here](#).
- e. Update on the Reopening of EMTC Recreation Yard
 - i. Deputy Commissioner of Facilities and Fleet Administration, Patrick Benn, presented photographs of the EMTC recreation yard. See this portion of the video [here](#).

1. Board Member Sherman asked when construction of the recreation yard will be completed. Deputy Commissioner Benn anticipates the recreation yard will be completed at the end of June 2024.
2. Board Member Sherman inquired about the Department's current implementation of subdivided recreation yards at OBCC and future implementation of subdivided recreation yards at EMTC. See this portion of the video [here](#).
3. Board Member Cohen raised concerns about access to "sunlight and air" in the Department's Borough Based Jails plans and requested this topic be added to Board's next agenda. See this portion of the video [here](#).
4. BOC Executive Director Georges-Yilla asked how many people in custody can each subdivided yard fit. The Department will follow-up with the Board. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Correctional Health Services Updates – Update on the Board's recommendations regarding deaths in custody

Executive Director Georges-Yilla stated that the Board asked CHS to share updates regarding efforts to address alternative means of communicating medical emergencies between housing areas and clinics, notifications to DOC staff if CHS staff observed people in custody using or exchanging contraband, and improved communication between DOC and CHS regarding missed medical appointments. See this portion of the video [here](#).

- a. Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Bipin Subedi, explained that much of the Board's recommendations centered on emergency response protocols and harm reduction for overdoses. Dr. Ross gave a presentation titled, "Updates on CHS Emergency Response & Substance Use Services." See this portion of the video [here](#).
 - i. Chair Sampson inquired about severe injuries since the implementation of naloxone use, as well as response time in medical emergencies. See this portion of the video [here](#).
 - ii. Board Member Sherman requested CHS provide the protocols and guidelines for Directly Observed Therapy ("DOT") and specifically what happens to people in custody who miss their DOT appointment. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Public Comment

The Board public comment from Anisah Sabur (HALT), Dr. Victoria Phillips (Visionary V Ministries), Mary Lynne Werlwas (Prisoner's Rights Legal Aid Society), and Daniele Gerard (Children's Rights). The public comments portion of this video recording is available [here](#).