



**NEW YORK CITY
BOARD OF CORRECTION**

February 9, 2021 PUBLIC MEETING¹ MINUTES

ATTENDEES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Stanley Richards, Vice-Chair
Marco Carrion, Member
Robert L. Cohen, M.D., Member
James Perrino, Member
Steven M. Safyer, M.D., Member
Jacqueline Sherman, Esq., Member

Margaret Egan, Executive Director

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jennifer Jones Austin, Esq., Chair
Felipe Franco, Member

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Cynthia Brann, Commissioner
Hazel Jennings, Chief of Department
Brenda Cooke, Chief of Staff
Dana Wax, Deputy Chief of Staff
Timothy Farrell, Senior Deputy Commissioner
Heidi Grossman, Deputy Commissioner for Legal Matters/General Counsel
Patricia Feeney, Deputy Commissioner for Quality Assurance and Integrity
Peter Throne, Deputy Commissioner of Public Information
Elizabeth Munsky, Director of LGBTQ Initiatives
Kenneth Stukes, Bureau Chief of Security
Juan Ramos, Ombudsperson
Tanisha Mills, Acting Warden
Steven Kaiser, Executive Director of Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs
James Boyd, Assistant Commissioner of Internal Communications
Richard Bush, Senior Correctional Administrator- Health Affairs
Maura McNamara, Senior Policy Advisor
Allie Robertson, Senior Policy Analyst
Brittney Sinclair, Policy Analyst
Nancy Li, Policy Analyst

¹ Due to the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was conducted virtually.

Julia Szendro, Policy Analyst
Shayla Mulzac, Press Officer

NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS - CORRECTIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Patsy Yang, DrPH, Senior Vice President
Ross MacDonald, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Sr. Assistant Vice President
Carlos Castellanos, Chief Operations Officer/Deputy Executive Director
Monica Katyal, Esq., MPH, Senior Director of Monitoring and Evaluation
Jeanette Merrill, MPH, Director, Communications and Intergovernmental Affairs
Denisha Simpson, MPA, Senior Director of Finance
Paul Robinson, Associate Director, CHS NIC
Ellie Epstein, MPH, Associate Director, Office of Reentry and Transition Services
Ashley Smith, MPA, Chief of Staff
Zachary Rosner, MD, Chief of Service Medicine
Kelsey Burke, MPH, City Research Scientist II, Monitoring & Evaluation

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ashaki Antoine, Correction Officers' Benevolent Association (COBA)
Kieshorne Dennie, NYC Council
Joseph Thomas, NY City Hall
Rachel Baker, NY City Hall
Gladys Arias, NY City Hall
Amanda Masters, NYC Law Department
Stephen Louis, NYC Law Department
Jennifer Parish, Urban Justice Center (UJC)
Bridget McCarthy, UJC
Naz Akyol, UJC
Rachel Lindy, UJC
Claire Bartholomew, UJC
Susannah Waldman, UJC
Victoria Phillips, Jails Action Coalition (JAC)
Mik Kinkead, JAC
Daniele Gerard, Children's Rights
Tobin Kassa, Children's Rights
Mary Lynne Werlwas, Legal Aid Society Prisoners' Rights Project (LAS)
Kayla Simpson, LAS
Alexandra Smith, LAS
Torey Marston, LAS
Nancy Ginsburg, LAS
Veronica Vela, LAS
Simone Spirig, Brooklyn Defender Services (BDS)
Irene Cedano, BDS
Kelsey De Avila, BDS
Claudia Forrester, BDS
Harmony Seaburg, BDS
Kathleen McKenna, BDS
Natalie Hession, BDS
Hanna Perry, BDS
Julia Solomons, Bronx Defenders
Tahanee Dunn, Bronx Defenders
Martha Grieco, Bronx Defenders

Kelly Grace Price, Close Rosie's
Brad Maurer, NY County Defender Services
Michelle Garcia, NY County Defender Services
Julia Kerbs, NY County Defender Services
Reggie Miller, NYC Office of the Appellate Defender
Wendell Walters, Osborne Association
Scott Paltrowitz, HALT Solitary Campaign
Joan Pleune, HALT Solitary Campaign
Drake Ridge, XenoPsi
Mamou Doumbia, Women's Community Justice Association
Sharon White-Harrigan, Women's Community Justice Association
Sarita Daftary-Steel, Freedom Agenda
Darren Mack, Freedom Agenda
Brandon Holmes, Freedom Agenda
Samantha Pugh, Fortune Society
Melanie Brown, Independent
Danielle De Souza, Independent
Jean B., Independent
Eliel Cruz, NYC Anti-Violence Project
Victor Pate, New York Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement (CAIC)
Frances Geteles-Shapiro, CAIC
Kelvin O. Howell Jr., TransNewYork
John W. Burns, Karasyk & Moschella, LLP
Vito Pitta, Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno LLC
Chelsia Marcius, NY Daily News
Annette Spellen, Manhattan Community Board 4
Sanjana Bhambhani, New York University (NYU)
Lane Eisenmann, NYU
Jessica Coffrin-St. Julien, NYU
Megan Pfeiffer, Hour Children
Five Mualimm-ak, Incarcerated Nation Network
David Grant, Independent
Jamie Uhrig, Independent
Darlene McDay, Independent

Approval of January 12, 2021 Minutes

Board Vice Chair Stanley Richards ("Vice Chair Richards") asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the Board's January 12, 2021 meeting. Upon Member Sherman moving the item and Dr. Safyer seconding it, the minutes were unanimously approved, 6-0 (Vice Chair Richards and Members Carrion, Cohen, Perrino, Safyer, and Sherman). See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

Announcements/Updates

Vice Chair Richards provided an update on the Board's Restrictive Housing Rulemaking and announced the recent death of a person in custody. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

Dr. Cohen discussed the Board's rulemaking. He and Dr. Safyer also commented on and asked questions about suicide prevention in the jails, available in the video recording [here](#). DOC's

Deputy Commissioner for Quality Assurance and Integrity, Patricia Feeney, provided a response to these questions, available [here](#).

Public Comment on Variance Requests

The Board heard public comment on DOC's Young Adult Enhanced Supervision Housing ("YA-ESH") and Secure Unit Variance Requests from Alexandra Smith (LAS), Frances Geteles-Shapiro (CAIC), Tahanee Dunn (Bronx Defenders), Daniele Gerard (Children's Rights), Victoria Phillips (JAC), Jennifer Parish (UJC), Darlene McDay (Independent), and Brandon Holmes (Freedom Agenda).

The public comments on the variance requests are available [here](#).

YA-ESH Variance Request

► Introduction

Board Executive Director, Margaret Egan ("ED Egan"), introduced DOC's YA-ESH six-month variance request. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

► DOC Presentation

DOC's Bureau Chief of Security, Kenneth Stukes ("Chief Stukes"), presented DOC's YA-ESH variance request. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

► Board Action

Vice Chair Richards called for a motion to open the floor for Board discussion and vote on the variance. No Board members motioned to open the floor for discussion or vote on the variance request and therefore, the YA-ESH variance failed to pass. See this portion of the recording [here](#).

Secure Unit Variance Request

► Introduction

ED Egan introduced DOC's six-month variance request regarding the Secure Unit. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

► DOC Presentation

Chief Stukes presented DOC's six-month variance request regarding the Secure Unit. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

► Board Vote on Variance

ED Egan read out loud the existing eleven conditions to the variance. See this portion of the recording [here](#).

Vice Chair Richards called for a motion to vote on the existing variance conditions. After Member Sherman moved the item and Member Perrino seconded, the Board unanimously approved the conditions, 6-0 (Vice Chair Richards and Members Carrion, Cohen, Perrino, Safyer, and Sherman).

Vice Chair Richards called for a motion to vote on the six-month variance with conditions. After the item was moved and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the variance with conditions, 6-0 (Vice Chair Richards and Members Carrion, Cohen, Perrino, Safyer, and Sherman).

See the Board's vote on the variance and the conditions [here](#). The final record of variance is published [here](#).

CHS and DOC COVID-19 Update

▶ Introduction

ED Egan provided background on COVID-19 in the jails. See this portion of the video recording [here](#). The Board's COVID-19 PowerPoint presentation is published [here](#).

▶ CHS Presentation

CHS's Senior Vice President Patsy Yang provided updates on COVID-19 positivity rates, decarceration efforts, testing, and vaccinations. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

▶ DOC Presentation

DOC's Commissioner Cynthia Brann provided remarks regarding COVID-19 in the jails and information on vaccinations and testing. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

▶ Jail Population & Decarceration, Housing Area Density

DOC's Commissioner Cynthia Brann, DOC's Senior Deputy Commissioner Timothy Farrell, and CHS responded to the Board's questions regarding jail population, decarceration, and housing area density. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

▶ Testing Strategy

ED Egan provided background on testing strategy for staff and people in custody. CHS's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ross MacDonald responded to Board questions and comments about testing. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

DOC Update Re Tele-Visiting

DOC's Deputy Chief of Staff Dana Wax provided an update on tele-visiting for people in custody. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

BOC Report on the Death of Layleen Xtravaganza Polanco

ED Egan provided background on the Board's Report regarding the 2019 death of Layleen Xtravaganza Polanco. The Board's report with recommendations is published [here](#).

DOC's Director of LGBTQ Initiatives Elizabeth Munskey and DOC's Deputy Commissioner for Quality Assurance and Integrity Patricia Feeney responded to the Board's questions and comments regarding the recommendations made in the Board's report. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

CHS Discharge Planning

CHS's Associate Director for Reentry and Transition Services Ellie Epstein discussed reentry planning during COVID-19. See this portion of the video recording [here](#) and CHS's PowerPoint presentation published [here](#).

Public Comment

The Board heard public comment from Melanie Brown (Independent), Eliel Cruz (NYC Anti-Violence Project), Ashaki Antoine (COBA), Mik Kinkead (JAC), Victoria Phillips (JAC), Sarita Daftary-Steel (Freedom Agenda), Naz Akyol (UJC), Bridget McCarthy (UJC), Kayla Simpson (LAS), Jessica Coffrin-St. Julien (NYU), Victor Pate (CAIC), Michelle Garcia (NY County Defender Services), Susannah Waldman (UJC), Claire Bartholomew (UJC), Kelsey De Avila (BDS),

Jennifer Parish (UJC), Kelly Grace Price (Close Rosie's), Brad Maurer (NY County Defender Services), and Five Muallimm-ak (Test & Trace Corps).

The public comments portion of this video recording is available [here](#).