



**NEW YORK CITY
BOARD OF CORRECTION**

February 8, 2022 PUBLIC MEETING¹ MINUTES

ATTENDEES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Julio Medina, Acting Chair
Marco Carrion, Member
Robert L. Cohen, M.D., Member
Felipe Franco, Member
Freya Rigterink, Member
Steven M. Safyer, M.D., Member
Jacqueline Sherman, Esq., Member

Amanda Masters, Interim Executive Director

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION (DOC)

Louis Molina, Commissioner
Kenneth Stukes, Chief of Department
Asim Rehman, Deputy Commissioner of Legal Matters/General Counsel
Francis Torres, Deputy Commissioner for Programs and Community Partnerships
Stanley Richards, First Deputy Commissioner of Programs and Operations
Maureen Danko, Deputy Commissioner
Steven Kaiser, Executive Director of Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs
Marshall Volk, Assistant Commissioner of the Nunez Compliance Unit
Allie Robertson, Senior Policy Analyst of Special Projects
Nell McCarty, Executive Director of Counseling and Social Services

NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS - CORRECTIONAL HEALTH SERVICES (CHS)

Patsy Yang, DrPH, Senior Vice President
Ross MacDonald, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Sr. Assistant 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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Daniele Gerard, Children's Rights Project
Kristen Brown, Urban Justice Center
Fleming Smith, Urban Justice Center
Kayla Simpson, Legal Aid Society

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

Jose Henry, Brooklyn Defender Services
Zakya Warkeno, The Bronx Defenders
Chaplain Dr. Victoria A. Phillips, Jails Action Coalition
Natalie Fiorenzo, New York County Defender Services
Christopher Boyle, New York County Defender Services
Ashaki Antoine, Correction Officers' Benevolent Association
Kelsey De Avila, Brooklyn Defender Services
Cleo Nevakivi-Callanan, Urban Justice Center
Sania Chandrani, Urban Justice Center
Ashley Williams, Urban Justice Center

Approval of January 11, 2022 Minutes

Acting Chair Medina asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the Board's January 11, 2022 meeting. Upon Member Safyer moving the item and Member Franco seconding it, the minutes were unanimously approved, 5-0 (Acting Chair Medina and Members Cohen, Franco, Safyer, and Rigerink; Members Carrion and Sherman had not yet joined the meeting). See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

Opening Remarks/Announcements

Board Acting Chair Julio Medina ("Acting Chair Medina") convened the meeting. Acting Chair Medina introduced himself and his work at Exodus, Mayor's Task Force for Reentry, Governor's Reentry and Reintegration Committee, the Lippman Commission (The Independent Commission on New York City Criminal Justice and Incarceration Reform), and the Board of Correction. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

BOC Interim Executive Director Amanda Masters ("Interim ED Masters") provided an update on the food protest at RNDC reported during the last Board meeting and BOC's staff investigation of the protest. The Board expressed condolences for DOC staff who passed away in the past month. ED Masters thanked COBA representative Ashaki Antoine for her participation in the Board's public comment period. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

Acting Chair Medina discussed February 3, 2022 meeting with DOC's Commissioner Louis Molina ("Commissioner Molina"), during which Commissioner Molina voiced support for RMAS and presented a plan to implement RMAS. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

BOC Interim Executive Director Update: State of the Jails

Interim ED Masters summarized the Minimum Standards affected by the outstanding Emergency Executive Orders. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

Interim ED Masters explained the latest COVID data and census data, which will be posted on the Board website in a slide deck. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

DOC Commissioner Updates

Acting Chair Medina welcomed Commissioner Molina to deliver DOC's opening remarks. Commissioner Molina thanked the Board for their condolences on the passing of DOC staff and informed the Board of the passing of retired Chief of Department Larry Davis last Friday, February 4. Commissioner Molina expressed support for increasing programming, credible messengers for people in custody, staff recruitment, training and support, and increased access to education. Commissioner Molina invited the Chancellor of Education to tour East River Academy. Commissioner Molina reported that de-escalation units have opened in RMSC and OBCC since

last month's Board meeting. On RMAS implementation, Commissioner Molina provided an update on the planned construction of RMAS units in GRVC. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

Acting Chair Medina provided opportunity for Board members to ask direct questions to DOC. Board members' questions touched on the recent food protest at RNDC, Minimum Standard compliance, available programming services, staffing levels, patterns and data, use of Emergency Executive Orders, young adult housing, access to educational services and attendance, and uniformed staff COVID-19 vaccination. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

RMAS Implementation Update

DOC made additional comments on RMAS implementation, including individualized and congregate programming, staff and leadership structure, physical formats, July 1 operational timetable and current use of NIC. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

CHS COVID-19 Update

CHS's Senior Vice President Dr. Patsy Yang provided an update on COVID-19 in the jails and vaccination among CHS staff. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

Medical and Mental Health Care Update: Health Triage Line

Interim ED Masters invited CHS to discuss the Health Triage Line including initial triage process by nursing staff, coordination with facility clinics, and trends observed across facilities. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Questions by the Board and responses by CHS and DOC begin recording [here](#).

BOC Interim Executive Director Update: Clinic Utilization and Staffing Impacts

Interim ED Masters provided the opportunity for Board members to ask direct questions to DOC and CHS regarding four areas: 1) rates of clinic utilization by facility; 2) policies in place to handle any shortage of escort offices, and violent patients in custody; 3) recent trends in health care staffing; and 4) deaths in custody. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

Public Comment

The Board heard public comment from Daniele Gerard (Children's Rights Project), Kristen Brown (Urban Justice Center), Fleming Smith (Urban Justice Center), Kayla Simpson (Legal Aid Society), Jose Henry (Brooklyn Defender Services), Zakya Warkeno (The Bronx Defenders), Chaplain Dr. Victoria A. Phillips (Jails Action Coalition), Natalie Fiorenzo (New York County Defender Services), Christopher Boyle (New York County Defender Services), Ashaki Antoine (COBA), Kelsey De Avila (Brooklyn Defender Services), Cleo Nevakivi-Callan (Urban Justice Center), Sania Chandrani (Urban Justice Center), and Ashley Williams (Urban Justice Center).

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