



**NEW YORK CITY  
BOARD OF CORRECTION**

**January 11, 2022 PUBLIC MEETING<sup>1</sup> MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jacqueline Sherman, Esq., Acting Chair  
Marco Carrion, Member  
Robert L. Cohen, M.D., Member  
Felipe Franco, Member  
Steven M. Safyer, M.D., Member  
Freya Rigterink, 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  
Daniel Addison, Deputy Chief of Staff  
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

**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

**Approval of November 9, 2021 Minutes**

Acting Chair Jackie Sherman asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the Board's November 9, 2021 meeting. Upon Member Safyer moving the item and Member Franco seconding it, the minutes were unanimously approved, 4-0 (Acting Chair Sherman and Members Rigterink, Safyer, and Franco). See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

**Opening Remarks/Announcements**

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

Board Acting Chair Jackie Sherman (“Acting Chair Sherman”) convened the meeting. The Acting Chair thanked departing Chair Jennifer Jones Austin for her leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic and Restrictive Housing rulemaking. Acting Chair Sherman surmised that Mayor Adams will appoint a new Chair for the Board, but noted that this has not yet occurred. In the absence of a new Chair or Vice Chair, Acting Chair Sherman agreed to Chair this meeting. Acting Chair Sherman also noted that Member Perrino’s term expired last year and that he has left the Board as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Acting Chair Sherman thanked Member Perrino for his service to the Board, the Department, and the City. Continuing, Acting Chair Sherman welcomed Amanda Masters as the Board of Correction’s Interim Executive Director. Interim ED Masters’ background includes previous roles as Deputy Executive Director and Acting Executive Director for the Board, working for the public advocate Letitia James, and most recently working for the Law Department. Amanda Masters will serve as the Board’s Interim Executive Director while the Board completes its search for an Executive Director. Acting Chair Sherman also welcomed newest Board member Freya Rigterink, whose background includes work with the First Deputy Mayor on public safety, criminal justice, and the city’s pandemic response, and significant public service experience. Finally, Acting Chair Sherman welcomed the Department’s newest commissioner, Louis Molina. Commissioner Molina has an extensive background in law enforcement and correctional settings in New York City and Las Vegas. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

#### **Remarks by NYC’s Comptroller**

The Chair recognized the NYC Comptroller, Brad Lander. Comptroller Lander spoke on the humanitarian crises on Riker’s island, RMAS and solitary confinement, the costs of incarceration, and closing Riker’s. See this portion of the video [here](#).

#### **BOC Comments on Executive Orders**

Acting Chair Sherman repeated concerns from November’s public meeting regarding the use of executive orders to circumvent the Board’s authority in providing jail oversight. The Board called on the new administration to work with the Board and the Department to proceed with the implementation of the Board’s minimum standards. See this portion of the video [here](#).

#### **DOC Commissioner Updates**

DOC’s Commissioner Louis Molina introduced himself and outlined his criminal justice background and intentions for the future of NYC’s jails. Commissioner Molina also addressed the implementation of RMAS and its timeline and the Department’s pursuance of mayoral emergency executive orders. The Board followed up with questions for Commissioner Molina and the Department regarding former Deputy Commissioner Townsend and the Nunez Consent Decree, the Department’s staffing challenges, the Department’s status on televisits for people in custody, and young adults on Riker’s. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

#### **Remarks by Council Member Tiffany Caban**

Acting Chair Sherman recognized Tiffany Caban, NYC’s 22<sup>nd</sup> District Council Member. Council Member Caban spoke on her recent visit to Riker’s and access to health and mental healthcare on the island, ESH Housing, and decarceration. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

#### **CHS Variance Requests: Psychotropic Medication and Tuberculosis Tests**

CHS requested renewal on variances regarding psychotropic medication (record of variance action found [here](#)) and tuberculosis screening (record of variance action found [here](#)). There was no public comment on the variance requests. The psychotropic medication variance was moved to a vote by Member Cohen and seconded by Member Safyer. The variance was approved unanimously 5-0 (Acting Chair Sherman and Members Rigterink, Safyer, Cohen, and Franco).

The tuberculosis testing variance was moved to a vote by Member Safyer and seconded by Member Cohen. The variance was approved unanimously 5-0 (Acting Chair Sherman and Members Rigterink, Safyer, Cohen, and Franco). See this portion of the video [here](#).

### **BOC Interim Executive Director Update: State of the Jails**

BOC's Interim Executive Director Amanda Masters provided the opportunity for Board members to ask direct questions to DOC regarding three major areas: 1. Decarceration; 2. The move of individuals to Bedford Hills; and 3. The impacts on minimum standards. See this portion of the video [here](#).

DOC's update and responses to the Board begin [here](#).

### **Restrictive Housing Rule Implementation Update**

BOC Acting Chair Sherman spoke on the Restrictive Housing rule implementation and the emergency executive orders signed by Mayor DeBlasio, which have delayed the required November 1, 2021 end to solitary confinement. At the November public Board meeting, the Board requested that DOC provide an update on the plan to discontinue solitary confinement and implement the RMAS model, the reasons why each part of the rules cannot be met at this time, a detailed timetable for implementing each part, and a description of the interim processes being undertaken to protect and safeguard people in custody, officers, and those entering the jails. The Department stated that the RMAS model would be largely implemented by December 31<sup>st</sup> with full implementation to occur within the first months of 2022. As of the January 11<sup>th</sup> public Board meeting, implementation has not occurred. Acting Chair Sherman and the Board requested information from the Department on why each part of the RMAS rules cannot currently be met, a timetable for implementing each part, and a description of the interim processes being undertaken to protect the rights and safety of people in custody, correction officers, and all others in the jails. See this portion of the video [here](#).

### **COVID-19 Update**

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

CHS's Senior Vice President Dr. Patsy Yang provided an update on COVID-19 and vaccination in the jails and responded to the Board's questions, with additional comment and update from DOC. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

The Department also reported on vaccination rates and compliance among DOC staff beginning [here](#).

### **Nunez Monitor's Report**

Interim ED Masters provided background on the Nunez Monitor's Report and findings. The Department then presented on the most recent Nunez Monitor's Report. See this portion of the video [here](#).

### **Public Comment**

The Board heard public comment from Natalie Fiorenzo (NY County Defender Services), Kayla Simpson (LAS), Ashaki Antoine (COBA), Julia Solomons (Bronx Defenders), Daniele Gerard (Children's Rights Project), Anne Goodman (Urban Justice Center), Claudia Forrester (Brooklyn Defender Services), Irene Cedano (Brooklyn Defender Services), and Christopher Boyle (NY County Defender Services).

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

The next public meeting is scheduled for February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 9:00 AM.