



**NEW YORK CITY  
BOARD OF CORRECTION**

**March 8, 2022 PUBLIC MEETING<sup>1</sup> 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  
Rachel Sznajderman, New York County Defender Services  
Kayla Simpson, Legal Aid Society  
Zakya Warkeno, The Bronx Defenders

---

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

Ashaki Antoine, COBA  
Matthew Romano, COBA  
Natalie Fiorenzo, New York County Defender Services  
Sarita Daftary, Jails Action Coalition

### **Approval of February 8, 2022 Minutes**

Acting Chair Medina convened the meeting and asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the Board's February 8, 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 Rigterink; Members Carrion and Sherman had not yet joined the meeting). See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

### **Opening Remarks/Announcements**

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

Interim ED Masters remarked on the death of Tarzs Youngblood in DOC custody on February 27, 2022. Mr. Youngblood's death is under investigation by DOC's Investigation Division, the New York State Attorney General and by BOC. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

The Board expressed condolences for DOC staff who passed away in the past month. Interim ED Masters updated the Board on concerns brought by COBA representative Ashaki Antoine at the prior meeting, including institutional hot pot water temperature, gang housing and planned repairs on gates, doors, and locks throughout the system. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

Acting Chair Medina discussed February 25, 2022 meeting with DOC's Commissioner Louis Molina ("Commissioner Molina") and his staff, during which DOC updated the Board on the progress of de-escalation units and RMAS implementation. Acting Chair Medina also spoke on transforming Rikers using restorative justice principles and collective efforts following his tour of GRVC with Correctional Standards Review Specialist II Melendez and Interim ED Masters. Acting Chair Medina encouraged all stakeholders to get involved to improve conditions in Rikers and prevent further deaths. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

### **BOC Interim Executive Director Update: Use of Emergency Executive Orders**

Interim ED Masters summarized the continuing Emergency Executive Orders regarding BOC standards. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

### **DOC Commissioner Updates**

Acting Chair Medina welcomed Commissioner Molina to deliver DOC's opening remarks and to discuss RMAS progress. Commissioner Molina thanked the Board for remarking on the death of Mr. Youngblood and expressed his condolences to Mr. Youngblood's family. Commissioner Molina also thanked the Board for their condolences on the passing of DOC staff and expressed condolences to their families.

Commissioner Molina spoke on the Department of Education chancellor's visit and educational access in jails including an additional schoolhouse, increased use of credible messengers, and faith-based outreach. Commissioner Molina noted increase in staffing levels and engagement with staff who have not returned to work. Commissioner reported that there are currently three de-escalation units running and plans continue to add more in the coming weeks. On RMAS implementation, Commissioner Molina confirmed DOC's commitment to comply with July 1

deadline remains firm. Commissioner Molina remarked on violence indicators in jails, balancing population based on gang affiliation and reducing Use of Force in facilities. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

### **RMAS Implementation Update**

Commissioner Molina described RMAS implementation work and goals. DOC General Counsel Asim Rehman spoke on DOC's compliance with HALT Act deadlines and coordinating with defense organizations on technology and operational matters. DOC Executive Director of Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs Steven Kaiser provided update on reports and reporting templates, training, policy, and construction. DOC Deputy Commissioner for Programs and Community Partnerships Francis Torres spoke on programming and counseling services by level. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

### **Board Questions to DOC**

Interim ED Masters provided opportunity for Board members to ask direct questions to DOC. Board members' questions touched on educational plans, Executive Order allowing young adults and adults commingling, lack of staffing data reporting to the Board, use of Executive Orders, initial notification of Mr. Youngblood's death to the Board, *The New York Times* article on improper documentation and reporting of serious injuries in the last year, lockout measures that fall outside of the rubric of HALT Act, logbook audit practices, and de-escalation units openings and use. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

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

Interim ED Masters and Acting Chair Medina invited DOC to discuss and Board members to ask direct questions to DOC regarding four areas: 1) DOC staffing; 2) resumption of in-person visits; 3) utilization of ESH and RHU at GRVC; 4) and violence indicators. Interim ED Masters also introduced questions from BOC staff about the use of "cages" or "quads" in GRVC, number of overdoses, and number of fires and what has been done to prevent them. CHS also participated in the discussion of violence indicators. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

### **CHS COVID-19 Update**

CHS's Director of Communications and Intergovernmental Affairs Jeanette Merrill provided an update on COVID-19 in the jails. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

### **Public Comment**

The Board heard public comment from Daniele Gerard (Children's Rights Project), Rachel Sznajderman (New York County Defender Services), Kayla Simpson (Legal Aid Society), Zakya Warkeno (The Bronx Defenders), Ashaki Antoine (COBA), Matthew Romano (COBA), Natalie Fiorenzo (New York County Defender Services), and Sarita Daftary (Jails Action Coalition). The public comments portion of this video recording is available [here](#).

Following public comment, Acting Chair Medina adjourned the meeting.