



**NEW YORK CITY
BOARD OF CORRECTION**

September 13, 2022 PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES

MEMBERS PRESENT¹

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

Amanda Masters, Esq., Executive Director

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION (DOC)

Lynelle Maginley-Liddie, First Deputy Commissioner
Paul Shechtman, General Counsel
Allie Robertson, Executive Director of Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs
Charlton Lemon, Acting Assistant Chief

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

OTHER ATTENDEES

Fleming Smith, Urban Justice Center
Samantha Coulson, Urban Justice Center
Jonathan Cortez
Julia Solomons, The Bronx Defenders
Kayla Simpson, Legal Aid Society
Kelly Grace Price, Close Rosie's
Lucas Marquez, Brooklyn Defender Services
Moirá Marquis, Books Through Bars

¹ Board Members Felipe Franco and Dr. Steven Safyer attended the meeting remotely due to difficulty attending the designated meeting location.

Natalie Fiorenzo, New York Country Defender Services
Sarena Townsend
Dr. Frances Geteles, HALT Solitary Confinement
Chaplain Dr. Victoria A. Phillips, Visionary V
Leia Faria, Woman's Community Justice Association
Bassimata Simmons
Keli Young, VOCAL-NY
Eileen Maher, VOCAL-NY

Meeting Minutes

Board of Correction Acting Chair Julio Medina (AC Medina) asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the Board's July 12th, 2022 meeting. Board Member Jaqueline Sherman moved to approve it. Board Member Dr. Robert Cohen seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously. Watch this portion of the video [here](#).

Opening Remarks/Announcements

Executive Director Amanda Masters (ED Masters) listed the people who died in DOC custody since the last Board meeting: Michael Lopez, Ricardo Cruciani, and Michael Nieves. ED Masters also offered condolences for the deaths of Department staff since the last meeting. She informed the public of the Emergency Executive Orders (EEO) that are still in effect. ED Masters also provided the following census data: AMKC, 2,056; Bellevue Hospital Prison Ward, 41; EMTC, 704; GRVC, 726; North Infirmary Command, 259; RSMC, 347; RNDC, 803; VCBC, 711; and West Facility, 71. Watch this portion of the video [here](#).

Comptroller Brand Lander provided his comments. He shared two main points: the Comptroller's Office's commitment to greater transparency around Department operations, and the urgency of ending solitary confinement. The Comptroller shared a dashboard providing several Department statistics. The link to the dashboard is [here](#). Watch this portion of the video [here](#).

DOC Commissioner Updates and Board Member Questions

First Deputy Commissioner Maginley-Liddie (FDC Maginley-Liddie) provided updates on the Department of Correction. According to FDC Maginley-Liddie, the Department has incorporated several pieces of the Action Plan, including hiring new senior staff and teams, repairing outdated infrastructure, and redesigning restrictive housing, among other implementations. She spoke on the launch of a public data dashboard, working with Dr. James Austin to design a restrictive housing system and the use of Enhanced Supervision Housing in the meantime, and staff absenteeism and accountability. Watch this portion of the video [here](#).

Board Members questioned the Department based on FDC Maginley-Liddie's statements, and Members' own concerns. Board Member Ramos asked if the Department have developed a table of organization. FDC Maginley-Liddie stated that the "TO" was done on a weekly basis and shared with the Board.

Board Member Cohen asked how many units are staffed with "B" post officers 24 hours a day. FDC Maginley-Liddie stated that she does not currently have the information but that it has been shared with the Board. Board Member Cohen said that it was not. FDC Maginley-Liddie stated that it was her understanding that it was being shared and she would follow up. She also stated that, on September 3, there were 27 unstaffed posts throughout the facilities. Board Member Cohen asked what the plan was for staffing those 27 posts, to which FDC Maginley-Liddie replied that they are heavily recruiting, asserting that DOC is making progress and that they just started a class of approximately 115 recruits.

Board Member Cohen asked why Commissioner Molina was unable to attend the meeting. FDC Maginley-Liddie said he had another engagement.

Board Member Rigtterink asked for a breakdown of unstaffed posts by facility, information about officers working more than a single shift, and projected future recruit classes. FDC Maginley-Liddie said that she would work on getting that information.

Board Member Sherman asked about RNDC, specifically efforts to reduce violence and the use of emergency lock-ins. FDC Maginley-Liddie stated that DOC implemented a violence reduction plan in RNDC which resulted in a significant decrease in slashings and stabbings, and that the violence reduction plan was to be expanded to other facilities, including GRVC. On lockdowns, FDC Maginley-Liddie said that DOC has been doing a lot of tactical search operations, during which lockdowns are utilized. She indicated that it's not a disciplinary measure, but to ensure the safety and security of the facility.

AC Medina described a video he saw about 15 men within the jails beating each other up for 14 minutes before DOC staff responded to the incident. FDC Maginley-Liddie said that she would be happy to discuss the specific details of the incident AC Medina described, but that the officers responded to the incident as quickly as they could. Board Member Cohen asked if DOC has a system for any unit other than the Emergency Services Unit (ESU) to respond. Acting Assistant Chief Charlton Lemon (Chief Lemon) stated that DOC has developed a strategic response team to assist, due to ESU being overwhelming supporting the entire department. In this particular incident, Chief Lemon stated that staff was over-extended because it happened so early in the morning. ED Masters indicated that at 5:21 am when the fight was happening, the "B" post officer left the housing area to enter the A station, and for the next 12 minutes, there was no DOC staff present.

Board Member Franco asked why DOC had 238 lockdowns in July. FDC Maginley-Liddie said that the incident that was just described demonstrates "the type of individuals in custody and the violence that we are dealing with," further stating that in order to investigate, they are conducting tactical search operations on a daily basis and they are locking down facilities to conduct investigations for a temporary moment. Board Member Franco noted that lockdowns are not temporary and that young people have no access to services when they are locked down 238 times out of 30 days. FDC Maginley-Liddie stated that lock-ins can occur after a violent incident, use of force incident, or for other purposes to conduct research, further saying that: "So again, we're dealing with a much violent population," and that this is a critical tool to ensure safety. Board Member Franco stated that lockdowns are hurtful, that people are completely isolated, they can't take showers, food is not consistent, and they don't have access to the pantry or the legal library.

Board Member Sherman added that the RNDC lockdowns are happening for many hours of the day and requested that the Department look into that and follow up with the Board. FDC Maginley-Liddie said that DOC has been sharing that data with the Board in the spirit of transparency.

Board Member Ramos asked whether the 150 correctional officers in training are meant to alleviate attrition. FDC Maginley-Liddie confirmed that it was, that DOC is doing targeted recruitment across the city, and working with a firm to recruit both civilian and uniformed personnel.

Watch all of BOC's questions to the Department [here](#).

Correctional Health Services Update

Senior Vice President Dr. Patsy Yang provided updates on Correctional Health Services. Watch this portion of the video [here](#).

BOC 2021 Death Report and Committee Updates

AC Medina discussed the report issued by the Board on September 12, 2022, regarding six deaths by suicide and four drug intoxication deaths that occurred in custody in 2021.

Board Member Pitts asked the Department about the use of Suicide Prevention Aides (SPAs). FDC Maginley-Liddie stated that there are currently 32 SPAs in AMKC, 12 in GRVC, 10 in RNDC, and 12 in VCBC, and that they are continually trying to recruit people in custody. Board Member Pitts asked how many housing areas there are in the department. Acting Chief Lemon and FDC Maginley-Liddie did not know the exact number.

Board Member Rigrterink asked whether the Department has a target number of SPAs, and what are the barriers to recruitment, including pay. FDC Maginley-Liddie stated that the pay was raised from a dollar to \$1.45 and DOC will talk internally to see how they can increase it.

ED Masters asked if there are SPAs in all housing areas used for new admission intake at EMTC. The Department stated that there were. Watch this portion of the video [here](#).

EMTC Central Intake Updates

AC Medina discussed issues in EMTC, particularly as to intake areas. ED Masters asked about the use of shower cages in the intake area to place people in custody after an incident, since that is what de-escalation units were built for. FDC Maginley-Liddie stated that a Command Level Order was issued the day before which states that decontamination shall only occur in de-escalation units. ED Masters further asked why the shower cages in intake continue to exist if they are not allowed to use it and asked that the Department remove the cage because it is bound to be used again if it's left there. FDC Maginley-Liddie stated that DOC will remove the cage. ED Masters asked if there was a timeline for the removal. FDC Maginley-Liddie stated that they will get back to the Board with that. Board Members also asked questions about the dynamics between CHS and DOC's intake operations and the length of time people spend in EMTC past the quarantine period. Watch this portion of the video [here](#).

Violence Indicators

ED Masters shared a detailed presentation on the violence statistics at Rikers Island, including the monthly total weapon discovery rate, total facility searches, among other fields. Board Members questioned the Department of Correction on their plans to address the reported violence. Watch this portion of the video [here](#).

De-escalation Units

ED Masters provided an update on the use of de-escalation units. Although the Federal Monitor declared Rikers unsuitable to implement RMAS by July 1st, DOC has implemented the part of RMAS that has to do with de-escalation since the spring. The Board expressed concerns about the conditions in these units. Board Members questioned the Department on the state of those units, plans for improvement, and additional concerns. Watch this portion of the video [here](#).

The Department of Correction provided a final update on their youth programs. Watch this portion of the video [here](#).

Public Comment

The Board heard public comments from Fleming Smith (Urban Justice Center), Samantha Coulson (Urban Justice Center), Jonathan Cortez, Julia Solomons (The Bronx Defenders), Kayla Simpson (The Legal Aid Society), Kelly Grace Price (Close Rosie's), Lucas Marquez (Brooklyn Defender Services), Moira Marquis (Books Through Bars), Natalie Fiorenza (New York County Defender Services), Sarena Townsend, Dr. Frances Geteles (HALT Solitary Confinement), Chaplain Dr. Victoria A. Phillips (Visionary V), Leia Faria (Woman's Community Justice Association), Bassimata Simmons, Keli Young (VOCAL-NY), and Eileen Maher (VOCAL-NY).