



## Chair Dwayne C. Sampson New York City Board of Correction “Humanity Continues Here” Agenda

### Phase I: Cultivating Agency Resilience

#### Expand Monitor Coverage & Reporting

It is of the utmost importance that we increase the headcount of our monitors whose primary role is to be in City jails gathering both qualitative and quantitative data about jail operations from observations, investigations, and conversations with persons in custody, as well as corrections officers and other jail employees. Their assistance is invaluable in helping the Board to make informed decisions about policies that impact incarcerated individuals. To advance our monitoring footprint and optimize our operations, the Board will pursue additional headcount as reflected in our submission of the New York City Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2024. Additionally, we will identify a versatile data management system to help Board members and staff gain valuable insights into our oversight operations while modernizing data analysis and reporting.

#### Audit Minimum Standards

The Board enacts minimum standards under our City Charter authority to promote the humane treatment of persons in custody and provide an effective platform for improving jail operations. It is our duty, and no other entity's, to audit the extent to which our agency partners comply with minimum standards. This year, our staff will begin conducting regular audits of frequently violated jail standards and publish annual reports with our findings. In addition, we aim to publish a report card for each facility to provide agency partners with valuable insight and feedback on how the Department can better serve persons in custody.

#### Collaborate With Agency Partners on Systemic Issues

The Board's relationship with the Department of Correction and Correctional Health Services is important to us and vital to the effective oversight of our minimum standards. Although our responsibility as the oversight agency is to ensure that both agencies meet the needs of incarcerated individuals, our joint expertise, insights, and efforts can lead to comprehensive plans that address the root cause of systemic issues. To this end, we must strengthen relationships with our agency partners to improve outcomes for persons in custody. We will achieve this goal by fostering a culture of trust, aligning our goals and objectives, and ensuring that communication lines remain open and productive.

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**Advance  
Transparency in  
Oversight**

As the City’s independent oversight agency, the Board remains committed to operating with transparency in our regulation, monitoring, and reporting of systemic jail issues. By providing clear and up-to-date information, stakeholders remain informed about decisions affecting persons in custody. For these reasons, we will continue with robust reporting on systemic issues, such as jail deaths, access to mandated services, and environmental conditions; transition to efficient, substantive public meetings that foster collaboration and accountability around the systemic issues harming those in City jails; and enhance public education to ensure that stakeholders have access to quality information about the Board of Correction, how to access our assistance, and methods to provide input.

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**Invest in the Learning, Development & Wellness of Staff and Members**

Board staff and members are invaluable to New York City jail oversight, lending their talents and expertise to promote humane conditions during confinement. Investing in their learning, development, and well-being is essential to providing the highest quality of service to persons in custody and jail staff. To this end, we will invest in training consultants with expertise in innovative correctional and oversight practices, training courses offered by the NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) to enhance internal processes and develop current and rising leaders, and partnerships with city-sponsored wellness programs to implement strategies that foster a healthy workplace and provide direct assistance to staff.

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**Amplify &  
Incorporate the  
Voices of  
Incarcerated  
Individuals and  
Service Members**

The Board wants to hear from those living and working in the jails to ensure that their perspectives are respected and considered in all aspects of decision-making. By amplifying the voices of incarcerated individuals and service members, we can create a more equitable and just system for everyone. To this end, we will capture their thoughts in surveys, focus groups, and interviews; incorporate our findings during the reporting and decision-making process; and promote a culture where all incarcerated individuals and service members are treated with dignity and respect.