



New York City Board of Correction

September 10, 2024 Public Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dwayne Sampson, Chair
Helen Skipper, Vice Chair
Robert L. Cohen, M.D., Member
Hon. Barry A. Cozier (Ret.), Member
Felipe Franco, Member
Jacqueline Pitts, Member
Joseph Ramos, Member
Jude Torchenaud, Member

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION (DOC)

Lynelle Maginley-Liddie, Commissioner
Francis Torres, First Deputy Commissioner
Sherrie Ann Rembert, Bureau Chief/Chief of Staff
James Boyd, Deputy Commissioner, Strategic Operations
Manu Goel, Deputy Commissioner, Chief Information Technology Officer
Stacey King, Assistant Commissioner, Programs & Community Partnerships
Valerie Griesokh, Assistant Commissioner, Programs & Community Partnerships
Nell Pattee McCarty, Associate Commissioner, Programs & Community Partnerships
Chelsea Chard, Senior Policy Analyst
Mark Pauley, Senior Policy Analyst
James Conroy
John Carlo Bautista
Annais Morales

NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS – CORRECTIONAL HEALTH SERVICES (CHS)

Jeanette Merrill, MPH, Assistant Vice President of Communications and External Affairs
Carlos Castellanos, Chief Operations Officer/Deputy Executive Director
Nancy Arias, RN, Chief Nursing Officer/Deputy Executive Director
Dr. Bipin Subedi, Chief Medical Officer/Senior Assistant Vice President
Nicole Levy, Director of Communications and Intergovernmental Affairs
Sophia Dillon

CORRECTION OFFICERS' BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

Antoinette Anderson, Third Vice President

Vanessa Quinones, Bronx Borough Trustee

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Amanda Masters, NYOAG

Alex Lesman, Legal Aid Society

Michael Klinger, Brooklyn Defender Services

Chaplain Dr. Victoria A. Phillips, Visionary V Ministries

Anisah Subin, HALT

Jennifer Parish, HALT/JAC

M. Cunningham, HALT

R. Kramer, HALT

Barbara Opotowsky, NYC Bar Association

Rose Harris, WCJS

Keith McKay, WCJS

Tashan Rivers, WCJS

Yonah Zeitz, Katal

Richie, Katal

Ryan Acquiotta, Freedom Agenda

Vidil Guzman

Chair Remarks

Chair Sampson called the meeting to order with a quorum of members present. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Approval of September 10, 2024 Meeting Agenda

Chair Sampson asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the Board's September 10, 2024 meeting. Upon being moved and seconded, Board Member Cohen requested the agenda be amended to include the death of Charizma Jones. Subsequently, the agenda for the Board's September 10, 2024, including the amendment, was approved unanimously. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Approval of the July 16, 2024 Public Meeting Minutes

Chair Sampson asked for a motion to approve the draft public meeting minutes of the Board's July 16, 2024 meeting. Upon being moved and seconded, Board Member Cozier had an edit for the minutes. Specifically, Board Member Cozier requested that minutes be changed in fairness for Board members and Chair who were not present to revisit the June 5, 2023 bylaws. Subsequently, the minutes were approved unanimously. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Person in Custody Public Comments

Chair Sampson acknowledged that persons in custody have not made public comments in several meetings, despite the Board's efforts to keep the identities of staff and individuals in custody anonymous. Chair Sampson expressed that the participation of individuals in custody is crucial and wants the Board to consider how to improve their participation. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Bylaws Review Committee Update

Vice Chair Skipper announced the Bylaws Review Committee ("Committee") met twice. The first meeting was a discussion of Chair Sampson's resolution and Board Member Cozier's amended resolution. At the second meeting, Board Member Cozier removed his amended resolution and the Committee voted on Chair Sampson's resolution. The vote resulted in a tie and there was no resolution issued by the Committee. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Board Member Pitts asked for a motion to approve Chair Sampson's resolution to restore the bylaws to their iteration prior to the current bylaws as passed on June 5, 2023. Vice Chair Skipper asked whether the motion was bringing Chair Sampson's resolution before the Board for a vote. Board Member Pitts confirmed the motion was to request a vote on Chair Sampson's resolution. Board Member Franco inquired what events took place in 2023, to better understand why the resolution was before the Board. Chair Sampson requested that his resolution be publicly read, and BOC Executive Director Jasmine Georges-Yilla read the resolution before the Board for a vote. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Following the reading of Chair Sampson's resolution, Board Member Franco asked whether Board Members may serve on more than two Board committees. Chair Sampson responded that the current Board committees have been ineffective and wants to restore the committees prior to the June 5, 2023 bylaws. Board Member Franco asked about the proposed resolution's intent and how will the proposed committee changes make the Board more effective. Chair Sampson responded that the Chair should determine which Board members serve on each Board committee, which is more effective than nine Board members making that determination. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Vice Chair Skipper raised concerns with the language in the proposed resolution. Specifically, Vice Chair Skipper does not like the naming of "Chief Operating Officer" in the proposed resolution. Additionally, Vice Chair Skipper stated the June 5, 2023 bylaws were amended to remove ambiguity of the Board Chair's role. Chair Sampson stated the City Charter authorizes the Board Chair to be the "Chief Executive Officer." Board Member Cohen stated he did not endorse the "Chief Executive Officer" designation in the City Charter. Board Member Cohen then stated the Board appoints the Executive Director and establishes policies and the Board's Chair should not be involved in BOC staff operations. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Board Member Cozier stated the City Charter only makes a reference to the Chair of Board—no mention of a “Chief Operating Officer” or “Chief Executive Officer”—and an Executive Director that is appointed by the Board. If prior rules made references to a “Chief Operating Officer” or “Chief Executive Officer,” then that was an error because the City Charter defines the officers. Additionally, the Executive Director should not be an officer of the Board because that individual is hired and appointed by the Board, and therefore, is *ex officio* to the Board. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Board Member Torchenaud inquired how does the title change to “Chief Executive Officer” impact the Board’s ability to vote as a majority. Chair Sampson stated the Board will continue to vote as a majority. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Board Member Franco asked about the implications of the proposed resolution. Specifically, Board Member Franco stated the proposed resolution would authorize the Chair to appointment members to Board committees and to take on an executive position over BOC staff. Chair Sampson stated he already responded to Board Member Franco’s questions. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Vice Chair Skipper reemphasized Board Member Cozier’s statement on the City Charter’s nonreference to “Chief Executive Officer” or “Chief Operating Officer.” Chair Sampson stated the Vice Chair position is not listed in the City Charter and the Board may promulgate its rules by majority vote. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Chair Sampson called for a roll call vote on the proposed bylaw resolution. Five Board Members voted in favor of the resolution, noting specific changes to the proposed resolution (Chair Sampson, Cozier with amendments, Pitts, Ramos, Torchenaud with amendments). Three Board Members opposed the resolution (Vice Chair Skipper, Cohen, Franco). Chair Sampson stated the proposed resolution passed. Board Member Cohen dissented stating Board members who voted in favor of the proposed resolution also requested changes be made to the proposed resolution. Vice Chair Skipper concurred with Board Member Cohen, stating the resolution before the Board did not pass. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Public Comments from the Office of the Public Advocate

New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams raised concerns about how the vote on the Chair’s proposed bylaws resolution occurred. Public Advocate Williams acknowledged the deaths of Anthony Jordan and Charizma Jones—two incarcerated individuals who died while in custody. Public Advocate Williams referenced a [Gothamist](#) article, citing approximately 60 percent of all lawsuits filed under the [Adult Survivors Act](#) stem from women who were held in the Department’s custody.

Chair Sampson emphasized the seriousness of investigating acts of sexual violence in City jails. Chair Sampson also emphasized BOC’s limited staff working on PREA-related matters, but affirmed the Director of Violence Prevention has been tasked with working on PREA-related matters, and a report is expected to be published this year.

Board Member Cohen called for a Board committee to be established to focus on PREA-related matters affecting incarcerated individuals and to assess the Department's PREA practices. Board Member Franco concurred with Board Member Cohen's statement, calling for the Board to reexamine current policies and procedures regarding PREA. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Executive Director Update

BOC Executive Director Jasmine Georges-Yilla started with acknowledgements of Board staff and Department staff. Since the launch of the linen and laundry pilot at EMTC in July, the Board's monitoring staff conducted frequent visits to observe and monitor the Department's compliance with the Board's minimum standards. Specifically, Executive Director Georges-Yilla thanked Correctional Standards Review Specialist Castellar, Correctional Standards Review Specialist Porter, and Director Pearson for their dedicated monitoring and follow-up on this important issue. The Board also commends Correction Officer Butters-Britton, Correction Officer M. Charles, Correction Officer N. Charles, and Assistant Commissioner Harvey on their hard work and responsiveness to the issues and concerns that have been raised by the Board and people in custody. The Board's staff have observed significant improvement at EMTC with the operation of linen and uniform exchange and recreation. See this portion of the video [here](#).

The Board shared condolences with the loved ones of Department members of service who passed. See this portion of the video [here](#).

As of September 8, 2024, the approximate total census of people in custody is 6,548. By facility, as of June 23: BHPW (42), EHPW (6), EMTC (1,493), GRVC (988), NIC (244), OBCC (1,457), RESH (175), RMSC (410), RNDC (1,061), and WF (669). See this portion of the video [here](#).

The Board issued an in-depth analysis of the sick call process within NYC jails for calendar year 2023 in August 2024. The report, along with responses from the Department of Correction and Correctional Health Services, can be found on the Board's [website](#). The Board's report evaluates how well the current systems, including both the DOC sick call process and CHS Health Triage Line, meet the medical needs of people in custody. The report's findings and plans for implementing the Board's recommendations will be included as a topic for discussion at a future Board meeting. See this portion of the video [here](#).

The Board completed an extensive heat monitoring initiative in NYC jails between May 31, 2024 and August 30, 2024. Board staff conducted eight visits to each facility on a randomized schedule. Using this data, the Board developed a Heat Monitoring Dashboard to provide near real-time updates helping to ensure that dangerous conditions were promptly addressed. A comprehensive report summarizing the findings and providing recommendations will be issued in October 2024. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Department of Correction Updates

DOC's Commissioner, Lynelle Maginley-Liddie, expressed condolences to Department staff who passed and Charizma Jones and Anthony Jordan who died in custody. On July 18, the Department welcomed a class of 85 recruits. Additionally, James Conroy was appointed as the Deputy Commissioner of Legal Matters/General Counsel in August 2024. Commissioner Maginley-Liddie also shared the Department's ceremony to recognize members of service who passed on September 11, 2001. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Associate Commissioner, Nell McCarty, gave an overview of the Department's Division of Programs and Community Partnerships. See this portion of the video [here](#).

A. IMPACT – Interventions to Make Profound & Continuous Transformations

- i. The IMPACT Team is comprised of social workers and interventions specialists who provide behavioral and community-centered interventions, wellness checks, grief counseling, crisis interventions, new admission orientation, and individual and targeted counseling. See this portion of the video [here](#).
- ii. Starting in 2023, the Department began an initiative to meet with persons in custody based on a report of self-injurious behavior. DOC provides additional support to incarcerated individuals after they are seen by Mental Health (CHS). See this portion of the video [here](#).

B. Family Engagement

- i. In 2022, the Department collaborated with the Children's Museum of Manhattan to continue off-island visitations and create interactive exhibits in visit areas to promote bonding between incarcerated parents and their children. In May and June of 2024, the first visit hubs launched in RMSC and GRVC. See this portion of the video [here](#).

C. Tablet Update and Premium Content

- i. The Department reports that 80 percent of eligible person who are no longer in new admission and have been in custody for at least 30 days are assigned a tablet. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Vice Chair Skipper asked about the qualifications for an intervention specialist and where is there space for formerly incarcerated individuals to participate in the Department's program initiative. Associate Commissioner McCarty stated intervention specialist come from varied background experiences, namely those with lived experiences.

Vice Chair Skipper inquired about a list of tablet applications available to persons in custody and censorship of materials provided to incarcerated individuals. Associate Commissioner McCarty stated the Department will follow up with the list of tablet applications available to persons in custody and will find out more about how applications are censored. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Board Member Cohen asked about the Department's plans to ensure the budget maintains programming needs in years to come. Associate Commissioner McCarty stated the grant received is a matching grant from the Department of Justice which allows DOC to upkeep operational costs. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Board Member Franco asked about Individualized Service Plan for folks in need and the use of evidence-based programs and how the Board can support those efforts. Associate Commissioner McCarty stated the Department has approximately 24 evidence-based curriculums to address persons in custody needs and encouraged the Board to share other evidence-based curriculums for DOC to evaluate and potentially incorporate into its program services. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Board Member Ramos inquired about how the Department services individuals who are hearing impaired and individuals with special needs. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Chair Sampson also inquired about the way incarcerated individuals who are physically or mentally impaired interact with tablets afforded to them. Associate Commissioner McCarty stated the Department's Program division works closely with the Health Affairs division and ensures adaptive equipment is accessible for individuals who need it. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Sherieann Rembert, Bureau Chief/Chief of Staff, provided an update on DOC's body worn cameras. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Board Member Cohen asked about the number of body worn camera that were redeployed in the Department and the safety of cameras placed back in service. Bureau Chief Rembert stated 835 were put back online and all cameras placed online are operable. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Correctional Health Services Updates

- A. Dr. Bipin Subedi, CHS Chief Medical Officer and Senior Assistant Vice President, discussed COVID management and how treatment procedures have evolved, noting the rates of the virus are significantly lower from peak pandemic. See this portion of the video [here](#).
- B. Dr. Subedi shared all patients are screened for gonorrhea and chlamydia upon intake and CHS has worked diligently to improve its treatment processes. See this portion of the video [here](#).
- C. Dr. Subedi stated CHS has worked to improve its pickup services of medication for patients who take chronic medication. See this portion of the video [here](#).

D. CHS has rolled out a new initiative for colonoscopy screening. Specifically, CHS is utilizing fecal immunochemical testing (FIT) to screen colon cancer from a stool testing. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Chair Sampson about the effectiveness and reliability of the FIT screening test. Dr. Subedi stated the FIT screening is more efficient because it allows CHS detect individuals who may be prone to colon cancer. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Board Member Cohen raised concerns about CHS's access to respond to medical emergencies because of the Department's denial of medical access to individuals in need and what practices were implemented to prevent future incidents. Dr. Subedi stated CHS continues to work with DOC on concerns surrounding access to persons in custody in need of medical care. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Correction Officers' Benevolent Association Updates

Antoinette Anderson, Third Vice President, provided the number of physical and sexual assaults on uniformed staff and the number of serious injuries to persons in custody. Additionally, Third Vice President Anderson discussed two proposed NYC Council bills that would impact the jail system. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Discussion of the Board's Bylaws Resolution

Chair Sampson reengaged the Board in discussions on the vote regarding the Board's bylaws. Specifically, Chair Sampson acknowledged the amendment proposed by Board Member Cozier

Board Member Cozier stated a sub-committee was established to review the Board's bylaws and there is no need to create a committee to review the Board's bylaws. Instead, the amendment should focus on eliminating "Chief Operating Officer" and "Chief Executive Officer" language from the Board's bylaws.

Board Member Cozier made a motion to eliminate "Chief Operating Officer" and "Chief Executive Officer" language from the Board's bylaws. Upon being moved and seconded, the Board voted on the amended bylaws.

Seven Board members voted in favor of the amended bylaws (Vice Chair Skipper, Cohen, Cozier, Franco, Pitts, Ramos, and Torchenaud). Chair Sampson abstained. See this portion of the video [here](#).

Public Comment

The Board public comment from Chaplain Dr. Victoria A. Phillips (Visionary V Ministries), Veronica Vela (Legal Aid Society), Jay Edidin (WCJA), Rose Harris (WCJA), Michael Klinger (Brooklyn Defenders), and Fran Geteles (HALT/JAC). See this portion of the video [here](#).