



**New York City
Board of Correction
June 9, 2026
Public Meeting Minutes**

Attendees:

Members Present

Felipe Franco, Interim Chair
Helen Skipper, Vice Chair
Hon. Barry A. Cozier (Ret.), Member
Dr. Lauren Stossel, Member
Frank Schneider, Member

Department of Correction (DOC)

Stanley Richards, Commissioner
Meg Egan, First Deputy Commissioner
James Conroy, Deputy Commissioner of Legal Matters/General Counsel
Patrick Gallahue, Deputy Commissioner of Public Information
Miguelina Aristy, Assistant Commissioner
Alex Maldonado, Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Initiatives
Joseph Caputo, Acting Assistant Chief of Facility Operations
Sherrieann Rembert, Chief of Department
Tamika White, Deputy Warden-In-Command
Wayne Prince, Deputy Warden
Mark Pauley, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Strategic Partnerships
America Canas, Chief of Staff

NYC Health + Hospitals - Correctional Health Services (CHS)

Patsy Yang, Dr. PH, Senior Vice President

Jeanette Merrill, Senior 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

Zachary Rosner, Chief of Medical Service

Joseph Otonichar, Chief of Service, Mental Health

Nicole Levy, Director of Communications and Intergovernmental Affairs

Others in Attendance

Nathaniel Evans, OPA

Jennifer Parish, UJC

Sophie Brettschneider, MOCJ

Abdullah Mohiuddin, MOCJ

Alyssa Hurtado, NYCDS

Ariel Gilbert, NYCDS

Natalie Fiorenzo, NYCDS

Absa Diop, NYCDS

Rebecca Carter, NYCDS

Chaplain Dr. Victoria A. Phillips, Visionary V Ministries and JAC

Roya Touran, NYCDS

Riley Evans, Legal Aid

Margaret Broihier, Legal Aid

Vienna O'Brien, Legal Aid

Josh S., HALT

Liz Bender, NDS

Leonard Simmons, MHLS

Paula Demegret Murray, Osbourne

Tanya Krupat, Osbourne

David Torres, Osbourne

Nathalie Albarracin, Freedom Agenda

Millena Santos Albuquerque, Freedom Agenda

Ryan Acquattro, Freedom Agenda

Approval of June 9, 2026 meeting agenda

Interim Chair Felipe Franco called the meeting to order with a quorum of Board Members present. Board Members Jude Torchenaud and Dwayne Sampson were not in attendance. Interim Chair Franco then opened by welcoming newly appointed Board Member Frank Schneiger. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Upon being moved and seconded, the June 9, 2026 meeting agenda was unanimously approved. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Approval of the May 12, 2026 public meeting minutes

Upon being moved and seconded, the May 12, 2026 meeting agenda was unanimously approved. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Upon being moved and seconded, the May 12, 2026 Executive session meeting minutes were unanimously approved. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Public comment period – People in Custody (PIC)

Six pre-recorded comments from people in custody were played. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Executive Director update

Interim Executive Director Melissa Cintrón Hernández shared condolences with the families and loved ones of Department staff and people in custody who have passed since the Board's May 2026 meeting.

Rajpattie Ramkellawan, 41, died on Monday, May 18, 2026 following a medical emergency. Ms. Ramkellawan had been in DOC custody, and housed at the Rose M. Singer Center, since March 19, 2026. Umais Khan, 40, died on Tuesday, May 19, 2026. Mr. Khan had been in DOC custody, and housed at the Eric M. Taylor Center, since May 7, 2026. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

As of June 8, 2026, the approximate total census of people in custody was 6,709. As of June 8, the census numbers by facility were as follows: BHPW

(58), BHTU (93), EHPW (10), MTC (1,432), GRVC (905), NIC (0), OBCC (1,488), RESH-ESH (154), RESH non-ESH (472), RMSC (416), RNDC (1018) and WF (660). [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Interim Executive Director Cintrón Hernández announced the Board's Daily Census Dashboard, [available on the Board's website now](#). The dashboard provides timely information on the population housed in DOC facilities, summarizing daily census data and allowing users to examine the jail population by facility, legal status, age, and length of incarceration. The dashboard also displays the percentage of the population designated under the Brad H discharge planning program and the percentage identified as heat sensitive. These measures support the Board's oversight responsibilities by providing insight into the size and characteristics of the incarcerated population over time. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

In May, Board staff conducted a total of 419 tours across 195 housing areas. The Board received 238 complaints in May, and the most common issues raised involved health care, visit appeals, environmental health, and food. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Interim Executive Director Cintrón Hernández also provided a recap on the Board's June 2025 Assessment of DOC's Lock-in and Lock-out Procedures on Rikers Island report and recommendations. [This report can be found on the Board's website.](#)

Annual Vice Chair selection vote

Upon being motioned and seconded, Board Member Helen Skipper was chosen unanimously to serve as Vice Chair for a term of one year commencing July 1, 2026. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Commissioner Stanley Richards Opening Remarks

In his opening remarks, Commissioner Stanley Richards offered condolences for recent deaths in custody and praised the life-saving efforts of both staff and incarcerated individuals. He introduced his administration's "people first" approach, which is driven by four key pillars: safety, innovation, staff morale,

and preparing the Department for the future. To achieve these goals, Richards emphasized prioritizing safety through drug interdiction, innovating infrastructure with a \$23 million investment for cell door replacements, and reducing the jail population by partnering with courts to expedite case processing. He also highlighted the importance of improving staff morale through updated training and fair, timely accountability. Finally, he outlined future-focused initiatives, including utilizing data-driven policies, closing Rikers Island in favor of borough-based jails, and expanding therapeutic hospital beds, before calling for an ongoing partnership with the Board rooted in hope and accountability. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Following Commissioner Richards' opening remarks, Vice Chair Skipper asked for an update on the status of the 40-hour crisis intervention training program for officers. She specifically wanted to know what the training entails, how it is scheduled, and exactly who is required to take it. In addition to these questions, she requested a copy of the policy procedures and the training manual. She also made a strong recommendation that the Department include the voices of individuals with lived experiences in the training program. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Department briefing on implementation of June 2025 BOC Assessment of DOC's Lock-In and Lock-Out Procedures and Recommendations

Chief of Department Sherrieann Rembert briefed the Board on the implementation of recommendations from the Board's June 2025 assessment regarding unauthorized involuntary lock-ins, often colloquially referred to as "deadlocking." The assessment found instances where individuals were locked in their cells during standard lockout hours for unauthorized reasons, such as behavioral issues, attempted splashings, or having lice. In response, Chief Rembert emphasized that "deadlocking" is not an officially recognized or authorized practice, noting that a Department-wide teletype was issued in October 2024 to enforce strict compliance with Department directives. She clarified that involuntary lock-ins are only permitted during the mandatory eight-hour overnight period, for facility counts, or during specific emergencies

like riots, escapes, or when there is actionable intelligence regarding a severe threat. To ensure compliance, authorized lock-ins must be reported to the Central Operations Desk, logged appropriately, and monitored by facility management using camera footage. Furthermore, DOC leadership acknowledged that while unauthorized deviations from policy occur, isolating individuals is not an acceptable solution for medical conditions or routine behavioral issues. To address the Board's training recommendations, the Department reported that a 40-hour crisis intervention training program is actively underway for staff in mental health observation and CAPS units, currently holding a 67.6% completion rate. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Department briefing on updated permissible items list

First Deputy Commissioner Margaret Egan briefed the Board on a newly revised, significantly shorter permissible items list that went into effect on June 3, 2026. The updated policy largely prohibits families from mailing in basic necessities that the Department is responsible for providing, with the Department stating that families should not have to bear this financial burden. Board members raised concerns about restricting clothing packages when facilities are experiencing laundry delays, and individuals may have specific needs. They also requested clearer guidance on permitted publications. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Department briefing on access to attorney phone calls in restrictive housing

Deputy Commissioner of Legal Matters/General Counsel James Conroy reaffirmed that Department policy prohibits recording attorney calls and placing limits on their duration or frequency. He explained that a technical error in March 2026 mistakenly limited these calls to six minutes, similar to personal calls; however, individuals could still make an unlimited number of calls. The Department quickly fixed this error and confirmed through audits that there are no ongoing systemic issues limiting these calls. To ensure legal calls remain unencumbered, attorneys or defender organizations must register their numbers on the Department's "do not record" list by emailing

legal intake, which is then processed by the IT department. General Counsel Conroy noted that the phone system features a "dual admonition" warning if a line is being recorded, prompting users to hang up and take steps to register the number if the call is intended to be privileged. If individuals continue to experience technical issues, they should report them via the OCGS 311 grievance process for swift resolution by IT. Finally, General Counsel Conroy confirmed that calls to Correctional Health Services (CHS) lines are also exempt from time restrictions and remain unencumbered. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Department update on electronic logbook pilot progress

Chief of Department Sherrieann Rembert briefed the Board on the progress of the Department's electronic logbook pilot program, which was designed by uniformed staff to replace traditional handwritten logbooks with a digital platform. The Department views this initiative as a foundational step toward the modernized, technology-driven operations that will be required for the future borough-based jail system.

The pilot program was initially launched within the Special Management Unit at OBCC. The Department is currently preparing to train all A-post staff at OBCC on the system. Once A-post staff are fully trained, the Department intends to completely transition to electronic logbooks at OBCC before evaluating next steps and timelines for further expansion. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Department update on Bellevue Hospital OTxHU operations

Deputy Warden in Command Tamika White briefed the Board on the operations of the Bellevue Hospital Outposted Therapeutic Housing Unit (OTxHU), which opened in April 2026. The 104-bed facility is designed to serve individuals with complex medical needs and is the first new jail built by the city in over 30 years. To address specific complaints regarding long transit delays for individuals returning from Manhattan Court, Deputy Warden White reported that she assigned a dedicated driver to conduct direct pickups

immediately after court appearances, which has successfully cut wait times in half.

Several operational concerns, including issues with mail, laundry delays, facility cleanliness, and access to hot and cold water, were raised. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Interim Executive Director Cintrón Hernández announced that Vice Chair Skipper had to leave, so the quorum was lost. Therefore, the meeting transitioned to a hearing, meaning Board members were not able to take any votes or deliberate amongst themselves but could continue asking questions to DOC and CHS and receive public testimony. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

CHS briefing on implementation of June 2025 BOC Assessment of DOC's Lock-In and Lock-Out Procedures and Recommendations

Chief Operations Officer Carlos Castellanos briefed the Board on the implementation of the Board's recommendations stemming from the June 2025 assessment of lock-in and lock-out procedures. The Board had recommended that CHS report allegations of involuntary lock-ins to leadership and document instances where this practice impedes access to medical and mental health care. Chief Operations Officer Castellanos confirmed that this recommendation is currently in practice, explaining that CHS staff are expected to work with DOC staff at the facility level to address any barriers to care, including medication access. If a clinical issue causes concern, staff are instructed to escalate the matter to supervisors or to the 24/7 Central Operations team. While Chief Operations Officer Castellanos noted that security-related concerns are deferred to the Department, CHS focuses on ensuring clinical issues are addressed immediately.

When questioned by Board Member Stossel about tracking, he clarified that "involuntary" or "emergency" lock-ins are not specifically tracked as designated reasons for missed appointments. Chief Operations Officer Castellanos highlighted that CHS updated its incident management reporting

policy last year to encourage staff to report issues related to patient production. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

CHS briefing on barriers to healthcare access in restrictive versus non-restrictive housing

Chief Operations Officer Carlos Castellanos emphasized that CHS works closely with DOC to address issues like medication access across all jail facilities, not just in restrictive housing. When discussing proactive engagement with individuals who miss medical appointments, Chief Operations Officer Castellanos noted a distinction by housing type. He explained that CHS staff, to the best of their ability, follow up with patients who miss appointments in units where medical staff are already on-site. However, he acknowledged that achieving this level of proactive engagement is practically challenging across numerous General Population (GP) housing units.

Interim Chair Franco suggested reaching out to patients who miss appointments. Chief Operations Officer Castellanos agreed and stated that CHS could encourage its staff to attempt these follow-ups. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Public Comment

The Board heard in-person public comments from [Riley Evans](#), [Ryan Acquaotta](#), [Natalie Fiorenzo](#), [Tanya Krupat](#), [Victoria Phillips](#), and [Jennifer Parish](#). The Board heard a virtual public comment from [Katherine Bajuk](#).

The Board's next meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 1:00pm.