



**New York City
Board of Correction
May 12, 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
Jude Torचनाud, 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
Robert Van Pelt, Assistant Commissioner of Preparedness and Resilience
Alex Maldonado, Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Initiatives
Joseph Caputo, Acting Assistant Chief of Facility Operations
Tamia Brown, Executive Director of Visit Operations
America Canas, Chief of Staff
Chelsea Chard, Senior Advisor
S. Fersus

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

Kevin Frick, City Council

Jeff Severe, OPA

Jennifer Parish, UJC

Chris Boyle, NYCDS

Casey Dalporto, NYCDS

Alayna Baker, NYCDS

Catherine Flanagan, NYCDS

Nadia L, NYCDS

Louis Enoch, NYCDS

Michael Klinger, Brooklyn Defenders

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

Fran Geteles

Pauline Syrnik, NYCDS

Roya Touran, NYCDS

Riley Doyle Evans, Legal Aid

Tarini Garimella, Osborne

Natalie Fiorenzo, NYCDS

Leonard Simmons, MHLS

Candie

Christina Johnson

Courtney Gross, NY1

Ryan Acquattro, Freedom Agenda

Approval of May 12, 2026 meeting agenda

Executive Director Georges-Yilla opened with a congratulations to Interim Chair Franco on his appointment and an acknowledgement of Board Member Sampson's time as Chair. Board members also shared similar sentiments and welcomed new Board Member Schneider and DOC Commissioner Richards.

[See this portion of the video here.](#)

Interim Chair Franco called the meeting to order with a quorum of Board members present. Board Members Dwayne Sampson and Frank Schneider were not in attendance. Upon being moved and seconded, the May 12, 2026 meeting agenda was unanimously approved. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Approval of the March 10, 2026 public meeting minutes

Upon being moved and seconded, the March 10, 2026 public meeting minutes were unanimously approved. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Commissioner Stanley Richards Opening Remarks

DOC Commissioner Stanley Richards appeared for the first time before the Board as Commissioner, speaking on his 'people-first' philosophy.

Commissioner Richards spoke about his plans for the future and highlighted accomplishments the Department has had in his first 100 days. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Public comment period – People in Custody (PIC)

Six comments from people in custody were played. Interim Chair Franco asked the Department to look into the feasibility of streaming the Board's public meetings for people in custody. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Executive Director update

Executive Director Georges-Yilla shared condolences with the families and loved ones of Department staff and people in custody who have passed since the Board's March meeting.

Barry Cozart, age 39, died on March 25, 2026. Mr. Cozart was found unresponsive in his assigned cell in GRVC and was subsequently pronounced

deceased at the scene. John Price died on March 29, 2026 at the age of 49. On March 28, Mr. Price was transported from EMTC to Elmhurst Hospital following a medical examination. Mr. Price passed away while in the hospital on March 29. The Board awaits determinations from OCME on Mr. Cozart and Mr. Price's causes of death. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

As of May 11, 2026, the approximate total census of people in custody was 6,706. As of May 11, the census numbers by facility were as follows: BHPW (66), BHTU (61), EHPW (9), EMTC (1,444), GRVC (903), NIC (51), OBCC (1,478), RESH-ESH (123), RESH non-ESH (505), RMSC (429), RNDC (1,004), and WF (632). [See this portion of the video here.](#)

The Board received 309 complaints in April, with the largest share coming from OBCC (25.88%). The most common issues raised involved medical health care (14.88%), visit appeals (7.11%), and telephones (4.53%). [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Regarding reports, on May 1, 2026, the Board of Correction released a report concerning the deaths of Edwin Ramos, Aramis Furse, and Kyron Randall, who died in DOC custody in November and December 2025. The Board's report highlights 11 key findings and makes 13 recommendations to DOC and CHS regarding their policies and practices. Some of the findings and recommendations touch on post abandonment, lack of touring by uniformed staff, unsecured cell doors, lack of continuous monitoring by emergency response staff, and use of contraband. [The full report is available on the Board's website. See this portion of the video here.](#)

In April 2026, the Board's Monitoring team shared findings and recommendations from its review of the Department's Ramadan accommodations conducted across DOC facilities between February 18 to March 19, 2026. Overall, facilities provided consistent access to congregational prayer, evening meals, and Suhoor bags, and monitors did not identify any systemic breakdowns in operations. However, monitors did identify several recurring operational issues across facilities, including staffing

shortages that affected escort timeliness, meals arriving too early and becoming cold, inconsistent meal distribution for PIC who did not attend congregational prayer, and inaccuracies in Ramadan participation lists that at times limited access to services. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Executive Director Georges-Yilla then shared that this meeting will be her last as Executive Director. Board members then thanked Jasmine for all her work with the Board, wishing her success in all her future endeavors. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Department briefing on response to BOC Death Report Recommendations

Commissioner Stanley Richards began by sharing his deepest condolences with family members that have lost loved ones on Rikers Island. He then stated that the Department is aligned with the Board's recommendations and will have an official implementation response in the coming weeks. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Interim Chair Franco asked Commissioner Richards to speak about programming changes under his administration. Board Member Stossel asked about Department plans to shift towards a culture of accountability. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Department update on revamp of family and attorney visits

Executive Director of Visit Operations Tamia Brown formally introduced herself and discussed early work on improving efficiency, accessibility, and overall visitor experience. Executive Director Brown noted that average wait times have gone down slightly, acknowledging that work will continue to be done to refine the visit process. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Executive Director Georges-Yilla requested that the Board be included in Visits Working Group correspondence and meetings moving forward. Vice Chair Skipper asked about child-friendly visit spaces in the Borough-Based Jail model. Board Member Stossel mentioned slight changes to the attorney visit scheduling system that have been requested by defender organizations. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Department update on heat mitigation plan

Assistant Commissioner of Preparedness and Resilience Robert Van Pelt gave an overview of the Department's plan to manage temperatures in the facilities this summer. Assistant Commissioner Van Pelt explained the procedures for both air-conditioned and non-air-conditioned units. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Vice Chair Skipper asked about the plans for distribution of shirts and shorts. She also asked about the number of operable fans in housing areas. Interim Chair Franco requested the Department look into providing additional shading for outdoor recreation areas. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Department update on Borough-Based Jails design

Assistant Commissioner of Strategic Initiatives Alex Maldonado discussed the mesh layers present in designs for open-air recreation spaces. Assistant Commissioner Maldonado stated that two-layer system is for safety and privacy of both City residents and people in custody. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Interim Chair Franco asked about heat concerns in the summertime. Board Member Stossel asked for additional clarification regarding the need for two layers. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

DOC and CHS joint update on the Outposted Therapeutic Units

Senior Vice President Dr. Patsy Yang and Commissioner Stanley Richards shared their excitement over the opening of the Bellevue Outposted Therapeutic Units, seeing patients moving in on April 7th. The current census is 73. Commissioner Richards stated that NIC will be closed by the end of June. Board Members shared congratulations.

[A video was played highlighting Bellevue units. See this portion of the video here.](#)

CHS response to BOC Death Report Recommendations

Senior Vice President Dr. Patsy Yang stated that CHS accepted the Board's recommendation, reminding their staff to ensure that someone always has eyes on medically in-need patients. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

CHS overview of new Medical Cohorted Housing (MCH)

Chief of Medical Service Dr. Zachary Rosner presented on the new Medical Cohorted Housing unit, expanding the continuum of care for patients who do not require OTxHU beds but could benefit from greater access to nursing and medical care. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Vice Chair Skipper asked where this unit will be housed, and Dr. Rosner stated RMSC. Board Member Stossel asked about production timelines. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Vice Chair Skipper voiced concerns over housing this male unit in the female facility. DOC'S Acting Assistant Chief of Facility Operations Joseph Caputo discussed why that unit location was chosen, citing efforts to decommission facilities. Commissioner Richards also stated plans to decarcerate to solve the issue of men in RMSC. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Public Comment

The Board heard in-person public comments from [Christina Johnson](#), [Dr. Victoria A. Phillips](#), [Ryan Acquoaatta](#), [Natalie Fiorenzo](#), and [Michael Klinger](#).

The Board then heard virtual a public comment from [Kayla Simpson](#).

Executive Session

Upon being moved and seconded, Board members voted unanimously to enter executive session after a brief recess. Minutes will be published to the website reflecting discussions and votes during the session. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

The Board's next meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 1:00pm.