



**New York City
Board of Correction
January 13, 2026
Public Meeting Minutes**

Attendees:

Members Present

Dwayne C. Sampson, Chair
Helen Skipper, Vice Chair
Hon. Barry A. Cozier (Ret.), Member
Felipe Franco, Member
Dr. Lauren Stossel, Member
Jude Torchenaud, Member

Department of Correction (DOC)

Lynelle Maginley-Liddie, Commissioner
Francis Torres, First Deputy Commissioner
Fritz Frage, Senior Deputy Commissioner
James Conroy, Deputy Commissioner of Legal Matters/General Counsel
James Walsh, Deputy Commissioner of Security Operations
James Boyd, Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Operations
Patrick Gallahue, Deputy Commissioner of Public Information
Nell Colón, Deputy Commissioner of Programs and Community Partnerships
Musa Elbulok, Deputy Commissioner of the Office of Management Analysis and Planning
Kathleen Zadzora, Assistant Commissioner of Health Affairs
Wayne Prince, Deputy Warden
Nadia Jean-Francois, Executive Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Special Projects
Shannon Castang-Feggins, Director of Project Management
Alyssa Powell, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner
Carlos Collado
Francisco Corden

NYC Health + Hospitals - Correctional Health Services (CHS)

Patsy Yang, Dr. PH, Senior Vice President

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
Jessica Laboy, Chief Administrative and Compliance Officer
Nicole Levy, Director of Communications and Intergovernmental Affairs

Others in Attendance

K. Frick, City Council
Amisa Ratliff, City Council
Nathaniel Evans, OPA
Chaplain Dr. Victoria A. Phillips, Visionary V Ministries and JAC
Jennifer Parish, JAC/HALT
Courtney Gross, NY1 News
Alex Kroles, The City
Rebecca Carter, NYCDS
Ashley-Anna Aborenden, NYCDS
Stephanie Bazell, NYCDS
Bernadette Rabuy, NYCLU
Gina Williams, NYCPA
Tanya Krupat, Osborne
Tarini Garimella, Osborne
Tamara Santibañez
Jonathan Kurtz
Michael Klinger, Brooklyn Defenders
Natalie Fiorenzo, NYCDS
Ryan Acquattrota, Freedom Agenda
Ashley Santiago, Freedom Agenda

Approval of January 13, 2026 meeting agenda

Upon being moved and seconded, the January 13, 2026 meeting agenda was unanimously approved.

Approval of the November 13, 2025 public meeting minutes

Upon being moved and seconded, the November 13, 2025 minutes were unanimously approved.

Public comment period – People in Custody (PIC)

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

Executive Director update

Executive Director Georges-Yilla began with a brief overview of the Board's mandate. Throughout 2025, the Board continued to observe sustained overcrowding across the jail system. Population levels frequently exceeded operational capacity, compounding longstanding challenges related to staffing shortages, delayed movement, access to services, and compliance with Minimum Standards. In 2025, the Board also raised serious concerns regarding the Department's establishment of a Special Management Unit, or SMU, without prior notice to the Board and without clear demonstration of compliance with Minimum Standards governing restrictive housing. Executive Director Georges-Yilla also shared the Board's 2026 priorities. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

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

Edwin Ramos, age 38, died on November 21, 2025. Mr. Ramos collapsed in the bathroom of his assigned housing area in OBCC, prompting a medical emergency. He was transported to Mount Sinai Queens Hospital, where he was declared deceased.

Aramis Furse died on December 7, 2025 at the age of 32. Mr. Furse was transported from OBCC to Mount Sinai Queens Hospital after he was found unresponsive in his cell. He was pronounced deceased at the hospital.

Kyron Randall, age 33, died on December 22, 2025. Mr. Randall became unwell in his assigned cell in GRVC's PACE unit. He was transported to Elmhurst Hospital, where he was subsequently declared deceased.

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

The Board is in the very final stages of review of the Second Report and Recommendations on 2025 Deaths in Custody, covering the deaths of Benjamin Kelly, James Maldonado, Christian Collado, Edwin Quispe, Ardit Billa, Jimmy Avila, and Carlos Cruz. The final public report on the deaths of Edwin Ramos, Aramis Furse, and Kyron Randall will be issued shortly thereafter. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

As of January 12, 2026, the approximate total census of people in custody was 6,865. As of January 12, the census numbers by facility were as follows: BHPW (69), EHPW (13), EMTC (1,346), GRVC (881), NIC (299), OBCC (1,421), RESH-ESH (137), RESH non-ESH (487), RMSC (456), RNDC (1,068), and WF (686). [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Executive Director Georges-Yilla also shared Board staff observations related to the Department's clinic production dashboard pilot. Board staff observed that the clinic production dashboard pilot at the North Infirmiry Command operates in a relatively controlled environment, with limited movement and lower sick call volume, in part because many housing areas provide medical care on-unit. Staff noted that in larger facilities—where sick call demand is higher, on-unit care is limited, and movement is more complex—reliance on fragmented documentation could result in greater gaps in tracking and oversight. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

CHS Variance requests regarding psychotropic medication and tuberculosis screening process

Chief of Mental Health Service Joseph Otonichar and Chief of Medicine Zachary Rosner presented CHS's two six month variance requests from 40 RCNY § 2-05(b)(2)(i-ii) and 40 RCNY § 3-04(b)(2)(v)(A). These are longstanding variances that have been consistently granted, as they are aligned with community standards of care. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Executive Director Georges-Yilla made note that a scheduled hearing on rulemaking regarding these two variances is scheduled for February 10, 2026, but the variances are set to expire before that date. Board members had no questions for CHS, and there were no public comments. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Upon being moved and seconded, both variances were unanimously approved. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Overview of Rikers Visit Working Group (active between 2015 and 2020)

Tanya Krupat, Chaplain Dr. Victoria A. Phillips (Dr. V.), Ashley Conrad, and Michael Klinger provided a briefing on the successes and challenges of the Rikers Visit Working Group, which was active between 2015 and 2020. Information was shared regarding how the group came to be created, stressing the importance of visits for maintaining roots to the community while incarcerated. They also explained why the Visit Working Group should be re-established to help ameliorate ongoing visit concerns, noting that Department representatives must have authority to enact change and be housed under the Commissioner. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Vice Chair Skipper thanked the Visit Working Group members for their testimonial and expressed interest in working with the group if it is re-established. Board Member Franco then asked a few questions to the group and expressed his support for the group. Chair Sampson also expressed the importance of visits for mental health and community support. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Department briefing on clinic production dashboard pilot at NIC and compliance with sick call minimum standards

Assistant Commissioner Kathleen Zadzora provided an update on the clinic production dashboard pilot and compliance with sick call minimum standards. Assistant Commissioner Zadzora gave an overview of the processes available to people in custody to be seen by medical staff. She also stated that the Department is testing and monitoring system functionality and operational workflow for this new digital pilot. Assistant Commissioner Zadzora also explained the methods the Department is undertaking to ensure that staff and people in custody know about this pilot program and how to engage with it. The Department anticipates expanding this pilot to an additional facility in the spring. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Board members were then given an opportunity to ask questions. Vice Chair Skipper asked which facility would be next, and Assistant Commissioner Zadzora stated that the Department is still exploring and has not chosen yet. Board Member Torchenaud asked about data reporting capabilities. Board Member Stossel asked a multitude of questions to try to distinguish the difference between ‘scheduled’ and ‘unscheduled’ visits in relation to ‘sick call’ in the system. She also asked questions regarding the means of ensuring that people asking for sick call services are actually getting logged into the pilot system. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Department briefing on electronic logbook pilot at OBCC

Deputy Warden Wayne Prince provided an update on the electronic logbook pilot in the SMU at OBCC, focusing on testing functionality, gathering staff feedback, and identifying operational challenges. Deputy Warden Prince described challenges that occurred during temporary system outages, and the need to make the system more reliable before expanding. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Chair Sampson asked that a presentation of the pilot be given to Board members, and the Department confirmed that this could be scheduled. Vice Chair Skipper asked about the delivery method and the possibility of backdating the electronic logbook system after outages. Board Member Stossel asked about the feasibility of incorporating wand tour operations with the operations of this pilot to increase touring verification and accountability. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Department briefing on revamp of family and attorney visits

Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Operations James Boyd began by commending the testimony of the Visits Working Group from earlier this meeting. Deputy Commissioner Boyd stated that the new Executive Director of Visit Operations is anticipated to start in a

few days. He also stated that as of December 20, 2025, the Department resumed accepting package drop-offs in person during visiting hours. Regarding re-establishing the Visit Working Group, Deputy Commissioner Boyd stated that this is something that can be further looked into once the new Executive Director begins. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Vice Chair Skipper asked where the new position will be housed. Board Member Torchenaud asked about the CHIPS program oversight in lieu of a new executive staff member being onboarded. Board Member Stossel shared concerns she witnessed during a recent tour with the attorney visit process and time stamping. Board Member Franco requested the Department's plans to track the experience of visitors. Chair Sampson requested that the Department look into food quality and access for visitors that are waiting for long periods of time. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Vice Chair Skipper stated that she received reports that the protective custody unit at RMSC was closed. Vice Chair Skipper also stated that she had received reports that mental observation units at OBCC have been shifted around. Vice Chair Skipper asked that the Department look into these two incidents and report back to the Board, which Deputy Commissioner Boyd affirmed he would do. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

Public Comment

Chair Sampson stated that at the end of the last Board meeting, Board Member Pitts resigned from the Board, commending her service. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

The Board then heard in-person public comments from Ryan Acquattro, Chaplain Dr. Victoria A. Phillips, and Natalie Fiorenzo. The Board then heard virtual public comments from Kayla Simpson and Tahanee Dunn. [See this portion of the video here.](#)

The Board's next meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, immediately following the public hearing on proposed rules, which begins at 1:00pm.