



NEW YORK CITY
BOARD OF CORRECTION

October 11, 2016 - Public Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT

Stanley Brezenoff, Chair
Derrick D. Cephas, Esq., Vice Chair
Gerard W. Bryant, Ph.D.
Robert L. Cohen, M.D.
Honorable Bryanne Hamill
Jennifer Jones Austin, Esq.
Michael Regan
Stanley Richards

Steven M. Safyer, M.D.: Absent

Martha W. King, Executive Director

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Joseph Ponte, Commissioner
Martin Murphy, Chief of Department
Jeff Thamkittikasem, Chief of Staff
Winette Saunders, Deputy Commissioner
Peter Thorne, Deputy Commissioner
Angela Tolosa, Assistant Commissioner
Nichole Adams-Flores, M.D., Deputy Commissioner of Health Affairs
James Walsh, Deputy Commissioner of Adult Programming & Community Partnerships
Shirvahna Gobin, Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Planning
Annie DiCaterino, Strategic Planning
Kwame Patterson, Assistant Commissioner of Public Information
Heidi Grossman, Esq., Deputy Commissioner for Legal Matters/General Counsel
Douglas Zeigler, Executive Agency Counsel
Danielle Leidner, Director for Intergovernmental Affairs
Turhan Gumusdere, Bureau Chief of Security
Hazel Jennings, Bureau Chief of Facility Operations
Yolanda Canty, Assistant Chief
Marisa Alberti, Policy Analyst
America Canas, Senior Policy Analyst

Janet Amaro, Project Manager Analyst
Mahsa Forkin, Project Management Analyst
Matthew Adams, Project Coordinator
Meekaelle Copeland, Admin. Director of Social Services
Rabiah Gaynor, Executive Director of Health Affairs
Carleen McLaughlin, Director of Legislative Affairs and Special Projects
Elizabeth Seibold, Press Officer
Benjamin Seebaugh, Staff Analyst
Maxsolaine Mingo, Warden
Chantelle Johnson, Deputy Warden in Command
Luigi Ottaviano, Acting Deputy Warden
Errol Toulon, Jr., Deputy Warden
Louis Molina, Captain
Diahann Cole, Correction Officer
Ronnie Santana, Correction Officer
Cherae Hendy, Agency Attorney Intern
Mackenzie Dancho, Intern

NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS-CORRECTIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Elizabeth Ford, M.D., Chief of Psychiatry, Correctional Health Services (CHS)
Homer Venters, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, CHS
Ross MacDonald, M.D., Chief of Medicine, CHS
Patsy Yang, Dr.P.H., Senior Vice President, CHS
Patrick Alberts, Senior Director of Policy and Planning
Levi Fishman, Associate Director of Public Affairs
Carlos Castellanos, Director of Operations
Lipi Roy, MD, MPH, Chief of Addiction Medicine
George Strachan, Director of Employment Safety & Workplace Violence Prevention
Lucia Caltagirone, Agency Attorney Intern
Nathaniel Dickey, Special Assistant
Virginia Bauber, Staff
B. Hendrickson, Staff
Abdul Madison, Staff

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Alex Abell, Urban Justice Center
Khorri Atkinson, Politico NY
Benny Boscio, Correction Officers' Benevolent Association (COBA)
Shande Burch, John Jay College
Angel Castro, COBA
Liz Castro, COBA
Albert Craig, COBA
Mark Cranston, Middlesex County Department of Correction
Brian Crow, NY City Council (NYCC)
Shiva Darshan, Press
Chelsea Davis, Office of the Mayor
Kelsey Deavila, Brooklyn Defender Services (BDS)

Elizabeth DeWolf, Policy Associate at CUNY
Margret Egan, City University of New York
Ruthie Epstein, New York Civil Liberties Union
Dennis Gonzales, Monitorship
Courtney Gross, NY1
Colby Hamilton, Politico NY
Shannon Hakn, Independent Budget Office
Elias Husamudeen, COBA
Kymane Hutchinson, Jails Action Coalition (JAC)
Paulette Johnson, COBA
Mik Kinkead, Sylvia Rivera Law Project
Tanya Krupat, Osborne Association
Victoria Law, Freelance
Amanda Masters, NYC Public Advocate – Hon. Letitia James
Elizabeth Mayers, JAC
Valentina Morales, Mental Hygiene Legal Services
Deema Nagib, Fordham Law
Charlotte Pope, Children’s Defense Fund –NY (CDF-NY)
Grace Price, JAC
Steve Riester, NYC Council, Finance Division
Kathleen Rubenstein, Law Department
Marc Steier, COBA
Dale Wilker, Legal Aid Society
Erica Wolf, BDS

September 13, 2016 Minutes

Chair Brezenoff asked for a motion to approve the September 13, 2016 minutes; Member Hamill moved the item; and the Chair seconded. There were no corrections or amendments. The Chair asked for a vote on approving the minutes, and they were approved unanimously (Chair Brezenoff, Vice-Chair Cephas, Members Bryant, Cohen, Jones Austin, Hamill, and Richards).

Vote to Correct Variance End Date (§§ 1-05(b) and 1-08(f))

Chair Brezenoff asked for a motion to extend a limited variance from BOC Minimum Standards § 1-05(b) and § 1-08(f) in Secure housing from November 8, 2016 (Election Day) to November 15, 2016 (date of the Board's November public meeting); Member Hamill moved the item; and Member Cohen seconded. The Chair asked for a vote on approving this motion and it was approved unanimously (Chair Brezenoff, Vice-Chair Cephas, Members Bryant, Cohen, Hamill, Jones Austin and Richards).

Monthly Health and Mental Health Access Update

Commissioner Ponte reported on the Department of Correction's ("Department" or DOC) progress on production of inmates to follow-up care and clinic appointments. He stated that DOC had made progress in this effort since the last Board meeting and, as an example, said that progress had been made in advancing the design of a metrics system that will track production.

Dr. Ramanathan Raju, President and Chief Executive Officer of NYC Health + Hospitals ("H+H") assured the Board that a collaborative effort with DOC to ameliorate inmate production is underway.

Dr. Nichole Adams-Flores stated that there are three dedicated DOC buses that transport incarcerated individuals to specialty clinics. She spoke of a concerted effort over the last month by DOC and H+H to address issues of production, access to medical care, and medical follow-ups; this includes adding Chiefs who are specifically dedicated to inmate production to specialty clinics and a Chief who focuses on medical and mental health follow-up.

Dr. Yang explained that the Correctional Health Services Access Report for September will not reflect major shifts in production numbers as this was a recent improvement, but increased production is reflected in the October Report.

Member Cohen recognized that DOC and H+H's efforts to improve production are yielding positive results. However, he noted that a change in production numbers is directly correlated to escort policy. He urged the Department to consider reinstating a policy of unescorted movement. Chief Murphy acknowledged the need for non-escort movement and announced that, starting Monday November 7, 2016, the vast majority of inmates will not be escorted to programs and services, including to clinic appointments.

Restart Units

Chief of Staff Jeff Thamkittikasem ("Chief of Staff") provided an update on the restart units ("Units") at various facilities. He discussed the Units' fundamental components, including an emphasis on infrastructure (e.g., ensuring that all doors are working). The Department also implemented training of all managers to ensure consistency across all Units, and a new

classification system to better identify inmates to be housed there. DOC has focused on the creation of a Unit orientation for all inmates and DOC staff, and a dramatic increase in Unit programming. He reported that violence in these Units is down by over 70% and assaults on staff are down by 82%, as compared to other housing units.

The Chief of Staff reported that “pulse” surveys of officers suggest that they feel empowered and safe in these Units. Thus far, the Department has created Restart Units at GRVC and GMDC, and is currently developing one at AMKC.

Member Cohen stated that he had visited two of these Units and found them very impressive in terms of the programs offered and the respectful tone.

Member Richards asked what the Department has learned about this housing model that could be shared throughout DOC and with other jurisdictions. The Chief of Staff responded that a critical lesson learned is the need to maintain steady officers in these Units and fostering relationships between officers and inmates by way of orientations and training. Chief Murphy noted that correction officers have been granted authority to make their own decisions to resolve simple issues. As a result, they have developed confidence in their management of these Units.

Public Comment on Limited Variance Requests

The Board heard public comment on DOC’s two requests for a limited variance from Minimum Standard § 1-16(c)(1)(ii) in order to place (1) 18 year olds in an Enhanced Supervision Housing unit (ESH); and (2) commingle 19-21 year olds with adults in ESH. The public comments of Mark Cranston (Middlesex County Department of Correction), Kelsey Deavila, (Brooklyn Defender Services (BDS)), Albert Craig (COBA) and Dale Wilker (Legal Aid Society) are available [here](#).

Ad Hoc Adolescent and Young Adult Committee Update

Chair Brezenoff asked Member Hamill to provide an update on the Adolescent and Young Adult Committee. Noting the relevance of the Young Adult Plan to DOC’s pending variance requests, Member Hamill asked Commissioner Ponte to provide an update on the Plan and discuss the young adult ESH units that are the subject of these requests.

► Young Adult Plan Update

Commissioner Ponte reported that for the past two years, DOC has studied and implemented various evidence-based models utilized in this and other countries to house incarcerated adolescents and young adults. Initially, the Department was going to concentrate all young adults in one facility, but once implemented, this approach proved overwhelming for staff. Recently, DOC started commingling young adults and adults in a unit at AMKC. This has led to a reduction in violence among the young adult population.

Deputy Commissioner Saunders discussed in detail DOC’s steps in developing the Young Adult Plan and alternative housing programs for young adults, i.e., the Secure Unit, Transitional Restorative Unit (TRU), and the Second Chance Housing Unit (SCHU), including a restart of these units. The Deputy Commissioner said that the mixed young adult and adult unit at AMKC currently houses 16 adults and eight (8) young adults — in a two-to-one ratio — and that so far, the unit was not experiencing any issues. She noted that the ESH unit exclusively for young adults,

which currently houses four (4) young adults who were placed there because of their egregious behavior, provides 7-hour lockout, including 3 hours of programming. She remarked this combination of out-of-cell and programming time would allow for an appropriate assessment of the young adults housed there. Deputy Commissioner Saunders added that, in collaboration with H+H, the Department would develop a PACE unit for young adults.

► **Discussion of Young Adult Housing Options**

Member Hamill said that in the Board’s rulemaking on ESH, the Board established placement criteria and restrictions for adults, which she analogized to “punitive segregation light.” Deputy Commissioner Saunders explained that the placement criteria for young adult ESH is a history of having committed a stabbing, slashing and/or acts which caused serious injury to staff or other inmates.

Member Cohen asked the Deputy Commissioner to explain how the addition of a housing area with seven (7) hours of lock-out time would reduce the risk of violence. She responded that this model was successful for adults and, therefore, DOC wanted to pilot it for young adults.

Member Hamill stated that the establishment of young adult ESH, as compared to the housing of close to 800 young adults in GMDC this past June, represented a dramatic shift in approach toward managing young people in the City’s jails. She asked whether DOC intended to use GMDC for young adults who wanted to go to school. The Deputy Commissioner responded that GMDC would become a “primary programming hub.” School slots would be used by those who want to go to school while high-classification young adults who do not want to go to school would be commingled with adults in the unit at AMKC.

Member Hamill asked DOC why, if there were sufficient school space and budgeted programming, the Department would not use GMDC to house most of the low- and medium-classification young people where they would be supervised by officers specially trained and dedicated to engaging them. In response, the Deputy Commissioner said that in June, the Department had determined that concentrating more than 700 young adults in GMDC had not yielded positive results in terms of reducing violence.

Member Hamill expressed her interest in seeing a high level of programming for as many young people as possible now that the leadership was invested in providing more programming for them. Deputy Commissioner Saunders responded that although she agrees with Member Hamill, there are challenging young people in GMDC as well, and that is why ESH for young adults is being requested.

Member Richards asked what percentage of young adults DOC estimated would be housed in GMDC, either for education or programming, versus other housing units. Mr. Thamkittikasem responded that a majority of young adults — approximately 60% of nearly 1,000 individuals — continue to be housed at GMDC. As DOC develops commingled programs, it can provide and expand targeted programming to all young adults.

Member Richards inquired on the criteria utilized by the Department to determine who would be in GMDC versus who would be commingled with adults at AMKC. Deputy Commissioner

Saunders responded that high-classification youth and youth who do not want to participate in school would be housed in this unit at AMKC.

Member Hamill stated that the process to end punitive segregation for young adults began with creation of a Young Adult Plan to meet the unique needs of young adults, while improving outcomes and reducing recidivism for this age group. She said that over the past two and a half years, the Board and DOC had worked well together as Commissioner Ponte built the foundation to eliminate punitive segregation for young adults. The Young Adult Plan called for creation of a young adult jail at GMDC with special programming and specially trained officers. Member Hamill commended Commissioner Ponte and his entire team for creating a respectful environment — and one with hope — at this facility.

Member Hamill noted the variances the Board had granted to DOC enabling it to create alternative housing units for young adults, including the Secure Unit for persistently violent 18-21 year olds. As of yet, DOC has not shared with the Board any metrics it has designed to assess, or any evaluations it has conducted, of Secure, TRU, or SCHU. Member Hamill further noted that the Board is awaiting the Vera Institute of Justice's segregation reduction analysis and evaluation of the Young Adult Plan. She emphasized that before moving more young adults out of GMDC, it was imperative that a comprehensive assessment of these alternative housing models for young adults be conducted and the findings carefully reviewed.

Variance Requests

Chair Brezenoff asked the Department to present its request for two limited variances from Minimum Standard § 1-16(c)(1)(ii), which requires the exclusion of young adults from ESH by October 11, 2016.

► Presentation and Discussion

Mr. Thamkittikasem presented the Department's request for (1) renewal of a limited variance allowing the Department a six-month extension of time, ending on April 11, 2017, to exclude inmates ages 19 through 21 from ESH ("First Variance Request"); and (2) renewal of a limited variance allowing the Department a six-month extension of time, also ending on April 11, 2017, to exclude 18 year olds from ESH ("Second Variance Request"). He stated that 19-21 year olds could be commingled with adults in an ESH unit while 18 year olds would be housed in a young adult ESH unit. General Counsel Heidi Grossman explained that the separation of these age groups into separate ESH units was attributable to the fact that the *Nunez* Consent Decree contemplated housing of 18 year olds separate and apart from inmates over 18. The Chief of Staff said that young adults housed in ESH units would be afforded the same procedural due process protections as are afforded to adults under Minimum Standard § 1-16 ("Enhanced Supervision Housing").

Member Hamill asked why young adults in ESH units could not be given three (3) hours for education in addition to seven (7) hours of out-of-cell time. Deputy Commissioner Sanders responded that it would be unsafe to have young adults locked in while other young adults, i.e., those attending school, are not.

Member Cohen asked why these young adults could not be placed in Secure, TRU or SCHU. The Deputy Commissioner responded that inmates housed in Secure are provided 10 hours of out-of-cell time and more free movement, with the majority participating in congregate programming.

The placement of a young adult who recently committed a slashing, for example, would put other inmates “on edge” and impede the equilibrium of the unit.

Member Jones Austin asked what the Department hoped to achieve by establishing a separate ESH unit for 18 year olds. In response, the Deputy Commissioner said that if, for example, an 18-year-old had committed a stabbing, DOC would want to determine whether that individual should be placed in ESH or Secure. The Department might choose to place the young person in ESH in order to give him time to access ESH programming before moving to Secure.

► **Vote on First Variance Request (re 19-21 Year Olds)**

Proposed Amendment

Member Hamill moved to amend the Department’s First Variance Request by reducing the extension of time for excluding 19-21 year olds from ESH from six (6) to three (3) months. Member Cohen seconded the motion.

Member Hamill explained that shortening the variance period would allow for simultaneous assessment of this ESH unit along with other alternative housing programs for young adults, i.e., Secure, TRU and SCHU.

Mr. Thamkittikasem stated that, operationally, a 3-month variance would not allow for sufficient time to assess the ESH unit. Chair Brezenoff stated that while he understood the Department’s desire for additional time, it was important for the Board to obtain a progress report sooner rather than later on the strengths and/or challenges of the ESH model for young adults.

The Chair then called for a vote on the motion to amend the time period of the requested variance. The proposed amendment passed with five votes in favor (Chair Brezenoff , and Members Bryant, Cohen, Hamill, Regan, Richards, and Cohen), Vice Chair Cephas and Member Jones Austin did not vote.

Proposed Conditions

Next, Member Hamill proposed two (2) conditions to the First Variance.

First, Member Hamill proposed that young adults who attend school be afforded three (3) additional hours of out of cell time to attend school instead of deducting this time from their seven (7) hours of lock-out time. Commissioner Ponte emphasized the importance of maintaining a uniform structure for all program participants, and that affording some young adults with additional lock-out of time would cause dissension among young adults who are not attending classes. Moreover, there are not sufficient studies to suggest that limiting lock-out time to seven (7) hours would cause significant harm to young adults. Deputy Commissioner Sanders reiterated the Department’s safety concerns about housing young adults with different amounts of lock-out time in the same unit.

Chair Brezenoff called a vote on the proposed condition. The proposed condition did not pass (Members Hamill and Cohen voted in favor; Chair Brezenoff and Members Bryant, Jones Austin, Regan and Richards voted in opposition).

Second, Member Hamill proposed a condition to shorten the “look back period” criteria for placement in ESH inmates from five (5) years to one (1) year in order to restrict those eligible for placement in ESH to young adults with recent histories of violent misconduct (*see* Minimum Standard § 1-16(b)).

The Commissioner responded that DOC follows a practice model of corrections that typically looks at past behavior holistically to determine the best course of action for an individual. Although a five (5)-year look back is more restrictive than what most other jurisdictions practice, he stressed that a look back is but one of the many components that go into deciding whether ESH placement is appropriate.

Chair Brezenoff called a vote on the restriction to limit the “look-back period” from five (5) years to one (1) year. The proposed condition did not pass (Members Richards, Hamill, and Cohen voted in favor; Chair Brezenoff and Members Bryant, Jones Austin and Reagan voted in opposition).

Executive Director King clarified that the condition requiring approval by the Chief or his designee, for placement of a young adult in ESH still holds. Further, reporting conditions that were previously imposed on granting this Variance are proposed, with slight modifications, in renewing it. These proposed conditions are available [here](#).

The Chair called for a vote on the variance request with the amendment and with the modified conditions. The variance, as amended and with conditions, was approved unanimously (Chair Brezenoff, Vice-Chair Cephas, and Members Bryant, Cohen, Hamill, Jones Austin, Richards, and Regan).

► Vote on Second Variance Request (re 18 year olds)

Mr. Thamkittikasem presented the Department’s request for a limited six-month variance, ending April 11, 2016, to exclude 18-year-old inmates from ESH. He stated that this will allow young adults who are persistently violent and who fit the ESH criteria to be placed in ESH. He noted that procedural due process protections will also be afforded to this age group. Member Reagan moved the item, and Member Bryant seconded.

In response to Member Richards’ inquiry, Deputy Commissioner broke down the seven (7) hours daily of out-of-cell time for 18 year olds in ESH as follows: Four (4) hours of programming (which includes three (3) hours for education); one (hour) of recreation; and (2) hours of dayroom.

Member Cohen questioned why ESH was necessary for 18 year olds given the availability of alternative housing options such as Secure, TRU and SCHU. The Department previously advised the Board that Secure is a 64-bed unit, but presently, only 11 young adults are housed there. Deputy Commissioner Saunders responded that the ESH Unit would provide DOC with a housing option for 18 year olds who, because of past violence, such as slashing of an inmate, could not be safely housed in Secure or TRU. Vice-Chair Cephas asked why this would not be a problem in ESH. In response, Executive Director King clarified that ESH has alternate lock-out and Deputy Commissioner Saunders confirmed this.

Vice-Chair Cephas asked what DOC's long-term intentions were in establishing this ESH unit. The Chief of Staff responded that the Department seeks the opportunity to create and test various housing options, such as ESH for 18 year olds, and then decide which ones to make permanent through rulemaking.

Chair Brezenoff inquired whether, by means of this variance, DOC sought to create a new housing unit for 18 year olds or whether the Department sought merely to utilize the existing ESH model for this age group. The Chief of Staff responded that DOC would provide different structuring and programming for these young adults.

Member Richards stated that the Board should engage in rulemaking on creating new restrictive housing models, but should also consider this variance request. Chair Brezenoff remarked that the Secure unit was created pursuant to a variance.

Member Richards questioned whether, as a condition to this Variance, the Board needed to articulate placement criteria for this unit. Chair Brezenoff responded that the criteria are set forth in Minimum Standard § 1-16.

Member Hamill stated that in rulemaking on ESH, the Board did not consider placing young adults in this housing program. Thus, the Board needs to consider the criteria proposed for placing young adults in ESH. Deputy Commissioner Saunders reiterated that the criteria would be a history of having committed a slashing, stabbing, and/or having caused a serious injury to an officer or inmate.

The Board then went into Executive Session with Law Department counsel.

Upon reconvening, Chair Brezenoff asked for a motion on the Second Variance. Member Regan moved the item, and Member Bryant seconded it. The Chair called for discussion on the motion.

Member Richards proposed as a condition to the variance, three (3) hours of educational programming in addition to seven (7) hours of out-of-cell time. Deputy Commissioner Saunders responded that DOC is amenable to developing a behavioral incentive that would permit these 18-year-olds to earn an additional three (3) hours of educational programming.

Vice-Chair Cephas asked if placement of an 18-year-old in an ESH unit would be temporary. Deputy Commissioner Saunders responded that the length of time a young adult spent in ESH depended upon his individual needs.

Member Hamill expressed her opposition to an ESH unit for 18 year olds. She stated that establishment of this alternative housing model was not the proper subject of a variance and instead required formal rulemaking. She further stated that the Board and the public had not been given sufficient information upon which to decide whether to approve this Variance.

Member Hamill understands that commingling young adults with adults has a calming effect on young persons; she therefore questioned why DOC sought to create an ESH unit just for 18 year

olds. Deputy Commissioner Saunders replied that their placement together in one unit would allow for programming specifically tailored to their needs.

Member Hamill expressed concern that the Department had made this variance request without advance notice to her as Chair of the Adolescent and Young Adult Committee or without presenting anything in writing. As to the latter point, she asked whether the Department had prepared any written assessment of Secure, TRU or SCHU. The Deputy Commissioner responded that DOC had not prepared any assessment of these housing programs.

Chair Brezenoff then called for a vote on the Department's request for a variance. Member Richards said he was voting upon DOC's voluntary agreement to provide an additional three (3) hours of out-of-cell time as an incentive for good behavior. The request for a variance was approved with no attached conditions (Members Cohen and Hamill opposed while Chair Brezenoff, Vice-Chair Cephas, and Members Bryant, Jones Austin, Regan, and Richards approved).

Following this vote, Member Hamill resigned as Chair and member of the Adolescent and Young Adult Committee.

West Facility/Continuing Variance Request¹

Discussion turned to the Board's Notice of Violation regarding DOC's operation of West Facility ("West"), and the Department's request for a continuing variance in connection with inmates who are currently housed there.

Member Cohen stated that the Department had been aware for a long time — dating back to July 2016 — that the Board had serious concerns about DOC's operation of West. He noted that it was not until the afternoon on Friday, October 7, that the Board submitted its continuing variance request to the Board. Member Cohen further commented that men who are housed at West and who face serious charges need access to law library services. He asked whether law library kiosks would be made available to them. Mr. Thamkittikasem responded that kiosks would be provided.

Members Richards and Cohen expressed concern about the lack of surveillance cameras at West. Bureau Chief Gumusdere responded that additional security staff has been assigned to supervise potential blind spots. The Chief of Staff stated that hand held cameras would be utilized in connection with any movement of inmates within the facility.

Member Cohen expressed his additional concerns that inmates were being placed at West without having committed any infraction and without any ability to appeal their placement, and were being locked in their cells for 23 hours a day. The Chief of Staff responded that DOC was developing procedural due process for these inmates that would take 60 days to implement.

Member Cohen asked whether the Department would continue to place seriously mentally ill ("SMI") inmates at West. The Chief of Staff responded that West is being used to house SMI inmates temporarily until housing appropriate to their needs becomes available. Dr. Venters stated

¹ Vice-Chair Cephas and Member Hamill were not present for discussion of West Facility.

that, at present, there is not an appropriate unit for persistently aggressive inmates with SMI. However, a new CAPS unit, with high levels of clinical engagement and additional officer staffing, is due to open shortly at AMKC.

Chair Brezenoff stated that given the complexity of these issues and the Board's concerns about them, he asked for a motion to table the Department's request for a continuing variance. A subsequent Board meeting on DOC's variance request would allow for fuller discussion of the issues and provide an opportunity for public comment. Member Cohen moved the motion, Member Richards seconded, and it was approved. (Chair Brezenoff and Members Bryant, Cohen, Jones Austin, and Richards).

Public Comment:

The Board heard public comment from Liz Meyers (JAC, Visiting Working Group), Dale Wilker (Legal Aid Society), and Grace Price (JAC). Their comments are available [here](#).

Following public comment, Chair Brezenoff adjourned the meeting.