



**NEW YORK CITY
BOARD OF CORRECTION**

January 12, 2021 PUBLIC MEETING¹ MINUTES

ATTENDEES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer Jones Austin, Esq., Chair
Stanley Richards, Vice-Chair
Marco Carrion, Member
Robert L. Cohen, M.D., Member
Felipe Franco, Member
James Perrino, Member
Steven M. Safyer, M.D., Member
Jacqueline Sherman, Esq., Member

Margaret Egan, Executive Director

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Cynthia Brann, Commissioner
Hazel Jennings, Chief of Department
Brenda Cooke, Chief of Staff
Dana Wax, Deputy Chief of Staff
Timothy Farrell, Senior Deputy Commissioner
Heidi Grossman, Deputy Commissioner for Legal Matters/General Counsel
Patricia Feeney, Deputy Commissioner for Quality Assurance and Integrity
Judy Beale, Deputy Commissioner of Programs and Community Partnerships
Kenneth Stukes, Bureau Chief of Security
Becky Scott, Bureau Chief
Steven Kaiser, Executive Director of Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs
Maura McNamara, Senior Policy Advisor
James Boyd, Assistant Commissioner of Internal Communications
Nancy Li, Policy Analyst
Julia Szendro, Policy Analyst
Gayle Robinson, Correction Officer
Paul Romeo, Correction Officer
Latoya Stoutt, Correction Officer
Loretta Young, Correction Officer
Peter Castro, Correction Officer
Mario Daniels, Correction Officer

¹ Due to the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was conducted virtually.

Chelsea Chard, Policy Analyst
Jason Kersten, Press Officer
Patrick Rocchio, Press Officer

NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS - CORRECTIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Patsy Yang, DrPH, Senior Vice President
Ross MacDonald, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Sr. Assistant Vice President
Carlos Castellanos, Chief Operations Officer/Deputy Executive Director
Aaron Anderson, MPA, MEd, Assistant Vice President for Finance and Risk
Monica Katyal, Esq., MPH, Senior Director of Monitoring and Evaluation
Ellie Epstein, MPH, Director of Reentry and Transition Services
Brendan McVey, Esq., Senior Associate Director

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ashaki Antoine, Correction Officers' Benevolent Association (COBA)
Kieshorne Dennie, NYC Council
Joseph Thomas, NY City Hall
Rachel Baker, NY City Hall
Kimberly Joyce, NYC Law Department
Jennifer Parish, Urban Justice Center (UJC)
Victoria Phillips, Jails Action Coalition (JAC)
Daniele Gerard, Children's Rights
Tobin Kassa, Children's Rights
Julia Davis, Children's Defense Fund
Kayla Simpson, Legal Aid Society Prisoners' Rights Project (LAS)
Alexandra Smith, LAS
Tina Luongo, LAS
Nancy Ginsburg, LAS
Veronica Vela, LAS
Michelle McGrath, LAS
Simone Spirig, Brooklyn Defender Services (BDS)
Irene Cedano, BDS
Kelsey De Avila, BDS
Claudia Forrester, BDS
Harmony Seaburg, BDS
Julia Solomons, Bronx Defenders
Tahanee Dunn, Bronx Defenders
Martha Grieco, Bronx Defenders
Kelly Grace Price, Close Rosie's
Brad Maurer, NY County Defender Services
Julia Kerbs, NY County Defender Services
Wendell Walters, Osborne Association
Tanya Krupat, Osborne Association
Charlotte Pope, Girls for Gender Equity
Scott Paltrowitz, HALT Solitary Campaign
Raymond Ortega, Youth Justice Research Collaborative (YJRC)
Adilene Sierra, YJRC
Maya Williams, YJRC
Kateryn Plasencia, YJRC
Jordyn Rosenthal, Women's Community Justice Association
Sarita Daftary-Steel, Freedom Agenda

Darren Mack, Freedom Agenda
Victor Herrera, Freedom Agenda
Andre Ward, Fortune Society
Melanie Dominguez, Katal Center
Yanique Rubin, Youth Represent
Donna Hylton, A Little Piece of Light
Melanie Brown, Independent
Tanisha Mills, Independent
Danielle De Souza, Independent
Robert Camacho, Independent
Jean B., Independent
Taisha Cruz, Independent
Eliel Cruz, Independent
Rosa Goldensohn, The CITY
Chelsia Marcius, NY Daily News

Approval of November 10 and December 16, 2020 Minutes

Board Chair, Jennifer Jones Austin (“Chair Jones Austin”), asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the Board’s November 10, 2020 meeting. Upon Dr. Safyer moving the item and Vice-Chair Richards seconding it, the minutes were unanimously approved by all members present, 6-0 (Chair Jones Austin, Vice Chair Richards and Members Cohen, Franco, Perrino, and Safyer).

Chair Jones Austin asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the Board’s December 16, 2020 meeting. Upon Vice Chair Richards moving the item and Dr. Safyer seconding it, the minutes were unanimously approved by all members present, 6-0 (Chair Jones Austin, Vice Chair Richards and Members Cohen, Franco, Perrino, and Safyer).

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

Announcements/Updates

Chair Jones Austin introduced new Board Member Marco Carrion. She also provided an update on the Board’s Restrictive Housing Rulemaking, discussed COVID-19 in the jails, and announced the recent death of a person in custody. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

The Board also unanimously re-appointed Stanley Richards to serve as Vice-Chair of the Board for the new calendar year, 8-0 (Chair Jones Austin, Vice Chair Richards and Members Carrion, Cohen, Franco, Perrino, Safyer, and Sherman). See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

CHS and DOC COVID-19 Update

Executive Director Margaret Egan (“ED Egan”) provided background on COVID-19 in the jails. This is available in the video recording [here](#) and the PowerPoint presentation is published [here](#).

I. Decarceration

CHS’s Senior Vice President Patsy Yang and DOC’s Deputy Commissioner of Programs and Community Partnerships Judy Beale discussed decarceration efforts and responded to the Board’s questions. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

II. Housing Area Density

ED Egan provided background on housing area density. DOC's Commissioner Cynthia Brann and CHS's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ross MacDonald discussed this topic and responded to the Board's questions. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

III. Testing Strategy & Mask Use

ED Egan provided background on testing strategy and mask use in the jails. CHS's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ross MacDonald, DOC's Chief of Staff Brenda Cooke, and DOC's Deputy Commissioner for Quality Assurance and Integrity Patricia Feeney discussed this topic and responded to the Board's questions. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

IV. Vaccinations

ED Egan provided background on vaccinations. CHS's Senior Vice President Patsy Yang, CHS's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ross MacDonald, DOC's Commissioner Cynthia Brann, and DOC's Chief of Staff Brenda Cooke discussed this topic and responded to the Board's questions. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

V. Critical Jail Services

ED Egan provided background on critical jail services. DOC's Commissioner Cynthia Brann, Chief of Staff Brenda Cooke, and Deputy Chief of Staff Dana Wax discussed this topic and responded to the Board's questions. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

Public Comment on Variance Requests

The Board heard public comment on DOC's Separation Status and Co-Mingling Variance Requests as well as CHS's Psychotropic Medication and Tuberculosis Testing Variance Requests from Kayla Simpson (LAS), Kateryn Plasencia (YJRC), Raymond Ortega (YJRC), Robert Camacho (Independent), Adilene Sierra (YJRC), Victoria Phillips (JAC), Tobin Kassa (Children's Rights), Taisha Cruz (Independent), Julia Davis (Children's Defense Fund), Maya Williams (YJRC), Melanie Brown (Independent), Jennifer Parish (UJC), and Victor Herrera (Freedom Agenda).

The public comments on the variance requests are available [here](#).

CHS Psychotropic Medication Variance Request

► Introduction

ED Egan introduced CHS's six-month variance request regarding psychotropic medication. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

► CHS Presentation

CHS's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Macdonald, presented the psychotropic medication variance renewal. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

► Board Discussion

Board discussion on the variance request is available in the video recording [here](#).

► Board Vote on Variance

Vice Chair Richards called for a motion to vote on variance. After the item was moved and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the variance, 7-0 (Vice Chair Richards and Members

Carrion, Cohen, Franco, Perrino, Safyer, and Sherman).² See the Board's vote on the variance [here](#). The final record of variance is published [here](#).

CHS Tuberculosis Testing Variance Request

► Introduction

ED Egan introduced CHS's six-month variance request regarding tuberculosis testing. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

► Board Vote on Variance

Vice Chair Richards called for a motion to vote on variance. After the item was moved and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the variance, 7-0 (Vice Chair Richards and Members Carrion, Cohen, Franco, Perrino, Safyer, and Sherman). See the Board's vote on the variance [here](#). The final record of variance is published [here](#).

Separation Status Variance Request

► Introduction

ED Egan introduced DOC's six-month variance request regarding Separation Status Housing. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

► DOC Presentation

DOC's Bureau Chief of Security, Kenneth Stukes, presented the six-month variance renewal request regarding the Department's use of Separation Status Housing. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

► Board Discussion

Board discussion on the variance request, including the Department's response, is available in the video recording [here](#).

► Board Vote on Variance

ED Egan read out loud the existing fifteen conditions and a proposal to vote on a four-month variance renewal, instead of the requested six-months. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

Vice Chair Richards called for a motion to vote on the four-month variance with conditions. After the item was moved and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the variance with conditions, 8-0 (Chair Jones Austin, Vice Chair Richards and Members Carrion, Cohen, Franco, Perrino, Safyer, and Sherman).

See the Board's vote on the variance and the conditions [here](#). The final record of variance is published [here](#).

Co-Mingling Variance Request

► Introduction

ED Egan introduced DOC's six-month variance request regarding the co-mingling of 19-21- year-olds with adults. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

² Chair Jones Austin was not present to vote on the CHS variance requests.

► **DOC Presentation**

DOC's Senior Deputy Commissioner, Timothy Farrell, presented DOC's six-month variance renewal request regarding co-mingling. See this portion of the video recording [here](#).

► **Board Discussion**

Board discussion on the variance request, including the Department's response, is available [here](#).

► **Board Vote on Variance**

ED Egan read out loud the eleven existing conditions to the co-mingling variance and a proposal to vote on a two-month variance renewal, instead of the requested six-months.

Vice Chair Richards called for a motion and conducted a roll call vote, and the Board unanimously approved the existing conditions and proposal to renew the variance for two months, 8-0 (Chair Jones Austin, Vice-Chair Richards and Members Carrion, Cohen, Franco, Perrino, Safyer, and Sherman).

Vice Chair Richards called for a motion to vote on the two-month variance with conditions. After the item was moved and seconded, the Board approved the variance with conditions, with seven votes in favor (Chair Jones Austin, Vice Chair Richards and Members Carrion, Franco, Perrino, Safyer, and Sherman) and one vote in opposition (Member Cohen).

See the Board's vote on the variance and the conditions [here](#). The final record of variance is published [here](#).

Public Comment

The Board heard public comment from Kayla Simpson (LAS), Martha Grieco (Bronx Defenders), Ashaki Antoine (COBA), Simone Spirig (BDS), Victoria Phillips (JAC), Brad Maurer (NY County Defender Services), Julia Kerbs (NY County Defender Services), and Kelly Grace Price (Close Rosie's).

The public comments portion of this video recording is available [here](#).