

# THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

The Virginia Board of Corrections (Board) met on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at the Department of Corrections (VADOC) Headquarters, 6900 Atmore Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23225.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** The Honorable Vernie W. Francis, Jr., Chairman  
Bobby Vassar, Vice Chairman  
John F. Anderson, Jr., Secretary  
William T. Dean  
The Honorable Charles Jett  
Heather Masters, M.D., S.F.H.M., F.A.C.P.  
Karen Nicely  
Reverend Kevin L. Sykes

**BOARD JAIL REVIEW UNIT:** Steve Goff, Investigative Analyst  
Kemba Jennings, Policy Analyst

**BOARD COUNSEL:** Phillip Figura, Esq., Office of the Attorney General

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Olivia Garland, Ph.D.

**VADOC STAFF PRESENT:** Dean Ricks, Director, Administrative Compliance  
Emmanuel Fontenot, Compliance, Certification and Accreditation  
Erma Locust, Compliance Certification and Accreditation Unit  
Bob Casey, Compliance Certification and Accreditation Unit  
Paul Haymes, Special Investigations Unit  
Ron Hall, Special Investigations Unit  
James Bruce, Policy and Initiatives Unit  
Rebecca Hancock, Policy and Initiatives Unit  
Donna Foster, Administrative Support, Department of Corrections

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Major James Pritchett, Chesterfield County Jail  
Sheriff Michael Moore, Portsmouth City Jail  
Colonel M. Waters, Portsmouth City Jail  
Colonel Karen Craig, Riverside Regional Jail  
Major Flippen, Riverside Regional Jail  
Major Upshaw, Riverside Regional Jail  
Lt. Powell, Riverside Regional Jail  
Lt. Jones, Riverside Regional Jail  
Bill Wilson, Riverside Regional Jail  
Bill Hefty, Esq., Riverside Regional Jail  
Patrick Wilson, Richmond Times Dispatch  
Mark Bowes, Richmond Times Dispatch  
Mark Gormus, Richmond Times Dispatch

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## CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Francis called the meeting to order at 12:19 p.m.

## DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairman Francis determined there was a quorum present.

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Francis welcomed everyone in attendance. He asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

## APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER BOARD MINUTES

Chairman Francis presented the November 14, 2018 minutes for review and approval.

Upon a *Motion* by Chairman Francis and duly seconded, the members voted unanimously to *Approve* the November 14, 2018 Board meeting minutes.

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

## PRESENTATIONS

### Jim Bruce

Mr. Bruce reported that the regulatory action of the feminine hygiene bill public comment period ended December 26, 2018. There were 37 comments all of which were positive and the regulation will become effective on January 10, 2019.

## LIAISON COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Anderson provided an overview of the Funding and Budget Issues Report, Prison Population Report, the Jail Construction Update, Offender Management Services update as well as other business.

Mr. Anderson reported that Tim Trent served as chairman of the Liaison Committee meeting. The September and November meeting minutes were approved.

Mr. Anderson reported that Ms. deSocio did not attend the Liaison meeting.

Mr. Anderson reported that Jim Bruce reported a similar presentation as detailed previously in this meeting.

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Mr. Anderson reported that Mr. Casey reported that Chesapeake Correctional Center is complete and opened in December, 2018. Piedmont Regional Jail has had excessive rain/snow which has held up substantial completion, which is now expected by the end of January. More than half of the concrete site still needs to be poured. It is currently 95% complete. Prince William/Manassas Regional Jail's Phase II, 204-bed expansion, was found to be 7 1/4" higher in elevation than the existing building. Modifications include sloped floors in corridors, raining doors, stair landings and elevator openings. Revised drawings to modify the existing building were submitted for permit in December, 2018. The project is nearing 50% completion with the anticipated completion date remaining March, 2020. Henry County Jail's construction documents were completed in December, 2018. They will advertise for bids January 20, 2019 and receive bids on January 26, 2019. They will award the construction contract and issue NTP on March 26, 2019.

Mr. Anderson reported that Jim Parks reported the out-of-compliance total was 3,308 with 3,078 being male and 230 being female. While there are 300 beds offline at Keen Mountain Correctional Center, soon to be returned to use, no additional bed space is being planned at this time.

Mr. Anderson reported that Steve Goff reported the following statistical data:

## 2017

40 Cases Total	26 Natural Cause
	10 Suicides
	2 Accidental Overdoses
	2 Homicides

## 2018

44 Cases Total	30 Natural Cause (this is subject to change)
	9 Suicides
	4 Accidental Overdoses
	1 Auto Accident Prior to Incarceration

Out of 84 cases, 9 facilities have been found non-compliant with BOC Standards. In the near future, this data should be available for review. Mr. Goff noted that the non-compliant findings are primarily failure to perform rounds in accordance with standards as well as some medical issues.

## **JAIL REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Dean made the following in the form of a motion:

**I move that the following cases were reviewed and revealed no evidence of any act of or by omission by the facility or any employee or agent thereof that may have directly or indirectly contributed to the inmate's death. The jails were in compliance with the regulations promulgated by the Board of Corrections and no deficiencies noted within the provisions of the Virginia Administrative Code.**

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Case	Location	Date of Death
18-0036	Prince William/Manassas Reg. Jail	4/10/18
18-0048	Martinsville City Jail	6/16/18
18-0034	Culpeper County Jail	3/31/18
18-0009	Southside Regional Jail	2/13/18
18-0025	Fairfax County Jail	9/7/17
18-0031	Martinsville City Jail	3/11/18

Upon a *Motion* by Jail Review Committee Chairman Dean and duly seconded, the attending members voted unanimously to *Approve* the above recommendations.

There were letters sent to two jails requesting additional information as the result of death investigations. The Board requested the attendance of a representative to discuss these inquiries.

Chairman Francis advised that questions would be asked in a general nature, without notation to any particular case, asking what each agency plans to do going forward.

## **Riverside Regional Jail**

Colonel Karen Craig, Superintendent (Newly Appointed)

Mr. Dean asked her plans to move forward in reference to the letter she received from the Board of Corrections.

Col. Craig answered that mental health is a huge concern in jails today, with the first 72 hours being the most critical. Mental health staff has been increased and mental health issues are being taken far more seriously. Policy has since been put into place to review rounds by the supervisors on camera as well as crosscheck reviews of documentation of rounds. This is done live, during the shift.

Mr. Vassar asked her what percentage of rounds are checked, however the superintendent nor staff had an answer with certainty.

Mr. Dean asked about specific questions contained in the letter regarding medical screenings procedures, do you have protocols for follow-up to service providers to classify individuals?

Col. Craig answered that written protocols have been put in place to ensure that service providers follow-up on care recommendations.

Mr. Dean asked, regarding classification upon intake, what factors are considered for housing requirements?

Col. Craig answered that it would be determined according to medical needs identified upon intake.

Mr. Dean asked if receiving staff checked records for previous incarcerations that may reference prior medical history?

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Col. Craig responded that the medical staff would preview prior history of previous incarcerations.

## **Portsmouth City Jail**

Sheriff Michael Moore

Mr. Dean asked, given the information shared with you in our correspondence, I would like to open the floor to your thoughts.

Sheriff Moore responded, if an offender refuses a medical screening, they are placed in high priority medical housing with 15-minute watch. In addition, the medical screening questions were previously often asked by an officer which may be intimidating to an inmate. These screenings are now conducted by medical staff.

Mr. Dean asked, regarding rounds, what measures have been taken to ensure rounds are conducted in compliance with the standards?

Sheriff Moore answered that the sheriff's office internal affairs staff review the logs and video to ensure they reflect that the logs are accurate. The facility is being equipped with an electronic system that will require action to be taken to reflect that rounds are being conducted similar to the old key system.

Mr. Vassar asked that the letters as well as the responses be provided to Board of Corrections' members for review prior to facility staff appearing before the Board for response.

## **CORRECTIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE /Policy & Regulations LOCAL FACILITIES SECTION – STAFFING/FUNDING AND UNANNOUNCED INSPECTIONS:**

There were no Certifications for the January meeting.

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

Mr. Figura advised that HB1878, Subsection X, is a bill under consideration in the Virginia House of Delegates addressing who is allowed to administer naloxone that will affect local facilities.

Chairman Francis noted that he spoke with Deputy Secretary of Public Safety, Ryant Washington and he advised that he will continue to be the point of contact for the Board of Corrections. Deputy Secretary Davenport has returned to duty and is the point of contact for the Virginia Department of Corrections.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

None

## **ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

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None

## FUTURE MEETING DATES

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Wednesday July 17, 2019

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss before the Board of Corrections, upon a *Motion* by Chairman Francis and duly seconded, the meeting was *Adjourned* by unanimous vote of the attending members.

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