

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL JAILS
LIAISON COMMITTEE MINUTES**

APPROVED: 3/13/2024

REGULAR MEETING.....January 17, 2024, 10:45 AM

PRESIDING.....Colonel Chris Smith, Committee Vice Chairman

PRESENT.....The Honorable Vernie Francis, Board of Local and Regional Jails
The Honorable Charles Jett, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Roland Sherrod, Board of Local and Regional Jails
David Hackworth, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Dr. Cleopatra Booker, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Michael Carrera, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Charles Carey, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Tiffany Jenkins, Board of Local and Regional Jails
David Hackworth, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Geoff Garner, Executive Director, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Tawana Ferguson, Regulatory Compliance Supervisor, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Paul Beaupre, Regulatory Compliance Analyst, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Keischer Brittingham, Regulatory Compliance Supervisor, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Alison, Lautz, Jail Death Investigator, Board of Local and Regional Jails
John Rock, Jail Death Investigator, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Ashley Gordon, Executive Secretary, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Mary-Huffard Kegley, Policy Analyst, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Gerald Olson, Architect, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Jim Parks, Virginia Department of Corrections
Robyn deSocio, State Compensation Board
Ayesha Osborne, Board Counsel, Office of the Attorney General
Major Jim Pritchett, Chesterfield Sheriff's Office
Mike Taylo, Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office
Major Royal Eanes, Piedmont Regional Jail

Chris Smith, Committee Vice Chairman, called the meeting to order and welcomed all attendees.

Approval of Minutes

Colonel Chris Smith called for a motion to approve the November 15, 2023, minutes.

By *Motion* of Mr. Carrera and duly seconded, the November 15, 2023, minutes were approved.

New Business

BOLRJ Executive Director Geoff Garner shared the following:

- Proposed new policy of 10-9. The policy standardizes the procedures used for plans of action and compliance plan for facilities to achieve format with the way things are done within the Board.
- Policy 30-3 was revised. We corrected the name of the Bboard and changed the name of investigators to jail death investigators. Colonel Smith shared the comments from other superintendents regarding policy 30-3 change to the Board's death investigator title to reflect the code, which says "death reviewers." Colonel Smith also voiced a concern about the potential for a review of a death in a case where an inmate is transferred to a mental health facility, is medically cleared, and then dies. After some discussion, it was decided not to forward this policy revision to the full Board today.
- Workgroups are in place for regulatory review of 6VAC15-40. Regulations will be reviewed, and suggestions will be made to make adjustments, repeal or to add regulations. Workgroups will submit to the Policy and Regulations Committee for review, and it will be shared with the Board.

State Compensation Board Update

Ms. deSocio provided an update from the Compensation Board. Proposed budget for the current fiscal year (caboose bill) includes a reduction of base funding related to the closing of Bristol city jail at the end of 2022, and the Hampton Roads Regional Jail is scheduled to move all inmates out by April, 2024 so the caboose bill includes the elimination of operational funds of just under \$800,000 in the current year. The caboose bill also includes a reduction in the current year of \$15-million for per diem payments based on actual inmate counts. Fiscal year 2023 ended with a \$15-million balance of unspent funds due to the numbers of inmates in facilities and the reduced per diem cost. Proposed budget for next two fiscal years 2024-2026, the budget bill includes a reduction of \$1.5 million in base funding from the Bristol city jail closure and a \$14.2-million annualized reduction in funding for the Hampton Roads Regional Jail closure. New funding proposed in the budget bill for Sheriff's Offices and Regional jails includes a 1% salary increase across the board effective July 1st of 2025, along with the same proposed increase for state employees. Two 1% bonus payments are also proposed in the budget bill that would apply to constitutional officers and regional jails, along with state employees. There is also a proposal in the introduced budget to move \$9.4-million from base funding which supports staffing and operations to a reserve fund. Eight-million dollars of that funding is related to sheriffs' offices and regional jails.

Offender Management Services Update

Mr. Jim Parks shared an update from DOC. He reported that the out of compliance cases are as follows: Males – 887; Females – 81; total – 968. Augusta correctional center is projected to close by July. They are currently housing approximately 400 inmates because of staffing.

General Assembly Update

House Bill 103, HB 555 and HB 12 will go to the corrections subcommittees for review.

There being nothing further, by *motion* duly made and seconded, the meeting was *adjourned*.

