

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL JAILS
POLICY AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES
APPROVED MARCH 6, 2024**

REGULAR MEETING

February 21, 2024

PRESIDING

Dr. Cleopatra Booker, PsyD, Chair

PRESENT

Dr. Cleopatra Booker, PsyD, Chair
Captain Charles Carey, Board of Local and Regional Jails
David Hackworth, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Tiffany Jenkins, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Dr. Anita Maybach, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Amanda Trent, PhD, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Jessica Vermont, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Tawana Ferguson, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Geoff Garner, Executive Director, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Mary-Huffard Kegley, Policy Analyst, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Alison Lautz, Death Investigator, Board of Local and Regional Jails
John Rock, Death Investigator, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Ayesha Osborne, Office of the Attorney General

Call to Order

Dr. Booker, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. The presence of a quorum was determined.

Public Comment

None

Motion by Mr. Hackworth to approve minutes of January 3, 2024, meeting. Second by Ms. Jenkins. Unanimous approval.

Ongoing Business

A. Update, Public Participation Guidelines:

Mary-Huffard Kegley, BLRJ Policy Analyst, shared the update is complete and becomes effective February 29, 2024 and will be published in the Virginia Register of Regulations. The changes in the Guidelines include the update to the name of the Board of Local and Regional Jails and to include that parties interested in public comment may be accompanied by representatives.

- B. MOU with VDH: Mr. Garner reported the process of connecting with VDH to review the MOU will proceed following adjournment of the Virginia General Assembly.
- C. Human Rights: Discussion that human rights are embedded in the BLRJ regulations and are generally attached to the Board's statutory obligations. Dr. Booker suggested the issue remain on the Committee's agenda for an additional meeting to allow members the opportunity to review the facility handbooks previously shared with Committee members. Consensus that human rights are sufficiently addressed in the facility handbooks.
- D. Workgroup reports of 6VAC15-40:

Mr. Hackworth shared that the workgroup reviewing Chapter 81 spent a period of time in order to familiarize the participants with the varied and detailed standards regulating construction. He explained additional research will be necessary to align standards to various security level needs of facilities. Committee discussed issues are unique to each facility. Mr. Hackworth encouraged Board members to visit facilities.

Alison Lautz, BLRJ Death Investigator, shared that the workgroup reviewing behavioral health standards is nearing completion. Dr. Booker will consult with Board Chair Francis regarding the 2019 proposed standards submitted to the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security. Dr. Booker will follow up with Dr. Angela Torres, Ph.D., ABPP, Senior Director of Forensic Science with the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) to join the Committee and the Board for a discussion of the DBHDS connection with localities and Community Services Boards (CSB) to deliver services at the local level.

John Rock, BLRJ Death Investigator, shared the workgroup reviewing intake and classification standards is nearing completion with minimal changes recommended.

Tawana Ferguson, BLRJ Regulatory Compliance Supervisor, shared that the workgroups reviewing operations and programs in facilities and juvenile standards and lockup standards are proceeding. Actions of the General Assembly may impact commissary standards.

Mr. Garner shared that the communications and visit workgroup has completed review, which generally addressed updates for evolving technology.

- E. 30-3 Policy, Review of inmate deaths:

BLRJ Liaison Committee input suggested the BLRJ policy should align with the Code of Virginia statute regarding deaths in custody. Committee discussed furlough and compassionate release regarding custody. Dr. Booker requested copy of regulation that requires serious incident reports.

MOTION to adjourn by Mr. Hackworth, second by Dr. Maybach. Unanimous approval.