

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL JAILS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

APPROVED: 1/17/2024

REGULAR MEETING.....November 15, 2023; 12:00 PM

LOCATION.....6900 Atmore Drive, Richmond, Virginia

PRESIDING.....Vernie Francis, Chairman

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: The Honorable Vernie Francis, Chairman
 The Honorable Charles Jett, Vice Chairman
 Roland Sherrod
 Michael Carrera
 Dr. Cleopatra Booker, PsyD
 Tiffany Jenkins
 David Hackworth
 Jessica Vermont
 Dr. Anita Maybach
 Dr. Amanda Trent
 Charles Carey

BOARD STAFF PRESENT: Geoff Garner, Executive Director
 Tawana Ferguson, Regulatory Compliance Supervisor
 John Rock, Jail Death Investigator
 Alison Lautz, Jail Death Investigator
 Gerald Olson, Architect
 Ashley Gordon, Executive Secretary
 Mary-Huffard Kegley, Policy Analyst

OTHERS PRESENT: Ayesha Osborne, Office of Attorney General
 Major Jim Pritchett, Chesterfield Sheriff’s Office
 Eric Harris, Henry County Jail
 Kelley Reed, Henry County Jail
 Sheriff Wayne Davis, Henry County Jail
 Chris Smith, Western Tidewater Regional Jail
 Steven Clear, SWRJA

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Francis called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairman Francis determined there was a quorum present.

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APPROVAL OF OCTOBER BOARD MINUTES

The October 18, 2023, minutes were approved by motion of Mr. Carrera, second by Dr. Booker.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

PRESENTATIONS – Certification Report: Tawana Ferguson

Motion 1:

I make the following recommendation in the form of a Motion: Unconditional Certification as a result of 100% compliance with Board standards for the following facilities:

1. Sussex County Jail

Upon a *Motion* by Dr. Trent and second by Dr. Maybach, the attending members voted unanimously to *Approve* the above recommendation.

Motion 2:

In recognition of the outstanding achievements of 100% compliance with Board standards, I make the following recommendation in the form of a Motion: Suspension of the 2023 annual inspections for the following facilities:

1. Sussex County Jail

Upon a *Motion* by Dr. Trent and second by Mr. Carrera, the attending members voted unanimously to *Approve* the above recommendation.

Motion 3:

I make the following recommendation in the form of a Motion: Unconditional certification for the following facilities:

1. Henry County Jail
2. Loudoun Count Adult Detention Center

Upon a *Motion* by Dr. Trent and second by Mr. Carrera, the attending members voted unanimously to *Approve* the above recommendation.

Motion 4:

I make the following recommendation in the form of a Motion: Accept the corrective plans of action for deficiencies cited during the 2023 annual inspection for the following facilities:

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1. Piedmont Regional Jail
2. Smithfield Lockup
3. Hampton Roads Regional Jail

Upon a *Motion* by Dr. Trent and second by Mr. Carrera, all members except Mr. Hackworth, who recused himself, voted to *Approve* the above recommendation.

PRESENTATIONS – Richmond City Justice Center Compliance Plan Review

A revision for the compliance plan was sent to Richmond City Justice Center changing the numbering of the paragraphs for proper formatting, removing the paragraph that addressed medical issues, and the plan commences the date it is signed by the Chairman and Executive Director.

1. Motion to Approve the Compliance plan:

Upon a *Motion* by Mr. Sherrod and second by Mr. Carrera, the attending members voted unanimously to *Approve* the above recommendation.

JAIL REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

A) Case Recommendations:

1. Mr. Sherrod read the motion below as follows:

The Jail Review Committee investigated the following cases by reviewing institutional, medical, and mental health records and other relevant evidence of the circumstances surrounding each death. The Jail Review Committee finds that investigation did not reveal any evidence indicating that the facility was out of compliance with the regulations promulgated by the Board. NOW THEREFORE, I MOVE that the following case(s) be recommended to the Full Board for closure:

Cases	
23-0030	23-0031
22-0064	23-0007
23-0020	22-0055

Upon a *Motion* by Mr. Sherrod and second by Mr. Carrera, the attending members voted unanimously to *Approve* the above recommendation.

2. Mr. Sherrod as a motion offered the following:

The Jail Review Committee investigated the following cases by reviewing institutional, medical, and mental health records and other relevant evidence of the circumstances surrounding each

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death. The Jail Review Committee finds that the investigation did reveal evidence indicating that the facility was out of compliance with the regulations promulgated by the Board; however, the Jail Review Committee finds that the corrective actions taken by the jail appropriately address the substance of the violation such that no further measures are necessary. NOW THEREFORE, I MOVE that the following case(s) be recommended to the Full Board for closure:

Cases	
23-0004	23-0011
23-0018	

Upon a *Motion* by Mr. Sherrod and second by Mr. Carrera, the attending members voted unanimously to *Approve* the above recommendation.

Policy and Regulations Committee Report – Dr. Cleopatra Booker, PsyD:

1. Motion to Recommend to the Board Regarding Audit Requirement:

Mr. Carrera offered the following as a motion:

I move that the Board require Board audits prior to the opening of a new facility, unit or program at a jail or lockup, thereby ensuring operational policies are in place in advance of occupancy.

Upon a *Motion* by Mr. Carrera and a second by Mrs. Vermont, the attending members voted unanimously to *Approve* the above recommendation.

2. Motion to Recommend Board Practice Change Regarding American Correctional Association (ACA):

Mr. Carrera offered the following as a motion:

I move that the Board’s practice of waiving audits for jails holding current ACA credentials be abandoned.

Upon a *Motion* by Mr. Carrera and a second by Mr. Sherrod, the attending members voted unanimously to *Approve* the above recommendation.

Additional Items for Discussion/Board Member Comment

Chairman Francis shared with the Board Mr. Carrera’s visits to facilities and discussed his findings.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss before the Board of Local and Regional Jails, upon a *Motion* by Chairman Francis and duly seconded, the meeting was *adjourned*.