

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

**APPROVED: 3/13/2024**

REGULAR MEETING.....February 21, 2024; 11:00 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  
  Michael Carrera  
  Dr. Cleopatra Booker, PsyD  
  Tiffany Jenkins  
  David Hackworth  
  Charles Carey  
  Dr. Anita Maybach  
  Jessica Vermont  
  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  
  Jessica Joyner, Blue Ridge Regional Jail  
  Keith Lockridge, Blue Ridge Regional Jail  
  Eric Jones, Chesterfield Sheriff’s Office  
  Michelle Lewis, Northern Neck Regional Jail  
  Major Royal Eanes, Piedmont Regional Jail  
  Derek Almarode, Rockbridge Regional Jail  
  Sheriff Steve Draper, City of Martinsville  
  Colonel James Willett, Pamunkey Regional Jail  
  Tracy Hayes, Newport News Sheriff’s Office  
  Sheriff Mike Taylor, Pittsylvania County Jail  
  Roy Witham, Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail  
  Michael O’Toole, Norfolk Sheriff’s Office  
  Gregory Gill, Norfolk Sheriff’s Office  
  Janette Grizzard Norfolk Sheriff’s Office  
  Antionette Irving, Richmond Sheriff’s Office

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Major Stacey Bagby, Richmond Sheriff's Office  
Major Tracy Stancil-Purches, Richmond Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Doneita Scott, Roanoke City Sheriff's Office  
Sheriff Antonio Hash, Roanoke City Sheriff's Office  
David Cox, Western Virginia Regional Jail  
Stephen Clear, SWVRJ  
Eric Young, Middle River Regional Jail  
William Smith, Western Tidewater Regional Jail  
Kimberly Haug, New River Regional Jail  
Tim Doss, Middle Peninsula Regional Jail

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Francis called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m.

**DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

Chairman Francis determined there was a quorum present.

**APPROVAL OF DECEMBER BOARD MINUTES**

The January 17, 2024 minutes were approved by motion of Mr. Carrera, second by Dr. Booker, and unanimous vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None

**JAIL REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT**

**A) Case Recommendations:**

**1. Mr. Jett 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:

<b>Cases</b>	
23-0032	23-0033

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Upon a *Motion* by Mr. Jett and second by Mr. Carrera, the attending members voted unanimously to *Approve* the above recommendation. [*Note: Due to an administrative error, case 23-0046 was not included in this category but should have been. This will be corrected at the Board's next meeting.*]

**2. Mr. Jett 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 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	
23-0046	

Upon a *Motion* by Mr. Jett and second by Dr. Booker, the attending members voted unanimously to *Approve* the above recommendation. [*Note: Due to administrative errors, this case should have been included in the above section for cases closed with no violations of standards; further, case 23-0037 should have been included in this section. These errors will be corrected at the Board's next meeting.*]

**PRESENTATIONS – BLRJ memorandum re: interpretation of 6VAC15-40-1045**

Several guests offered their negative opinions regarding the guidance memorandum that was sent out on February 2, 2024, focusing on not feeling like they were included in the process and their beliefs that the guidance was impractical. Tim Doss from Middle River Regional Jail further elaborated that he has no confidence in the Board and is continually frustrated with it. Mr. Doss provided a litany of his reasons for dissatisfaction with the Board since its inception, including but not limited to: 1) not feeling like he is a member of the Board team, 2) too many Board members having no knowledge of how to run a jail, 3) the Board being accountable to the Department of Corrections, and 4) the Board not interviewing the Executive Director as part of the hiring process. Board member Dr. Amanda Trent opined that it is very unfair for a Board with members who have minimal experience working in jails to issue guidance to jails that is more stringent than the national best practices (NCCHC). Chairman Francis stated that the Board's desire is to develop guidance that is practical and beneficial for all of the diverse individual facilities.

**Dr. Booker as a motion offered the following:**

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The guidance memorandum issued by the Board of Local and Regional Jails regarding 6VAC15-40-1045 should be rescinded.

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

Chairman Francis announced his intent to assemble a workgroup including representation from the local and regional jails which would develop a consensus of guidance language to submit to the jails for their review and then to present to the Board at its next meeting.

Col. Chris Smith invited any interested Board members to attend the Virginia Association of Regional Jails' conference in Virginia Beach at the end of March.

**Additional Items for Discussion/Board Member Comment**

None

**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*.