

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

APPROVED 01/18/2023

REGULAR MEETING.....November 16, 2022, 11:30 AM

PRESIDING..... Sheriff Steve Draper, Committee Chairman

PRESENT.....Colonel Chris Smith, Western Tidewater Regional Jail; Committee Vice Chair
The Honorable Vernie Francis, Board of Local and Regional Jails
The Honorable Charles Jett, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Dr. Cleopatra Booker, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Roland Sherrod, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Michael Carrera, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Chris Strom, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Tiffany Jenkins, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Amanda Trent, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Ryan McCord, Executive Director, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Tawana Ferguson, Regulatory Compliance Supervisor, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Alison, Lautz, Jail Death Investigator, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Colleen Maxwell, Policy Analyst, Board of Local and Regional Jails
Lt. Colonel Charles Armstrong, Riverside Regional Jail
Sonny Daniels, Assistant Secretary of Public Safety & Homeland Security
Robyn deSocio, State Compensation Board
Jim Parks, Virginia Department of Corrections
Jeremiah Fitz, Operations Administrator, Virginia Department of Corrections

Sheriff Draper, Committee Chairman called the meeting to order and welcomed all attendees.

Approval of Minutes

Sheriff Draper called for a motion to approve the September 21, 2022 minutes.

By *Motion* of Mr. Carrera and duly seconded, the September 21, 2022 minutes were approved.

Update from State Compensation Board

Ms. Robyn deSocio provided information regarding jail populations and the phase-in of funding for behavioral health positions in local correctional facilities. She stated that jail populations are currently low, so no additional funding for per diems is needed. The first round of funding for behavioral health positions went out August 1, 2022 and the next round will occur in January 2023. Ms. deSocio stated that the report on mental illness in jails was due November 1, 2022. She also stated that the Compensation Board will disseminate a mental health in jails survey next summer; the data from which will be included in the November 2023 report.

Offender Management Services Update

Mr. Jim Parks shared an update from DOC. With the new earned sentence credit guidelines, DIC released numerous offenders. This allowed more inmates to be picked up from local facilities. He reported that the out of compliance cases are down to 329 males and 110 females for a total of 439.

New Business

Colonel Smith requested clarification on the reporting of inmate deaths. He asked if an inmate was sent to the hospital and no longer in jail custody at the time of death, should jail administration report the death. He also asked whether there was a timeframe for how long after release a report was required. Mr. McCord stated that each case is unique. He then added that the consensus of the Board is that if a nexus exists between an illness or event occurring at the jail prior to the inmate expiring at the hospital, the death should be reported, even if the court granted a compassionate release prior to the inmate's death.

Sheriff Draper mentioned that following difficulties his jail faced with pickup of state responsible inmates, he contacted DOC Director Clarke. They had a meaningful conversation and Director Clarke agreed to have his office represented at the Liaison Committee meetings. To that end, Mr. Jim Parks introduced the DOC Operations Director, Mr. Jeremiah Fitz. Mr. Fitz stated he was grateful for the opportunity to attend and shared that he, along with Director Clarke, value being good partners with the local and regional jails.

At the request of Sheriff Draper, Mr. McCord gave an update on the SB581 Workgroup. He explained the difficulties of reaching a quorum due to the composition of the group and that the workgroup has had only two official meetings. Sheriff Draper asked how many members were on the group and how many were actually jail administrators. Mr. McCord stated that there were 17 members appointed, two of which are jail administrators – Sheriff Baron from Norfolk and Ted Hull, Superintendent of Northern Neck Regional Jail. He shared that Senator Morrissey, the Workgroup Chairman, assigned the task of writing the report to Shawn Weneta with the ACLU. Mr. McCord reiterated that the bill required that the Board of Local and Regional Jails convene the workgroup but the substantive work of making a recommendation falls on the shoulders of the workgroup members.

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