

**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 Sherrif’s Office
Major Tracy Stancil-Purches, Richmond Sherrif’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:

Cases	
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*.