

THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL JAILS

The Virginia Board of Local and Regional Jails (Board) met on Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at the Department of Corrections (VADOC) Headquarters, 6900 Atmore Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23225.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: The Honorable Vernie Francis, Chairman
Bobby Vassar, Vice Chairman
John F. Anderson, Jr, Secretary
The Honorable Charles Jett
Heather Masters, M.D., S.F.H.M., F.A.C.P.
Karen Nicely, LPC
Joanne Peña

BOARD GUESTS: Dr. Olivia. J. Garland
Reverend Kevin L. Sykes

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Ryan C. McCord

BOARD COUNSEL: Phillip Figura, Esq., Office of the Attorney General (Teleconference)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

VADOC STAFF PRESENT: Marcia Powers, Construction Support Services Administrator
Madison Blevins, Administrative Compliance Law Clerk
Marc Sloan, Administrative Compliance Law Clerk
Donna Foster, Administrative Support, BOLRJ

GUESTS PRESENT: Jim Pritchett, Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office
Tony Bell, Mosely Architects

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Francis called the meeting to order at 12:27 p.m.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Vice Chairman Vassar determined there was a quorum present.

THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL JAILS

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Francis welcomed everyone in attendance. He notified the members that Dr. Olivia Garland and Reverend Kevin Sykes had been invited to attend so they could be recognized by resolution for the service to the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Board of Local and Regional Jails. Chairman Francis thanked each for their knowledge, support and expertise.

Following the reading of a resolution for each, Dr. Garland Remarked on the formation of the Jail Review Committee and the formation of the Mental Health Standards and how proud she is of having been a part of this evolution of the Board of Local and Regional Jails. Reverend Sykes spoke of his experience as a Board member and how much he learned by being a member and the importance of the hard work of the Board.

They will each be missed.

APPROVAL OF MAY BOARD MINUTES

Chairman Francis presented the May 19, 2021 minutes for review and approval.

Upon a *Motion* by Chairman Francis and duly seconded, the members voted unanimously to *Approve* the May 19, 2021 Board meeting minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None*

PRESENTATIONS

Mr. McCord introduced Marcia Powers, who will be assisting with Mr. Casey's duties.

JAIL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Actions

I make the following recommendations in the form of a Motion by Chairman Francis:

The Jail Review Committee investigated the following case by reviewing institutional, medical, and mental health records and other relevant evidence of the circumstances surrounding the death. The Jail Review Committee further *FINDS* that the 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 be recommended to the Full Board for closure.

*** Comments from the public are limited to five minutes per person on matters not on the agenda**

THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL JAILS

| Case | Location | Date of Death |
|---------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 19-0024 | BRRJA-Halifax | 9/7/19 |
| 19-0025 | New River Valley Regional Jail | 9/12/19 |
| 19-0023 | Roanoke City Jail | 8/8/19 |
| 19-0027 | Western Virginia Regional Jail | 9/21/19 |

Upon a **Motion** by Chairman Dean and duly seconded, the attending members voted unanimously to **Approve** the above recommendations. Dr. Masters abstained.

CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Compliance, Certification and Accreditation - Certifications Report: Local/Regional/Community Facilities

BOARD ACTION REQUIRED

- Central Virginia Regional Jail
- Gloucester County Jail
- Carroll County Lockup
- Pittsylvania County Jail
- Madison County Lockup
- Wythe County Lockup

Mr. Jett made the following recommendations in the form of a Motion:

Unconditional certification as a result of 100% to include re-certification to hold male and female juveniles in accordance with §16.1-249.G of the Code of Virginia for:

Carroll County Lockup

Unconditional certification as a result of 100% for:

Central Virginia Regional Jail
Gloucester County Jail
Pittsylvania County Jail
Madison County Lockup
Wythe County Lockup..

BOARD ACTION REQUIRED

THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL JAILS

The Board of Local and Regional Jails, in recognition of the outstanding achievement of 100% compliance with standards, approves the suspension of the 2021 annual inspection for the Central Virginia Regional Jail, Gloucester County Jail, Carroll County Lockup, Pittsylvania County Jail, Madison County Lockup and Wythe County Lockup.

Upon a *Motion* by Vice Chairman Vassar and duly seconded, the attending members voted unanimously to *Approve* the above recommendations.

LIAISON COMMITTEE UPDATE

Chairman Francis advised that he is revitalizing the Liaison Committee membership. He would prefer to appoint five sheriffs and five regional jail superintendents.

CLOSED SESSION

None

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Chairman Francis advised that there were over 300 applications submitted for the Jail Death Investigator positions. There are two, funded, full-time Investigator positions that received initial interviews yesterday (July 20) and final interviews will be held tomorrow (July 22). He asked that the August 18, 2021 Jail Review Committee meeting begin at 9:00 am. He added that there would be a brief Board meeting held prior to the Jail Review Committee meeting to consider a construction project. (NOTE: The consideration for the construction project has since been postponed to a later date)

The Chairman added that a new Jail Inspector has been hired named Paul Beaupre. He is currently shadowing established staff in training for his new duties.

The September Board meeting will be held on September 22, 2021 because Mr. McCord and the Chairman have been asked to attend the Virginia Sheriffs' Association Conference on September 14-16, 2021.

Executive Director McCord advised that the Board was tasked with responding to the Legislature by October 1st with responses by the facilities asking why they would not be able to conduct a Mental Health Assessment within 72 hours. A survey has been submitted to facilities statewide and he will update the Board with the final results.

Additionally, Complaints are no longer being addressed by the Inspectors but rather by the Policy Analyst, Audrey Michael. She is tracking and addressing complaints as well as other inquiries.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

Wednesday, September 22, 2020

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL JAILS

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* by unanimous vote of the attending members.

DRAFT