

# THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

The Virginia Board of Corrections (Board) met on Tuesday, January 7, 2020, at the Department of Corrections (VADOC) Headquarters, 6900 Atmore Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23225.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bobby Vassar, Vice Chairman  
John F. Anderson, Jr, Secretary  
William T. Dean  
Olivia Garland, PhD  
The Honorable Charles Jett  
Heather Masters, M.D., S.F.H.M., F.A.C.P.  
Karen Nicely, LPC

**BOARD JAIL REVIEW UNIT:** Steve Goff, Investigative Analyst  
Kemba Jennings, Policy Analyst

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

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** The Honorable Vernie W. Francis, Jr., Chairman

**VADOC STAFF PRESENT:** Emmanuel Fontenot, Compliance, Certification and Accreditation  
Donna Foster, Administrative Support, Board of Corrections

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Marcia Major, Dorcus House  
Elliott Major, Dorcus House  
Simon Major, Dorcus House  
Sheriff Carlos Turner, Surry County  
Matthew Castle, Secor, Inc. (Lebanon)  
Bruce Crusier, Mental Health America-Virginia

## CALL TO ORDER

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

## DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Vice Chairman Vassar determined there was a quorum present.

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Vice Chairman Vassar welcomed everyone in attendance.

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## APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER BOARD MINUTES

Vice Chairman Vassar presented the November 20, 2019 minutes and December 18, 2019 minutes for review and approval.

Upon a *Motion* by Vice Chairman Vassar and duly seconded, the members voted unanimously to *Approve* the November 20, 2019 and December 18, 2019 minutes Board meeting minutes.

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

## PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Garland asked Ms. Jennings to send the 15 Mental Health Standards to all Board members for review prior to the March meeting. She asked that all members review the standards in advance and note any concerns for full review in the March Board of Corrections meeting.

## JAIL REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Jail Review Committee will reopen and suspend further action of the following cases to allow for a newly enacted appeal process:

Case	Location	Date of Death
18-0043	Hampton Roads Regional Jail	4/26/18
18-0035	Hampton City Jail	4/10/18
17-0022	Piedmont Regional Jail	8/21/17
17-0007	Piedmont Regional Jail	11/18/17

## Actions

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

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.

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Case	Location	Date of Death
18-0063	Rappahannock Regional Jail	11/23/18
18-0065	Roanoke City Jail	12/3/18
19-0019	Norfolk City Jail	6/12/19

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

## **CORRECTIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE/POLICY & REGULATIONS LOCAL FACILITIES SECTION – STAFFING/FUNDING AND UNANNOUNCED INSPECTIONS:**

Surry County Jail - Sheriff Turner discussed his plans of action to correct deficiencies adding that the Captain has initiated a double check system to ensure documentation has been completed.

Dorcus Home, LLC – Marcia Major explained her plans for correcting deficiencies in detail for four standards.

Secor, Inc./Lebanon – Matthew Castle brought documentation to show his accomplishments to date to the Board and was in agreement with the Board to be placed on Probationary Certification for a period of one year to enable the facility to achieve compliance with all standards.

### **I make the following recommendations in the form of a Motion:**

#### **Unconditional certification as a result of 100% compliance for:**

Smithfield Town Lockup  
Blackston Lockup

#### **Unconditional certification for:**

Surry County Lockup  
Rockingham-Harrisonburg Regional Jail  
Dorcus Home, LLC.

#### **Probationary certification for a period of 12 months and required to submit documentation supporting adherence to non-compliant standards for:**

Secor, Inc. Lebanon

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## BOARD ACTION REQUIRED

**The Board of Corrections, in recognition of the outstanding achievement of 100% compliance with standards, approves the suspension of the 2019 annual inspection for the Smithfield Town Lockup and Blackstone Lockup**

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

## **LIAISON COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Mr. Anderson provided an overview of the Funding and Budget Issues Report, Prison Population Report, the Jail Construction Update, Offender Management Services update as well as other business.

Mr. Anderson reported that Tim Trent served as chairman of the Liaison Committee meeting.

Mr. Anderson reported that Ms. deSocio did not attend the January meeting.

Mr. Anderson reported that Mr. Casey Mr. Casey reported that Prince William/Manassas Regional Jail (204 bed expansion) is on schedule for completion by the anticipated date of July 2020. Construction has begun on Henry County Jail with an anticipated completion date of March 2022.

### New projects submitted for review/approval:

- Middle River Regional Jail – 400-bed expansion and renovation  
Received CBCP, needs assessment and planning study  
- \$96.5 million
- Virginia Beach Correctional Center – security master control system upgrade  
- Planning study received  
- \$5.3 million
- Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail – minor renovation project  
- \$231,000
- Montgomery County Jail – minor renovation project  
- Dormitory renovation and upgrades  
- \$1.3 million

Mr. Anderson reported that Jim Parks was not available to attend the January meeting, however his unit reported the total for out-of-compliance inmates as 3,221 of which 2,787 are males and 434 are females.

Mr. Anderson reported that Chairman Trent noted that the General Assembly convenes on the 8th and is expected to consider the new mental health standards, which are supported by Secretary Brian Moran. Also expected to be considered in the new session are the recommendations from JLARC (Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission) regarding Board of Corrections operations.

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Chairman Trent also noted that the Associations (Virginia Sheriffs' Association and the Virginia Association of Regional Jails) will meet with the Compensation Board to discuss issues requested by the associations for presentation before the legislators. One issue mentioned by Chairman Trent is Forensic Discharge Planners who assist inmates with mental health care access upon release, greatly reducing recidivism, 80+% for Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority.

Steve Goff Reported that there were 41 deaths in local jails in 2019, 44 in 2018 and 40 during the final 6 months of 2017, when the Jail Death Review Committee was formed by mandate.

Kemba Jennings is working on an end of year report analysis

## ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

None

## FUTURE MEETING DATES

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss before the Board of Corrections, upon a *Motion* by Vice Chairman Vassar and duly seconded, the meeting was *Adjourned* by unanimous vote of the attending members.