

Justice Center Oversight Committee

John H. Mulroy Civic Center
11th Floor East
421 Montgomery Street
Syracuse, NY 13202
(315) 435-3565

2017 Justice Center Oversight Committee Meeting Dates

Meeting #	Date	Location	Notes
1	January 4th	518 James (Gifford Rm)	
2	February 1st	221 Warren (1st Floor)	
3	March 1st	716 Hawley Ave (NE Community Center)	
4	April 5th	518 James (Gifford Rm)	
5	May 3rd	518 James (Gifford Rm)	
6	June 7th	518 James (Gifford Rm)	
7	July 12th	518 James (Gifford Rm)	
8	August 2nd	518 James (Gifford Rm)	
9	September 6th	518 James (Gifford Rm)	
10	October 4th	518 James (Gifford Rm)	
11	November 1st	518 James (Gifford Rm)	
12	December 6th	518 James (Gifford Rm)	



Onondaga County / Syracuse
Human Rights Commission

Joanne M. Mahoney
County Executive

Onondaga County Justice Center Oversight Committee

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Barrie Gewanter
Executive Director

**Draft Minutes of the April 5, 2017 Meeting
of the Justice Center Oversight Committee Meeting (JCOC) – April 5, 2017**

Committee Members

Present:

Jo Anne Bakeman
Dr. Najah Salaam Jennings Bey
Allan LaFlore
Arthur Barksdale

Marissa Joy Mims
Robert Slivinski
Carlton Strail
Dr. Dennis Nave

Committee Members Absent: N/A

County Staff Present: Barrie Gewanter, HRC/JCOC (On Skype) Bridget Owens (Notes)

2 Sign Language Interpreters Present: Trisha Schwartz, Joanne Jackowski

Members of the Public Present: N/A

Media Present: N/A

The Meeting was convened at 5:30 with above persons present

Agenda Item 1- Welcome and Identification of JCOC Members & Administrator & Persons Present

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Agenda Drafted by Committee Chair

Bob Slivinski motion for approval, Carlton Strail seconds the motion.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Draft Minutes of Prior Meeting

No meeting minute drafts were available

Agenda Item 4 – Recognition of Visitors for Public Comment

N/A

Agenda Item 5 – Committee Chair Report

1. Committee Chair M Mims, still has no dates for JC command to discuss recommendations. Barrie sent dates to Lt. G, and mentions this delay to Ann Rooney staff the first 2 sets of JCOC recs.
2. All were disappointed (Custody, Bessette, HR, JCOC) when CCS canceled the first meeting to discuss concerns with medical care in selected JCOC Cases. At the last minute CCS's legal department wanted every question we were going to ask in writing, and in advance.
3. M Mims will send out a s doodle poll to set up a separate meeting for case review.
4. J Bakeman comments that JCOC are a body of eight (8), but that are supposed to be a body of nine (9). We can share a link to Social Media, put it on the Website, and perhaps do a press release asking for



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People who are interested to send resumes and letter of interest. We should provide a standard language to all for when we recruit/request information. (Barrie indicated that she will have to go seek permission for media/press release, or placing a recruitment message on website in mean time.)

There was some discussion about thinking about the kind of people we might be interested to suggest appointments. Make list.: ***law enforcement, medical, refugee community, MH, LGBT, Hispanic, Community members.***

Karen Belos came up, for example; she has an MWBE in construction, and Bob S will request a letter/resume from Ms. Belos. Another mentioned was Josh King, and Dr. Bey will connect with him regarding resume/letter.

Agenda Item 6 – Report From Administrator (Barrie)

1. New JCOC Case – A mother alleges son struck by Dep – 2 black eyes in court. Have not spoken to victim yet.
2. Notification from OCSO regarding injury to 2 Deps from Inmate. February and March hospital transport not available in 5B who tried to attack another inmate.
3. Statistics from P2 of Agenda
4. Need dates from Doctor Nave and Art for availability regarding doing sit-a-longs.
5. JCOC website launched in March with lots of public info about jail.

Agenda Item 7 - Status of drafted Recs and drafting priorities

- Allan and Barrie to work on next set of recommendations but they are not ready for prime time yet – Next will be to draft medical recommendations with Dr. Nave and J Bakeman.

Agenda Item 8 - New Business Items for Next Meeting Agenda

- Comment from Bob about a more transparent and open government. For example, we should Skype the meetings and have a live feed video in an effort to get people watching. Can broadcast live or on the internet. It might give the Commission some additional leverage. Further, Bob commented that maybe the Leg should video, too – be of two minds.. Barrie indicated that the idea would have to be approved, and she will discuss it with Ann Rooney, and bring back her thoughts to the next meeting for further discussion.

Carlton Strail made a motion to move to Executive Session. Bob Slivinski seconded the motion. All were in favor. JCOC Members moved into Executive Session



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**DRAFT Minutes of the June 7, 2017 Meeting
of the Justice Center Oversight Committee Meeting (JCOC)**

Committee Members

Jo Anne Bakeman

Marissa Joy Mims

Present:

Dr. Najah Salaam Jennings Bey

Robert Slivinski

Allan LaFlore

Carlton Strail

Committee Members Absent:

Arthur Barksdale

Dr. Dennis Nave

County Staff Present: Barrie Gewanter, HRC/JCOC

2 Sign Language Interpreters Present

Members of the Public Present:

Lisa Modugno (Mother)

Jacob Modugno (Student-CNS)

Mike Hungerford

Media Present: Patrick Lohman (PS)

HRC/JCOC Interns Present: Juliette Rawda, Kelsey Leeper

The Meeting was convened at 5:35 with above persons present

Chair Marissa Mims asked each person present to identify themselves today.

Agenda Item 1- Welcome and Identification of JCOC Members & Administrator & Persons Present

Agenda Item 2 Consideration of Draft Minutes of 5/3/17 Meeting

No minutes were available for review.

Agenda Item 3 – Recognition of Visitors for Public Comment

Mike Hungerford discussed Gathering at Grace event at Episcopal Church in support of the Muslim community. Barrie followed up with discussing the background for the demonstration regarding the protest against anti-Sharia law by an organization Act for America, which misrepresents the views and information about this. Barrie stated that leaders from the local Muslim community and Interfaith Works(IFW) has said that they do not want to have counter demonstrations since that would give the demonstration more attention, but would encourage people to attend the IFC Duck Race as a more positive alternative. Marissa J Mims: asked that information sent and that urged all people to remember the focus of the JCOC and its mission

Agenda Item 4 – Report from Committee Chair

Recalled a meeting the previous month with Barrie and two command officers. Marissa J Mims discussed watching a video related to a previously discussed case and recommendations regarding it. Barrie: clarified that this meeting was to discuss responses to the recommendations that were being looked over.

Marissa Mims stated that Lt Guillaume wanted to see if JCOC members would meet every other month to 1 discuss regularly with the Justice Center staff to clarify JCOC questions members have. This would not



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take the place of recommendations, but provide more regular conversations with the Committee. No scheduling date was discussed at this meeting since Board members were missing.

Mims stated that there is one JCOC position that has never been filled. Bob was renewed last month and Jo Anne is up for renewal. The chair is currently reviewing potential candidates to fill the open Board position. M.J.M said she was unsure what the current progress is on Jo Anne's renewal.

Barrie: stated that common staff wrote recommendation responses, but Barrie and M.J.M. would like to see face to face conversations with them before this happens to clarify and better discuss the intent of each recommendation.

M.J.M. said that this wasn't to change recommendations, but to help with what seemed to be a lack of clarity with some of the recommendation responses She suggested that command staff or CCS the basis for some of the recommendations to minimize confusion. It would be a better form of communication for feedback and information.

Agenda Item 5 Report from Administrator

Barrie: we reviewed five new case complaints. A Visitor complaint, A Religious Accommodation Issue, A Verbal Bias Allegation, One Held Due to Litigation, and an Inmate not provided with any written info about facility rules/procedures 6 months). No new incident notifications were reviewed from custody command.

Two events for outreach .June 17th Pride event and Juneteenth. She asked JCOC members to sign up for workshed.

Custody command working to accommodate inmates with disabilities. Policy to address the need for accessible vehicles for prisoner transport. They may also clarify policies for when and how complaints/distress of inmates should result in call for medical emergency in response. She suggested that custody command is trying to be proactive.

Barrie reported on the Incarcerated Education Advisory Committee Meeting, she found out about it late and it only happens once a year. Barrie spoke with Bridget who stated these meetings used to be held quarterly, which Barrie thinks would be beneficial. Handout factsheets about Raise the Age available for review. Barrie also was awarded a scholarship to go to 2017 NACOLE Conference in Spokane, WA on 9/10-9/14.

Agenda Item 6 – Status of Drafted Recommendations and Drafting Priorities

Barrie: In Executive session they will be reviewing a set of 17 JCOC Cases

Agenda Item 7 Discussion with Jason Cassalia and Chief Gonzales



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Cassalia talked about changes in written direction. Yes, they are implementing the of JCOC recommendations as they approach a new accreditation. He suggested that JCOC members may assist with further policy review. They are also updating camera systems to address the problems and adding audio in locations from which they seem to be receiving numerous complaints out of. They are not receiving public funding for this, it's out of their own funds. He discussed how this process of accreditation is important and how best adopting practice/best policy standards are important. This process is a big undertaking, but they want to achieve it. It will take a lot of internal research to do this (They are not receiving outside funds). They are beginning to see where they currently stand against accreditation standards and where they need to update or implement policies to achieve these standards.

Chief Gonzales: Has been with the department for 23 years, said that the new administration is being extremely transparent and that the accreditation process is really important. It's good to have other people looking in and holds everyone more accountable. American Corrections Association (ACA) is the only national agency that has accreditation, The American Jail Association does not. There are just under 400 standards required to reach accreditation. Stated that they are at 98% in compliance with the mandatory standards and 92% with non-required ones. Why it isn't 100% is partially due to optional items/services that they don't offer at this entity (such as growing crops). This shows that they are already really close to meeting these standards.

M.J.M. asked how the JCOC could be more involved.

Jason Cassalia: responded that he would love members to attend and participate in their meetings and policy creation. Said that they don't want to just hear from the board on issues, but on being proactive and helping create these new policies.

Barrie: it would be interesting to know how many of the accredited jails (Gonzalez stated that there are around 135) have a Local Jail Oversight Committee (since there's only about 10 in the country).

Allan LaFlore: said he's glad they will have audio and video systems, but is concerned that still 99% of the unfounded complaints are delayed by Custody Command, and there are issues with some questions such as witnesses not being interviewed.

Jason Cassalia: readdressed how they are working to resolve this with the accreditation process, but that they have currently made changes to staff and measures have been taken with internal affairs investigations

Barrie: We have identified a gap in policies, particularly surrounding the interviewing of inmate witnesses.

M.J.M. asked where audio would be



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Jason Cassalia: stated that it won't be at every camera location, but will be in the problem areas that they are starting to identify in part through JCOC Complaints. They are trying to figure out what the best system to use for this will be. Accreditation is a year-long process, just beginning.

Carlton Strail: asked what services they have for deaf /hard of hearing individuals

Chief Gonzales: stated that they have a system for this in booking and the core It is called purple space.. Video phones are in one office and he believes in the 2nd floor area.

Gonzales/Cassalia: briefly discussed a public service academy that is for youth to get involved and explore career preparation July 10-19, must be going into 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th grades. Application is on the website. There are still around 10 spaces around.

Agenda Item 8 – New Business

There was no new business.

Agenda Item 9 – Motion to move into Executive Session

Motion made by Carlton and seconded by Bakeman. Motion passed unanimously.



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**MINUTES of the July 12, 2017 MEETING of the
JUSTICE CENTER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (JCOC)**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Arthur Barksdale, Carlton Strail, Dr. Najah Salaam, Marissa J Mims (Chair),
Dr. Dennis Nave, Jennings-Bey, Robert Slivinski (Vice Chair), Allan LaFlore,
Dominic Fruscello

MEMBERS ABSENT or EXCUSED: Jo Anne Bakeman

COUNTY OFFICIALS & STAFF PRESENT: Barrie Gewanter- JCOC Administrator
Student Interns Juliette Rawda & Kelsey Leeper

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPERTERS: Joanne Jackowski Trisha Schwartz

COMMUNITY & MEDIA PRESENT: Ray Robinson, Ranette Relaford, Samir Salaam Jennings-Bey

At 5:35 pm the meeting was called to order

Agenda Item 1-Welcome & Introductions (*Including New Board Member Dominic Fruscello*)

New member Dom Fruscello introduced himself to board, gave some background about himself. He is a retired teacher from the W. Genesee School District.

Agenda Item 2- Documents Available for Review Prior to Discussion at 8/2 Meeting:

Barrie notified the board that the Minutes from April and June are ready and available for advance review in their packets.

May and June hospital transport records are within their packets as well. Email exchange answering questions related to previous transport records is also available in packets. As newest medical logs are reviewed, Barrie asks that anyone who would like to should please forward questions for the August meeting.

Also included is a draft of the new JCOC brochure. Barrie asks that edits be emailed to her/

Other docs in packet include:

- Copy of third set of approved recommendations. Custody Command is in cooperation and will have a meeting with Barrie.
- Packet describing conditions of confinement for juveniles along with the changes in jail as a result of settlement.(Along with the settlement document.)



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- New Contact sheet containing Mr. Fruscello's contact info. Barrie met Fruscello to update him on JCOC policy and procedures, so he is up to speed on the functions of the board.

3. Scheduling

Marissa sent out a Doodle Poll to set up special meetings with Justice Center staff. Second wednesday of the month works out for 5 people. Barrie suggested meeting be set up sooner than later, perhaps August. August 9th was suggested by Art Barksdale. The meeting will be located at the JC at 5:30. Will meet in training room.

Barrie confirms that Dr Nave is meeting with CCS for patient at-risk meeting.

Need new date to set up meeting with Custody Command do discuss new set of recs.

We need to schedule dates for Dr. Nave and Ms. Bakeman to meet with Barrie to begin drafting next set of recommendations

Members of the public were asked to address the board.

Ranette Relaford is the new Administrator of the CRB. She is happy that there has been collaboration between the JCOC and CRB.

Barrie mentioned upcoming outreach opportunity for joint tent at Westside Block Party and offered space for the CRB.

Barrie also mentioned that CRB is interested in doing training for community. She is happy to share and/or mentor them in presenting on What You Need to Know When Interacting with Police. Barrie explained the contents of that training in response to a question from a JCOC member. Dr Salaam Jennings-Bey stated the sorority she is affiliated with is interested in learning to present this training to assist in de-escalation for conflicts with police officers.

4. Motion to Move into Executive Session

5:50

Carlton made a motion to move into executive session. Bob Slivinski seconded the motion. All in Favor

The JCOC Members entered Executive Session which was *Closed to the Public*.

The next business session will be Aug. 2 – 5:30pm– Same location



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**Draft Minutes of the August 2, 2017 Meeting of the
Justice Center Oversight Committee Meeting (JCOC) - August 2, 2017**

Committee Members Present: Jo Anne Bakeman
Arthur Barksdale
Robert Slivinski

Marissa Joy Mims
Carlton Strail
Dr. Dennis Nave

Committee Members Absent: Allan LaFlore, Dr. Najah Salaam Jennings Bey

County Staff Present: Barrie Gewanter and 2 Student Interns

2 Sign Language Interpreters Present: Joanne Jakowski, Katie Veri

Members of the Public Present: Claudia Klaver (ACTS/CNY Solidarity)

Media Present: N/A

The Meeting was convened at 5:38 p.m. with the above persons present.

**Agenda Item 1 - Welcome and Identification of JCOC Members, Administrator
& Other Persons Present**

Agenda Item 2 - Consideration of Draft Minutes of Prior Meeting

Minutes from the April, May & June Meetings were reviewed and approved unanimously. Carlton Strail made a motion for approval, Robert Slivinski seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Agenda Item 3 - Recognition of Visitors for Public Comment

No Visitors chose to comment at this time.

Agenda Item 4 - Report from the Committee Chair (Marissa Mims)

- Report back from 8/1 Observation of CCS PAR meeting (with Dr. Nave, Marissa and Barrie)
Marissa commented that there was little detail provided about individual patients. She mainly learned about the structure of the meeting. Dr. Nave agreed and added that that he learned that patients were identified mainly in categories. He felt that this may shed light on his perception that there was a lack of detail in patient charts. He had expected a lot more detailed discussion about individual patients in the PAR meeting. There was little or no mention of individual patient concerns or needs. For instance, the participants listed patients on insulin pumps, but not patients receiving insulin. Dr. Nave felt that the review of cases was much less than similar meetings that might be held at other medical institutions, and that it was a meeting more for discussing statistics than about how they are managing patients conditions or if there



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are any issues with these patients. Dr. Nave has reviewed cases at other facilities, and noted that there are other facilities that have had problems with other medical care companies.

JCOC members asked about who participated from CCS, Custody and from the county. It was mentioned that the contract monitor from the Health Dept. was present. Art and Bob asked Barrie to find out if the JCOC can be given any information about fines that have been imposed on CCS for non-compliance with the county contract. Marissa thought that she recalled a discussion last year in the legislature about how much the county had fined CCS for issues in the medical care of inmates.

Dr. Nave wanted to know more about the role of the contract monitor, and asked if the Administrator or JCOC members could speak with her about individual cases. A question was raised if the JCOC should request the ability to do so. Bob and Dr. Nave suggested that such questions could be directed to the contract monitor as a representative of the Health Dept. rather than asking Custody command about medical questions, and that a cc of related emails could be sent to Custody command.

- Report back from 8/1 Discussion of 3rd Set of Recommendations with 2 Custody Command Officers

Marissa said that in this discussion Lt. Guillaume and Capt. D'Eredita voiced concerns about the format of JCOC recommendations. She said that this was an ongoing discussion and that we would have more in depth conversation about this in the JCOC meeting with Custody Command to be held at the jail on 8/28. Custody command officers are concerned about not being able to respond to allegations that may or may not be credible and that these will be focused on by media. They also don't want their colleagues to be overly focused on the allegations rather than the recommendations because of the wording and format. They are supportive of the role of the JCOC and value the recommendations.

Barrie distributed a draft reduction in verbiage she completed for two of the recommendations previously approved by the JCOC. Bob offered a concern about not having the Sheriff's Dept. re-write JCOC recommendations. Marissa and Barrie suggested that this was more about finding a format that would meet the needs of both the Sheriff's office and the JCOC. That would involve some compromise. JoAnne said that she liked the change in some of the wording in the recommendations section. Dom suggested that the language was clearer and more concise. Bob stated that he was concerned about what would be lost when detail was taken out. Barrie was asked to do similar reductions of verbiage and forward this to the board members.

Marissa reminded all present about the August 28th meeting at the jail with a 6:30 p.m. start. She asked people to mark their calendars for subsequent meetings on the 2nd Wednesday every



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other month on 10/11, 12/13, 2/14 (?), 4/11, and 6/13. The Valentine's Day meeting would likely be rescheduled.

Agenda Item 5 - Report from Administrator (Barrie Gewanter)

- Barrie described 1 potential new JCOC Complaint that has not yet been added to the database. It is a verbal bias allegation. The Inmate is currently being held in another county, Barrie will either speak with inmate through 3rd party or wait until inmate returns to Onondaga County.

- Notifications – There were no new non-medical incident notifications. Reasons for medical transport have been included on the hospital transports, and repeat visits have been noted. Dr. Nave asked whether providing the reasons for medical transport could be considered a potential HIPAA violation. Board members asked Barrie to follow up on this question, find out what a few acronyms meant, and seek clarification about 2 inmates listed in the July and June. A question was also asked about when sick call was held

- Barrie provided updated JCOC Case Statistics:

Cases Received Since Aug. 2015: 50

- Closed Cases: 7

Active Cases: 38

- Cases Held Due to Litigation: 5

- Cases Waiting on HIPAA Authorization: 4

- Cases Being Reviewed by OPS: 3

- Cases Waiting on NYS COC Report: 1

- Barrie distributed a new Statistic Summary Sheet for Allegations & Recommendations that indicated that since the JCOC was formed there have been a total 74 recs generated and 42 recs formatted (related to 19/40 high & medium priority cases)

- Tours & Sit-Alongs

Dominic Fruscello is scheduled to do a visitor orientation and tour on 8/10 at 9 am. Barrie will accompany him.

- Outreach Opportunities

Barrie asked JCOC members to sign up for work shifts for the August 17th: West-Side Block Party in conjunction with members of the HRC. She also asked members to mark down that they would be also asked to do work shifts at the September 17th: Westcott Street Fair (noon - 6:30 pm)

- Policy



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Barrie reported that she is working with Lt, Guillaume on a 1st draft of a Policy addressing reasonable accommodations for Inmates with Disabilities and that this was in direct response to one of the JCOC's recommendations.

- Scheduling

Dr. Nave and Jo Anne Bakeman agreed to get together during August to start working on the next set of recommendations. Barrie will join them at a future work session.

Agenda Item 6 - Status of Drafted Recommendations and Next Drafting Priority

Discussed in Chair's report

Agenda Item 7 - Old Business: 1st Draft of JCOC Brochure (distributed at June 12 meeting)

Carlton Strail requested that the font be larger and more readable, Marissa Mims suggested edits to make more room, and Robert Slivinski suggested that the margins of the brochure be edited.

Agenda Item 8 – New Business

Bob suggested that it was possible to set up a message board capacity on the sharepoint site. All supported this idea. tg

A motion was made to move the meeting into Executive session. The motion was seconded, and all were in favor. The meeting moved into Executive Session.