Justice Center Oversight Committee

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

2019 Justice Center Oversight Committee Meeting Dates

Meeting #	Date	Location	Notes
1	January 9th	South Side Innovation Center - 2610 S. Salina St.	
2	February 6th	South Side Innovation Center - 2610 S. Salina St.	
3	March 6th	South Side Innovation Center - 2610 S. Salina St.	MEETING CANCELLED
4	April 3rd	South Side Innovation Center - 2610 S. Salina St.	
5	May 1st	South Side Innovation Center - 2610 S. Salina St.	
6	June 5th	South Side Innovation Center - 2610 S. Salina St.	Primarily a Work Session in Executive Session
7	July 10th	South Side Innovation Center - 2610 S. Salina St	
8	August Meeting Cancelled	South Side Innovation Center - 2610 S. Salina St.	MEETING CANCELLED
9	September 4th	South Side Innovation Center - 2610 S. Salina St.	
10	October 2nd	South Side Innovation Center - 2610 S. Salina St.	MEETING CANCELLED
11	November 6th	South Side Innovation Center - 2610 S. Salina St.	

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12	December 4th	South Side Innovation Center - 2610 S. Salina St.	

Onondaga County / Syracuse
Human Rights Commission

J. Ryan McMahon II
County Executive

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Barrie Gewanter
Executive Director

Minutes of the Jan 9, 2019 Meeting of the
Justice Center Oversight Committee Meeting (JCOC)
Approved at the May 1, 2019 JCOC Meeting

Committee Members Present: Nicholas Paro, Dr. Jennifer Yolles, Cassandra J. Ingram, Carlton Strail (via phone), Dr. N .Salaam Jennings Bey (via phone), Jeff Marier (Vice Chair)

Committee Members Absent or Excused: Marissa Joy Mims (Chair)

County Staff Present: Barrie Gewanter & Montanette Murphy (Human Rights Staff)

Members of the Public Present: Ken Bush, Mikiel Anderson **Media Present: None**

The Meeting was convened at 5:45 p.m. with the above persons present.
Vice Chair Jeff Marier facilitated the meeting with the assistance of B. Gewanter.

Barrie Gewanter went over meeting minutes from November 2018, which included the issuance of the first 3 recommendations documents and 2 medical recommendation documents. Board member Carlton Strail was unable to review the meeting minutes because at the time of the meeting, and did not have access to WiFi. The board decided to postpone approving the minutes until the JCOC Board's next meeting in February 2019.

Chair's Report

Dr. Yolles' gave a report from her "sit-along" at the Justice Center. Dr. Yolles said she spent her first sit-along in Booking, then on either Pod 2A or 2B, and then on the Male Behavioral Unit 5C on January 9th. Dr. Yolles stated she wants to do sit along in one of the female pods.

There was a discussion of reappointments. Barrie confirmed that Dr. Nave is not interested in a reappointment to the JCOC Board. Dr. Salaam and Marissa want to be reappointed. Barrie has tried to reach out to Allan LaFlore regarding his reappointment but Mr. LaFlore has been in Florida and unavailable. She stated that she believes he does not want to be reappointed. Barrie reported that Onondaga Legislature Chair Dave Knapp is in the process of reappointing Marissa Mims, but has been delayed because of personal and legislature priorities. Nicholas Paro said he spoke with Dave Knapp on Jan. 9th and Mr. Knapp stated he did not see any problems with Marissa being reappointed to the JCOC Board.

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Barrie read part of an email in which Ann Rooney offered her opinion that JCOC members who are awaiting reappointment can vote on business items until expected reappointments are confirmed. Barrie reported that the Human Rights Commission board have decided, in the interim, to follow the Roberts Rules of Order in this situation. Nicholas Paro suggested that past practices for other appointed boards was for members awaiting reappointment to continue to vote on board business.

Barrie had no updates on the medical rec documents, except that Marissa has an appointment with Dave Knapp. Marissa has already sent the first 2 sets of medical recommendation documents to the government officials designated in the enabling legislation. The next step is to get addresses of inmate victims to Marissa, which Barrie has and will transmit.

The Custody Command meeting for December was cancelled. Barrie is working to reschedule this meeting. In their January 2019 packet board members received a two-sided sheet titled "Topics for Bi-Monthly Meeting." Barrie went over the sheet.

Nicholas Paro and Cassandra J. Ingram gave Barrie their available dates for a sit-along at the Jail. Barrie will email Lt. Woods about these dates.

Marissa, Jeff, and Dr. Nave are waiting on a date to meet with CCS administrators. Marissa and Jeff have said that Friday works best for them as a meeting day.

Barrie discussed in open session two JCOC cases, as follows:
1) An allegation that bias was expressed toward an inmate who is transgender
2) An allegation that bias was expressed toward an inmate based on religion and "family culture"

Barrie met with Dr. Nave to document his review of three cases: 52, 59 and one case to which Barrie has not yet assigned a case number. Barrie received three new medical records discs from Custody Command and gave them to Dr. Yolles for her review. The discs include Case 56 and another case that has no case number assigned to it yet.

Barrie has delivered HIPAA authorization forms for two more inmates to Lt. Woods. Barrie reported that she and Montanette watched videos related to inmate complaints, and related what they observed in limited detail to the board.

Barrie has been going through the NCCHC healthcare standards for jails. She reported that the information is "broad" and does not address many specific applications. Accordingly, she cannot

say that NCCHC standards reflect what would be considered a minimally adequate standard of inmate health care. Barrie suggested that if there are no such standards in place, the Eighth Amendment rights of the inmates may be the default standard. JCOC members stated that they did not expect to receive an opinion from the County Law Office about what minimal standards for inmate care may be. Nicholas Paro asked if Justice Center is accredited by the NCCHC. Barrie said that it was. Dr. Yolles questioned whether the medical providers are kept to the standards of their medical licensure by CCS. Barrie said that she does not know if this is the case. Barrie stated that the Office of Professional Medical Conduct may bes an option for inmate's seeking redress for allegations related to medical care.

One of JCOC's recommendations was accommodating inmates with disabilities. Barrie stated that the Jail did create a policy directive about this. She provided input into drafts of this directive but her suggestions hadn't been fully incorporated in the current policy. Barrie is also not sure its provisions have been implemented. Jeff Marier wanted to know if the related recommendations are being implemented. Barrie stated that some of the recommendations are being implemented and some are not. Barrie included a handout (sheet) in the JCOC packet on what additional changes she had sought in this policy directive in conversation with Lt. Woods. Lt. Woods incorporated some of these changes and will send up the administrative chain of command. Nicholas Paro asked to be informed about what the Command Staff accepts and rejects regarding this policy on accommodations for inmates with disabilities, and requested that Lt. Woods' edits be sent to the JCOC board.

Barrie related her concerns about some of the language in this policy directive related to the concept of "undue hardship." Barrie suggested that only a captain or other administrative authority should be able to determine this legal threshold, which is a high bar within the ADA. . Barrie stated that this policy was necessary for the ACA accreditation process. Custody was ready for this requirement because of discussions with Barrie and the JCOC about this topic.

Barrie also provided a handout in board members packets indicating which policies had been revised or added in 2018, prior to the accreditation review

Hospital Transports – Barrie handed out two months of hospital transports to board members with redacted versions for the public. There were no questions from the board regarding these documents. Dr. Salaam attended the meeting via phone and will receive a scanned copy of the packet. Carlton will receive a hard copy of the JCOC Meeting Packet via mail.

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Barrie gave the board a report on her visit to the 2018 NACOLE conference. At the conference, Barrie learned that custody staff in Santa Rosa, California, use body mics on the job. Barrie will research other cities and towns that use body mics in their correctional facilities. Nicholas Paro agreed to bring up the idea of body mics at the next Custody Command Meeting with Jail Administrators. The next NACOLE conference is Sept 30 through Oct. 4, 2019 in Detroit, MI. Barrie urged JCOC members to attend the next NACOLE conference, stating that scholarships are available. Jeff requested that Barrie send NACOLE scholarship information to board members for the upcoming 2019 conference. Barrie also informed to Dr. Yolles of the annual National Conference for the NCCHC.

Barrie reported that the JCOC has drafted a total of 160 recommendations since the board was convened. Dr. Yolles will let Barrie know when she wants to begin drafting the next medical recommendations document.

Dr. Salaam will meet with Barrie to discuss Dr. Salaam's draft of recommendations regarding religious accommodations. Dr. Salaam reported that she spoke with Syracuse Deputy Mayor Sharon Owens about her reappointment, and confirmed that her reappointment is moving forward. Barrie appeared in the meeting of the County Legislature Public Safety Committee on Jan. 9th and was told that a vote on Dr. Salaam's reappointment should take place on February 5th. Barrie did not have an update from Marissa about the recommendation document that she was working on related to language assistance and procedural communication with inmates.

Nicholas inquired about a section of the enabling legislation that says the JCOC board is supposed to meet at or inside the County Legislature chambers. Barrie stated that the County Executive's office felt that it was not cost effective to do so because it would require re-opening the building after hours. At the next meeting, Barrie would like feedback from board members about the current meeting place on South Salina Street – the South Side Innovation Center (SSIC).

Dr. Salaam had to leave the meeting. Vice Chair Jeff Marier will recommend to Marissa that the JCOC meets on county property. It was agreed that Jeff will wait to address Marissa about future JCOC meetings at a county site until after Marissa's scheduled January appointment with Legislator Dave Knapp

Old Business: There was none

New Business: Barrie and Dr. Nave discussed the possibility of creating a local medical training program in correctional healthcare in concert with Upstate Hospital and the Justice Center. Barrie reported that several years ago a specialty training program for Family Practice was initiated at St. Joseph's Hospital. Barrie will contact the NCCHC about whether such a training program exists elsewhere. There was consensus among those present that we should take the first steps to explore the creation of such a training program. Barrie will also ask whether anyone at CCS has NCCHC credentials.

Members from the Public, Visitors:
Community Member Mikiel Anderson had two questions:

Is there Oversight at the Jamesville Facility?

Has the JCOC considered or is the JCOC aware of any initiatives by the County Law Department to take away or undermine the JCOC's power to serve actively and effectively as it relates to the JCOC's mission regarding inmates, jail staff and the overall community.

Anderson also said that he wanted to make the JCOC Board aware that the County Law Department could insert problematic language into the law that could make the JCOC less powerful or ineffective. Barrie answered the question about Jamesville oversight, suggesting it was premature because of the administrative transition of Jamesville to the Sheriff's Dept.

County Legislator Ken Bush made a comment said that he likes the idea of a potential medical residency for medical students at the Jail. Mr. Bush noted that he hopes mental health will be a part of this initiative. Barrie stated there might be interest from SU students willing to work/train/volunteer/intern at the jail to address the mental health issues of inmates.

JCOC Board Member Roundtable: No one offered comments

There was a motion from Nicholas Paro to adjourn to executive session. This was seconded by Cassandra J. Ingram. The motion passed and the board entered into executive session.
There was a motion to adjourn the Executive Session. During this executive session Barrie reviewed new case information & board members approved recommendations drafted by Dr. Nave after review of 2 additional cases.

Cassandra motioned to adjourn Executive Session. Jeff seconded. The board returned to regular session and adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by Barrie Gewanter & Montanette Murphy

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Executive Director

Minutes of the Feb. 6, 2019 Meeting of the
Justice Center Oversight Committee Meeting (JCOC)
Approved at the May 1, 2019 JCOC Meeting

Committee Members Present:	Marissa Joy Mims (Chair)	Dr. Jennifer Yolles
	Cassandra J. Ingram	Carlton Strail (via phone)
Committee Members Excused:	Nicholas Paro	Jeff Marier (Vice Chair)
Committee Members Absent:	Dr. N .Salaam Jennings Bey	

County Staff Present: Barrie Gewanter & Montanette Murphy (Human Rights Staff)

Members of the Public Present: Ken Bush, Mikiel Anderson

Marissa Mims convened the meeting and noted that 2 board members were excused and one was absent. Therefor there was no quorum. The board decided to postpone consideration of minutes of the Nov. 7, 2018 and Jan 9, 2019 minutes that were available for amendment and/or approval. Marissa asked Barrie to try to make future minutes more succinct.

As part of the Chair's Report, Marissa asked 2 board members for Observations to recent sit-along sessions. Dr. Yolles' said she spent her first sit-along on January 9th in Booking, then in a pod on the 2nd floor, then in 5C in the Male Behavioral Unit. She stated she wanted to do another sit along session in the Female Behavioral Unit. Cassandra J. Ingram's first sit along was on the morning of Jan. 25th. She found it helpful to see how things go on a daily basis. She asked for an update on one female inmate who refused to eat until her release. She was impressed with how civilians come to the pod to provide education about substance abuse and withdrawal, and a vocational training course. She does not feel the need for a second sit along. Dr. Yolles wants to do a sit along in the female unit and will get back to Barrie on a date for next sit-along. Marissa will let Barrie know when she's ready to do her second sit along.

Marissa met with Legislature Chair David Knapp and Majority Leader Brian May. They confirmed that JCOC appointments will go to the Ways and Means Committee in February in order to expedite her reappointment. Marissa presented Dave Knapp and Brian May with the medical recommendations; both legislators have reviewed the documents and are appreciative of the work the Committee has done.. Marissa has a phone follow up appointment with Mr. May on February 7th. Marissa expects to attend the March meeting of the Public Safety Committee. Jeff M. is available to the attend meeting but Marissa wants to be present. Mr. Knapp and Mr. May stated that they wanted to reschedule the meeting to an evening time because the wanted Marissa to be able to attend as JCOC Chair.

There are two open positions on the JCOC. Two candidates who are former chiefs of law

enforcement agencies are being considered for one of these positions. The resumes of Marsha Weissman and Brittany Johnson were included in JCOC packet as potential candidates for JCOC consideration and transmission to the Legislature & Public Safety Chair. Dr. Salaam's reappoint ment was confirmed by the Legislature yesterday.

Marissa asked Barrie to confer with Ann Rooney in their next meeting to confirm that we can proceed with mailing JCOC recommendation documents to related complainants from the office.

Bi-Monthly meetings with Custody Command Officers used to be the second Wednesday of the month. We have deviated from that schedule. Marissa is not available on 2/27/19. She would like to return to the original schedule and meet on 2/13/19. Barrie will contact Lt. Woods about that date. Barrie asked for availability to meet with Custody Command about the first two healthcare recommendation documents. Marissa said that Fridays at 3:45 p.m. work well for her and Jeff. Barrie will check with Dr. Nave to see if Fridays works for him.

Barrie reported on one new JCOC case, a man in the infirmary post-surgery who alleged that medical care was delayed until he became gravely ill. She reported on one new incident reported to her by Lt. Woods. This involved two individuals at the Jail who were involved in a fight. One man had an injury to his eye and the other had an injury to his ear, and would be able to provide more details in Executive session.

Barrie asked Board members to review the hospital transport logs for Dec. 2018. Dr. Yolles asked her to ask Lt. Woods why 2 inmates who had been admitted to the hospital for 5 days had been transported to the hospital by car rather than by ambulance.

Barrie reported that the HRC Office's intake has doubled from 2017 to 2018 to 1500 contacts a year. She is still reviewing the new and amended vs. older custody directives, and hopes to make those available to board members at end of March. Barrie directed board members to info in board members packets on the next NACOLE conference and its scholarship program, as well as the upcoming NCCHC conference, and a report on Hepatitis C Screening and Treatment in U.S. Prisons.

Barrie reported that the JCOC has drafted a total of 160 individual reccommendations of which 95 have been formatted into recommendation documents related to 29 (51%) of all JCOC cased received. Marissa said that the Language Assistance recommendation document she is working on should be available for review soon. There was no update on Dr. Salaam's work on the religious accommodation recommendation document or the next healthcare recommendation document based on Dr. Nave's review of 7 cases.

Under Old Business, Barrie said that she will discuss with Ann Rooney, her and Dr. Nave's idea

about exploring the creation of a specialty training program for correctional health in cooperation with CCS and one of the local hospitals. There was no new business.

One member of the public, Mikiel Anderson, address the board. He asked ___ questions related to the resources of the office, community outreach and education about the JCOC, cultural competence training for jail staff, mental health resources in the jail, trauma informed care for inmates, support for the work of the JCOC among elected officials. Marissa and Dr. Yolles and Barrie chose to offer some answers to his questions.

Dr. Yolles motioned to enter Executive Session which was seconded by Cassandra. The motion passed and the board moved into Executive Session. After Executive Session discussion concluded, Dr. Yolles made a motion to adjourn Executive Session. This was seconded by Cassandra. Then there was a motion from Cassandra to adjourn the business meeting. This was seconded by Dr. Yolles. The motion passed and the meeting ended.

Submitted by Barrie Gewanter & Montanette Murphy

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Executive Director

Minutes of the April 3, 2019 Meeting of the
Justice Center Oversight Committee Meeting (JCOC)
Approved at the May 1, 2019 JCOC Meeting

Committee Members Present: Marissa Joy Mims (Chair), Cassandra J. Ingram, Jeff Marier (Vice Chair), Dr. N .Salaam Jennings Bey (via phone), Dr. Jennifer Yolles, Carlton Strail (via phone), Nicholas Paro

Committee Members Excused or Absent: none
County Staff Present: Barrie Gewanter & Montanette Murphy (Human Rights Staff)

Members of the Public Present: Samuel Dancil, Mikiel Anderson

Marissa Mims convened the meeting with Carlton Strail on phone, and noted that Dr. Najah would be joining us by phone. There was a quorum. The board decided to postpone consideration of minutes of the Nov. 7, 2018 and Jan. 9, 2019 and Feb. 6, 2019 minutes until next meeting.

Chair's Report: Last month the Legislature confirmed Marissa to serve another term as a JCOC board member through 2021. The Legislature is expected to appoint John Falge to an open position in May. One CE appointment remains open. Marissa reported Public Safety Committee Chair Chris Ryan and Majority Leader Brian May are trying to schedule an evening committee meeting to discuss the first 5 issued recommendations documents, i.e. at a time when Marissa can attend. Marissa, Dr. Nave, Dr. Yolles and Barrie will participate in the April 23rd meeting with Wellpath (formerly CCS) Administrators, using either be rec-by-rec or a thematic format. Marissa reported that she will sign the letters to complainants cited in the first 5 issued recommendations documents later tonight and return the letters to Barrie. Marissa scheduled a meeting with Jeff and Barrie for April 15th. The next bi-monthly meeting with Custody Command officers at the jail will be May 8th. Agenda items to transmit to Custody Command will be identified at the May 1st board meeting. Barrie suggested asking if Custody Command and Wellpath Administrators will provide official responses to the healthcare recommendations in the first 2 related documents that have been issued, and how Custody intends to follow up on the recommendations related to alleged verbal and bias harassment of inmates. Barrie was asked to send Lt. Woods follow up questions from Wellpath's last set of written responses to questions from Dr. Nave's case review & to ask him if Custody will provide written responses to the recommendations in the issued recommendation documents. Notes from the March bi-monthly meeting were included in board members packets.

Administrator's report: Barrie requested April dates from Marissa and Dr. Yolles for requested sit-alongs. Barrie will describe one new case for JCOC consideration in executive session, and that there were no new incident notifications. 1 case in backlog was given case number and documents uploaded. Working on 3 more cases. HRC intern is in process of summarizing 21 revised and three new directives. Barrie gave a quick overview of Denver's policy on Transgender inmates (included in packets), and stated that Los Angeles and New York City jails have separate voluntary units for GBT inmates. Marissa may FOIL related policies and legal opinions from these two jail systems. Barrie will try to find time to do a written summary of the approaches used by the three jail systems and the related application of PREA.

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Barrie reviewed bail and discover reform components in the approved 2020 New York State budget. This included the elimination of cash bail for misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies. Barrie noted that a newspaper article about a judge's ruling taking a jail inmate out of solitary confinement and an article from The New Yorker magazine about mental health care in US jails was included in board member packets, the latter at the request of Dr. Yolles. Barrie reported that she and Dr. Yolles will review a few medical cases in executive session, and present related drafted recommendations. Dr Yolles has two more sets of medical records to review with Barrie

Board members looked over the inmate hospital transport charts for January and February. Board members asked Barrie to convey a few questions related to s pecific transports and CCS/Wellpath's quality improvement review process.

Under Status of Recommendations, Marissa reported that she is still working on a recommendation document related to Language Assistance and Procedural Communications, and Dr. Salaam on one related to Religious Accommodations of Inmates and Visitors. 32 Recommendations from Dr. Nave, and 5 so far from Dr. Yolles will be formatted into the next medical recommendation document.

Under Old Business, Barrie reported that she is not able to reach out to Upstate or St. Joseph's to explore a potential correctional health training program for medical students. JCOC Board members may pursue related outreach as they see fit. Barrie cited CCS/Wellpath's response to a JCOC question about other programs. Rutgers, Texas Tech, University of Texas at Galveston operate correctional medical care programs for jails or prisons in Texas and incorporated training programs. Jeff Marier offered to try to contact these programs.

There was no New Business. Two members of the public addressed the board, Samuel Dancil and Mikiel Anderson. Anderson asked whether the board had any information on a 2019 Mock Prison Riot Competition in West Viriginia. He suggested that local law enforcement agencies will be attending the event. Mr. Dancil wanted to address a specific complaint about a relative's experience in the jail and was referred to Barrie and Montanette for intake.

Nick Paro motioned to enter Executive Session. Jeff seconded the motion, which passed. The board moved into Executive Session to discuss matters related to specific cases and related recommendations. After the board returned from Executive Session, Nick moved to approve 3 recommendations drafted by Dr. Yolles for Case 63 and 1 for 64 (as amended). The motion was seconded by Jeff and passed unanimously. Nick motioned to adjourn the meeting and Cassandra seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Barrie Gewanter & Montanette Murphy