



County of Onondaga
Office of Diversity and Inclusion

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J. Ryan McMahon, II
County Executive

Monica Williams
Chief Diversity Officer

DRAFT* Pending Approval*

Minutes from March 6, 2024
Meeting of the Justice Center Oversight Committee

Committee members present: Vice Chair Jeff Marier, Cassandra Jones Ingram, John Falge, Nicole Godfrey, Tricia Wittkowski

Absent: Chair Marissa Mims and JoAnne Spoto Decker

Community present: Timia Cobb from Syracuse.com/community member Samantha Works

County staff present: CDO Monica Williams and JCOC Administrator Montanette Murphy

Opening: Meeting started at 5:32 p.m.

Chair's report: None

Approved March 6, 2024 Meeting Agenda (passes 5-0)

Approved December 2023 and January 2024 meeting minutes (passes 5-0)

Administrator's report:

- Population count from Justice Center Jail: 470 detainees total; 34 detainees are females. 0 Covid Cases and 0 Flu Cases.
- Montanette and Monica met with Custody Command staff on February 29, 2024. They will get approval to provide the JCOC with the RFP contract from the Jail's medical vendor Wellpath. If there are specific sections or parts that JCOC members want to see then the JCOC can request those sections. The JCOC will receive an update on the new Justice Center Jail policies, including a Sheriff's Office policy regarding transgender inmates.
- Montanette toured the Jail's kitchen and gave an update on tour. Trinity is the food vendor and the food at the JC Jail is prepared by Trinity kitchen staff and detainees. The food ingredients are bought in bulk.

○ **Discussion:**

- Ramadan begins March 10, 2024 and ends April 9, 2024. JCOC member Falge asked whether the Jail was following appropriately all the accommodations necessary for a successful Ramadan. To date, there were no complaints about Ramadan but there has been one complaint from a detainee regarding Muslim prayers during the Jail's Pod Shakedown. Montanette received two perspectives on whether Muslim detainees should be allowed to continue their prayers while the Jail does its search of individual cells.
- Discussed a recent use of dogs during a cell search sweep at the Justice Center Jail. JCOC would like more information on how often the Jail uses dogs in cell sweeps at the Justice Center.
- Grievances: There have been several complaints from detainees about the grievance complaint process at the jail. Currently there have been personnel changes within the grievance department at the Jail. JCOC members were told that the JC Jail grievances are part of the Justice Center Jail

and are separate from the green forms that are handed out and available to the detainees by the Justice Center Oversight Committee via the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Executive Session:

Motion to enter into executive session. Motions seconded. Voted 5-0 to enter into executive session.

Entered executive session at 6:09 p.m.

Voted to exit executive session at 6:30 p.m. (Passes 5-0)

Meeting ended at 7:04 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeff Marier on March 6, 2024.