

MARYLAND COMMISSION ON CORRECTIONAL STANDARDS

Minutes – 291st (Remote) Meeting – January 29, 2026 – 10AM

6776 Reisterstown Road Baltimore, Maryland 21215 – Suite 304

MEMBERS PRESENT

Courtney League, Assistant Secretary, Design, Construction and Energy, Department of General Services (Chair, Commission on Correctional Standards Board),
representing, Secretary Atif Chaudhry, Department of General Services
Captain Briana Cottman, Queen Anne's County Department of Corrections (Vice Chair)
Keith Dickens, Acting Commissioner, Division of Correction, State Correctional Representative
Deputy Warden Luke Dixon, Caroline County Detention Center
K'Yalei Harris, Budget Analyst, representing the Secretary Helene T. Grady, Department of Budget Management
Diana Lee, Assistant Attorney General, representing Attorney General Anthony G. Brown
Dr. Niani Smith, Mental Health/Medical Representative

MCCS STAFF PRESENT

Veronica Moore, Executive Director
Tanya Joyner, Assistant Executive Director
Mechelle Johnson, Senior Correctional Program Specialist
Brandon Dickens, Auditor
Tammy McCotter, Auditor
Paulette Wyndham, Auditor
Shirley Graham, Auditor
Dawnya Clark, Auditor
LaDonna Newman, Management Associate

GUESTS

Director Ben Stevenson, Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation
Deputy Warden Bernard Wade, Montgomery County Correctional Facility
Captain Anthony Mudalue, Montgomery County,
Sergeant Rafael Torres, Montgomery County
Warden Michelle Mann, Maryland Correctional Prerelease System
Warden Geneva Holland, Maryland Correctional Institution-Jessup
Captain Chinela Ukpelegbu, Maryland Correctional Institution-Jessup
Facility Administrator Vera Wright, Baltimore City Correctional Center
Major Eddie Armstrong, Baltimore City Correctional Center
Sergeant Derrick Ellis, Baltimore City Correctional Center
Corporal Donyell Rogers, Baltimore City Correctional Center

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HSA Tekeytha Fullwood, YesCare, Corporation
Director Chris Tyler, Wicomico County Department of Corrections
Deputy Director Michael Jamison, Wicomico County Department of Corrections
Deputy Director Thomas Kimball, Wicomico County Department of Corrections
Major Preston Foreman, Wicomico County Department of Corrections
Captain James Bare, Wicomico County Department of Corrections
Captain Jonathan Watson, Wicomico County Department of Corrections
MCO Joshua Foster, Wicomico County Department of Corrections
Shyra Stevenson, Supervisor Wicomico County Department of Corrections
Eric Dickerson, Supervisor, Wicomico County Department of Corrections
Judi Jefferson, Supervisor, Wicomico County Department of Corrections
Nancy Paredes, Supervisor, Wicomico County Department of Corrections
Luis Gonzalez, Supervisor, Wicomico County Department of Corrections
Jack Schevel, Supervisor, Wicomico County Department of Corrections
Lieutenant Deneice Davis, Wicomico County Department of Corrections
Sergeant Richard L. Elliott, Wicomico County Department of Corrections
Director Roland Sheppard, Kent County Detention Center
Corporal Lacrishia Scarborough, Kent County Detention Center
Director Lamonte E. Cooke, Queen Anne's County Department of Corrections
Major Bo Greenwood, Queen Anne's County Department of Corrections
Lieutenant Heather Edwards, Queen Anne's County Department of Corrections
Corporal Shawn Dockery, Queen Anne's County Department of Corrections
Corporal Larry Hinch, Queen Anne's County Department of Corrections
Director Ryan Ross, Charles County Detention Center
Deputy Director Matthew Dixon, Charles County Detention Center
Lieutenant Michael Smith, Charles County Detention Center
Captain Gardiner, Charles County Detention Center

1. Welcome/Introduction/Remarks

Interim Chairperson Courtney League called the 291st Commission (Remote) Meeting of the Commission on Correctional Standards to order at 10:00 a.m. Executive Director Moore conducted a roll call of the members for the purpose of a quorum. A quorum was present. Executive Director Moore conducted a roll call of the facility representatives and guests, prior to the reading of each audit report and monitoring report.

The agenda and subsequent action(s) follow:

2. Nomination and Vote for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Executive Director Veronica Moore opened the floor to accept nominations for the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Board of the Commission on Correctional Standards.

- **Nomination for Chairperson made by: Acting Commissioner Keith Dickens. SECONDED: Captain Briana Cottman. A MOTION to accept the appointment of Mr. Courtney League as Chairperson made by: Acting Commissioner Keith Dickens. SECONDED Captain Briana Cottman. The MOTION carried.**
- **Nomination for Vice Chairperson made by: Chairperson Courtney League to nominate Captain Brianna Cottman. SECONDED: Assistant Attorney General. MOTION to the accept appointment of Captain Briana Cottman made by: Chairperson Courtney League. SECONDED: Acting Commissioner Keith Dickens. The MOTION carried.**

3. Approval of Minutes – November 13, 2025 Commission meeting.

Chairperson Courtney League asked the members to review the minutes.

A MOTION for the Commission Board to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2025 meeting was made by Captain Briana Cottman (Vice Chair): SECONDED: Ms. K'Yalei Harris. The MOTION carried.

4. Chair's Comments

Chairperson Courtney League welcomed everyone in attendance to the 291st Commission (Remote) Meeting. Chair League welcomed Chief of Staff Anthony Gaskins to the meeting. Chairperson League extended congratulations to Mr. Keith Dickens concerning his assignment as the Acting Commissioner of the Division of Correction. Chairperson League extended congratulations to Mr. David Greene on his appointment as the Acting Deputy Secretary of Operations for the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. Chairperson League outlined the voting process, instructing members who motion or second to state their names, with silence from remaining members confirming agreement. Chairperson League reminded members with potential or actual conflicts of interest that they could recuse themselves from discussions and decisions, and the minutes would reflect such decisions. Acting Commissioner Keith Dickens was noted to recuse himself for reports which fall under the responsibility of the Division of Corrections. Chairperson League stated that the Recognition of Achievement awards for the approved facilities will be forwarded to the managing officials once they are signed and fully executed. Chairperson League stated that there are currently five (5) vacancies concerning the Commission Board which include the following: (2) Citizen Members; (1) Local Elected Correctional Professional; (1) State Correctional Professional; and (1) National Correctional Accreditation Professional.

5. Executive Director's Comments

Executive Director Veronica Moore announced the promotion of Correctional Program Specialist Mechelle Johnson to Senior Correctional Program Specialist, effective December 10, 2025. Executive Director Moore extended congratulations to Ms. Johnson. Chairperson League, Vice Chairperson Cottman, the Commission members, MCCS staff and guests congratulated Ms. Johnson on her promotion. Executive Director Moore reported that the vacant Correctional Program Specialist position is pending recruitment. Executive Director Moore reported that the Duly Authorized Inspector (DAI) Training will be held in the Spring of 2026 and is scheduled for April 29, 2026 at PCTC. Executive Director Moore recognized Ms. Tanya Joyner (Assistant Executive Director, MCCS) for 30 years of State Service and Ms. LaDonna Newman for 24 years of State Service. Executive Director Moore expressed her appreciation to Ms. Joyner and Ms. Newman for their support in her role as the executive director as well as their contributions to MCCS. Executive Director Moore reported that the MCCS Audit Schedule concerning FY 2026 and FY 2027 are posted on the MCCS website. Executive Director Moore reiterated the comments of Chairperson League concerning the Commission board vacancies. Executive Director Moore stated that if anyone is aware of an individual who is interested in joining the board, they can have the individual contact her. Executive Director Moore expressed appreciation to the correctional community for their consistent support of the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards. Executive Director Moore stated she is proposing the cancellation of the 292nd Commission (Remote) Meeting scheduled for March 26, 2026 due to a light agenda concerning the audit/monitoring reports. Executive Director Moore made a recommendation with the Commission members approval to cancel the 292nd Commission (Remote) Meeting scheduled for March 26, 2026. Vice Chairperson Briana Cottman agreed that if the agenda is light, the meeting should be cancelled.

6. Consideration of Final Reports

- Montgomery County Correctional Facility

A MOTION for the Commission Board to approve the audit report and the compliance plan for a monitoring review concerning the Montgomery County Correctional Facility was made by Deputy Warden Luke Dixon: SECONDED: Assistant Attorney General Diana Lee. The MOTION carried.

- Maryland Correctional Institution-Jessup

A MOTION for the Commission Board to approve the audit report and the compliance plan for a monitoring review concerning the Maryland Correctional Institution-Jessup was made by Deputy Warden Luke Dixon: SECONDED: Vice Chairperson Briana Cottman (Vice Chair). The MOTION carried. Acting Commissioner Keith Dickens entered a recusal prior to the vote concerning the audit report.

- Montgomery County Detention Center

A MOTION for the Commission Board to approve the audit report and the compliance plan for a monitoring review concerning the Montgomery County Detention Center was made by Assistant Attorney General Diana Lee: SECONDED: Deputy Warden Luke Dixon. The MOTION carried.

- Baltimore City Correctional Center

A MOTION for the Commission Board to approve the audit report and grant the Recognition of Achievement Award concerning the Baltimore City Correctional Center was made by Assistant Attorney General Diana Lee: SECONDED: Ms. K'Yalei Harris. The MOTION carried. Acting Commissioner Keith Dickens entered a recusal prior to the vote concerning the audit report.

6. Continuing Business – Monitoring Review Reports

- Wicomico County Department of Corrections

A MOTION for the Commission Board to approve the monitoring report and Recognition of Achievement award concerning the Wicomico County Department of Corrections was made by Acting Commissioner Keith Dickens: SECONDED: Deputy Warden Luke Dixon. The MOTION carried.

- Kent County Detention Center

A MOTION for the Commission Board to approve the monitoring report and Recognition of Achievement award concerning the Kent County Detention Center was made by Deputy Warden Luke Dixon: SECONDED: Captain Briana Cottman (Vice Chair). The MOTION carried.

- Queen Anne's County Department of Corrections

A MOTION for the Commission Board to approve the monitoring report and Recognition of Achievement award concerning the Queen Anne's County Department of Corrections was made by Assistant Attorney General Diana Lee: SECONDED: Acting Commissioner Keith Dickens. The MOTION carried.

- Charles County Detention Center

A MOTION for the Commission Board to approve the monitoring report and Recognition of Achievement award concerning the Charles County Detention Center was made by Deputy Warden Luke Dixon: SECONDED: Captain Briana Cottman (Vice Chair). The MOTION carried.

7. New Business

Recommendation presented by Executive Director Veronica Moore to cancel the 292nd Commission (Remote) Meeting scheduled on March 26, 2026 due to a light agenda. The Commission members were in agreement to cancel the March 26, 2026 meeting. The next regularly scheduled Commission Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 30, 2026. The Commission Meeting is not held in May due to the Memorial Day holiday.

8. Announcements

Chairperson Courtney League expressed appreciation to Captain Briana Cottman for accepting and being appointed as the vice chairperson of the Board of the Commission on Correctional Standards. Chairperson Courtney League also expressed appreciation to Executive Director Moore and her team for their hard work concerning the audits. Executive Director Moore thanked Mr. League for his support of the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards. Executive Director Moore welcomed Captain Cottman in her role as the vice chairperson of the Board of the Commission on Correctional Standards. Executive Director Moore commented that she is looking forward to working with them both. Chairperson League and Executive Director Moore wished everyone a Happy New Year.

9. Adjournment

A MOTION to adjourn was made by Acting Commissioner Keith Dickens: SECONDED: Deputy Warden Luke Dixon. The MOTION carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

These "minutes" are a synopsis of the Commissions' discussions and decisions and not a verbatim rendering of the proceedings.
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