

STEVE SISOLAK
Governor

W. A. "Bill" Gittere
Acting Director



BARBARA K. CEGAVSKE
Secretary of State

AARON D. FORD
Attorney General

STATE OF NEVADA BOARD OF PRISON COMMISSIONERS

MEETING MINUTES

The Board of Prison Commissioners held a public meeting on Monday, October 17, 2022, beginning at 10:02 a.m., and was conducted at the following locations. The meeting could also be viewed and heard via YouTube.

Meeting Location:

Grant Sawyer Building
555 E. Washington Avenue
Suite 5100
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Video Conference Location:

Old Assembly Chambers
State Capitol Building
101 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

1. Call to Order/Roll Call of Board Members/Confirm Quorum

Board Members Present:

Governor Steve Sisolak – in person in Las Vegas, NV
Secretary of State Barbara Cegavske – by phone
Attorney General Aaron Ford – in person in Las Vegas, NV

Board Members Absent:

None

Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) Attendees:

W. A. "Bill" Gittere, Acting Director
Brian E. Williams, Sr., Deputy Director Programs
Calvin Johnson, Acting Deputy Director Operations
Lisa Lucas, Deputy Director Support Services
William Quenga, Deputy Director Prison Industries & Acting PIO

Kimberly Smith, Chief Human Resources Officer
Dr. David Rivas, Medical Director
Dr. David Greene, Mental Health Director
James Kendall Jones, Inspector General
Danyele Madsen, Executive Assistant

2. **Public Comment: (1st Period)** First of two sessions to address the Board of Prison Commissioners regarding items indicated on the agenda (3 minute maximum per speaker). Public comment is transcribed as spoken with minimal edits such as deleting a repeated word. Note: public comments were also accepted in written form via email until 9 p.m. the day before the meeting.

Carson City:

- No public comment

Las Vegas:

- **Mercedes Maharis** - The Chief Medical Officer Report on all three items medical, dental, nutritional and sanitation healthfulness cleanliness and safety. I am a Nevada chaplain and a member of the Nevada silver haired legislative Forum Senate District 3. What are the penalties for the failures reported that I showed you at the August 30th 22 meeting? Meaning that the expired food was served recently. So, table one is incorrect. The portions of food. are they enough? With no problems on the report but we have a report that shows that a slice of cake is an inch and a half by an inch and a half. I wonder if Mr. Duarte would have

escaped if he had had a blueberry muffin once in a while. A full size right. What I think needs to happen is that to calm anger and hunger we need to have a person reporting at each institution. Maybe two making a record of the actual amounts of food that are being served. I don't think that one inspection, one time a year is enough. It's just sad. An NDOC nutritionist told me years ago, we lay out the nutritional and everything but when the cat's away the mice play. So there doesn't seem to be any uniformity for food. And regarding [AR] 345 and [AR] 855 proposed changes, please strike offenders. An old negative term and replace the terms with incarcerated individuals. [AR] number 345.03, this is required snitching, isn't it? By persons working together in NDOC and it sets a mood of fear instead of cooperation and unity, I believe. And that is unhealthy in any of our social settings and systems. And I believe it's unacceptable. Please don't do this. Number eight, 8A on Library Services, total meltdown. The prisoners are not getting the information that they need from the local law libraries and their institutions. [3 minutes reached] Okay I'll finish this at the end.

3. Acceptance and Approval of Minutes – August 30, 2022

Action: A motion to approve the minutes was made. Motion passed; minutes approved.

4. Chief Medical Officer Report – Dr. Ihsan Azzam, Ph.D., MD. MPH; Nevada State Chief Medical Officer – (for discussion only)

Good morning, Governor, and the esteemed members of the Board. Good morning, everybody. Ihsan Azzam, State Chief Medical Officer for the record. So, you have a copy of our report so I will briefly cover some important points. As required by the NRS the Division of Public and Behavioral Health conducts regular inspections for State Correctional Facilities every year. These inspections include medical, dietary and sanitation, and nutritional adequacy inspections. This year we conducted seven sanitary inspections. Twenty-three violations were identified which is two violations less than last year. However, it's important to note that one single facility had seven violations out of the twenty-three violations and that facility is the Southern Desert Correctional Center. And also, there were five facilities who had repeat sanitary violations. On the other hand, one correction facility, which is the Florence McClure Women's Correctional Center, had not any violations which not any sanitary violations, was which is great. Our medical inspections revealed one medical violation and that was at the Southern Desert Correctional Center. It's important to say that all violations were corrected during our inspections and the few which couldn't be corrected were addressed by the prison correctional or the prison Compliance Officers. There were no nutritional adequacy violations identified during our inspection this year. We advised the Department of Corrections to continue with the enhanced infection control and prevention practices at all their facilities. And we recommended them to continue the COVID vaccination and also to use the Bivalent booster for all eligible staff and inmates. We recommended for those at higher risk for contracting monkeypox to receive the Jynneos pre-exposure prophylaxis vaccination against monkey pox. For further information you do have our detailed report. With this I'm concluding my remarks and will be happy to answer your questions. Thank you.

5. Director's Comments & Departmental Updates – W. A. "Bill" Gittere, Acting Director, Nevada Department of Corrections – (for discussion only)

Good morning, Governor Sisolak, Attorney General Ford, and Secretary Cegavske. For the record, my name is Bill Gittere, the recently named Acting Director for the Nevada Department of Corrections.

The past few years, this quarter, and especially this past month have been the most challenging times I can recall in more than 15 years with the Department.

Approximately three weeks ago at Southern Desert Correctional Center, the worst possible scenario in corrections happened: a dangerous offender escaped our custody and fled into the community. That breach was compounded by the fact that we were unaware of the escape for three and half days until another offender informed us. We initiated our emergency procedures and alerted local and state authorities the minute we learned of it, and then informed them again later that day when the escape was completely confirmed. Thanks to the quick response and efforts of a rapidly formed multijurisdictional task force, the escapee was taken back into custody by local authorities before he harmed others or fled out of state.

From top to bottom, the Department accepts responsibility for, and truly regrets the security breaches that allowed the escape from our custody. The entire incident is under investigation by the Department's Inspector General's Office. To protect the integrity of that investigation and the rights of those who may be involved, we cannot comment on the specifics of the investigation at this time. Currently, there is new leadership of the Department and eight Officers are on paid administrative leave pending the outcome of that investigation. Per your order, Governor, the completed investigation, and a management assessment of the root contributing factors will be submitted to your office for review.

The Department's vision has always been on keeping Nevada safe. But our emphasis shouldn't be on making Nevada safe tomorrow, it should be on keeping the public safe today. To that end, we have initiated an immediate "Return to Security Basics" plan. We are now practicing more than a dozen new security related measures, inspections and controls at Southern Desert Correctional Center as well as several common measures, inspections and controls at all institutions and facilities across the State. Those measures will ensure that they are all secure and safely operating considering the personnel we have left, the activities that we can realistically support, and the current condition of our physical security barriers. Until staffing can be substantially improved, some lower priority offender programs have been, and will continue to be modified in favor of maintaining security and ensuring safe operations while we continue to fully support the highest priority and most important offender programs like offender visitation and Prison Industries, among a few others.

Moving forward, we are resolved to working more closely with our union leaders, civil rights organizations, and offender advocacy groups to establish a more responsive and transparent agency. Our most recent meeting with two of those groups occurred this past Friday. We may not always agree but the Department will listen and cooperate where we can find reasonable, common ground that doesn't compromise either safety or security given the resources that we currently have at our command.

Chief Kimberly Smith will now briefly address the status of our human resources.

Kimberly Smith, Chief of Human Resources, Nevada Department of Corrections – (for discussion only)

Good morning. For the record, my name is Kimberly Smith, Chief of Human Resources.

Today, I will be reporting on the vacancy rates for the department. Previously, at our last BOPC, while not verbally presented, NDOC internally reported the Department's authorization to fill 2,936 positions. NDOC's total non-custody vacancy rate at that time equated to 288 openings or a 27.12% vacancy rate. Our total custody vacancy rate for that reporting period was 517 openings, or a 30.47% vacancy rate. Overall, NDOC had 859 vacancies or a 29.26% vacancy rate. That was last quarter, Governor.

Please note that this number looks significantly different in comparison to what is currently reflected. To date, NDOC has 884 vacancies which parallels to a 30.09% vacancy rate: If described by classification, the vacancy reads as follows:

- Our Correctional Officers vacancy rate is 34.00%
- Our Senior Correctional Officers vacancy rate is 25.41%
- Our Sergeants vacancy rate is 3.57%
- Our Lieutenants vacancy rate is 10.34% vacancy
- And lastly, our non-uniformed staff (or green level staff) vacancy rate is 28.41%

In summary, Governor, we have a net loss of another 25 more vacancies than we had reported last quarter. The Nevada Department of Corrections remains forward thinking, and essential in our back to basics/safety-first attitude as we continue to do everything that we can with what we have.

Now our newly selected Acting Deputy Director of Operations, Calvin Johnson will briefly make some additional comments and remarks regarding the status of our operations.

Calvin Johnson, Acting Deputy Director of Operations, Nevada Department of Corrections – (for discussion only)

For the record, my name is Calvin Johnson, acting Deputy Director of Operations. Due to the escape at Southern Desert Correctional Center, all towers at that location are being staffed around the clock in addition to roving perimeter vehicles on all shifts. We recently met with State Public Works to discuss the perimeter fence line at Southern Desert Correctional Center to find a funding source and quote/cost to bring the perimeter fence line to standard. Additional towers at the remaining NDOC facilities are being staffed during the hours of darkness. Some institutions are staffing their towers during the day to improve security 24/7.

As the Board directed at the last meeting, the Department is still working with our stakeholders on the development of AR 750 – Offender General Correspondence and Mail.

Deputy Director Brian Williams will now briefly address the status of our offender programs.

Brian E. Williams, Sr., Deputy Director of Programs, Nevada Department of Corrections – (for discussion only)

For the record, my name is Brian E. Williams, Sr., Deputy Director of Programs. The Programs Division is pleased to announce that the majority of our programs are operational. However, due to critical staff vacancies throughout the state, some services are limited. To counteract staffing challenges, the Programs Division will utilize virtual learning to provide services throughout the state to impact more offenders in both our major facilities and camps.

Regardless of the challenges our department faces, we will continue to make every effort to ensure offenders have the necessary skills and abilities to achieve success upon release. The Department will remain focused on accomplishing our mission, as we strive for a safer Nevada.

Dr. David Rivas, our newly selected acting Medical Director will now briefly address the status of our medical services.

Dr. David Rivas, Acting Medical Director, Nevada Department of Corrections – (for discussion only)

Good morning, all. My name is, for the record, Dr. David Rivas, Acting Medical Director. As of October 10, 2022, the medical department vacancy rate is at 32% with 208 filled positions and 98 vacant positions.

The medical department is utilizing Telemedicine and contracted medical staff to assist due to the lack of staffing, especially in our rural institutions.

Despite being understaffed, the medical department made close to 36,000 patient contacts in the 3rd quarter of 2022, and we currently have 1,042 offenders with chronic care diseases. We have managed close to 631,000 prescriptions this quarter.

Dr. David Greene will now briefly address the status of our mental health services.

Dr. David Greene, Mental Health Director, Nevada Department of Corrections – (for discussion only)

Good morning. For the record, my name is Dr. David Greene, Mental Health Director. The Mental Health Department is currently composed of 42 staff members. Of these 42 employees, three are out on extended medical leave. Our vacancy rate is 37%.

Since January 1, 2022, having a total of approximately 10,000 offenders, there have been approximately 54,000 services provided to offenders from the mental health staff. Of these, 857 centered around our Suicide Prevention Program, 483 were in response to offenders in crisis, approximately 4,700 visits to offenders in restricted housing, and nearly 10,500 mental health care contacts with those offenders suffering with acute or chronic mental health needs.

This past Thursday, the NDOC met with the Department of Health and Human Services to discuss ways to improve our medical, nursing and mental health services. The conversation proved fruitful. DHHS offered many innovative ideas regarding the hiring, retention, and training of medical and mental health professionals. In the future, DHHS agreed to partner with the NDOC to create a larger footprint as both agencies seek additional resources from the legislature to meet the challenges of each agency.

Deputy Director Lisa Lucas will now briefly address the status of support services.

Lisa Lucas, Deputy Director of Support Services, Nevada Department of Corrections – (for discussion only)

Good morning. For the record, my name is Lisa Lucas, Deputy Director of Support Services. Starting off into the 2nd quarter of the fiscal year, all budgets are on track with routine guidance from the Governor's Finance Office. The new Aramark food service contract, which went into effect July 1, 2022, has had some challenges and we are working through them with Aramark.

We recently worked with the State Enterprise IT Systems to increase our bandwidth by 1 ½ times. This will help with day-to-day operations as well as programs, education, Telemed, and court and attorney access.

Deputy Director Bill Quenga will now briefly address the status of Prison Industries and the Public Information Office. Thank you.

Williams Quenga, Deputy Director of Prison Industries, Nevada Department of Corrections – (for discussion only)

Good morning. For the record, my name is Bill Quenga, Deputy Director of Prison Industries and acting Public Information Officer for the Department. Our biggest challenge across Prison Industries, is inflationary pressures from the outside that are driving up the cost of raw materials, which then increases our cost of production. It has also been a challenge finding good quality industry staff. However, the staff we currently have employed are second to none and have really stepped up in these tough times.

At the ranch, our relationship with BLM remains positive, and they are looking at long-term joint projects. Wages for offenders at the ranch have increased 12% year over year and cattle and milk prices have been on the rise. Effective communication with our customers, including other state agencies remains a strength and an asset.

The Public Information Office has received a high volume of requests from media and for public information. The Governor's Office has been helpful in advising us, and State Police has offered guidance as well. We are being proactive in sending out press releases to be transparent with the media, public and our stakeholders, and to ensure the information distributed is accurate.

I'd like to turn this over to Inspector General James Jones who will now briefly address the status of the IG's Office. Thank you for your time.

James Jones, Inspector General, Nevada Department of Corrections – (for discussion only)

Good morning. For the record, my name is James Jones, Inspector General. For calendar year 2022 (Jan to Sept), the office of the Inspector General investigated several hundred Criminal, Compliance Enforcement, Internal Affairs administrative cases, and preliminary inquiries.

Inspector General Staff are also instrumental to the Department's training division assisting with academies as well as the institutions. While maintaining full caseloads, Investigators also assist outside law enforcement agencies where there is a nexus to corrections.

The Office of the Inspector General is currently investigating the circumstances that led up to the recent escape at Southern Desert Correctional Center.

W. A. "Bill" Gittere, Acting Director, Nevada Department of Corrections

That concludes our Department updates, and we welcome any questions from the Board.

Governor Sisolak: With no questions from the Board, moved on to item number 6.

6. Administrative Regulations presented to the Board of Prison Commissioners for discussion and possible action.

- Administrative Regulation 143 "Offender Access to Information Technology" Temporary Edition
 - Exhibits 143a & 143b
- Administrative Regulation 345 "Unauthorized Relationships" Temporary Edition
 - Exhibits 345a & 345b
- Administrative Regulation 840 "Library Services" Temporary Edition
 - Exhibits 840a & 840b
- Administrative Regulation 855 "School District Employee Conduct" Temporary Edition
 - Exhibits 855a & 855b

Attorney General Ford: Regarding AR 143, wanted to ensure this does not allow for offender communication with anyone outside the prison besides for educational and vocational purposes.

Deputy Director Brian E. Williams, Sr.: Explained the planned procedures to ensure offenders are unable to visit any internet sites that have not been vetted and approved for educational and vocational purposes.

Action: Motion made by Attorney General Ford to approve all Administrative Regulations (143, 345, 840 and 855). Motion passed, all Administrative Regulations presented are approved.

7. **Public Comment (2nd Period)** Second of two sessions to address the Board of Prison Commissioners. Comments are not limited to agenda items (3 minute maximum per speaker). Public comment is transcribed as spoken with minimal edits such as deleting a repeated word. Note: public comments were also accepted in written form via email until 9 p.m. the day before the meeting.

Carson City:

- Hello. My name is **Denise Bolanos D-e-n-i-s-e B-o-l-a-n-o-s**. As has been mentioned today, our goal should always be to keep Nevada safe; not only the community outside the walls across the state, but also incarcerated persons and staff, the people who spend the most time inside NDOC facilities. Keeping people safe also looks like: not spending time inside consistently rodent-infested facilities, not making life for the incarcerated and their families even less affordable than it already is, putting the mental health of both incarcerated persons and staff as high on the priority list as we put their physical well-being. and giving incarcerated individuals adequate and timely medical care. Let's make Nevada safe from the inside out. Looking forward to your re-election Governor Sisolak and Attorney General Ford. Gracias.
- Hello. My name is **Lisa Foley**. I'm a former Library Director of Lake Tahoe Community College and I was a Nevada resident for the past 30 years. I'm speaking as someone who helped establish in California prisons a Community College education program. As a librarian I have heard from formerly incarcerated students who came to Lake Tahoe Community College about the value of print books in their incarcerated time period. I really applaud the advances you're making with internet access for vocational and educational programs, that's essential. But this has been a missed opportunity, all these years of COVID and lockdown that it continues if they put a book in an inmate's hand it can transform lives. I've heard that from formerly incarcerated students who now are successfully productive. And as Kim Peterson said one day to me, you know one day these people who are incarcerated are going to be your neighbors and we do want them to be literate to be able to be inspired to start a career or go back to college. Thank you.
- Hi, Board. My name is **Dr. Karen Gidny**. I was the senior physician for the Department of Corrections for 30 years and my comments will be to pertain to the Medical Department. I have also spoken to some of my staff who I worked with for many years and more than anything it has to do with the lack of staff. I will make the point that I was placed in the prison by the National Health Service Corps because the prisons in 1980s, when I started in '87, were let's say, not staffed by Medical. And I did my four-year commitment payback to the National Health Service Corps and for a variety of reasons I stayed and turned it into a career that lasted 30 years. And what I would recommend is, I know the system is trying to work with DHHS but the National Health Service Corps is oriented in our country to staff areas that are health manpower shortage and I think every opportunity should be to access them. Thank you.

Las Vegas:

- Good morning. My name is **Jodi Hocking**. The founder and director Return Strong and we are here today really just because at this moment we feel like this is a really critical moment for Nevada. The resignation of Director Daniels gives us an opportunity to stop and look at how corrections is being done successfully, differently, safely in many other areas. One of the things that we're asking in Governor Sisolak we will be delivering a letter to you this week from organizations across the state, is for us to take a pause and listen to what we're calling the people's voice and give people an opportunity. There are corrections in, across the

United States that are working with an organization called Amend. Amend follows and is working with corrections to actually implement Norway's way of doing corrections. And, people have been very resistant to it across the country but at the end of the day what has happened is they've found that it actually successfully works to achieve public safety and humanely use incarceration if that's what we're going to do to get away from mass incarceration and the things that are going on now. My mom had a saying that she used to say, you can't heal a wound that you don't acknowledge. It concerns me that we were able when this Department of Corrections has been like openly publicly bleeding, that we're able to finish a meeting in 36 minutes. So far, we went through both public comments. That, are we really getting to the core of what the issues are? And even in corrections when you look at Norway your whole model is based on like being better neighbors. They take care of families. They make sure people come out whole and ready to be part of their communities. And people are using it. North Dakota is successfully using it; they have implemented it in their prisons and it has created huge successes. What we're asking is to stop and pause and like, let's look at all of this. I also want to just take a minute and acknowledge the fact and know that we appreciate like, obviously we've been very vocal for a couple of years. But part of that was because we didn't have another way to get eyes on what was going on in the prisons. And I want to say, I know my time's almost up, I do want to just give credit that after the AR policy like when we came last time that, um sorry I still am saying Deputy Director I'm not used to saying Acting Director yet, Acting Director Gittere reached out to us and we had a meeting with Return Strong and staff and the ACLU. And was it perfect and did we get to a resolution? Not yet. But did it open the door to communication which from day one has been really what we've cried for as communication, transparency, and accountability. [3 minutes reached] The more we have communication and transparency the less we have to focus on accountability. But right now, this is an opportunity to really use. And so, that's why we're here and quiet today is we're watching, and we want to be part of this. We're not looking for, you know, let's give incarcerated people drugs and let's do. We're not fighting for those things, we're fighting for, my daughter always says two things can be true you guys can want public safety and we can humane treatment of people and there is a middle ground a sweet spot where we all want the same thing. And so, thank you.

- **Mercedes Maharis** - I've wanted to say I think that we do need an audit for Library Services because we are only subscribing to Western information. Eastern information is not there and the prisoners cannot get it to study their cases when judges say, "Oh you know, this case is in the East." Well they can't get it. Your 11 February 2021, agreement with USDOJ, in my opinion, is being disrespected. Why? Because they the NDOC personnel do not know what the agreement is, and now it's going to Federal Court. As I said last time, all roads seem to lead to court. Persons with disabilities do deserve to have work credits, per year agreement, which was very wise. Why are we housing as many as 700 individuals, coming in from Parole and Probation, because they have no new charges? How is that happening? Please audit the Book Review Committee of their records and procedures. Is this really happening without oversight? And are they disposing of books that they don't like that are law books? Can disliked book selections actually cause prisoners to choose between books and food? Big problem. And food cannot be used as a weapon, it's just disgraceful. California just put in free phone calls for prisoners. I hope that we will do the same because it would be very wise. Inflation hitting families, friends, all of us, is going to have to give some relief in that area. Mass incarceration is a failed social experiment, and we have to admit it and move forward in a much different direction. And I know that you have the great minds that will do that, sooner hopefully than later. I think that all medical people who have been forced to wait a year, 14 months when they're bleeding, they should be sent on furlough so that they can get the medical care that they need that is not being provided. What a shame. Thank you for all you do to help others. I realize it's a huge job, but things have to change. [3 minutes reached]
- Good afternoon, I'm **Christine Essex**. I'm a resident in Las Vegas since 1968 and I'm a concerned mother. I have my son who's incarcerated and medically he's not being taken care of. So I need to know, there's no

communications happening between. I was his legal guardian and his caregiver for six years and then when he was incarcerated there was no communication, so I was unable to speak to him to know that he was okay. He has a loss of memory he has anoxic brain injury he's an amputee, he doesn't have his leg. While he's incarcerated, he's in a wheelchair that is not set for him. He's 6'4" 240 pounds. There's a lot of medical issues and no one is communicating with me. And I don't think that that, I think that needs to be addressed, or looked at, or give me guidance. Anyone give me guidance because I was his voice and now, he doesn't have one. And I you know, I'm looking at the compassionate release, anything that I can do. And help others from now forward, because he has seizures, and he was three days without any medication when he's transferred from CCDC to High Desert. Three days, no medication. He went through withdrawals, and he was on at least eight in the morning and eight in the night medications. So, he went through a whole withdrawal thing, it was very bad. And then the excuse was there's not enough staff. There's problems, we have problems. All I got the entire time that I've been reaching out is, we have problems. And I understand that I am compassionate to that but how do I help my son, or how do other parents help their individuals, or their loved ones that are in there? How do we help them? So, I don't know, I'm brave to sit here before you today and I'm very grateful that he's okay. He's now able to call me, but he wasn't able to call me for more than a month. And now he can call me, he figured out how to use the phone. And so, I'm able to speak to him and I can hear his voice and I know that he's okay, you know. He's doing his best and I'm proud of him for that. So how do I take care of it? How do we help as caregivers, as a family, as individuals to help the ones who get locked up? He has no memory of any of the events. He has anoxic brain damage, so he has no memory from 2017 back, for the crimes that he's serving time for. He doesn't have any memory of any of that. And but I understand that's not enough to not incarcerate someone. But he took an Alford plea for the fact that he couldn't say he did or didn't do the things, which I thought was, you know he wanted to do the right thing. Over 900 days of home house arrest and over 80 [3 minutes reached] court appearances. So, we're compliant, we want to do the right thing. I just want to know if anybody here can help me. Christine Essex

- My name is **Vivian Jones**. I have an incarcerated son he been incarcerated since he was 16. He's 36 now. Two years ago I tried to contact NDOC. I call it every day. Nothing happened. Now my son don't have his mind. He was hit in the head by officer. He don't know who I am. He don't know who his children are. And I might be all over the place. That's my only child. I can't go see him because I am an ex-felon over 20 years ago. They denied me three times. I haven't been even had a traffic ticket. My sister went and seen my son at High Desert. He's ice cold like 80, almost 80 pounds, if so. I sent letters, I've sent everything. I heard from my son from inmates. He don't have, 20 years he's been there he don't have any of his belongings, nothing. Inmates, I don't know if they robbing his account, but they call him [inaudible] my son don't know how to use the phone, my son don't know how to use the kiosk. And they took him to infirmary and let him back out. He, the inmates say he doing the same thing, he just sit there, nothing. He won't even call home. We went from talking twice, two times a week, to packages twice a year. He had everything, you know. And now, I'll talk to him on the phone and let's put him on the phone, he don't even know who I am. He don't even know who his children or nobody is. And I might sound like I repeat myself but time, after time, after time I tried to. I left, when my sister died, I left uh numerous of voice messages to his to his caseworker, never returned. To his chaplain, no return calls. No return calls for two years. I was trying to get justice for my son until Asha Jones had contacted somebody for me and they pulled him in the infirmary and let them right back out. And the inmates said he doing the same thing, just sitting there, don't know how to even use the phone. So I went from talking to my son to nothing. And I just need to know if I can get him to call home. You know, if he's in there with inmates that's highly functioning, you know what I'm saying. Who knows if my son not being tossed around up in there, or sodomized, or you know what I'm saying? And there's no voice it used to say, "you have a collect call from Tyrone Williams," and then it goes to, "you have a prepaid call." So they said he don't even know how to walk to the kiosk to use the kiosk. He don't even know how to use the phone. So I'm just asking like, what can I do to get custody of my son to where at least somebody can help him use the phone other than inmates? Because, I'm sure his books are depleted because if you walk them

to the kiosk you can see his account. You know what I'm saying? Where's my son stuff? 20 years, nothing. They say he in there with nothing. I don't know what happened I don't know why [3 minutes reached] Thank you.

- **Melissa Duno** - Good morning, Board of Commissioners. Mr. Governor, Attorney General, and everybody here today. I feel very hurt for the families, and they need a voice. We've reached out to so many people and there's no answer. The best quote that I can say in two minutes is a quote that a news person said on October 2nd. And she's sitting here, Vanessa Murphy. I'm going to quote you. You said "Dysfunction inside the prison system is nothing new, but these are things that have been trying to sound alarm by prison staff, inmates, and their families. Some have predicted these things would happen." Now I know things can't change overnight. And I know some things are circumstantial. But I know one thing, that people are afraid. People don't have a voice. That is a constitutional right. Please help us. If the wrongdoing is there, then let's fix it. Let's not be a laughing state. Let's not be mocked that we can't run our prisons, or that our families have to suffer not knowing if their loved one is eating or being harmed. This needs to be stopped. Please help. We need the circle to end. We need us to work together. I have my own issues, but I can put them aside to work with others to help. I'm not here to fight with you. I'm not here to criticize. I'm here for help. And I don't need two minutes. I need one question answered: help. Last time, I apologize when I sat before you. I was emotional wrecked and I'm not going to be that today. I am done being scared and I am done feeling hurt. Look around this room, look at all these families. Look at the mothers that are suffering, we're suffering, your staff is suffering. That's why they're leaving. There's, okay there's good and bad in everyone but it needs to stop. I'm sick and I'm tired and I'm at my end. But I'm not at my end for everyone here to join together. [3 minutes reached] Thank you. Here here's my letter. My contact information is here.
- Good morning, everybody. Members of the Board, Governor Sisolak, Aaron Ford. For the record my name is **Jeanette Siron-Fore**. I'm a psychiatric nurse here in the State of Nevada. I see a lot of pain, I see a lot of suffering in the room, I'm hearing everything going on. My story is, is that I have been involved with my new husband who has been in my life for 30 years. He has been incarcerated for 29 of those. I've seen a lot of changes. I've seen it go from okay, to good, to bad. I've seen a lot of ups and downs. I really encourage you to look into Amend because mental health is very important here. There's a lot of trauma that goes on with being incarcerated. And I get it, it's a safety issue. I work with people all day long. A lot of my clients are ex-offenders out on parole trying to get their Mental Health Services any way they can. I try to help them, I try to help families. There's so many things that are struggling because families do not know how to interact with each other. We don't have programs in place for people right now and I get it because there is a staffing issue. The State is losing their staff. We can't retain them, we can't attract them, and it's sad. Just like Dr Gidny said, there are programs in place we have two medical schools. Why are we not giving our offenders health care and mental health care with our learning doctors? It will teach them humility. It will teach them how to care for other people, different people. It'll teach them cultural competency. I mean we all have to learn. We all need care. And the only way to solve this is to get the mental health back in order. And I just encourage you to start looking into that because we need to keep our staff safe. I work for the State, I work in with forensic people. We need to be safe. Our offenders need to be safe, our families need to be safe and we cannot do that if we do not start focusing on the mental health care. Because we cannot have good neighbors if we keep on causing more trauma. It's just not going to happen. There's people that we can't even restorative competency, what do we do with them? There is no place to keep them anymore. Lakes Crossing is full, Stein is full, now you're dumping out on the streets. There's no group homes that will take these people. We cannot keep this up. And so I just encourage you to start looking into different models. I mean try the Amend thing, I mean all we can do is try. You know because mental health is important. It's important for you guys, it's important for these families, it's important for our offenders. [3 minutes reached] Thank you.

- Good morning, Governor, Attorney General, committee. My name is **James Allen Jr** and what you're looking at is a former product of the Nevada Correctional Center. I'm not here to bash the Nevada correctional system, because I'm a product of it, for 30 years. I'm a former death row inmate and if I tell you we don't need to change administrations in midstream. This Administration can get the job done. There's guys just like me, look like me, talk like me, out here in the various communities. We own, the boots are on the ground you just don't hear about us because we're not shaking hands with everybody. But we're getting the job done. We're mentors, we're pillars of our community where we come from. It's people sitting at this table know that there's a generation of guys like me that made it through this system. We're businessmen, we're educators, we're fathers, we're grandfathers, we're up with out here. I feel the pain of these mothers. I came out into a situation after 30 years. And after four years of sitting on a death row I came out to a mother that's in dementia. That's how I spent my week. I'm learning about it so I understand about the mental health. I understand about this the problems that we're having the issues. Allow us, we are a group of men that humbly, proudly call ourselves the lifers group. And we're on parole. We're following the rules. Allow us to help. Allow us to come back. We're able, we're out here, talk to us. We have some type of solution. Because this system helped me. I'm not the most educated man, but I know wrong from right. And I know our education system is falling in the hands of the prison system. And it's horrible what's going on. I stay in contact through the underground. We know what's going on inside the prison walls. Allow us to go in, let us be mentors. Because those same young men that you're putting away for years, guess what when you parole them, guess where they coming? Back to the community. Just as dumb, just as ignorant. They need mentors. I had a mentor coming off of death row. This is why I'm not tatted up. I'm not pierced up I can sit in the room. If I don't tell you where I've been [3 minutes reached] Thank you.

- Good morning, everyone. My name is **John Williams**. I was formerly incarcerated, I just got released in March. I went in as a juvenile offender at 16 years old and I did 23 years. That was a journey. I've been to every institution in the state of Nevada. I did several years at each Institution. And there is, going in as a juvenile there was a lot of things I wasn't able to accomplish as a Juvenile. When I tried to further my education there was a no hardback book rule that was in place that prevented me from going to college. The environment of corrections is, for a juvenile, is not something that we want to continue. It's easy to put someone else's child in prison. But think of it as if it was your own child. You want your child, despite the fact that your child is incarcerated, you would want your child to have access to education. You would want your child to have access to Medical Care. You would want your child to have access to staff and counselors, caseworkers who are there to help that person be rehabilitated so that they can leave a better person than they were when they came in. When I originally was arrested, I made that commitment to myself that I was going to leave prison a better person than I was when I went in. But I ran into a lot, a lot of walls. A lot of walls. And standing up for my rights I was assaulted by staff. I would move from institutions to institutions that's one of the reasons why I've been to every institution in the system. I would file a grievance the next thing I know I'm enrolled up and shipped to another Institution. I was not able to stand up for my rights and ask for things that were beneficial not only to myself, but beneficial to my future. And ultimately beneficial to other prisoners. These are the things that just, small things. What we're asking you guys here for today is change. We need we need an administration like yours, an administration of people who are committed to making things better for prisoners. Because remember, a lot of us are returning to society [3 minutes reached] do you want us returning to society with the same skill that got us put in prison? Or do you want us to return to society with the skills that we can use to ultimately benefit society? That being said, I really would like, 'cause I have worked for Prison Industries and I think Prison Industries [wrap up per Governor Sisoloak] I think Prison Industries is a very important factor for rehabilitation. NDOC is on the right track with that, but we need more programs. We need programs that allow inmates to get their CDLs and things like that when they get out things that they can actually use when they return to society. Thank you.

➤ Good morning, Governor. Good morning, Board members. [inaudible] The families of the people [inaudible] Press. My name is **Rita Ditzit Cubiack**. I don't have a very loud voice, but I have a voice. It is the voice of prayer. In the voice of prayer, I pray that institutions that work with all manner of human beings that the first thing that they do is do good and do no harm. I think the do good, do no harm actually comes from a Christian culture [inaudible] the do no harm and I think that over here they have been a few people that have talked about the Norwegian system. The Norwegian system of prison management where they have actually succeeded in lowering recidivism rates and how have they done it? They have brought together in an arc the health and the mental condition of the people who work with the incarcerated and the mental health and the complete physical health of prisoners. They can actually, prisoners and guards can actually talk with each other as human beings. We are all human beings, each one of us is that. Before we become Governors, before we become commissioners, before we become medical officers [inaudible] and I hope country that are followers of Christ and so many other religions the [inaudible] that to be as we listen to so many voices here that there is pain here. When there is pain we have to look we have to look at the pain and we have to know that we have to create good neighbors. It is in your hands. Good neighbors who are officers. Good neighbors who are inmates who may be in prison for the right reason, or they may be also wrongly convicted. These are all the possibilities; this is the entire arc. So, I won't take your time I would just say a prayer and leave you as a good friend [3 minutes reached] Thank you.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

APPROVED THIS 25th DAY, MONTH OF MAY, IN THE YEAR 2023

GOVERNOR JOE LOMBARDO

SECRETARY OF STATE FRANCISCO AGUILAR

ATTORNEY GENERAL AARON D. FORD

Transcribed by D. Madsen, Executive Assistant, Nevada Department of Corrections