

JOE LOMBARDO  
Governor

JAMES E DZURENDA  
Director



FRANCISCO V. AGUILAR  
Secretary of State

AARON D. FORD  
Attorney General

## STATE OF NEVADA BOARD OF STATE PRISON COMMISSIONERS

### MEETING MINUTES

The Board of State Prison Commissioners held a public meeting on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, beginning at 10:00am, and was conducted at the following locations:

#### Meeting Location:

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

#### Video Conference Location:

Nevada Room  
Nevada State Business Center  
3300 W Sahara Ave  
Las Vegas, NV 89102

This meeting could also be heard and viewed via YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=moZ3m0vNIOE&t=337s>

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

##### Board Members Present:

Governor Joe Lombardo  
Attorney General Aaron D. Ford

##### Board Members Absent:

Secretary of State Francisco V. Aguilar

##### Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) Attendees:

James E. Dzurenda, Director  
Dr. Kenneth Williams, Medical Director  
Brian E. Williams, Sr., Deputy Director of Operations  
Bryan Shields, Inspector General  
Danyele Madsen, Executive Assistant, Meeting Clerk

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 as indicated on the publicly posted agenda. All electronic public comment submitted to [bopc@doc.nv.gov](mailto:bopc@doc.nv.gov) by the March 25, 2025, submission deadline indicated on the publicly posted agenda was forwarded to members of the Board.

#### Las Vegas:

- **Patricia Adkisson** – My comments today relate to agenda item number five. For the record, we object to the unilateral adoption of regulations today by either this Board or the Department. All regulations that affect prisoners must be in adopted in conformance with the Administrative Procedures Act. The structural protections of separations of power cannot be waved regardless of the degree of ascent or acquiescence by the Legislature. No regulation may escape 233b protections. Regulations adopted without authorization by and through the Administrative Procedures Act constitute a violation of the separation of powers clause, Nevada constitution article 3, subsection 1. Accordingly, even when the Legislature enacts a statute purporting to wave or to sanction this objectionable and unconstitutional

action, the enactment of the statute does not constitute the intentional institutional waiver of separation of powers because the Legislature cannot wave or sanction a violation of separation of powers inherent in such unconstitutional delegation. Senate Bill 105 passed during the 2023 Legislative session which attempts to sanction or wave separation of powers in relation to section 4 of the bill which claims to authorize the Department's existing fugitive regulations to remain in effect until new regulations are adopted in conformance with the Administrative Procedures Act. We hereby object to the unconstitutional attempt to sanction this Board and the Department's clear violation of constitutional dimension related to existing regulations adopted in clear violation of the separation of powers clause, Nevada article 3, subsection 1. Furthermore, once the department became authorized by 233b the Department must provide the form contemplated by 233b.100 to all persons for the purpose of adopting, rescinding, and revoking regulations. Thank you

**Carson City:**

- **Larry Plumlee** – I got a pardon in August, and I just wanted to come forward to this Board and let them know that unlike most people, I was prepared to leave prison. Prison Industries prepared me through numerous programs, and I wanted to thank one, Deputy Director Quenga who is in charge of that program, and Mr. Ford and Mr. Lombardo. Thank you, very much. I appreciate it.

**3. Acceptance and Approval of Minutes – December 19, 2024**

There were no questions on minutes of the prior meeting held December 19, 2024. A motion to approve the minutes was made and passed; minutes unanimously approved.

**4. Director's Comments & Departmental Updates – James E. Dzurenda, Director, Nevada Department of Corrections**

As of March 26, 2025, the Department of Corrections has an offender count of 10,532 which is a decrease from the prior month. A decreasing offender count provides flexibility in moving offenders more safely. Currently there are 62 correction officers in the academy in the Las Vegas area. Another academy will begin in the north in about two weeks with 12 new officers going to Love Correctional Center and four going to Northern Nevada Correctional Center. NDOC is moving with a lot of infrastructure changes for the Department which is well overdue. Questions and/or complaints being received are mostly in regard to regular movement inside the facilities. A large portion is due to Capital Improvement Projects which are much needed for changing doors locks, recreational enclosures, shower enclosures, and fence lines. These things do disrupt operations; however, it is necessary to move on so things can be improved for the future. Upcoming regulations in the near future; NDOC has been partnering with various organizations and groups that may have interest to gather their input before regulations receive approval.

**5. Medical Division Update – Dr. Kenneth Williams, Medical Director, Nevada Department of Corrections**

Medical has made significant progress on staffing, filling the positions at the Northern Nevada Correctional Facility. Have also place a physician in Ely which is one of the hardest locations to staff in the state, so very pleased to have medical services there. Provided an update on questions from the last meeting: Concerns of storage and disposal of supplies and medication – all of the expired supplies were removed from the shelves immediately after the last meeting. A deficiency noted with a dental chair that had tear in it – it has been reupholstered, thanks to Prison Industries. Autoclaves in disrepair – have been attended to and there is a log for each autoclave so all the expired supplies are

removed. Also, there is a staff person assigned to every section where there are items being stored so every month there is a designated individual to check all of those areas. With respect to medications, NDOC Medical Directives address storage and disposal and there is a contract with a disposal entity, Inmar. The contract has been expanded as Inmar is a redistribution pharmacy. Now, Inmar comes to the facility to audit and will remove any medications that should be disposed of. Any that are not expired can be returned for a partial credit to the agency.

**Governor Lombardo** requested an update on the electronic health records status that was discussed at the previous meeting and asked if there was a discussion that he needed to have with the GFO.

**Dr. Williams** advised that it appears a different product is needed for NDOC as compared to DHHS and it would be helpful for the Governor to have that conversation with the GFO.

**6. Administrative Regulations presented to the Board of Prison Commissioners for discussion and possible action.** These are Administrative Regulations NOT subject to the 233B process.

- AR 494 – Transgender, Intersex, and Gender Diverse Offenders.  
Definitions were added to be consistent with NCCHC standards. Added review process by a clinician when an individual believes they are not the same sex from birth. Addition of annual housing review requests. Additional updates to be in compliance with Federal PREA law.
- AR 753 – Offender Electronic Devices  
New Administrative Regulation to govern distribution and use of tablets for offenders.

**Governor Lombardo** identified a discrepancy between the agenda which reflected AR 735 and the regulation was presented as AR 753. This was a typo on the agenda. The regulation that was publicly posted for review and consideration was correct as AR 753.

**Governor Lombardo** requested clarification on the matter of tablets and possible changes to in-person visitation.

**Director Dzurenda** explained that in-person visitation would remain in place and the tablets would offer video visitation between the hours of 8:00am and 11:00pm at most facilities, by appointment when the offenders have out of cell time.

**Action:** After agenda item 7 (second period for public comment), there was a motion for ARs 494 and 753 to be approved. Motion passed unanimously; regulations 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 as indicated on the publicly posted agenda.

**Las Vegas:**

- **Patricia Adkisson** – My comments are concerned with the dubious culture within a department that is fast becoming systemic. First, and for the record, it is beyond embarrassment for our great State to be subject to an executive branch that does not seem to possess a working understanding of our state's constitution related to Nevada Article 3, or worse has simply chosen to ignore Nevada separation of powers clause

when considering prison regulations. To further compound the public embarrassment, our state legislature seems to think they possessed the power to sanction department violations by including section 4 within Senate Bill 105 adopted during the 2023 legislative session. To be clear, our next CEO must demonstrate actual knowledge related to this issue and must possess actual leadership ability in order to tackle this problem. Leadership is where culture is developed and defined. It is with this in mind that it should come to no surprise that we have Assistant Wardens who choose to reject delivery of calendars because a calendar has more than 10 pages. It should also be no surprise that the state sponsored industries wholly funded by the taxpayers has been hijacked to some personal entitlement for favorite individuals for decades to the detriment of everyone else. My efforts for the better part of the last decade have been dedicated to providing our staff officials with notice related to structural problems we face together. Much of my work has been picked up and advanced in legislation. In fact, Senate Bill 105 is a product of our original efforts. I remain available to assist both the Department and this Board. Please consider taking us up on this offer. However, this Board and the Department would prefer my husband and I will work with the Federal authorities on issues implicating Federal funding involving state sponsored industry and issues related to the IG's office regarding introduction of contraband and other matters concerning conduct of staff which are now right for our disclosure. Lastly, I would like to mention that my husband, Michael Adkisson, has been waiting for an IG recommendation for over a year now. The IG's office has failed to provide their recommendation as required by AR740 within 45 days where now it's been over a year. I believe this is an effort to condone the conduct of oppression under the color of authority committed by Garcia through Silver State Industries preventing my husband from completing his education with the welding class and preventing him from participating in vocational rehabilitation. Our efforts related to our civic duty in participation in these meetings should never be a bias for retaliation against my husband. It appears that must now be considered. The Warden expressed his concern that if my husband continues to pursue his civil rights addressing the structural defects that he will never be released from prison leaving me to interpret this as a threat. I want this on the record because my husband goes up for parole next year. In consideration for the foregoing, we will follow up with the Director's office. Thank you.

**Carson City:**

- **Annette Walker** –My son was Christian. Well first of all, I want to just add out of the context of the prison stuff, we years ago none of us was here when our forefathers made this constitution and rights for everybody that everybody was to be the same regardless of nations, colors, creeds. And of course that's not being held and we all have a higher power that we have to attend to one of these days. But my son was murdered in the prison on April 15th of 2022, no 20. It'll be two years next month and it's been very hard for me since my husband died of cancer the day after that. So, if we could get April out of the way it'd be good for me. But I was concerned that the gentlemen that did this to my son have not had any consequences to this day. Almost two years later they have not been punished for the crime and as far as I'm concerned they committed murder. Why aren't they being prosecuted? [Attorney General Ford explained questions raised during Public Comment cannot be responded to during that agenda item.] I just don't understand it because my son was from Ely, an exemplary inmate. Went to High Desert, did the same thing. Went to Southern Desert, was on the Inmate Advisory Board with Warden Brian Williams, I don't know what his position is today. But he was always in good character, always giving excellent advice to other inmates, a pastor at the church. And all of a sudden he started getting little things with his head and he said he was poisoned. "Mom, I'm talking to you on the phone but I feel like I'm somewhere else." And all this happened and then one night he started banging on the door for them to come and get him and they, whoever was in charge, Lieutenant or whoever was on duty at 11:00, told the guys to take him down to High Desert. So he wasn't happy about that because High Desert, he knew he was going backwards and he didn't want to

go backwards. He wanted to go back to Southern Desert [3 minutes reached]. Okay so that's about it. But I'm still wondering why these gentlemen have not been having any consequences for their actions. [Ms. Walker continued speaking after turning off the microphone turned, inaudible]

- **Amy Estrada** – These are my children, Annalie Odell and Robert Odell. Their father, Patrick Odell, was incarcerated at Three Lakes Conservation Camp at Indian Springs only to serve a year sentence. He only had two weeks left. He was seeking medical attention and instead of the COs helping him, they killed him. His death was ruled a homicide in the setting of law enforcement restraint. To our knowledge, no officers have been charged for his death. Please look into this. It happened December 28th of 2023. That's it.
- **Ashley Shead** – I had something prepared, but it didn't go with today so I'm going to kind of just wing it here. We've seen what can happen with these two families and personally, my loved one has been ADSEG for over four years. He got moved from Ely to High Desert and recently, High Desert is like a war zone. There are deaths every week, multiple. A couple weeks ago, well a couple like a month or so ago, he noticed in the single person enclosures outside that they were being tampered with. So he did the right thing, he told. And they said, "We're going to put in a work order." And days went by they were still putting people in it. So he told me, and I said, "I'm telling Jodi Hocking at Return Strong." And so, she got in touch with people. It took three people going out there to find where it was being taken apart so someone could get out. And what happened, a CO went back and told people in the unit "you better watch out because cell such and such is snitching on you guys." So, an already hostile environment became even more so. And we've seen what can happen, he's already been jumped when he went back to his unit before. I've also recently spoke to a mother whose son was on the phone with her and a CO walked into the unit and started saying cussing them out and saying, "You guys want to file grievances," which is what they're told to do, you want it fixed, file a grievance. He was cussing them out and calling them by name and saying you know you want to do this, this is what's going to happen. We want them to do the right thing, the right thing, and when they do, they're being punished, They're being hurt. They're being murdered and we need to change that. Thank you.
- **Frank Macias** – I just want to quickly address this honorable Board concerning many discrepancies going on in the Nevada Department of Corrections. First and foremost, I'd like to tip my hat to Director Dzurenda. I spent nearly 18 years in the Department of Corrections. I became a model inmate, did the very best I could to achieve my goals of rehabilitation. Prior from Dzurenda arriving to that to this state, it was in dire straits. Just everything was, there was a subculture there within officers that just, you know secrets are kept and things are being done that are not constitutional. Dzurenda steps in, he starts to clean up the show very well. Then, and this is from my personal experience dealing with this gentleman, and the transformation I begin to watch. However, with that said, still to this very day with the stories you just heard, there is still some atrocities going on within the officers. You know there's a subculture in there and that needs to be addressed and fixed. It also you know, lays the groundwork for the retaliation and why certain inmates in there that are trying to achieve rehabilitation just aren't able to do so, because of the staff. Not all staff, but some staff are just limiting the abilities to do so and when they start to push the issues that need to be pushed, things become violent. I will not get into specifics because you just heard some of the stories, but I do want you to know Governor, if, I wanted to vote for you, I couldn't do it, I was in there. I wanted to vote. They did not let me do it. So, you know there's a lot of things that still can be done. You know there are some good people that are incarcerated, granted there are some individuals who deserve to be there. I hate to say that, but it is what it is. With that said, the majority of the individuals in there do strive to become a better person. Within time people change. People change for the better. Not all

but most. So, I think that is all I wish to say to you. Governor, Dzurenda, Attorney General, truly appreciate your time. Thank you, so much.

- 8. Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and passed; meeting adjourned at 10:35am.

APPROVED THIS    DAY, MONTH OF    , IN THE YEAR

\_\_\_\_\_  
GOVERNOR JOE LOMBARDO

\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY OF STATE FRANCISCO V. AGUILAR

\_\_\_\_\_  
ATTORNEY GENERAL AARON D. FORD

Minutes prepared by D. Madsen, Executive Assistant, Nevada Department of Corrections