



**Commission of
Correction**

**Final Report of the
New York State Commission of Correction:**

In the Matter of the Death of

**Jamel Booker (13B1947),
an incarcerated individual of the
Shawangunk Correctional Facility**

December 21, 2021

**To: Honorable Anthony Annucci
Acting Commissioner
NYS Department of Corrections
And Community Supervision
The Harriman State Campus
1220 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12226**

Allen Riley
Chairman

Thomas J. Loughren
Commissioner

Yolanda Canty
Commissioner

GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, the Medical Review Board has reported to the NYS Commission of Correction pursuant to Correction Law, section 47(1)(d), regarding the death of Jamel Booker who died on March 5, 2019, while an incarcerated individual in the custody of the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision at the Shawangunk Correctional Facility, the Commission has determined that the following final report be issued.

FINDINGS:


1. Jamel Booker was a 29-year-old African American male who died on 3/5/19 of suicidal hanging while in the custody of the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (NYS DOCCS) while at the Shawangunk Correctional Facility (CF).
2. Booker was arrested on 10/12/12 after fleeing from police in a stolen car and shooting at a New York State Trooper causing serious injury to the officer. Following a conviction for Aggravated Assault On A Police Officer With A Deadly Weapon, Booker was sentenced to serve from 21 to 27 years in state prison.
3. Booker was transferred to NYS DOCCS on 7/2/13 and was received at the Elmira CF for reception. [REDACTED]. Booker had no disciplinary sanctions while at the reception facility.
4. On 7/16/13, Booker was transferred to Attica CF for placement. [REDACTED] Booker participated in work programs in food service and industry. Booker had two disciplinary sanctions while at Attica CF. On 4/28/15, Booker was charged with Gang Activity and received 30 days of keeplock and privilege restrictions. On 12/14/14, Booker was charged with Failure to Follow a Direct Order and was sanctioned to five days of keeplock and privilege restrictions.
5. On 10/22/18, Booker was transferred to Shawangunk CF on keeplock status (as was indicated on the DOCCS PREA Screening Form dated 10/22/18). [REDACTED]
6. [REDACTED]
7. [REDACTED] Booker had been previously cleared at Attica CF and still had no conditions which prevented working in the kitchen at Shawangunk CF.
8. [REDACTED]

9. On 3/5/19, Booker was charged with possession of a weapon/razor. Booker was moved to the Special Housing Unit (SHU) for the violation. At 3:50 p.m., Sgt. M.S. conducted a Suicide Prevention Screening with Booker. Booker scored a zero and no referrals to mental health were made. The SHU Admission Report indicated that Booker was admitted to the SHU pending a Tier III hearing for possessing a weapon found during a pat search. As per the SHU logbook, Booker was admitted to the unit without incident at 4:00 p.m.
10. Per a review of the SHU logbook, CO J.S. made security rounds at 4:00 p.m. At 4:15 p.m., dinner arrived on the unit and feed up was conducted at 4:20 p.m. along with a security tour. Security tours were conducted per the logbook every 30 minutes or less until 8:00 p.m. At 8:11 p.m., Sgt. M.S. logged that a supervisory tour was conducted. At 8:23 p.m., CO J.S. logged that a female RN and CO C.G. entered the unit for evening medications.
11. Per a video review, on 3/5/19 at 8:09 p.m., CO J.S. can be seen making a security tour. At 8:10 p.m., Booker can then be seen poking a white object through the cell bars. Per CO J.S.'s written statement, Booker was seen at the sink brushing teeth during the last security round.
12. In a written statement by Sgt. M.S., the sergeant documented making a supervisory tour of the SHU at approximately 8:20 p.m. and noted Booker sitting against the front of the cell with a sheet around the neck and the other end secured to the top of the cell bars. Sgt. M.S. called for assistance and CO J.S. and CO C.G. responded. Per the officers and sergeant's written statements, the sheet was removed, Booker was placed on the floor and resuscitation was initiated. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Per the video review, Sgt. M.S. approached Booker's cell at 8:28 p.m. and RN [REDACTED] can be seen nearby.
13. [REDACTED]
14. As per the EMS record, Mobile Life Support Services arrived at the patient at 9:08 p.m.
[REDACTED]
15. [REDACTED]

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

This case be closed as a suicide.

WITNESS, HONORABLE THOMAS J. LOUGHREN, Commissioner, NYS Commission of Correction, Alfred E. Smith State Office Building, 80 South Swan Street, 12th Floor, in the City of Albany, New York 12210 on this 21st day of December, 2021.



Thomas J. Loughren
Commissioner & Chair
Medical Review Board

TJL:ET:jdb
2019-M-0025
December 2021

cc: Dr. John Morley, Chief Medical Officer
Bryan Hilton, Assistant Commissioner for Mental Health
Superintendent Jaifa Collado, Shawangunk CF
Dr. Li-Wen Lee, Associate Commissioner
Division of Forensic Services, NYS Office of Mental Health
Danielle Dill, Executive Director, CNYPC
William Vertoske, Deputy Director of CBO, CNYPC
Meaghan Bernstein, Director of CBO Risk Management, CNYPC