



**Commission of  
Correction**

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

**In the Matter of the Death of**

**Jon Fontaine,  
an incarcerated individual of the  
Ontario County Jail**

**January 25, 2023**

**To: Sheriff David Cirencione  
Ontario County Sheriff's Office  
74 Ontario Street  
Canandaigua, New York 14424**

**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 Jon Fontaine who died on November 4, 2021, as a result of circumstances which occurred while an incarcerated individual in the custody of the Ontario County Sheriff at the Ontario County Jail, the Commission has determined that the following final report be issued.

FINDINGS:

1. Jon Travis Fontaine was a 38-year-old White Non-Hispanic male who died on 11/4/21 due to a suicidal hanging while in the custody of the Ontario County Sheriff at the Ontario County Jail.
2. Fontaine was born in Rochester, New York. Fontaine dropped out of high school and later obtained his GED [REDACTED]. Fontaine reported that he attended some college [REDACTED]. Fontaine was single with no children. Fontaine was employed as a contractor prior to his arrest. Fontaine was survived by both his parents, one brother and two sisters.
3. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. In the instant offense, Fontaine [REDACTED] [REDACTED] arrested on 8/23/21 at 3:46 p.m. by the Ontario County Sheriff's Department for Criminal Contempt 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, Burglary 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree- Illegal Entry-Dwelling, Unlawful Imprisonment 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, Criminal Mischief 4<sup>th</sup> Degree, Criminal Contempt 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, Burglary- Dwelling Causing Injury, and Criminal Contempt 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree. . New York State Police transported Fontaine to Ontario County Jail.
4. On 8/23/21 at 5:30 p.m., Fontaine was admitted to the Ontario County Jail by Correction Officer (CO) P.L. Fontaine scored a "1" on the suicide screening report. The transporting officer indicated to CO P.L. that Fontaine had a [REDACTED]. Fontaine denied all questions on the suicide screening to include any prior suicide attempts. A non-emergent referral was made to medical. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
5. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. Upon admission to the Ontario County Jail, Fontaine denied all alcohol and substance abuse. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED].

7. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED].

8. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED].

9. From 9/1/21 through 11/3/21, there was nothing significant medically or behaviorally that occurred regarding Fontaine. During interviews with Commission staff, multiple CO's stated that Fontaine was quiet and kept to himself. Fontaine spent his time writing and reading in his cell. Fontaine had three phone calls on 11/1/21 with his mother. During these phone calls, Fontaine argued with her over selling his contracting tools and how his mother had been taking care of his two dogs. On 11/3/21, Fontaine's last visit was with his attorney at 10:00 a.m. for approximately 30 minutes.

10. On 11/4/21 at 11:16 p.m., off going evening shift CO P.S. and oncoming overnight shift CO D.O. completed the count at shift change.

11. At 4:15 a.m., CO D.O. observed that Fontaine appeared to be sleeping in cell 15.

12. At 4:45 a.m., Sgt. C.M. had just completed a round was exiting Pod 8 as CO D.O.

- started his next round. As CO D.O. was passing cell 15, he observed Fontaine hanging with a sheet around his neck with the other end fed through the holes in an air vent on the top of the wall. Fontaine had his back to the cell wall with his feet facing into the cell.
13. At 4:47 a.m., CO D.O. called a code white (suicide attempt) to control via radio. CO D.O. then entered Fontaine's cell and attempted to cut the sheet from the air vent using his pod key.
  14. At 4:48 a.m., Sgt. C.M. was the first to respond and entered cell 15 in an attempted to help CO D.O. remove the sheet from Fontaine's neck. Sgt. C.M. was able to cut the sheet from Fontaine's neck with a hook knife cut down tool carried by the Sgt.. CO D.O. and Sgt. C.M. lowered Fontaine to the ground and removed the sheet and rolls of toilet paper Fontaine had fed through the sheet to apply pressure to both his jugular veins on either side of his neck. Both CO D.O. and Sgt. C.M. checked for Fontaine's pulse, which was absent. Fontaine was not breathing. CO D.O. and Sgt. C.M. started CPR.
  15. At 4:49 a.m., CO F.V., CO R.H. and CO C.J. arrived to Pod 8 cell 15. Sgt. C.M. instructed CO R.H. to call via radio to control and get an ambulance in route to the jail. CO P.T. was working in the control post and confirmed that the situation was not a drill and acknowledged CO R.H.'s radio transmission. CO P.T. then called for an ambulance. CO R.H. also radioed to CO C.J. who was in route to cell 15 to grab an AED. CO C.J. acknowledged the request and grabbed the AED. COs F.V., R.H., C.J, D.O. and Sgt. C.M. continued with CPR. CO C.J. arrived with the AED. Per Sgt. C.M.'s statement, they attempted to attach the AED to Fontaine, however the AED kept saying to attach the pads when the pads were already attached to Fontaine's body. During an interview with Commission staff, CO C.J. stated that they shaved Fontaine's chest and adjusted the AED pads to help with the AED pads error message. Per Sgt. C.M.'s statement, after a few attempts of trying to fix the AED, the error message continued so they just continued with breaths and chest compressions. The Medical staff at the jail are responsible for checking the AEDs and signing off that the AEDs are in good functioning order each month. During an interview with RN R.M., she noted that when she signed her initials that she inspected the AED in October 2021, the AED was working correctly with no issues. After the incident, the Ontario County Jail pulled the malfunctioned AED and took it out of service. A new AED was purchased and put in its place.
  16. At 5:10 a.m., Canandaigua Ambulance crew arrived at cell 15 and assumed care of Fontaine. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. At 5:11 a.m., Road Patrol Sgt R.B. arrived as well as two additional EMTs to assist the EMTs already on scene. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED].
  17. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED].

18.

[REDACTED]

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

That 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, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, in the City of Albany, New York 12210 on this January 25, 2023



Thomas J. Loughren  
Commissioner & Chair  
Medical Review Board

TJL:JW:jdb  
2021-M-0148  
January 2023