



**Commission of  
Correction**

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

**In the Matter of the Death of**

**Rashawn Johnson (16B3422),  
an incarcerated individual of the  
Great Meadow Correctional Facility**

**September 27, 2023**

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

**Allen Riley**  
*Chairman*

**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 Rashawn Johnson. who died on November 11, 2020, while an incarcerated individual in the custody of the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision at the Great Meadow Correctional Facility, the Commission has determined that the following final report be issued.

FINDINGS:

1. Rashawn Johnson was a 28-year-old male who died on 11/11/20 from cardiac arrhythmia due to hyperglycemic diabetic ketoacidosis from insulin dependent diabetes mellitus while in the custody of the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (NYS DOCCS) at the Great Meadow Correctional Facility (CF). The Medical Review Board has found that although Johnson had a well-documented history of noncompliance with his diabetes testing and treatment at prior facilities, Johnson was not evaluated in person by a physician nor properly counselled regarding his diabetes and noncompliance following his transfer to Great Meadow CF. Additionally the Board found that there was a failure by the medical providers to properly refer Johnson, who was a progressively unstable diabetic, to endocrinology for specialist level care.

2. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] In the instant offense on 7/3/15, in Rochester, NY, Johnson shot and killed a victim with an illegally possessed handgun. Johnson was sentenced to 18 years to Life in prison for Murder 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree.

3. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

4. On 12/1/16, Johnson was received at Wende CF reception and was transferred to Elmira CF. Johnson was then transferred to Auburn. In January 2017, Johnson transferred to Upstate CF. In April 2017, Johnson transferred to Five Points CF. In October 2019, Johnson transferred to Upstate CF and then to Clinton CF in December 2019. In June 2020, Johnson transferred to Upstate CF and to Great Meadow on 10/5/20.

5. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

6. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

7. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

8. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

9. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

10. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

11. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

12. [REDACTED]

13. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

14. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

15. [REDACTED]

- 16. [Redacted]
- 17. [Redacted]
- 18. [Redacted]
- 19. [Redacted]
- 20. [Redacted]
- 21. [Redacted]
- 22. [Redacted]
- 23. [Redacted]
- 24. [Redacted]
- 25. [Redacted]
- 26. [Redacted]

[REDACTED]

27. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

28. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

29. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

30. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

31. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

32. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

33. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

The Medical Review Board opines that Johnson's unstable and uncontrolled blood glucose levels required an expedited follow-up with Endocrinology.

34. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

36. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

37. [REDACTED]

38. [REDACTED]

39. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

40. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

41. [REDACTED]

42. [REDACTED]

43. [REDACTED]

44. [REDACTED]

45. [REDACTED]

46. On 6/15/20, Johnson transferred to Upstate CF.

47. [REDACTED]

48. [REDACTED]

49. [REDACTED]

50. [REDACTED]

51. [REDACTED]

52. [REDACTED]

- 53. [REDACTED]
- 54. [REDACTED]
- 55. [REDACTED]
- 56. [REDACTED]
- 57. [REDACTED]
- 58. [REDACTED]
- 59. [REDACTED]
- 60. [REDACTED]
- 61. [REDACTED]
- 62. [REDACTED]
- 63. [REDACTED]
- 64. [REDACTED]
- 65. [REDACTED]
- 66. [REDACTED]

- 67. [REDACTED]
- 68. [REDACTED]
- 69. [REDACTED]
- 70. [REDACTED]
- 71. [REDACTED]
- 72. [REDACTED]
- 73. [REDACTED]
- 74. [REDACTED]
- 75. [REDACTED]
- 76. [REDACTED]
- 77. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This is a violation of NYS DOCCS Health Services Policy 4.06 RMU and Infirmary Health Records 10.b Medication Administration Records: Each discontinued order is "yellowed out" on the MARS by the RN. This issue was identified and addressed by NYS DOCCS at the time of the mortality review.



- 78. [REDACTED]
- 79. [REDACTED]
- 80. [REDACTED]
- 81. [REDACTED]
- 82. [REDACTED]
- 83. [REDACTED]
- 84. [REDACTED]
- 85. [REDACTED]
- 86. [REDACTED]
- 87. [REDACTED]

88. On 10/5/20, Johnson was transferred to Great Meadow CF. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] A review of the medical chart by the Board revealed that Johnson was not seen in person by the medical provider following his transfer to Great Meadow CF [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] The Medical Review Board opines that Johnson's unstable condition required close monitoring by the facility physician with an in person assessment. Additionally, the Board finds that there was a failure by the DOCCS medical providers to follow up on the Endocrinology referral from 4/29/20.

89. [REDACTED]

90. [REDACTED]

91. [REDACTED]

92. [REDACTED]

93. [REDACTED]

94. [REDACTED]

95. On 11/11/20 at 5:45 a.m., Johnson was sleeping during the facility count. Correction Officer (CO) S.M. tapped his baton on the gate and Johnson sat up in his bunk. At 6:27 a.m., CO E.B. was notified by another incarcerated individual that Johnson needed assistance. Johnson was found lying on his cell floor unresponsive. A medical response was called. At 6:28 a.m., medical staff arrived [REDACTED]. Johnson was transported to medical, and EMS was activated at 6:34 a.m.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] At 6:52 a.m., EMS arrived [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This issue

was identified and addressed by NYS DOCCS mortality review at the time of the mortality review.

96. Per the NYS Office of Special Investigation Report, Johnson's cell was searched and a plastic wrapped bundle containing a green leafy substance and a black ceramic razor blade wrapped in green thread and masking tape was found. The weight of the suspected drug was 3.1 grams.

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

TO THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF THE NYS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION, DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES:

1. The Deputy Commission shall conduct a Quality Assurance Review to determine why Johnson was not seen in person by the medical provider after being transfer to Great Meadow CF.
2. The Deputy Commission shall conduct a Quality Assurance Review to determine why Johnson was not referred to Endocrinology as per his 4/29/20 medical encounter.

A report of the findings and any corrective actions taken shall be forwarded to the Board upon completion.

*In a response to the Commission's preliminary report dated 8/8/23 the Deputy Commissioner of Health Services indicated that the requested reviews were completed with corrective actions taken.*

WITNESS, HONORABLE ALLEN RILEY, Chairman, 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 27<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.



Allen Riley  
Chairman  
Commission of Correction

AR:DC :vc  
2020-M-0121  
September 27, 2023

cc: Dr. Carol Moores, Deputy Commissioner, Chief Medical Officer  
James Donahue, Associate Commissioner of Mental Health  
Superintendent Christopher Collins, Great Meadow CF