



**Commission of
Correction**

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

**In the Matter of the Special Investigation into the Care and Treatment
Provided to**

**Doug Blaney,
an incarcerated individual of the
Chemung County Jail**

December 20, 2023

**To: Sheriff William A. Schrom
Chemung County Sheriff's Office
203 William Street
P.O. Box 588
Elmira, New York 14902-0588**

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)(e), regarding the care and treatment provided to Doug Blaney which occurred while an incarcerated individual in the custody of the Chemung County Sheriff at the Chemung County Jail, the Commission has determined that the following final report be issued.

FINDINGS:

1. Dough Blaney was a 42-year-old male who died in the hospital on 1/7/23 after suffering an acute myocardial infarction with cardiac arrest that was resuscitated on 1/4/23 while in the custody of the Chemung County Sheriff at the Chemung County Jail. The Medical Review Board has found that although Blaney's heart attack and cardiac arrest may not have been completely preventable, there were identified lapses and deficiencies in the healthcare that he received prior to his terminal event. The Medical Review Board opines that had Blaney received proper medical assessments and treatment, his underlying cardiovascular disease would have been recognized and proper medical management could have been initiated.
2. Blaney was single with no stated employment history. [REDACTED]
3. [REDACTED] On 5/31/22, Blaney was committed to the Chemung CJ on the charges of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree, Menacing 2nd Degree, plus a Violation of Parole warrant. On 6/3/22, Blaney was given additional charges of Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd and 3rd Degrees.
4. [REDACTED]
5. Blaney was admitted to the Chemung CJ on 5/31/2022 on Menacing 2nd Degree, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree, and a Violation of Parole. He was held on all charges with no bail. On 12/9/2022, a detainer was added after he received an indictment on Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd Degree charge.
6. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

7. On 10/10/2022, Blaney reportedly that he fell getting out of the shower. Registered Nurse (RN) [REDACTED] was called to the housing area to assess him. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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

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

10. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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

12. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

13. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

14. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

15. A review of all of the progress notes for the sick call encounters by the Medical Review Board revealed that there was a lack of vital signs for each encounter. The first vital signs recorded on Blaney only occurred at the emergency sick calls on 10/10/22 and 10/12/22. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Additionally, a full health assessment was not completed within 14 days of Blaney's admission to the jail on 5/31/22. Per RN [REDACTED], the facility used Blaney's prior health assessment from his previous admission in September 2021. This was in violation of 9 NYCRR §7010.2(b)(1)(2) which states:
(1) Each prisoner shall be examined by a physician licensed to practice in the State of New York or by medical personnel legally authorized to perform such examinations at the time of admission or as soon thereafter as possible, but no later than 14 days after admission.

(2) Documented evidence of an examination by a physician or other authorized medical personnel within the six-month period prior to admission shall satisfy the requirements of this subdivision. Such documentation shall be reviewed and follow-up treatment initiated as necessary.
- This was also in violation of Chemung County Sheriff's Office Correction Division Policy D-160 Medical Services: Procedure C (1): Inmate Physicals.
- The Medical Review Board has found that there was a failure by the medical staff to perform adequate assessments and obtain vital signs on Blaney at multiple sick call encounters. The Board has also found that the documented findings of hypertension on 10/10/22 and 10/12/22 were not recognized by medical staff nor referred to a medical provider for further diagnostic study and follow up. As Blaney would eventually succumb to an acute myocardial infarction due to hypertensive cardiovascular disease (Right coronary artery thrombus, 75% stenosis of left descending coronary artery), the Medical Review Board opines that the signs and symptoms of such could have been detected at Blaney's admission and at sick calls had full and proper assessments been completed. Additionally, the Medical Review Board finds that there was a lack of hypertension screening protocol in place by medical to identify potential cardiovascular disease patients.
16. On 1/4/2023, Blaney was housed on Post 5 Cell Block C, Cell #5. Post 5 is a linear style housing unit with 4 cell blocks (A, B, C, D) with 6 cells each. Blaney was housed with two other incarcerated individuals (IIs). At 8:10 a.m., Blaney was documented leaving the housing unit to attend church services. At 9:15 a.m., he was documented as returned. At 9:39 a.m., Blaney was documented as going out to have a one-on-one clergy visit. At 10:43 a.m., he was documented as returning from the visit. There were no further entries in the housing unit log regarding Blaney.
17. At 2:00 p.m., Correction Officer (CO) Z.V. began his shift on Post 5. At 2:03 p.m., CO Z.V. documented making rounds and completing a count. At approximately 2:20 p.m., CO Z.V. was alerted by other IIs that Blaney was unresponsive. CO Z.V. responded to find Blaney in his cell, on his bed, on his right side and was unresponsive. CO Z.V. called for a medical emergency and kept a visual observation on Blaney until staff arrived.

18. At 2:21 p.m., responding officers arrived and entered the housing unit. CO D.A. assessed Blaney and determined that there was no pulse nor respirations. Officers placed Blaney on the floor and began CPR. CO D.B. began chest compressions and CO D.A. provided respirations via bag valve mask.
19. At 2:23 p.m., the AED was applied but no shock was advised, and CPR was continued. CO D.B. administered a dose of nasal Narcan. At 2:26 p.m., CO D.B. administered a second and third dose of nasal Narcan with no effect. CPR was continued throughout.
20. At 2:27 p.m., Elmira Fire Department arrived.
21. At 2:35 p.m., Erway ambulance paramedics arrived on the scene. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
22. At 2:50 p.m., Blaney was carried off the cell block to the ambulance gurney. At 2:53 p.m., Blaney was transported to Arnot Ogden Hospital [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
23. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
24. On 1/5/2023, Blaney was released from the custody of the Chemung CJ by order of the court.
25. On 1/6/2023, Blaney was released from his parole violation hold by NYS DOCCS.
26. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
27. A search of Blaney's cell did result in finding a plastic baggie that was confirmed to contain fentanyl. How much he had potentially ingested and how contributory it was to his being found unresponsive on 1/4/23 was inconclusive. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

TO THE CHEMUNG COUNTY JAIL PHYSICIAN:

1. The Jail Physician shall conduct a quality assurance review to assure that all admission physicals on new admitted individuals to the jail are completed within required

timeframes per 9 NYCRR §7010.2(b)(1-2) and Chemung County Sheriff's Office Correction Division Policy D-160 Medical Services: Procedure C (1): Inmate Physicals.

2. The Jail Physician shall conduct a quality assurance review with medical staff to assure that proper assessments and vital signs are documented appropriately on individuals who present at sick call encounters.
3. The Jail Physician shall conduct a quality assurance review regarding why documented incidents of vertigo and falls by Blaney coupled with findings of hypertension were not referred for further diagnostic review and follow up by medical staff and the attending physician assistant.
4. The Jail Physician shall conduct a review of current hypertension screening protocols utilized by medical staff to assure individuals are adequately assessed for potential cardiovascular disease.

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

In a response dated 12/1/23 to the Commission's preliminary report, the Sheriff's Office and Jail Physician indicated that a quality assurance meeting was conducted and corrective action including policy review was taken with medical staff.

WITNESS, HONORABLE ALLEN RILEY, Chairman, 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 20^h day of December, 2023



Allen Riley
Chairman
Commission of Correction

AR:CO:vc
Special Investigation
December 20, 2023