



**Commission of
Correction**

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

In the Matter of the Death of

**Tremaine Sanchez,
an incarcerated individual of the
Niagara County Jail**

December 20, 2023

**To: Sheriff Michael J. Filicetti
Niagara County Sheriff's Office
5526 Niagara Street Ext.
P.O. Box 496
Lockport, New York 14095**

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 Tremaine Sanchez who died on December 30, 2022 , as a result of circumstances which occurred while an incarcerated individual in the custody of the Niagara County Sheriff at the Niagara County Jail, the Commission has determined that the following final report be issued.

FINDINGS:

1. Tramaine Sanchez was a 26-year-old female who died on 12/30/22 due to complications from a suicide hanging that occurred on 12/23/2022 while in the custody of the Niagara County Sheriff at the Niagara County Jail (CJ). Sanchez was an individual with extensive and complex mental health issues including chronic suicidal ideation who had been in custody of the Niagara County Sheriff for over two years awaiting sentencing in a murder case. The Medical Review Board has found that Sanchez should have been referred for psychiatric hospitalization after repeated acts of self-harm and expressions of suicidal ideation.

2. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] In November 2020, Sanchez was arrested for the instant offense and charged with Murder 2nd Degree and Conspiracy 2nd Degree. Sanchez plead guilty to Murder 2nd Degree on 6/15/2021 and was awaiting sentencing at the time of her death.

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

4. On 11/19/20, Sanchez was arrested by Niagara Falls Police for Murder 2nd and Conspiracy 2nd charges after luring a friend's father to her residence and causing his death by stabbing him on 11/16/2020. On 11/19/20 at 6:35 p.m., Sanchez was booked into the Niagara CJ. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5.

[REDACTED]

6.

[REDACTED]

7.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

8. [REDACTED]

9. On 2/17/21 at 2:23 p.m., Correction Officer (CO) H. conducted a search of the cell previously occupied by Sanchez in preparation for her return to the housing area. The cell contained Sanchez's belongings. Inside of Sanchez's laundry bag, CO H. discovered a noose made from a bedsheet. Sanchez maintained that it was not hers and could not have been as it was discovered when she was being moved around housing units. Sanchez denied having any suicidal ideations at the time but remained on constant observation. At 10:09 p.m., Sanchez intentionally destroyed her facility issued glasses. She gave them to the CO at their request to prevent her from causing self-harm.

[REDACTED]

10. On 3/1/21 at 10:49 a.m., Sanchez was observed in her cell with a rope tied around her neck and refused to remove it as directed by CO S. prompting a medical emergency to be called. Sanchez stood on her own feet with the rope around her neck until it was removed by responding officers. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

11. [REDACTED]

- 12. On 4/21/21 at 10:06 a.m., Sanchez asked CO S. for a razor blade so she could slit her wrists. [REDACTED]
- 13. [REDACTED]
- 14. On 6/4/21 at 9:25 a.m., Sanchez was provided a razor by CO D.Z. for shaving after receiving permission [REDACTED] Sanchez returned the razor broken. [REDACTED]
- 15. On 6/15/2021, Sanchez pled guilty to Murder 2nd Degree and Conspiracy 2nd Degree.
- 16. [REDACTED]
- 17. [REDACTED]
- 18. [REDACTED]
- 19. [REDACTED]
- 20. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

21. [REDACTED]

22. [REDACTED]

23. [REDACTED]

24. [REDACTED]

25. [REDACTED]

26. [REDACTED]

27. [REDACTED]

28. On 2/17/22 at 1:50 p.m., CO J. observed a sheet twisted into a thin strand and wrapped several times through the top bar of the gate to Sanchez's cell. Sanchez was ordered to take the sheet down to which she did not comply. Sergeant W. was notified and responded to speak with Sanchez. Approximately two minutes after speaking with Sergeant W., CO J. observed Sanchez climbing the cell bars with the sheet in hand. Constant supervision was maintained as supervisors and mental health were contacted.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

29. On 2/23/22 at 7:11 p.m., Sanchez posted a note on her door window that read "leave me alone while I do the world a favor and die." Sanchez was observed lying on her floor moving and breathing. CO R.G. attempted to engage Sanchez but she would not respond to the CO. Sanchez eventually agreed to talk to RN [REDACTED] privately. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

30. [REDACTED]

31. On 3/2/22 at 4:30 p.m., CO T. observed a piece of paper on Sanchez's cell window that read "I tried now it ends with suicide bye-bye, this is it world goodbye." Sanchez was observed laying on the floor listening to music with no signs of distress. When asked if she was alright, Sanchez stated that she was fine. Sanchez stated that she had no thoughts of wanting to hurt herself and denied the existence of the note or placing it on her window. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

32. [REDACTED]

33. On 4/26/22 at 4:40 p.m., CO M. documented that Sanchez approached the officer and stated "I hate you, I hate LMHC [REDACTED] and I want to kill myself." Sanchez added that she had been waiting to see LMHC [REDACTED] all day and could not wait any longer. Constant supervision was maintained, and the supervisor was notified. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

34. [REDACTED]

35. On 5/3/22 at 5:30 p.m., CO H. observed Sanchez crying, visibly shaking and distraught. Sanchez claimed that she received a phone call from her mother and was told that her uncle had been murdered. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

36. On 5/22/22 at 10:57 a.m., CO C.P. documented while conducting a supervisory watch tour Sanchez stated, "I'm going to kill myself." Constant observation was maintained,

and the supervisor was notified. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

37. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

38. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

39. Sanchez was transferred to Monroe County Jail on a substitute jail order from 7/1/22 through 9/13/22 for her safety due to conflicts with multiple other incarcerated individuals in the housing area. After several incarcerated individuals that Sanchez had conflicts with were released from custody, Sanchez was returned to the Niagara CJ.

40. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

41. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

42. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

43. On 10/11/22 at 9:00 p.m., CO S. documented an incarcerated individual (II) in housing block M informed the officer that Sanchez had made threats of self-harm. The unidentified II continued that Sanchez stated that she was going to hang herself between the end of this shift and when the next shift came on. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

44. On 10/26/22 at 11:45 p.m., CO W. documented that they were stopped while completing a supervisory watch tour by Sanchez who pointed at her neck and stated, "I'm thinking about hurting myself." Sanchez showed CO W. a sheet tied at the top of her cell bars. The supervisor was notified and Sanchez was escorted to the SHU [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

45. On 10/27/22 at 12:22 a.m., CO W. documented receiving of a note from II S.J. that she received from Sanchez. The note stated, "if you done I'm hanging myself I'm not living without you." Both the supervisor and medical were notified. The lieutenant informed RN [REDACTED] that Sanchez appeared to be under the influence. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

46. [REDACTED]

47. [REDACTED]

48. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Medical Review Board opines that Sanchez's repeated pattern of suicidal ideation and need to be placed on suicide watch four times in a two-month period should have prompted a referral to have Sanchez psychiatrically hospitalized.

49. On 11/30/22, Sanchez was informed that her mother attempted suicide and was unresponsive in intensive care in New York City. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

50.

[REDACTED]

51.

[REDACTED]

52.

[REDACTED]

53.

On 12/21/22 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] At 4:00 p.m., Sanchez threatened to "slap the shit out of" an officer. Sanchez requested to be moved from her housing unit to the SHU as she didn't want to be around anyone. Sergeant E.C. asked Sanchez if she had thoughts of hurting or killing herself, to which Sanchez stated no, and stated "I just want to get away from everyone." Sanchez stated that she was upset that she would be unable to see or talk to her kids for the upcoming holiday. Sanchez also stated that she was upset that other II's and security staff were talking about her and how she got an officer fired for

allegedly having sex with her while housed in SHU. Sanchez was moved to IPO to calm down as there was no room in the SHU and this made Sanchez more upset. At 7:30 p.m., while in IPO, Sanchez was informed by Sergeant E.C. that she was being written up for a jail rule infraction for threatening an officer. Sanchez began to cry and started to scratch her arms and stated that she did not want to be in IPO. Sanchez stated that if she had to stay, she was going to kill herself and continued to scratch her arms. Lieutenant D. was radioed to report to IPO. Sanchez scratched her arm again and asked that she be placed in handcuffs to stop her urge to scratch. Sanchez was escorted to SHU to be evaluated by medical. Sanchez asked to speak with RN [REDACTED] in private and supervision was maintained. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] At 7:50 p.m., Sanchez was logged into the officer activity log as now housed in SHU by CO M.S. [REDACTED]

54. [REDACTED]

55. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

56. On 12/23/22, [REDACTED] CO M.S. completed supervisory rounds at approximately 15-minute staggered intervals without any further documentation about Sanchez. At 2:55 p.m., CO M.S. was relieved by CO B.P. who continued completion of supervisory rounds at approximately 15-minute staggered intervals including completion times of 5:43 p.m., 5:55 p.m., 6:14 p.m., 6:28 p.m., 6:42 p.m., 7:05 p.m. and 7:19 p.m. without any documentation regarding Sanchez. During an interview with Commission staff, CO B.P. stated that he did not recall anything to be off with Sanchez during his shift. CO B.P. stated that Sanchez requested her medications and asked for a shower. CO B.P. turned the water for the shower on and closed the door.

57. [REDACTED]

58. [REDACTED]

59. [REDACTED]

60. On 12/28/22 at 4:00 p.m., Sanchez's cell was searched. A suicide note was discovered that stated "I just can't take this anymore, to everybody who couldn't wait for me to leave this jail here's your Christmas miracle". At the bottom of the paper, the note stated "Don't contact my family".
61. A Niagara County Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) investigation into Sanchez's allegation of inappropriate behavior by an officer including sexual activity proved to be unfounded. A review of video footage showed less than 40 seconds of total time the officer spent alone with Sanchez.

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

TO THE NIAGARA COUNTY JAIL PHYSICIAN:

The Jail Physician shall conduct a review of the mental health care provided to Sanchez during her incarceration with a focus on why forensic psychiatric hospitalization was not considered given Sanchez's repeated patterns of self-harm and expressions of suicidal ideation.

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

In a response dated 11/6/23 to the Commission's preliminary report, PrimeCare Medical of New York, Inc. indicated that a comprehensive quality assurance review was completed.

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:MB:vc
2022-M-0154
December 20, 2023