



**Commission of
Correction**

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

In the Matter of the Death of

**James Slater,
an incarcerated individual of the
Sullivan County Jail**

December 18, 2024

**To: Sheriff Michael A. Schiff
Sullivan County Sheriff's Office
58 Old Route 17
Monticello, New York 12701**

Allen Riley
Chairman

Yolanda Canty
Commissioner

Elizabeth Gaynes
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 James Slater, who died on January 13, 2022, as a result of circumstances which occurred while an incarcerated individual in the custody of the Sullivan County Sheriff at the Sullivan County Jail, the Commission has determined that the following final report be issued.

FINDINGS:

1. James Slater was a 36-year-old male who died on 1/13/22 from complications of acute Fentanyl and recent cocaine use while in the custody of the Sullivan County Sheriff at the Sullivan County Jail (CJ).
2. Slater was born in Harris, NY. Slater was survived by two children, his parents, and ten siblings. Slater received his GED and was unemployed. There was no further demographic or social history available to the Commission for Slater.
3. [REDACTED]
4. [REDACTED]
5. [REDACTED]
6. On 1/5/22 at 1:05 p.m., Slater was admitted to the Sullivan CJ by Deputy C. after being charged with Criminal Mischief 2nd Degree, Reckless Endangerment 2nd Degree, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree, and Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle 3rd Degree. Slater scored a "4" on the Suicide Screening Guide for answering "yes" to [REDACTED].
[REDACTED]. Deputy C. placed Slater on a constant watch [REDACTED]. Deputy C. referred Slater to medical and mental health.

7.

[REDACTED]

8.

[REDACTED]

9.

[REDACTED]

10.

[REDACTED]

11. [REDACTED]

12. [REDACTED]

13. [REDACTED]

14. [REDACTED]

15. [REDACTED]

16. [REDACTED]

17. [REDACTED]

18. [REDACTED]

19. [REDACTED]

20. [REDACTED]

21. [REDACTED]

22. [REDACTED]

23. On 1/7/22 at an unindicated time, Slater was transported to the Village of Monticello Court where his Criminal Mischief 2nd Degree charge was reduced to Criminal Mischief 4th Degree. Slater was released on his own recognizance and transported by the officers back to the Sullivan CJ for release processing. On 1/7/22 at 9:45 p.m., while still at the Sullivan CJ, Slater was turned over to the Village of Liberty Police for pending charges of Grand Larceny 3rd Degree.

24. [REDACTED]

25. On 1/8/22 at 12:22 a.m., Slater returned from the Village of Liberty Police Department. He was readmitted to the Sullivan CJ by Deputy R. after being charged with Grand Larceny 3rd Degree. Slater scored a "3" on the Suicide Screening Guide for answering "yes" to [REDACTED] Deputy R. placed Slater on a constant watch [REDACTED] Deputy R. referred Slater to medical and mental health. Slater was housed in B POD for COVID quarantine and constant watch until he could be seen by mental health.

26. [REDACTED]

27. [REDACTED]

28. [REDACTED] The Medical Review Board notes that both on 1/5/22 and 1/8/22 Slater had medication orders completed remotely by PA [REDACTED] but was not seen by the provider for an assessment. The Board opines given Slaters multiple ongoing medical issues that after the orders were made to continue medications, Slater should have been scheduled as soon as possible for a medical provider assessment.

29. [REDACTED]

30. [REDACTED]

31. [REDACTED]

32.

[REDACTED]

33.

[REDACTED]

34.

[REDACTED]

35.

[REDACTED]

36.

[REDACTED]

37.

[REDACTED]

38.

[REDACTED]

39.

[REDACTED]

40.

[REDACTED]

41.

[REDACTED]

42.

[REDACTED]

43.

[REDACTED]

44.

[REDACTED]

45. A review of Slater's medical records by Commission staff found that multiple Refusal to Consent to Treatment forms for Slater's wound care and COWS assessments were not specific to the time of day for the refusals.

46. Documentation from the Sullivan County Jail indicated that on 1/11/22 at approximately 12:04p.m., Deputy S.R. contacted Corporal G. stating that Slater was agitated and wanted to speak to a supervisor about his leg wound. Slater had an unhealed gunshot wound on his left calf from approximately a year and a half prior. Corporal G. responded to the unit and spoke to Slater who complained that he had been incarcerated for six days and had not seen medical. He requested to go to the hospital for treatment. Corporal G. advised him that he would follow up with the medical staff. Corporal G. spoke with the Health Service Administrator (HSA) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Corporal G. was again called to B-Pod by Deputy S.R. at approximately 1:05 p.m. due to a further complaint from Slater. The Corporal again responded to the unit and Slater informed him that his complaint is not about his leg but the fact that he was detoxing from Methadone and that he had been itching all night. Corporal G. informed Slater that he could not send him to the hospital to receive drugs. At that time, Slater requested to speak with a Sergeant. Corporal G. then exited the unit and met with Sergeant N. to inform him of Slater's complaint. At approximately 1:10 p.m., RN [REDACTED] entered B-Pod to see patients on the unit. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] At approximately 1:46 p.m., Sergeant N. responded to B-pod to speak with Slater. The complaint from Slater was that he wanted to go to the hospital. Sergeant N. informed Slater that he would be meeting with the social worker and medical to ensure that he was receiving proper treatment. The Sergeant exited the unit around 1:49 p.m. A review of the video for 1/11/22 revealed that RN [REDACTED] returned to B-pod around 2:08 p.m. to see patients and she stopped at Slater's cell and appeared to

have a brief conversation with him, and then continued on to see other patients in the unit. On at least three different occasions after RN [REDACTED] talked to Slater, Slater could be seen on video ambulating around his cell. On two of those occasions, Slater was observed taking a drink of water from the sink. The last time Slater was observed on video, he was standing by the cell door for approximately seven minutes prior to Deputy S.R. hearing him yell.

47. On 1/11/22 at 2:23 p.m., RN [REDACTED] was on B Pod seeing other patients when Slater could be heard screaming inside of his cell. Deputy S.R. went to go check on Slater and reported to RN [REDACTED] that he thought that Slater was having a seizure. RN [REDACTED] ran over to Slater's cell

[REDACTED]

At 2:25 p.m., 911 was called to respond to the facility.

[REDACTED]

At 2:41 p.m., EMS arrived at the scene and assumed care of Slater.

[REDACTED]

48. [REDACTED]

49. [REDACTED]

50. Per the New York State Police Seized Drugs Report, Forensic Scientist III J.K. performed a forensic examination on evidence from Slater's belongings that were removed from his cell after the incident that was submitted to the New York State Police Crime Laboratory System. This included one metal container with residue that yielded results of Cocaine, and one piece of torn plastic with residue that yielded results of Cocaine.

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

TO THE SULLIVAN COUNTY JAIL PHYSICIAN:

The Jail Physician shall conduct a comprehensive quality assurance review regarding why refusal forms for Consent to Treatment and COWS assessments are not specific to the time of day.

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

In a response dated 11/25/24 to the Commission's preliminary report, Prime Care Medical of NY indicated medical staff was re-educated on proper procedure for filling out the forms.

WITNESS, HONORABLE YOLANDA CANTY, 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 18th day of December 2024.



Yolanda Canty
Commissioner
Commission of Correction

YC:BB:vc
2022-M-0008
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