



**Commission of  
Correction**

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

**In the Matter of the Death of**

**Keisa Azevedo,  
an incarcerated individual of the  
Westchester County Department of Correction**

**March 26, 2025**

**To: Commissioner Joseph Spano  
Westchester Department of Correction  
PO Box 389  
Valhalla, New York 10595**

**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 Keisa Azevedo, who died on August 13, 2023 , as a result of circumstances which occurred while an incarcerated individual in the custody of the Westchester County Department of Correction at the Westchester County Jail, the Commission has determined that the following final report be issued.

FINDINGS:

1. Kesia Azevedo was a 34-year-old female who died on 8/13/23 from Hashimoto's Thyroiditis while in the custody of the Westchester County Department of Corrections (WCDOC). The Medical Review Board has found that Azevedo had a 139-pound weight gain during her incarceration that was not noted nor addressed by medical providers.

2. [REDACTED] . In May 2021, Azevedo was charged with CPCS 7<sup>th</sup> Degree. In September 2021, Azevedo was arrested and charged with Attempted Arson 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree and Arson 4<sup>th</sup> Degree. In April 2022, Azevedo was charged with Assault 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree and Criminal Mischief. In July 2022, Azevedo was charged with Criminal Use Drug Paraphernalia and Menacing 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree. In October 2022, Azevedo was charged with Assault 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree. In November 2022, Azevedo was charged with Intent to Obtain Transportation without Paying and Harassment 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree. In December 2022, Azevedo was charged with Petit Larceny. In January 2023, Azevedo was charged with Bail Jumping 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree and Petit Larceny. In July 2023, Azevedo was charged with Assault 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree. All of these charges were abated by her death.

3. [REDACTED]

4. On 1/11/23, Azevedo was received at the Westchester County Department of Corrections (WCDOC) from the Mt. Vernon Police Department (PD). [REDACTED]

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

24. [REDACTED]

25. [REDACTED]

26. On 2/7/23, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Azevedo's water had been turned off at 4:00 p.m. due to her flooding her cell. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

27.

[REDACTED]

28.

On 2/8/23, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. Azevedo's water had been turned back on.

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. [REDACTED]

46. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

47.

[REDACTED]

48.

[REDACTED]

49.

[REDACTED]

50.

[REDACTED]

51.

[REDACTED]

52.

[REDACTED]

53.

[REDACTED]

54.

[REDACTED]

55.

[REDACTED]

56.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

57. [REDACTED]

58. [REDACTED]

59. [REDACTED]

60. [REDACTED]

61. [REDACTED]

62. [REDACTED]

63. [REDACTED]

64. [REDACTED]

65. [REDACTED]

[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]
- 78. [REDACTED]
- 79. [REDACTED]
- 80. [REDACTED]
- 81. [REDACTED]
- 82. [REDACTED]
- 83. [REDACTED]

84.

[REDACTED]

85.

[REDACTED]

86.

[REDACTED]

87.

[REDACTED]

88.

[REDACTED]

89.

[REDACTED]

90.

[REDACTED]

91.

[REDACTED]

92.

[REDACTED]

93.

[REDACTED]

94.

[REDACTED]

95.

[REDACTED]

96. [REDACTED]

97. [REDACTED]

98. [REDACTED]


99. On 8/13/22 at 7:12 a.m., Corrections Officer (CO) T.N. completed a supervisory tour and body count. At 7:42 a.m., Azevedo was found unresponsive in her cell in WU E block. Azevedo was face down and was cold to touch. Medical staff arrived [REDACTED]

100. A review of the housing logbook noted that CO O. made supervisory tours at 11:39 p.m., 12:12 a.m., 12:24 a.m., 12:55 a.m., 1:27 a.m., 1:45 a.m., 2:19 a.m., 3:05 a.m., 3:41 a.m., 4:14 a.m., 4:48 a.m., 5:21 a.m., 5:55 a.m., 6:20 a.m., and 6:50 a.m. CO O. noted that all appeared secure. At 6:00 a.m., a count was completed. A review of the Gentech video revealed that supervisory tours were completed. The Medical Review Board finds that the postmortem changes documented by medical personnel including lividity and rigor mortis to the arm, indicate that Azevedo had been deceased for more than two hours prior to being discovered by corrections officers. The Board finds that although the video documentation confirms that the officer did conduct rounds, Azevedo's presence may not have been properly verified during the supervisory visits in accordance with the requirements of 9 NYCRR §7003.2(a)(2) and §7003.3(c).

101. A [REDACTED]  
The Medical Review Board opines that Azevedo's weight could not have been 128 pounds on 8/11/23 while the weight at her autopsy two days later was listed as 239 pounds. The Medical Review Board opines that clinical indicators that Azevedo was

experiencing metabolic complications were not observed and not diagnosed by the medical providers for Westchester County DOC.

102.

 The Medical Review noted in the autopsy report that there was no microscopic pathology study completed and only basic toxicology study. The Medical Review Board questions the diagnosis of Hashimoto's thyroiditis as Azevedo's history and pathologic findings were not consistent with that diagnosis. Additionally, the Board believes that both a microscopic pathology and full toxicology study were warranted in this case.

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

TO THE COMMISSIONER OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION:

The Commissioner shall take notice of the Medical Review Board's finding of the presence of postmortem changes on Azevedo when found unresponsive and initiate an investigation into the conduct of the officer who was assigned to supervise the housing area. Administrative action should be taken if the individual is found to be in violation of department directives.

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

*In a response to the Commission's preliminary report, Westchester DOC indicated that an investigation was completed and administrative action was taken with the cited officer.*

TO THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR AT WESTCHESTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION:

The Medical Director shall conduct a quality assurance review on the medical care provided to Azevedo with a focus on Azevedo's 139-pound weight gain in eight months that was not noted nor addressed by the medical staff.

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

*In responses dated 2/3/25 and 2/27/25 to the Commission's preliminary report, Correct Care Solutions indicated that a review was completed. The review could not provide explanation for Azevedo's weight gain but corrective counseling was conducted with the facility physician regarding recording accurate weight measures with patients.*

TO THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER FOR WESTCHESTER COUNTY

The Medical Review Board requests that the Chief Medical Examiner re-review Azevedo's cause of death given the absence of clinical findings consistent with Hashimoto's thyroiditis and

consider completing both microscopic pathology and full toxicology if preserved samples are available for study.

WITNESS, HONORABLE YOLANDA CANTY, 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 26<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025.



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Yolanda Canty  
Commissioner  
Commission of Correction

YC:DC:vc  
2023-M-0084  
March 26, 2025