



**Commission of
Correction**

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

In the Matter of the Death of

**Raul Flores,
an incarcerated individual of the
Wyoming County Jail**

June 25, 2025

**To: Sheriff David P. Linder
Wyoming County Sheriff's Office
151 N. Main Street
Warsaw, New York 14569**

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 Raul Flores, who died on May 14, 2024, as a result of circumstances which occurred while an incarcerated individual in the custody of the Wyoming County Sheriff at the Wyoming County Jail, the Commission has determined that the following final report be issued.

FINDINGS:

1. Raul Flores was a 19-year-old male who died on 5/14/24 from an undetermined cause of death while in the custody of the Wyoming County Sheriff at the Wyoming County Jail.
2. Flores was born in Mexico. Flores was single. Flores reported having an 8th grade education, and that he worked as a laborer.
3. Flores’s first contact with the criminal justice system was in the instant offense on 4/1/24, in the Town of Warsaw, N.Y. Flores was arrested by the New York State Police for Attempted Grand Larceny 3rd Degree, Burglary 2nd Degree, and Criminal Mischief 2nd Degree. Flores was arraigned in the Perry Town Court and charged with Grand Larceny 3rd Degree, Burglary 2nd Degree, and Criminal Mischief 2nd Degree. Flores was committed to the custody of the Wyoming County Sheriff at the Wyoming County Jail. Flores’ first court appearance was scheduled for 6/5/24. Flores’ charges were abated by his death.
4. Flores had no diagnosed medical history. [REDACTED]
5. Flores did not have any known mental health history. [REDACTED]
6. On 4/1/24, Flores was admitted to the Wyoming County Jail by Officer D.M. for the charges of Attempted Grand Larceny 3rd Degree, Burglary 2nd Degree, and Criminal Mischief 2nd Degree. Flores scored a “1” on the Suicide Prevention Screening for this being his first incarceration in jail. Officer D.M. documented that Flores had a Mexican citizenship and that he was a Foreign Non-Resident. During an interview with Commission staff, Officer D.M. reported that Flores was Spanish speaking and that Flores’s admission was completed with a translation app on a cell phone. Officer D.M. reported that Flores was answering questions appropriately and that Flores was not displaying any behavior concerns. Documentation indicated that Flores was compliant during the admission process.
7. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] During an interview with Commission staff, RN [REDACTED] reported using Google Translate for the admission health assessment and physical. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

8. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

9. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

10. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

NP [REDACTED] reported that after she reviews a report, she will initial the report that it was reviewed.

11. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

12. On 4/6/24 at 4:30 p.m., Sergeant (Sgt.) J. J. submitted a non-emergency referral to mental health for Flores. Sgt. J.J. documented, "non-English-speaking inmate is having a hard time adapting to our rules and regulations. A fellow Spanish speaking inmate claims he is crazy. May need mental health meds. May have to use translator to communicate with him."

13. On 4/7/24 at 9:17 a.m., Officer D.J. issued Flores a Conduct Adjustment Form for interference with an employee, inmate movement, and destruction of property. Officer D.J. and Officer in Charge (OIC) B. observed Flores in his cell standing on top of his toilet and sink. Officer D.J. went to Flores's cell to tell him to get down, and Officer D.J. observed writing on the wall and ceiling of Flores's cell. Officer D.J. also observed a jail library magazine that was ripped and scattered on the floor of Flores's cell. Officer D.J. and OIC B. assisted Flores off the toilet and sink, and Flores was handcuffed and escorted to holding. Officer D.J. also documented on the Conduct Adjustment Form that earlier in the shift, Flores was warned multiple times not to try to go out of the D Block door without authorization. Officer D.J. documented that on 4/6/24, Flores was warned

about pushing the door and trying to follow the officers out of D Block. During an interview with Commission staff, Officer D.J. reported that staff would use a translator app to communicate with Flores. Flores was scheduled for his hearing on 4/11/24 at 1:00 p.m.

14. During Flores's incarceration, he accrued an additional 13 infractions that included tampering and theft of property, refusal to obey a direct order, stealing, rules and regulations, code of conduct, sex offense, health, and safety hazard. A review of Flores's Conduct Adjustment Disposition Forms by Commission staff found that during each of Flores's hearings, the Language Line Solutions was used with a Spanish interpreter for Flores.

15. [REDACTED]

16. [REDACTED]

17. [REDACTED]

18. [REDACTED] During an interview with Commission staff, RN [REDACTED] reported that if security sent mental health a referral, the security staff would leave a copy of the mental health referral on her desk notifying her that a referral was sent to mental health. RN [REDACTED] reported that when a mental health referral is left on her desk, she faxes it to mental health, even if it was previously faxed to mental health by security to make sure that mental health received the referral.

19. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

20. [REDACTED]

21. On 4/11/24, Flores had his security hearing for the charges he had accrued on 4/7/24 for interference with an employee, inmate movement, and destruction of property. Physical evidence that was obtained for the hearing was video footage of Flores standing on the sink in his cell writing on the walls and destructing property. Flores was also going into other occupied cells and taking items from the cells. Documentation on the Conduct Adjustment Disposition Form identified that a Spanish interpreter was used for the hearing. Flores admitted to his guilt of writing on the walls and ceiling, destruction of jail property, and going through other inmate's cells. Flores was reprimanded and fined a surcharge of \$25.00.

22. [REDACTED]

23. [REDACTED]

24. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

28.

[REDACTED]

29.

[REDACTED]

30.

[REDACTED]

31.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

32. [REDACTED] Commission staff reviewed the mental health services at the Wyoming CJ during the investigation of Flores's death. Mental health services are provided at the jail by Wyoming County Community Hospital Behavioral Health. Mental health staff from WCCH will go to the jail to see individuals who have been referred to them for services. Staff will assess the patient and then confer with a psychiatric provider from WCCH when indicated. The psychiatric providers will then send over "recommended" medication orders for the jail medical provider(s) to fulfill. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Medical Review Board finds the arrangement for providing psychiatric and mental health services at the Wyoming CJ to be unacceptable. Psychiatric providers should be directly responsible for assessing, diagnosing, and prescribing for their patients. Minimally, patients incarcerated at the Wyoming CJ should be provided with a tele-med encounter for psychiatric services. The Board also questions the efficacy and practice legality of using non-licensed clinical staff to conduct assessments on patients and then using those assessments to make psychiatric diagnosis and prescribe therapies.

33. [REDACTED]

34. [REDACTED]

35. In a written statement by Officer R.P., it was documented that on 5/14/24, shortly after 5:00 p.m., Officer R.P. went from the Alpha post to C Block to serve the dinner meal trays on C Block. Officer N.B. unlocked Flores's cell, # 6, from the hallway control box and Officer R.P. entered cell # 6 and served Flores his dinner tray. Officer R.P. documented that Flores seemed fine and took his tray of food. Officer R.P. documented

completing another round on C Blook at 5:10 p.m. Officer R.P. documented completing another round on C Blook at 5:30 p.m. and he observed Flores sitting on his bed eating his food. Officer R.P. documented that Flores appeared normal and Flores did not say anything. Officer R.P. documented that at approximately 5:57 p.m., he entered C Block and started a round on the upper tier first, and then went to the lower tier. When Officer R.P. got to Flores's cell on the lower tier, he observed Flores lying face down, flat on his bed. Flores was not moving. Officer R.P. called out Flores's name and Flores did not respond. Officer R.P. kicked Flores's gate and whistled loudly, and Flores did not move. Officer R.P. called on the radio for Officer N.B. to open Flores's cell. Officer R.P. entered Flores's cell and shook Flores. There was no response from Flores. Officer R.P. then called for a medical emergency on his radio for C Block cell # 6. Officer R.P. checked Flores for a pulse and did not feel a pulse. At that time, responding officers arrived at the scene and transferred Flores from his bed to the cell floor. Officer R.P. documented that Flores was warm, sweaty, and that Flores's face had vomit on it. Officer R.K. initiated Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and other officers arrived at the scene with the Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Officer M.W. applied the AED to Flores's chest and no shock was advised. Officer C.Y. applied the Bag Valve Mask (BVM) and assisted Flores with respirations. At 5:59 p.m., Sergeant (Sgt.) J.J. arrived at the scene and notified the control room that Emergency Medical Services (EMS) was needed. Officers continued CPR until the arrival of EMS. The Medical Review Board finds that during the medical emergency, security staff did not administer Narcan to Flores.

36. On 5/14/24 at 6:06 p.m., Wyoming County Emergency Medical Services arrived at the scene. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

TO THE OFFICE OF THE WYOMING COUNTY SHERIFF:

The Sheriff shall conduct a review of the emergency response by corrections staff and ascertain why Narcan was not used.

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

In a response dated 5/5/25, the Wyoming County Sheriff indicated that the requested review was completed with amendment to policy and procedure. A review of corrective actions taken will be performed by the Commission at a later scheduled health services evaluation.

TO THE JAIL PHYSICIAN FOR THE WYOMING COUNTY JAIL:

The Medical Director shall conduct a quality assurance review regarding the following:

1. Why, on 4/5/24, Flores's chest x-ray results were not signed as being reviewed by a facility provider.
2. Why, on 4/19/24, after Flores had returned from WCCH after ingesting the ingredients from an ice pack, there was no documentation in Flores's medical record that he went to the hospital after consuming the contents of an icepack, returned from the hospital, or that he was assessed after his return to the facility after having an ER visit.
3. Why, on 4/23/24 at 1:00 p.m., there was no written order by a facility provider for Ibuprofen 800mg twice daily.
4. Why, on 4/23/24 at 1:00 p.m., there was no documentation in the medical progress notes that a telephone or verbal order was received by a facility provider for the Ibuprofen 800mg BID.

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

In a response dated 5/5/25, the Wyoming County Sheriff indicated that the requested reviews were completed with amendments to policy and procedure and corrective action training. A review of the corrective actions taken will be performed by the Commission at a later scheduled health services evaluation.

TO THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR WYOMING COUNTY:

The Medical Review Board requests that the director review the current contracted mental health services for the Wyoming CJ to assure that assessments are completed by properly licensed and credentialed clinicians and that psychiatric services are provided directly to the patients.

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

In a response dated 5/5/25, the Wyoming County Sheriff indicated that the requested review was completed. The Mental Health Department indicated that revisions to practices were implemented. A review of the corrective actions taken will be performed by the Commission at a later scheduled health services evaluation.

TO THE CHAIR OF THE WYOMING COUNTY LEGISLATURE:

As the appointing authority for the delivery of jail incarcerated individual health services pursuant to Correction Law section 501, the County Legislature shall review the above findings and conduct an inquiry into the fitness of the formally designated provider.

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 25th day of June 2025.



Yolanda Canty
Commissioner
Commission of Correction

YC:BB:vc
2024-M-0077
June 25, 2025