

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS ANNOUNCES IMMEDIATE PLANS TO ASSESS AND ENHANCE SUICIDE PREVENTION PROTOCOLS

The D.C. Department of Corrections (DOC) is taking immediate action to enhance its suicide prevention protocols in response to the recent deaths of two inmates housed at the Central Detention Facility, Paul Mannina and Walter Calloway. The investigations into the deaths of both men are ongoing. DOC Director Tom Faust reported today that “the Department is aggressively conducting a comprehensive review of all suicide prevention protocols and has taken steps to ensure all available resources are devoted to preventing future occurrences.” Director Faust is immediately instituting the following:

- ✓ Formally requesting the services of a national expert on suicide prevention through the National Institute of Corrections (U.S. Department of Justice). A comprehensive assessment will be conducted of all jail policies and protocols related to suicide prevention and will include medical/mental health and inmate custody operational areas.
- ✓ Formally requesting assistance from the Federal Bureau of Prisons/Psychological Services Unit in conducting a full evaluation of the current protocols relating to the institution’s mental health risk evaluations.
- ✓ Forming a joint behavioral health task force to conduct an internal review of DOC’s current policies and procedures around the medical/mental health screening of the inmate population. The task force will be co-chaired by Dr. Forrest Daniels, DOC Health Services Administrator and Dr. Beth Mynett, DOC Medical Director and include representatives from Unity Health Care, the jail’s current health services provider, and the D.C. Department of Mental Health.

- ✓ Conducting an internal review of all security operations protocols and training relating to suicide prevention.
- ✓ Increasing required security rounds from 30 to 15 minutes by correctional staff in the jail's intake and high maximum units.
- ✓ Unity Health Care's mental health specialists have conducted second level medical/mental health reviews on all inmates currently housed in the jail intake unit.
- ✓ Reviewing lines of communication between DOC and other agencies that may have contact with individuals prior to jail commitment (i.e. Courts, MPD, Mental Health, Human Services).

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Website Address: www.doc.dc.gov

