

Notes on The NYS Commission on Corrections

August 18, 2018 update

Key site: <http://www.scoc.ny.gov/index.htm>

There are currently (August 2018) only two commissioners (of three normally) appointed by the Governor:

Allen Riley, Chairman

Thomas Loughren, Commissioner

Both have long careers as police officers and as county sheriffs. Commissioner Riley served 27 years as a New York State Police officer, and more than 7 years as Sheriff of Madison County before being appointed in April 2018. Commissioner Loughren served for 40 years as a police officer and then Chenango County Sheriff. See SCOC: <http://www.scoc.ny.gov/bio.htm> .

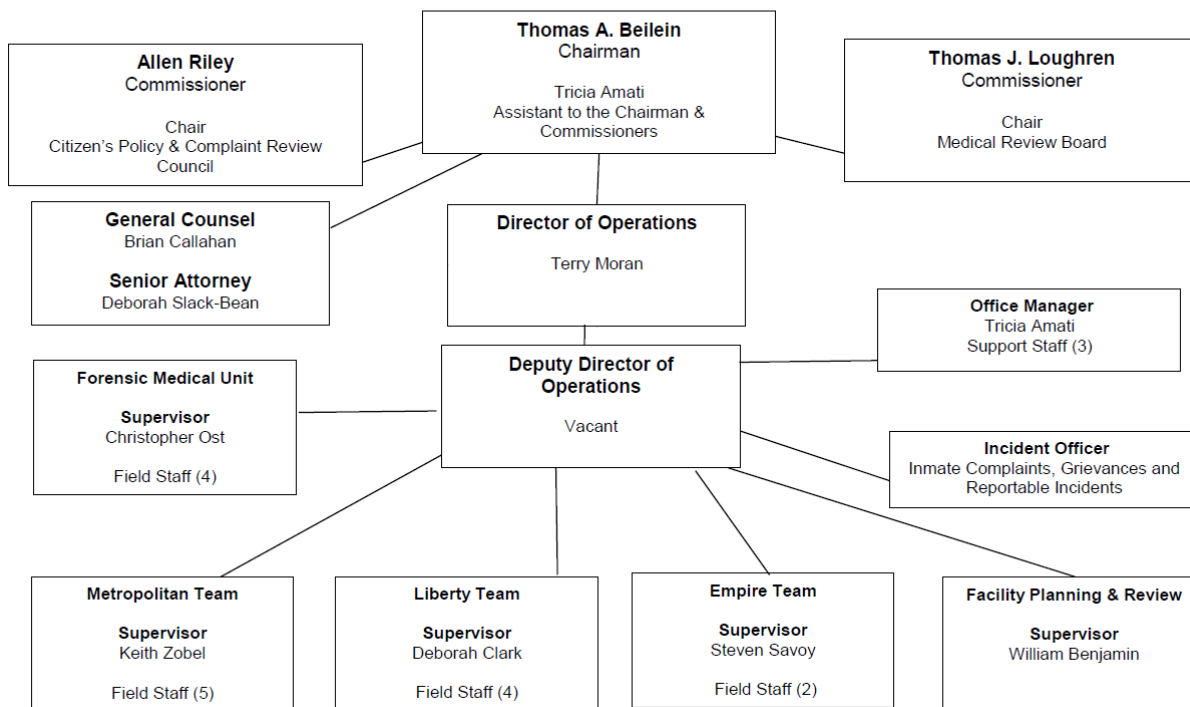
Both receive salaries as commissioners, in addition to pensions from their service as Sheriffs. For more details see: <http://www.scoc.ny.gov/bio.htm>

	2017 Salary	2018 Pension (as known)
Riley	90,800	\$66,752 (NYS Police)
Loughren	90,551	\$38,591 (County)

The commission has not updated its organizational chart online since the departure of Commissioner Beilein; who is serving as Chair of the Medical Review Board and Chair of the Citizens' Policy and

Complaint Review Council is not publicly know. This is the previous chart:

### New York State Commission of Correction Organizational Chart



Annual reports are at: <http://www.scoc.ny.gov/reports.htm>

Minutes of the last several years of meetings compiled by JUST are

at: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=12fJOc0YQiPLdSamdcJimATZJH0qO2fiw>

The monthly meetings are broadcast via a [webcast](#) once a month. The schedule for each Commission meeting is supposedly posted [here](#). A recent attempts to attend meetings however reveals the meetings are held in locations that are unannounced and inaccessible to the public, in clear contravention of NY State's [Open Meeting Law](#).

The commission is charged by law with reviewing all inmate grievances, mortality, jail capacity, evaluation of mental health services, oversight of all OCFS juvenile centers among other duties. It has a medical review board that meets quarterly, empowered by law to (extract from 2016 annual report):

“(1.) (a) Investigate and review the cause and circumstances of the death of any inmate of a correctional facility and,

(1.) (e) Investigate and report to the Commission on the condition of systems for the delivery of medical care to inmates of correctional facilities and where appropriate, recommend such changes as it shall deem necessary and proper to improve the quality and availability of such

medical care.”

The Commission and the Medical Review Board pursue the following objectives:

- Conduct timely and thorough investigations of all mortality and serious incident cases in the correctional system;
- Develop and administer cost-effective plans, projects, and programs to address identified problems in the health care delivery of all correctional facilities; and
- Maintain continuous oversight of correctional health care trends by the substantive response to inmate health care grievances and review of Medical Review Board recommendations.

The Medical Review Board meets on a quarterly basis. The 2016 MRB members included:

Phyllis Harrison-Ross, M.D., Chairperson (deceased January 2017)

Michael Baden, M.D.

Allison Bishop, Esq

Marjorie Blika, M.D

Scott S. Coyne, M.D

Bruce David, M.D.

Robert Kurtz, M.D.

There is in addition a *Citizen’s Policy and Complaint Review Council*. From the 2016 annual report:

The Council is comprised of nine members appointed by the Governor with advice and consent of the Senate. The statute requires that one member shall have served in the armed forces of the United States in any foreign war, conflict or military occupation, or shall be a duly licensed mental health professional who has experience of training with regard to Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome, an attorney admitted to practice in this state, a former inmate of a correctional facility, a former Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) resident, and a former OCFS employee who has directly supervised youth in a secure residential center operated by OCFS.

The Citizen’s Policy and Complaint Review Council (CPCRC) convenes monthly.

The 2016 CPCRC members included:

Thomas Loughren, Chair

Charles Burkes

Hernan Carvente

Thomas Cross

Nicholas LaBella, Jr

Douglas Landon, Esq.

Donald Nadler

Julie Scalione

Martin Stanton