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Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
Essex County Executive

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ESSEX COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY CIVILIAN TASK FORCE SCHEDULES IN-PERSON MEETING ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION *Public Meeting is Scheduled for Saturday, September 17th*

Essex County, NJ – The Essex County Correctional Facility Civilian Task Force will be hosting an in-person public meeting on Saturday, September 17th during which Dr. Chris Pernel and Professor Pam Valera will discuss mental health and addiction issues, focusing on medicine addressing substance use disorders of jail populations. They will be joined by expert Dr. Amesika Nyaku, co-director of the NJ MAT Center of Excellence.

The meeting will be held as follows:

Date: Saturday, September 17, 2022
Time: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Location: New Jersey Reentry Corporation Building
936 Bergen Street
Newark, NJ
Livestream: www.facebook.com/EssexCountyCivilianTaskForce

Individuals who would like to offer comment or ask questions during this public hearing may register to do so from 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., time permitting. Please be aware that this meeting and public comments will be limited to discussion regarding mental health and addiction-related issues. Individuals may register at <https://forms.gle/bjtdF9MAw5HkVVuB8>.

Written remarks and questions also may be submitted by email and may be addressed during the hearing. All submissions may be shared with the County and Essex County Correctional Facility administrators; please mark the statements as “confidential” if you wish them to remain private to the Task Force.

Those wishing to contact the Civilian Task Force, submit a complaint or want more information about the public meeting should e-mail JailTaskForce@admin.essexcountynj.org or call 973 877-8037. For more information about the Task Force, visit www.essexcountynj.org/corrections/ and click on the link for the “Civilian Task Force.”

The intent of the nine-member task force is to provide “transparency and accountability” of the ECCF staff, to protect the “lives, health, safety and rights of all people confined at the ECCF” and ensure the “conditions of their confinement are safe, sanitary, respectful and

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humane,” according to language in the ordinance. It will act independently of County government and have the authority to inspect the ECCF, interview corrections officers, inmates, detainees, and review systematic issues and concerns.

Members of the Task Force were nominated by Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. and appointed by the Board of County Commissioners in June 2020 through an established advice and consent procedure that is used to fill vacancies on all county boards and commissions.

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