



**MARYLAND**

Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

# MARYLAND COMMISSION ON CORRECTIONAL STANDARDS



Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor  
Robert L. Green, Secretary

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# **INTRODUCTION**

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Pursuant to Correctional Services Article, Section §8-110, HB 11/Ch. 54, 1999, the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards is required to submit an annual report on the Commission's activities. The bill language states: (a) The [Maryland] Commission [on Correctional Standards] shall report annually to the Governor and, subject to 2-1257 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on the activities of the Commission (b) Secretary and Local Governments – The Commission shall provide the Secretary and the governing body of each county and municipal corporation that has a correctional facility with a copy of its annual report.

On or before November 15 of each year, the Commission on Correctional Standards shall submit an annual report to the Secretary and Governor on the activities of the Commission.

# **OVERVIEW**

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The Commission on Correctional Standards (Commission) collaborates with criminal justice organizations in the development, measurement, monitoring and enforcement of statewide correctional standards. The Commission provides quality compliance audits that are firm, fair, consistent and promote correctional standards as a best practice. The Commission develops correctional employees through its duly authorized inspector training program and promotes accountability in correctional agencies' operations.

The Commission provides standards compliance audits for all local and state correctional facilities. Commission staff develop audit reports for the Commission's review and approval, provide technical assistance to correct areas of non-compliance, monitor compliance plans, and takes other such actions necessary to ensure continued compliance. The Commission develops legislatively mandated standards, conducts reviews, and updates existing standards. Commission staff provide duly authorized inspector training for local and state correctional staff, who assist in conducting standards compliance audits.

# **COMMISSION ACTIVITIES**

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## **Audits**

Due to the State's Elevated Level II operational status during the coronavirus pandemic, field audits were suspended, effective March 16, 2020, and remained suspended through FY 2021. During the suspension, ten Adult Detention Center audits, and six Adult Correctional Institution audits, and three Private Home Detention Monitoring Agencies, totaling 19 audits, were cancelled due to the State's operational status. All MCCS audits were rescheduled once the State returned to normal operations, on July 1, 2021.

During the suspension of field audits, the Remote Audit Process was drafted to incorporate the remote and on-site auditing processes and the utilization of various technology platforms to facilitate these processes. The Remote Audit Process was adopted by the Commission on January 28, 2021.

The Recognition of Achievement is awarded to all facilities achieving 100% compliance at the time of their initial audit or upon successful completion of a monitoring visit. The Recognition of Achievement continues to be a benchmark for correctional facilities in the state and represents a commitment to the standards and the audit process by managing officials. MCCS conducted monitoring reviews remotely, in order to ensure facilities met the established compliance plan from the initial audit. Facilities that received this award are outlined on page four.

## **Duly Authorized Inspector Training**

The Commission was unable to hold the 8-hour Duly Authorized Inspector Training session, during FY 2021. It is expected that the training will resume once the State returns to normal operations. The Duly Authorized Inspector Program continues to be a vital part of the Commission's success with conducting and managing the audit schedule. The training enables individuals to assist their facilities in preparation for Commission audits and aids with achieving the highest level of compliance, with a greater understanding of the audit process. Trained Duly Authorized Inspectors enhance facility procedures and provide an additional tool in conducting internal audits to assess compliance with the standards.

## **Fire Safety Officer Training**

The 8-hour Fire Safety Officer Training was not held, during FY 2021. The training is conducted in collaboration with the State Fire Marshal's office and for prospective Fire Safety Officers. The candidates complete the course, are certified, and receive training credits through the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission. The objective of the training is to provide Fire Safety Officers with the information necessary to construct, implement and document an internal fire safety program. The Fire Safety Officer Training program is vital for the maintenance of fire safety devices, equipment, and systems for fire prevention.

# **COMMISSION ACTIVITIES (Cont'd)**

## **Commission Meetings**

The 12 member Commission includes nine persons appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for three year terms. Correctional Services Article § 8-107 requires members to be appointed as follows: two citizen members; two state correctional officials; two local correctional officials; an elected official from a local government body; a member from the medical/mental health profession and an official of a national standards accrediting body. The Attorney General, Secretary of General Services, and Secretary of Budget and Management serve as ex officio members of the Commission. The board meets on a quarterly basis at pre-determined correctional facilities in the state. However, due to the State's Elevated Level II operational status, Commission meetings were held remotely, via videoconferencing, during FY 2021. The meetings consist of reviews of audit results including discussions with representatives from the audited facilities, the facilities' plans for corrective action, and appeals. Commission members review and approve updated standards as well as new standards mandated by the General Assembly.

271 <sup>st</sup> Commission Meeting	July 30, 2020	Remote (Google Meet)
272 <sup>nd</sup> Commission Meeting	November 19, 2020	Remote (Google Meet)
273 <sup>rd</sup> Commission Meeting	January 28, 2021	Remote (Google Meet)
274 <sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting	March 25, 2021	Remote (Google Meet)

The September 2020 Commission Meeting was cancelled due to a limited agenda. In May 2021, the Commission Meeting was not scheduled due to the Memorial Day holiday.

# ***COMMISSION ACTIVITIES (Cont'd)***

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## **Recognition of Achievement Award**

The following correctional facilities received the Recognition of Achievement award for FY 2021.

July 30, 2020	Baltimore County Department of Corrections
July 30, 2020	Charles County Detention Center and Annex
July 30, 2020	Harford County Detention Center
November 19, 2020	Eastern Pre-Release Unit
November 19, 2020	Washington County Detention Center
November 19, 2020	Somerset County Detention Center
November 19, 2020	Jessup Correctional Institution
November 19, 2020	Maryland Correctional Institution for Women
November 19, 2020	Cecil County Detention Center
November 19, 2020	Youth Detention Center
November 19, 2020	Central Maryland Correctional Facility
November 19, 2020	Allegany County Detention Center
November 19, 2020	Maryland Correctional Training Center
January 28, 2021	Office of Inmate Health and Clinical Services
March 25, 2021	Montgomery County Correctional Facility
March 25, 2021	Montgomery County Detention Center
March 25, 2021	Caroline County Detention Center
March 25, 2021	Maryland Correctional Institution-Jessup
March 25, 2021	Baltimore City Correctional Center
March 25, 2021	Prince George's County Department of Corrections
March 25, 2021	Prince George's County Community Release Center

## *CONCLUSION*

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The Commission continues to work in collaboration with regulatory agencies and criminal justice organizations to support its mission in the development, measurement, monitoring, and enforcement of correctional standards. Compliance plan results for the fiscal year demonstrates a high level of commitment by managing officials, the Commission Board and staff, during the pandemic. Reinstating annual training activities in critical areas, such as, standards compliance and fire safety, with the addition of thorough quality correctional facility audits and regular Commission meeting reviews, should ensure statewide standards compliance, once the state returns to normal operations. On April 7, 2021, Ms. Veronica Moore was appointed as the Executive Director for the Commission. Ms. Moore was previously the Assistant Executive Director and was the Acting Executive Director, since April 1, 2020. Through leadership, partnership, communication and advocating the use of standards as a management tool, we will make the State of Maryland's correctional system a model for the nation. Thank you for your support as we faithfully dedicate ourselves to carrying out this important mission for the citizens of Maryland.