



COUNTY OF ESSEX
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Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
Essex County Executive

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 2, 2023

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ESSEX COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY CIVILIAN TASK FORCE SCHEDULES IN-PERSON MEETING ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT AND BEST PRACTICES AT THE ECCF

Public Meeting is Scheduled for Wednesday, May 24th

Essex County, NJ – The Essex County Correctional Facility Civilian Task Force will host an in-person public meeting on Wednesday, May 24th. During the meeting, the Task Force, the ECCF administration, and guest expert panelists will discuss best practices, regionally and nationally, for mental health treatment among incarcerated individuals and those transferred to clinical settings. The guest speakers will include Frank Mazza, Department Director at the Hudson County Department of Housing & Reintegration; John Jacobi, Professor at Seton Hall Law, and Michelle Pelan, Head of Social Work at the Center for Court Innovation.

The meeting will be held as follows:

Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2023
Time: 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Location: New Jersey Reentry Corporation Building
936 Bergen Street
Newark, 07103 (INDOORS)
Livestream: www.facebook.com/EssexCountyCivilianTaskForce

Individuals who would like to offer comment or questions during this public hearing may register to do so from 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., time permitting. Please be aware that this meeting and public comments will be limited to discussion regarding mental health issues at the ECCF. **You may register here:** <https://forms.gle/bitdF9MAw5HkWVuB8>.

Written remarks and questions may also 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.”

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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 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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