Corrections Oversight Committee
Meeting Minutes Agenda for July 23, 2026, 9 a.m.
Patrick Henry Building, East Reading Room, Richmond, VA

I. Called to order at 9:01 am.

II. Roll call and quorum check:

a. The Honorable David Marsden
b. The Honorable "Danny" Diggs
c. The Honorable Jason Ballard
d. The Honorable Karen Keys-Gamarra
e. D'Archie Lewis
f. Marcus Elam
g. Amanda Howie
h. Joel Hughes
i. Juanita Shanks

III. Approved minutes from April 21, 2026, meeting.

IV. Various updates and presentations provided by VADOC staff:

a. Marcus Elam discussed STAR Awards and the C-Cap program here in Virginia, as well as recent meetings with Advocacy Groups. New leadership at VADOC has launched initiatives to listen and collaborate more with advocacy groups, and are noting concerns regarding medical care, mental health, use of force, etc. These meetings have prompted changes in VADOC policies in various facilities, including collective punishment, lifting of COVID-era visitation protocols, transferring inmate property free of charge between facilities, ending of enhanced sanctions for phone and transition privileges, and more.

b. Donna Shiftlett presented some of the complexities with the VADOC Earned Sentence Credit program. As of July 1, 2028, 95% of records are expected to be impacted. Her agency is working with software developers to accurately update, develop, and test CORIS accounts. She stresses the implementation will be challenging.

c. Dr. Steve Herrick provided an overview of healthcare/medical services overview. With no Medicaid or Medicare funds available to address the healthcare needs of

22-23,000 individuals in the Virginia system, VADOC relies on a special partnership with VCU to serve the needs of their patients. As Virginia's incarcerated population ages and grows sicker, the needs for specialized care and hospice become more urgent and costly. Recruitment for the healthcare roles is a challenge.

d. Catina Macklin spoke on some of VADOC's reentry programs offered and inmate eligibility. These programs involve assessments to bring inmate's attention to areas needed for reintegration, including anger management, cognitive restructuring, educational programming, workforce training, financial planning, and job interview coaching. The Intensive Re-entry program recently launched at Red Onion is going well.

V. Received update from OSIG Ombudsman Andrea Sapone. The final round of unannounced inspections were completed prior to the July 1, 2026 deadline, and all have been published on the OSIG website. Sapone reviewed the nature of and volume of complaints received between April and June 2026, noting an increase in high-urgency calls for inmates in crisis.

VI. Future agenda items – the Committee requested future presentations from the Parole Board, Sentencing Commission, and more information about healthcare – particularly mental health – and medical services. Sen. Marsden requested the opportunity for the Committee to speak before he meets with Governor Spanberger to update her as to the Committee's work.

VII. Public comments. No media and no members of the public were present outside of the speakers and the guests from Alabama.

VIII. Adjourned at 10:40 am.