

NEW YORK STATE COMMISSION OF CORRECTION

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In the Matter of the Death :  
:   
of Gasparino Godino, an inmate of:   
the Nassau County Correctional :   
Center :   
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FINAL REPORT OF THE  
NEW YORK STATE COMMISSION  
OF CORRECTION

TO: Sheriff Michael Sposato  
Nassau County Correctional Center  
100 Carman Avenue  
East Meadow, NY 11554

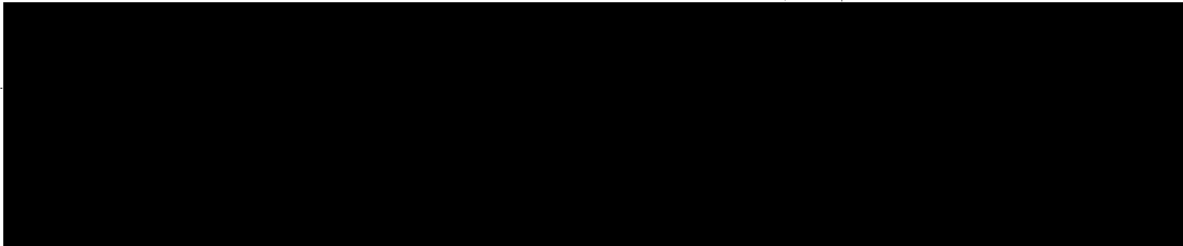
## GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, the Medical Review Board has reported to the NYS Commission of Correction pursuant to Correction Law, section 47(1)(d), regarding the death of Gasparino Godino who died on October 5, 2010 while an inmate in the custody of the Nassau County Sheriff at the Nassau County Correctional Center, the Commission has determined that the following final report be issued.

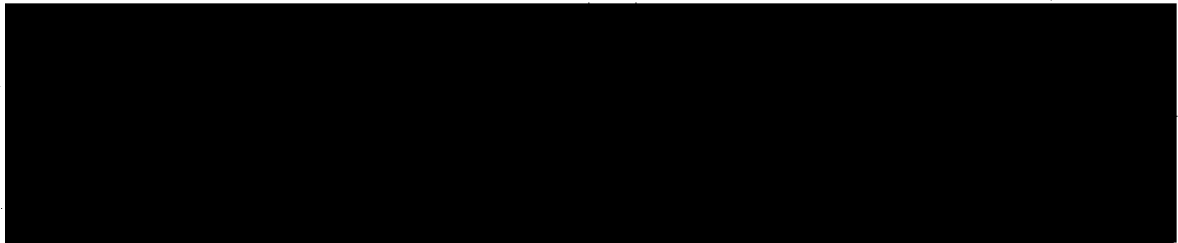
FINDINGS:

1. Gasparino Godino was a 31 year old male who died on 10/5/10 from a suicidal hanging while in the custody of the Sheriff of Nassau County at the Nassau County Correctional Center. Godino [REDACTED] and was clearly at risk for suicide attempt throughout his incarceration.
2. [REDACTED] In the instant offense, Godino was arrested for Robbery 2<sup>nd</sup> and Attempted Robbery 2<sup>nd</sup> after he had first attempted to steal a purse from a woman inside a grocery store, then fled to the parking lot where he stole a purse from another woman and fled the scene. When taken into custody, he was in possession of narcotics and was additionally charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7<sup>th</sup>.
3. [REDACTED]
4. [REDACTED]
5. Godino was taken into custody by the Nassau County Police on 10/4/10. At approximately 7:00 a.m., he was brought to the Nassau University Medical Center (NUMC) ER for a "fit for confinement" evaluation [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] "Fit for confinement" is not a valid medical or psychiatric term and in fact has no precise generally accepted definition.
6. Godino was booked into the Nassau County Police Detention Center at approximately 9:30 a.m. Godino was screened using the Suicide Prevention Screening Guidelines and scored a one for reporting the recent loss of his grandmother.
7. Godino was brought to the district court in Hempstead for arraignment and was remanded to the Nassau County Correctional Center on \$10,000 bail and \$20,000 bond. Godino was delivered to the Nassau County Correctional Center at approximately 6:20 p.m. Godino scored a 2 on his suicide screening with affirmative answers for a history of drug use and a history of depression. Godino was to be placed on constant supervision pending an evaluation from mental health.

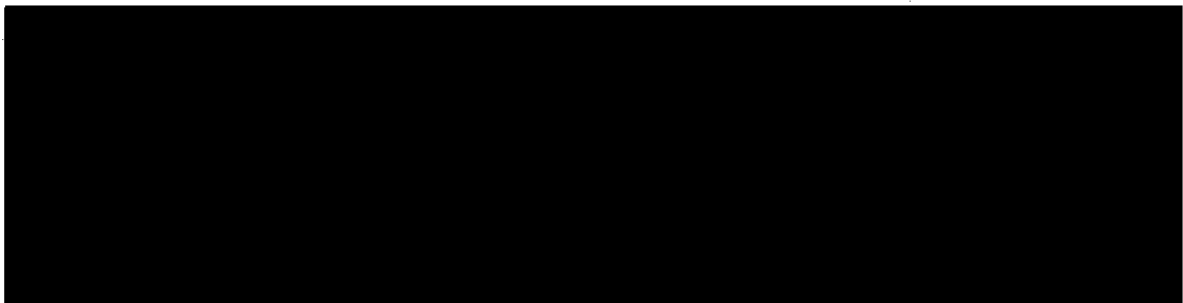
8.



9.



10.

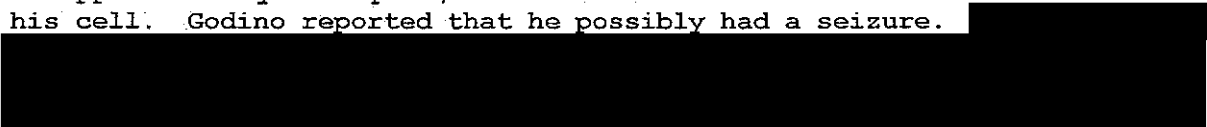


11. Godino was admitted to B2-A-12 new admission housing at approximately 12:30 a.m. on 10/5/10. B2-A is a new admission housing area designated for mental health observation. An officer continuously occupies the twenty (20) cell linear tier and conducts 15 minute rounds. Although Godino was placed there, the reason why, and the qualifying risk criteria (mental illness, withdrawal, etc.) Is not clear and is also not made clear to the assigned officer. There are no post orders specific to the assigned officer's duties and responsibilities respecting mental observation.

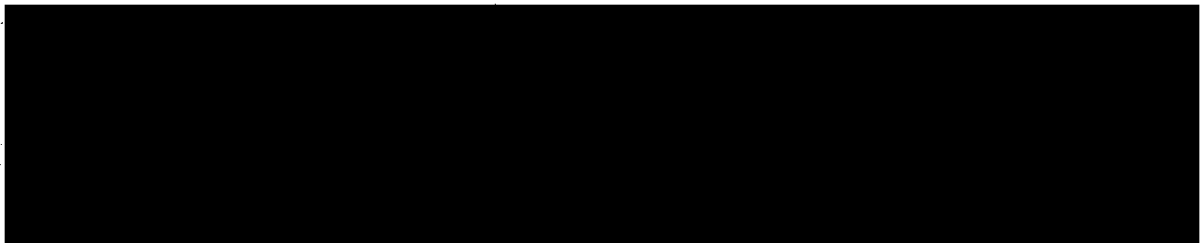
12.



13. At approximately 2:30 p.m., Officer D.S. observed Godino on the floor in his cell. Godino reported that he possibly had a seizure.



14.



15.

[REDACTED]

He was returned to his housing area at 3:42 p.m. However, this time was only recorded on a floor "activity sheet" and not in the housing area logbook as required by 9 NYCRR §7003.3(j).

16. Officer J.D. was assigned as the A block observation officer for the 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. tour on B2. At approximately 6:12 p.m. while conducting a round, he observed Godino hanging from his cell bars by a sheet tied around his neck. Officer J.D. ran to the end of the tier to notify Corporal M.D. that he had an inmate hanging.
17. Officer A.P. opened the cell block and Officer J.D. ran down to Godino's cell. Officer J.D. reached through the cell bars to try and lift Godino up. Officer J.C. responded and cut the ligature away with a 911 cut down tool. Godino then slumped down onto the bunk.
18. The cell door was opened and Officers A.M. and B.T. placed Godino on the floor and checked for vitals. Godino had no pulse or respirations. Officer B.T. began CPR doing chest compressions and Officer J.C. did respirations with the Ambu bag.

19.

[REDACTED]

20.

[REDACTED]

RECOMMENDATIONS:TO THE SHERIFF OF NASSAU COUNTY:

1. The Sheriff shall conduct a review with all staff to assure that housing unit logbook entries are consistently being made in compliance with 9 NYCRR §7003.3(j) and that any corrective actions previously taken with respect to logging and accountability are being adequately sustained.
2. The Sheriff shall conduct a coordinated review with Armor Correctional Health Services on procedures for the new admission mental health observation unit. Specific focus should be on establishing clear and explicit post orders, clear admission criteria and orientation and training for the supervising correction officers.

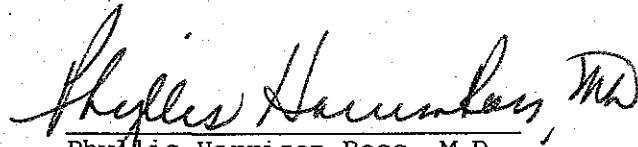
TO THE VICE PRESIDENT OF CORRECTIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, NASSAU UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER (NUMC):

1. Conduct a review of Godino's medical care on 10/5/10 with a focus on why his chart was not reviewed or available for the attending clinician. A

corrective plan of action shall be forwarded to the Medical Review Board for review.

2. Conduct a review of procedures to develop a process to document and track inmates who are not produced for scheduled clinical encounters. The procedure should include documenting why the inmate was not produced and what follow up measures have been taken to reschedule the clinical encounter.

WITNESS, HONORABLE PHYLLIS HARRISON-ROSS, M.D., Commissioner, NYS Commission of Correction, 80 Wolf Road, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, in the City of Albany, New York 12205 this 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2011.

  
Phyllis Harrison-Ross, M.D.  
Commissioner

PHR:mj  
10-M-137  
6/11

cc: James Capozziello, Vice President,  
Correctional Health Services,  
Nassau University Medical Center