

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

December 1, 2022

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sheriff Barry H. Babb
Mr. Duke Blackburn – Chairman
Mr. J.C. “Spud” Bowen
Mr. Chris Clark
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Ester Fleming Jr.
Mr. Larry Haynie
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Sheriff Donnie Pope
Mr. Luis “Lou” M. Solis Jr.
Mr. W. D. Strickland
Ms. Rose Williams

CONFERENCE CALLS:

Ms. Janelle King
Mr. John Mayes
Mr. Bill White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Guy A. Daughtrey
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse
Mr. Alton Russell

ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE:

Ms. Tina Piper, Attorney General’s Office

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Alan Watson, Chief of Staff
Mr. Peter Adams, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Jamie Clark, Director of Engineering and Construction Services
Ms. Latoya Doucette, Deputy Human Resources Director
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs
Mr. Cliff Hogan, Director, Data Unit
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Executive Assistant
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Ms. Dawn Mock, OIT
Mr. John Richey, Deputy Director, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Henry Rutherford III, Director of OIT
Mr. Chris Tiller, Director of GCI
Mr. Rob Thrower, Legislative Liaison
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain

VISITORS:

Ms. Jenna Gizelle, Citizen
Ms. Joyce White, Development Authority of Monroe County

First, Chairman Duke Blackburn called to order the December meeting for the Board of Corrections (“the Board”) at 10:00 a.m. and Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi, recorded the minutes. Chairman Blackburn then asked Chaplain Steven Turner to deliver the invocation. Following such, Chairman Blackburn led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed all guests and visitors, and the Board meeting, being duly convened, proceeded with business.

Chairman Blackburn presented together the December 2022 Agenda and the November 2022 Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. W. D. Strickland made a motion to approve both the Agenda and Minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams and Mr. Wayne Dasher. The Agenda and Minutes were voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

To begin the Commissioner’s Report, Chief of Staff Alan Watson started by stating that Commissioner Timothy C. Ward was attending a conference and that he would present the

Commissioner's Report in his absence. Chief of Staff Watson continued by discussing the Commissioner's Dashboard, which is a four-page overview highlighting key areas and significant events within the Agency.

Chief of Staff Alan Watson then asked Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Health Services, to give an Office of Health Services Update. Mr. Sauls began his presentation by discussing Pharmacy, Mental Health, Dental Health, and Physical Health. Some of the highlights discussed were reducing barriers to access mental health care, reducing missed appointments, and no shows, reducing rescheduled appointments, the National Centurion Corporate CQI Fair, and the Enamel Team which is a dental response team comprised of dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants.

Mr. Sauls concluded with discussing the deployment to facilities to support the local dental team, discussing reducing any backlog for dental care or rescheduled missed appointments, Wellpath Now, virtual telehealth emergency physician consult, and the Coastal Mobile Surgical Unit update.

This concluded Mr. Sauls' report.

Next, Chief of Staff Alan Watson asked Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner, Inmate Services Division, to give an Inmate Services Division Update.

Mr. Sanders began his presentation by discussing the Boots to Business (B2B) Program. Some of the highlights discussed were that the program is delivered by VECTR Center from Robins Air Force Base's Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) in conjunction with Central Georgia Technical College (CGTC). Also mentioned was the grant funded by the Small Business Association (SBA) which provides free entrepreneurship training to any veteran, no matter their incarceration or discharge status.

Mr. Sanders continued by discussing transitioning for military veterans, expanding or purchasing a business available to veterans of any era/status, National Guard, Reservists, and spouses. In addition, Mr. Sanders discussed that the program is delivered over 1 or 2 days, completed first SBA Boots-to-Business training at Johnson State Prison with 40 incarcerated veterans, and four other institutions are currently being scheduled with more to come.

To close, Mr. Sanders discussed Boots to Business Topics: Introduction to Business Ownership, Basics of Opportunity Recognition, Market Research, Economics of Small Business Start Up, Legal Considerations, Financing Your Business, Next Steps, and Resources to Support You.

This concluded Mr. Sanders' report.

Chief of Staff Alan Watson then asked Mr. John Richey, Deputy Director of the Office of Professional Standards (OPS), to give a brief OPS update. Some of the highlights from Mr. Richey's presentation were discussing arrests, the Ocmulgee Task Force, captures, warrants, and Operation DON Fall. Operation DON Fall is the Georgia Department of Corrections Intelligence Unit that, through the analysis of prison phone systems and contraband phones utilized by inmates, identified several inmates and civilians as members or associates of several subsets of Bloods CSG's. Mr. Richey conclude his presentation by discussing the initial case information, the intelligence review, the defendants, and the Enterprise.

This concluded Mr. Richey's report.

Chief of Staff Alan Watson then asked Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner, Facilities Division, to give a Facilities Division update.

Mr. Holt began his presentation saying that Ms. Christina Lunebach will assist in presenting the Reducing Costs and Increasing Safety through Video Court Hearings presentation.

Some of the highlights discussed from Mr. Holt and Ms. Lunebach's presentation were the initial identified project initiatives, process needs, legal conferencing, and video hearings. Also discussed were the Court Services Team and their three primary responsibilities, the Court Services Unit,

court production orders, project implementation, Phase 1: legal conference, Phase 2: video hearings, Phase 3: statewide implementation, and Phase 4: enhancements (current). Mr. Holt closed with discussing data review for Fiscal Year 2022, 50 out of 50 judicial circuits running video hearings, the types of hearings completed for Fiscal Year 2022, the growth of video and legal conference usage for July 2019 through July 2022, and the total savings for Fiscal Year 2021 and 2022.

This concluded Mr. Holt and Ms. Lunebach's presentation and the Commissioner's report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Duke Blackburn began the Chairman's Report by asking the members to review and discuss the dates and location on the 2023 Board Calendar.

Chairman Blackburn stated that he had received the nominations for the 2023 Executive Officer positions from Sheriff Barry Babb, Chair of the Nominations Committee.

Sheriff Barry Babb stated that the Nominations Committee met and agreed to nominate Mr. Larry Haynie as Chairman, Mr. Wayne Dasher as Vice Chairman, and Mr. Ester Fleming, Jr. as the Secretary for the 2023 Nomination of Officers.

Chairman Blackburn asked for a motion to approve the nominations. Mr. Wayne Dasher made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. J.C. "Spud" Bowen. The nominations were voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

Following such, Chairman Blackburn thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as the former Chairman for the last two years. Chairman Blackburn thanked the Board, the Department of Corrections, and its staff.

Under Old or New Business, Chairman Blackburn asked Mr. Peter Adams, Assistant Commissioner of Administration and Finance Division, to present a property resolution on the Warden's Home located in Milledgeville, Baldwin County, Georgia.

Mr. Adams stated that Inez Curtis and Sylvia Williams holds title to 0.5 acre property in Milledgeville, Baldwin County, Georgia, and the property is described in a deed and survey that is included within the Board package, and the Georgia Department of Corrections is desirous of acquiring the property for the Warden's Home. Mr. Adams then asked the Board to approve the property resolution.

Chairman Blackburn asked for a motion to approve the property resolution. Mr. W. D. Strickland made a motion to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Sheriff Stacy Jarrard. The resolution was voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

To close, Chairman Blackburn reminded all board members to file their Annual Affidavit of Public Officer before January 31, 2023.

There being no further business, Chairman Blackburn reminded the Board that the next Board of Corrections meeting is on January 5, 2023, at State Offices South at Tift College, in Forsyth, Georgia.

The board meeting was adjourned.

Duke Blackburn, Chairman

Andrea Shelton, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison