

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

February 4, 2016

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Rose Williams, Chairman
Mr. Lee Anderson
Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. Mac Collins
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Carl L. Franklin
Sheriff Roger Garrison
Mr. Larry E. Haynie
Mr. John Mayes
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse
Mr. Alton Russell
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Mr. W. D. Strickland
Mr. Jerry Willis
Ms. Rocio D. Woody

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Sonja Allen-Smith
Mr. Bruce Hudson
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Gregory C. Dozier, Chief of Staff
Dr. L. C. "Buster" Evans, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Scott Poitevint, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Assistant Commissioner
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Mr. Philip Carter, Correctional Officer
Mr. Hal Gibson, Director of Engineering & Construction Services
Ms. Diane Hassett, Superintendent of Colwell PDC
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Office of Public Affairs
Mr. Ahmed Holt, Warden of Phillips State Prison
Mr. Walter Hudson, Office of Professional Standards
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Mr. Jim Laine, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Director of Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Mike Riley, Office of Professional Standards
Ms. Sharon Shaver, Statewide PREA Administrator
Ms. Patricia Smith, Director of Special Projects
Mr. Nick Spates, GDC Tech Support
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain
Mr. Norman Wilson, Executive Director of GCI

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General

VISITORS:

Mr. Gary Cobb, Executive Director of Broken Shackles Ranch
Ms. Jackie Franklin, Wife of Carl Franklin
Mr. Larry Miccolis, Schriever Group, LLC
Mr. Bobby Spentzos, Schriever Group, LLC

Chairman Rose Williams called the February meeting of the Board of Corrections to order at 10:00 a.m. and Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi, recorded the minutes. Chairman Williams asked Chaplain Steven Turner to give the invocation.

Chairman Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance, recognized all guests and visitors and the Board meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed to business.

Chairman Williams presented the February Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Mr. Lee Anderson and the Agenda was voted approved by the Board as presented.

Chairman Williams presented the January Minutes to the Board for approval. Secretary Alton Russell made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Vice Chairman Jerry Willis and the Minutes were voted approved by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Chief of Staff Gregory C. Dozier began by stating that Commissioner Bryson had a meeting at the Governor's Office and therefore he would present the Commissioner's report in Commissioner Bryson's absence. Mr. Dozier then referred to the Upcoming Events calendar pointing out key events such as the kick-off of the Legislative Session and several upcoming BCOT graduation dates. Next, Mr. Dozier presented a four page overview highlighting key areas within the agency such as inmate population, inmate security levels, bed utilization, safe and secure facilities, inmate services, fire services and Correctional Industries.

Next, Ms. Sharon Shaver, Statewide PREA Coordinator, gave an update on the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). Ms. Shaver began her report with general information about PREA. Ms. Shaver stated that PREA passed in 2003 and the final rule was published on June 20, 2012, which provides national standards to prevent, detect, and respond to prison rape and establishes a zero tolerance policy. Ms. Shaver stated that PREA became enforceable on August 20, 2013. Ms. Shaver highlighted standards regarding prevention, planning, responsive planning, training and education. In addition, Ms. Shaver discussed screening for risk of sexual victimization & abusiveness, reporting, official response following a report, investigations, discipline, medical and mental care, data collection and review, audits and state compliance. Finally, Ms. Shaver explained the Georgia Department of Correction's PREA unit organizational structure, audit schedules, accomplishments, financials, statistics and external partnerships.

Immediately following, Assistant Commissioner Timothy C. Ward presented the Facilities Division's update by introducing Warden Ahmed Holt of Phillips State Prison to present a facility overview. Warden Holt began his presentation by stating the mission of Phillips State Prison is to ensure public safety and effectively house offenders while operating a safe and secure facility by housing inmates who have had management problems at other prisons or centers and those who could pose a risk if housed elsewhere. Mr. Holt stated that Phillips State Prison provides all levels of Mental Health services to include Level IV, Crisis Stabilization and is the host facility for Atlanta Medical Center and Phillips Transitional Center. Furthermore, Phillips State Prison also hosts a GCI printing plant. To close, Warden Holt discussed special missions, operating capacity, lifers, staffing, housing, reentry efforts and the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS).

Next, Dr. L. C. "Buster" Evans, Assistant Commissioner of Inmate Services talked about the phenomenal job that Mr. Phillip Carter, Correctional Officer at Colwell PDC, was doing on the Canine Rescued Program. Dr. Evans explained that he asked Colwell PDC to present to the Board so that the Board could hear about the Canine Rescued Program. Prior to the overview, Dr. Evans presented an Employee Recognition plaque on behalf of the Board of Corrections and Commissioner Homer Bryson to Mr. Phillip Carter. The plaque was given to Mr. Carter for "*Going Above and Beyond the Call of Duty.*" A photo was taken of the plaque presentation.

Thereafter, Dr. Evans introduced Ms. Diane Hassett, Superintendent of Colwell PDC, and asked her and Mr. Phillip Carter to give a brief overview of the Colwell PDC Canine Rescued Program. Ms. Hassett stated the program is the first dog rescue program within the Georgia Department of Corrections that is partnered with the Humane Society's Mountain Shelter and Castoff Pet Rescue. The mission is to rescue and rehabilitate dogs from the program's partners that would otherwise be euthanized while providing a positive impact on the offenders within the Colwell PDC. To conclude, there was a brief show and tell session with two canines and their handlers.

This concluded the Commissioner's Report.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Chairman Rose Williams began by stating that the Committee Presentation Schedule was in the board booklets and that each committee will need to present on their scheduled date.

Next, Chairman Williams continued with any Old or New Business by asking Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel of Legal Services, to present eight property resolutions. Ms. Ammons stated the eight resolutions are the Athens Probation Office, Dublin Probation Office, Dalton Probation Office Northwest Day Reporting Center, Lafayette Probation Office Day Reporting Center, Rome Probation Office Day Reporting Center, Rouse Probation Office Day Reporting Center, Gainesville Probation Office Day Reporting Center and Lamar Pre-Release Center.

Ms. Ammons gave a brief description of each property and stated the Georgia Department of Community Supervision is interested in using these buildings and premises in support of its mission and the Georgia Department of Corrections has ceased operations on these properties and has no intent to use these properties in the future. The Georgia Department of Corrections is willing to transfer custody of these properties to the Georgia State Properties Commission as of July 1, 2016 and asks for Board approval to transfer custody of these properties.

Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve all eight resolutions, which was then seconded by Mr. Lee Anderson and Mr. Alton Russell, and all eight property resolutions were voted approved by the Board as presented.

Mr. Wayne Dasher asked to present a resolution and honor the lifework of Mr. Joe Kenny Boyett, Woodshop Instructor of Ware State Prison, by dedicating and naming the woodshop building on the grounds of Ware State Prison as the “Joe Kenny Boyett Wood Shop.”

Mr. Wayne Dasher made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Jerry Willis and was voted approved by the Board.

Chairman Williams reminded the members that they can contribute to the Board of Corrections Flower Fund and the Georgia Prison Warden’s Association Scholarship Fund. In addition, the next board meeting will be on March 3rd in Forsyth at State Offices South at Tift College.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rose Williams, Chairman

Alton Russell, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison