

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

January 7, 2016

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Rose Williams, Chairman
Ms. Sonja R. Allen-Smith
Mr. Lee Anderson
Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. Mac Collins
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Sheriff Roger Garrison
Mr. Larry E. Haynie
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse
Mr. Alton Russell
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Mr. W. D. Strickland
Mr. Jerry Willis
Ms. Rocio D. Woody

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Carl L. Franklin
Mr. Bruce Hudson
Mr. John Mayes

CONFERENCE CALL:

Sheriff Stacy Jarrard

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Commissioner Homer Bryson
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
Mr. Marty Allen, Warden of Valdosta State Prison
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Mr. Terry Edge, Training Director
Mr. Hal Gibson, Director of Engineering & Construction Services
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Mr. Jim Laine, Director of Human Resources
Ms. Loanita McCranie, Operations Analyst
Mr. Johnnie Miller, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Director of Office of Professional Standards
Ms. Mitzi Richards-Kellum, Assistant Director of Transitional Services
Ms. Vonnie Stewart, Executive Assistant
Ms. Shirlyn Thomas, Superintendent Valdosta Transitional Center
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain
Mr. Mark Waldron, Office of Planning
Mr. Norman Wilson, Executive Director of GCI
Ms. Nikia Woodbury, Valdosta Transitional Center

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Ms. Tina Piper, Attorney General's Office

VISITORS:

Ms. Melissa Hargrove, Sr. Acct. Executive, NORESCO
Ms. Kristen Kinney, Budget Analyst, OPB
Mr. Stacey Williams, Director, Admin Services Cherokee Sheriff's Office

Chairman Rose Williams called the January 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 and recognized all guests and visitors. Board Attorney Joseph Drolet introduced Attorney Tina Piper who will be working in the Attorney

General's Office. Next, Chairman Williams confirmed that Sheriff Stacy Jarrard was in attendance via conference call, and the Board meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed to business.

Chairman Williams presented the January Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Alton Russell made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Ms. Sonja Allen-Smith and the Agenda was voted approved by the Board as presented.

Chairman Williams presented the December Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. 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

Commissioner Homer Bryson began his report stating the Upcoming Events calendar is located in the back of the booklets. Next, Commissioner Bryson presented a four page overview PowerPoint highlighting keys 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, Dr. L. C. "Buster" Evans, Assistant Commissioner of Inmate Services, introduced Ms. Mitzi Richards-Kellum, Assistant Director of Transitional Services and Ms. Loanita McCranie, Operations Analyst, will give an update on the G.O.A.L. Device Rollout. Ms. Richards-Kellum began the Inmate Technology Services and G.O.A.L. Device Program with J-Pay presentation with the vision for use of JPay services. Ms. Richards-Kellum stated that JPay offers a variety of services that the Georgia Department of Corrections can utilize through its kiosk in every facility.

The seven inch device is a method to deliver the majority of services such as educational material, GDC specific documents, downloading email, drafting outgoing email, downloading video messages, and downloading music, magazines, and in the near future, books and newspapers. Also, the JPay (JP5) device has many benefits such as improving offender morale, helping to promote family relationships, teaching offenders computer skills and providing the offenders with a device that can be utilized in his or her living unit.

Next, Ms. Loanita McCranie continued the presentation by talking about the timeline that the G.O.A.L. Device would rollout to specific facilities. In addition, Ms. McCranie talked about several great benefits of the device such as free educational videos, variety of educational programming, developing classes, extending our educational footprint, enabling offenders to self-pace, extra study time and reducing recidivism by better preparing offenders for re-entry.

To conclude, Ms. Richards-Kellum stated when all offenders have a device, the Georgia Department of Corrections will have the ability to distribute new initiatives to the entire offender population at one time, target specific groups for special initiatives, provide incentives and disciplinary measures based on popularity of the device, help build the skills of all offenders through new technology and prepare offenders for reentry through increased correspondence with family and friends.

Immediately following, Assistant Commissioner Timothy C. Ward presented the Facilities Division update by introducing Warden Marty Allen of Valdosta State Prison to present a facility overview. Warden Allen began his presentation by stating the mission of Valdosta State Prison is to protect the public by maintaining custody of offenders, while providing academic and vocational education, mental health services, specialized counseling programs, community details and work release transition to offenders. Some highlights discussed were the history of the facility, staffing, transitional center and some facility enhancements.

Thereafter, Assistant Commissioner Timothy C. Ward presented an Employee Recognition plaque on behalf of the Board of Corrections and Commissioner Homer Bryson to Ms. Nikia Woodbury, Counselor at Valdosta Transitional Center. The plaque was given to Ms. Woodbury for "*Going Above and Beyond the Call of Duty.*" A photo was taken of the plaque presentation.

This concluded the Commissioner's Report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Rose Williams began by asking each board member to review the 2016 Board of Corrections calendar that was presented for approval. There being no discussion regarding meeting dates or meeting location, Chairman Williams asked for a motion to approve. Ms. Sonja Allen-Smith made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Vice Chairman Jerry Willis, and the 2016 Board of Corrections calendar with dates and locations was voted approved by the Board as presented.

Next, Chairman Williams gave an update on the Georgia Prison Warden's Association (GPWA) Scholarship Fund and the Board of Corrections Flower Fund. Chairman Williams stated we've collected \$500.00 towards the GPWA Scholarship Fund and we have a remaining balance of \$465.15 left in the Board of Corrections Flower Fund. Board members were asked to donate to either fund if they chose to do so. Also, Chairman Williams gave the members the 2016 Committee Assignment list. Chairman Williams stated that she assigned each member to at least two committees and at least one committee of their choice. In addition, she asked that each committee chair reach out to their committee to start planning their 2016 presentations.

To conclude, Chairman Williams continued with any Old or New Business. There was none so Chairman Williams reminded the members the next board meeting will be on February 4th 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