

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

**January 5, 2017
Forsyth, Georgia**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Jerry Willis, Chairman
Mr. Mike Coggins
Mr. Mac Collins
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Carl Franklin
Mr. Larry Haynie
Mr. John Mayes
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse
Mr. Alton Russell
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Mr. W. D. Strickland
Ms. Rose Williams
Ms. Rocio D. Woody

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Duke Blackburn
Sheriff Roger Garrison
Mr. Bruce Hudson
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard

CONFERENCE CALL:

Mr. Christopher Clark

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Gregory C. Dozier, Commissioner
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Scott Poitevint, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Jack "Randy" Sauls, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Chief of Staff
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Mr. Dan Brown, Director of Office of Information Technology
Mr. Brian Davis, Canine Handler
Mr. Terry Edge, Director of Training
Mr. Hal Gibson, Director of Engineering & Construction Services
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs
Mr. Brad Hooks, Assistant Executive Director of Operations for Georgia Correctional Industries
Mr. Brad Johnson, Statewide Canine Coordinator
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Mr. Tom McElhenney, Manager of Transitional Services
Mr. Clay Nix, Assistant Director of Office of Professional Standards
Ms. Amy Pataluna, Georgia Correctional Industries
Mr. Clinton Perry Jr., Warden of Central State Prison
Ms. Betsy Thomas, Director of Human Resources
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General

VISITORS:

Ms. Sonja Allen-Smith, Governor's Office of Planning & Budget
Ms. Jackie Franklin, Wife of Carl Franklin
Ms. Kristen Kinney, Governor's Office of Planning & Budget

Chairman Jerry Willis 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 Willis confirmed that Board Member Christopher Clark was connected via conference call. Chairman Willis asked Chaplain Steven Turner to deliver the invocation.

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

Chairman Willis presented the January Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Vice Chairman Alton Russell, and the Agenda was voted approved by the Board as presented.

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

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Gregory C. Dozier began his report by discussing the packets that were included in each of the Board member's booklets. The packet contained facilities that were within each Board member district. The Board members who are identified as Members at Large, have packets containing all state facilities. Commissioner Dozier stated that the packets will be helpful to Board members when they visit facilities because the packets include the contact information for each state facility. Board members were encouraged to visit each facility around the state, so that they can get to know wardens and correctional staff, observe Georgia's facilities, and witness notable accomplishments such as GED graduations and other programs.

Next, Commissioner Dozier stated that the General Assembly will commence next week and the House Appropriations Committee had their first hearing yesterday. At the hearing, we presented our overview of the Commissioner's dashboard which included education and vocational programs that are looking positive in all categories. The GED, vocational programs, and OJT are ahead of schedule also. In addition, Commissioner Dozier mentioned that a copy of the Georgia Correctional Industries audit was given to each board member and the Board will be given an update at the next board meeting. Commissioner Dozier reiterated that the agency will report any changes that were made to address the audit findings, but there were no discoveries of fraud. Commissioner Dozier restated the positive savings that were found in the audit. Finally, Commissioner Dozier mentioned the law enforcement pay raises and presented a brief summary of the Commissioner's dashboard, which is a three-page overview highlighting key areas within the agency.

Commissioner Dozier stated that Board members will notice that the Department of Corrections' media campaign is pushing to use new terminology, including "Beyond the Walls," "Beyond the Call," and "Beyond the Uniform." Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs, further explained and presented this new terminology.

Ms. Heath explained that the Department developed the terminology to gear the consistency of its messaging towards a media and advertising campaign. Ms. Heath stated that a former parolee told her that he took advantage of several programs that were offered while incarcerated. The former parolee mentioned that during incarceration, offenders constantly see the "uniformed individuals" every day and it was nice to see volunteers inside the facilities not wearing uniforms. Ms. Heath stated that the agency's future messaging will use "Beyond the (blank)" terminology, filling in with words appropriate to its programs and efforts.

Ms. Heath discussed that the purpose of "Beyond the Walls" is to display what happens to an offender upon release who took advantage of programs that were offered during his or her incarceration. Ms. Heath further explained that the agency will feature a "Beyond the Walls" story each month. The first story featured today is former inmate John Turner, who served a fifteen-year sentence on drug charges. While at Walker State Prison, Mr. Turner led the arts and crafts program, completed the welding program, and participated in the Faith and Character Based program. Mr. Turner was released from prison in 2015.

Immediately following, the Board viewed a short video about Mr. Turner's story. In addition, an article was included in the Board members' booklets.

To conclude, Ms. Heath stated that the agency will continue to follow men and women that were previously incarcerated and give updates demonstrating its successful programs.

Commissioner Dozier reminded the Board members that the Swearing-in Ceremonies for Board members Christopher Clark and Mike Coggins will be held on January 12th at the State Capitol in Atlanta.

Subsequently, Commissioner Dozier introduced Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner, Inmate Services Division, to introduce Mr. Tom McElhenney, Manager of Transitional Services, to give the Driver's License presentation. Assistant Commissioner Sanders stated that Mr. McElhenney will present on one piece of how the agency creates opportunities for positive change. The agency's focus is to ensure that upon release, individuals are issued appropriate identification documents including a driver's license, birth certificate, and social security cards. Therefore, the agency created a central repository through Headquarters Central Office to store documents in an effort to send to institutions, for issuing, appropriate identification documents just prior to release. Assistant Commissioner Sanders, introduced Mr. Tom McElhenney to discuss the issuance of driver's licenses.

Mr. McElhenney stated that the agency collaborates with the Department of Driver's Services (DDS) to issue a driver's license or identification card to returning citizens prior to release. Mr. McElhenney highlighted that identification cards or driver's licenses were issued to 2,519 transitional center releases in Fiscal Year 2016. In addition, Mr. McElhenney discussed the creation of a data exchange with DDS to determine the status of valid, expired, suspended or terminated driver's licenses. Mr. McElhenney further explained the three phases to obtain a valid driver's license:

Phase 1: "Secured ID" - Offenders have previously (before incarceration) been issued a "Secured ID" (meets Federal "Real ID" criteria) - valid facial and signature images are on file with DDS

Phase 2: "Unsecured ID" (has not yet met Federal "Real ID" criteria) - valid facial and signature images are on file with DDS

Phase 3: "Unsecured ID", facial and signature images are not on file with DDS

To close, Mr. McElhenney discussed the standard cost to the Georgia Department of Corrections for each identification or driver's license, the fee waiver process for offenders validated as an armed services veteran, and the average cost that the Georgia Department of Corrections pays for the issuance of identification cards and driver's licenses.

Thereafter, Mr. Ricky Myrick, Assistant Commissioner of Facilities Division, introduced Warden Clinton Perry, Central State Prison, to present a facility update. Warden Perry began his overview by discussing the history of Central State Prison. Warden Perry stated that Central State Prison houses medium security male offenders, mental health III offenders, lifers, and visually/hearing impaired offenders. Central State Prison is also a sex offender release facility.

Additionally, Warden Perry discussed the mission of Central State Prison to ensure public safety and effectively house general population and mental health level III offenders. Warden Perry also explained that Central State Prison operates a Georgia Correctional Industries garment factory and a central tool/vehicle storage and warehouse for the offender construction division. Central State Prison is also a host facility for Macon Transitional Center. To close, Warden Perry discussed security and non-security personnel, housing units, the GCI garment plant, mobile construction, firing range training, educational and vocational programs, OJT automotive mechanic, Georgia braille transcribers, and reentry efforts for offenders.

Next, Assistant Commissioner Ricky Myrick, presented the "Beyond the Call" employee recognition plaque on behalf of the Board of Corrections and Commissioner Gregory C. Dozier to Mr. Brad Johnson, Statewide Canine Coordinator and Mr. Brian Davis, Canine Handler.

Assistant Commissioner Myrick stated that Mr. Johnson and Mr. Davis were honored for assisting in a case where two law enforcement officers from Lavonia, Georgia were shot in the line of duty but survived their injuries. Assistant Commissioner Myrick explained that the two officers made a traffic stop on what turned out to be a stolen vehicle. When the perpetrator exited the vehicle, he shot both officers and ran off on foot. At this point, the agency's canine unit was called to assist its law enforcement partners.

Assistant Commissioner Myrick stated that the canine unit's initial mission was to track individuals who run from the agency's custody; however, because the unit is so good at what it does, it is often called to assist other law enforcement agencies with similar situations, including fleeing felons or escapes from jail.

Assistant Commissioner Myrick continued by emphasizing there is nothing more dangerous in law enforcement than a man on the run, especially when that individual has already shot two officers. Nevertheless, the agency's canine guys did not hesitate: They responded to the scene, grabbed their dogs and equipment, and hit the woods, recapturing the individual without one shot fired by them and preventing anyone else from being hurt.

Assistant Commissioner Myrick stated that this situation is not out of the ordinary for the canine unit, however, the agency would like to thank them for what they do every day in their mission. In addition, Assistant Commissioner Myrick honorably mentioned Mr. Brant Benoit, Canine Handler, who also assisted with this situation but was unable to attend the Board meeting. A photo was taken of the plaque presentation.

This concluded the Commissioner's Report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Jerry Willis began the Chairman's report by advising the Board members that the 2017 Board calendar dates and locations and the 2017 Committee Assignment Update are in the Board booklets. In addition, there was a collection for the Georgia Prison Warden's Association scholarship fund and the Board of Corrections flower fund.

There being no Old or New Business, Chairman Willis made a few announcements that included thanking the Board members for their nominations and the opportunity to serve as Chairman. In addition, Chairman Willis asked Ms. Sonja Allen-Smith, Director of the Governor's Office of Planning Budget, to say a few words regarding her resignation on the Board. Also, Chairman Willis thanked Board Member Rose Williams for her role as the Chairman for the past two years. Lastly, Board Member Carl Franklin thanked the Board members for their care and concern during the time that he and his wife were faced with unforeseen medical issues.

To close, Chairman Willis reminded the Board to file their annual affidavits for 2016 and:

- The next Board of Corrections meeting is on February 2nd in Forsyth;
- The Board Committee presentation schedules will be forthcoming;
- A date for the Reentry Dorm Ceremony for Chaplain Katie Wright will be forthcoming;
- The inmate art show will be on February 13-14th at the Twin Towers in Atlanta; and
- The Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Cookout will be in Glennville

There being no further business, Chairman Willis asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Ms. Rose Williams, and the meeting was voted adjourned by the Board.

Jerry Willis, Chairman

Larry Haynie, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison