

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

January 8, 2020

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Ester Fleming Jr.
Mr. Larry Haynie
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Mr. John Mayes
Mr. Donnie Pope
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse
Mr. Alton Russell-Chairman
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Mr. W. D. Strickland
Ms. Rose Williams
Mr. Jerry Willis

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Chris Clark
Mr. Mike Coggins
Sheriff Roger Garrison
Mr. Luis "Lou" M. Solis Jr.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Commissioner
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Alan Watson, Assistant Commissioner
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Mr. Dan Brown, Director of Office of Information Technology
Mr. Gerald Brummett, Sergeant, Ware State Prison
Mr. Sharrod Campbell, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Terry Edge, Director of OPD
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs
Ms. Toni Hammock, Lieutenant, Ware State Prison
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Executive Assistant
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Ms. Lamitra McNeal, Correctional Officer, Ware State Prison
Ms. Dawn Mock, Office of Information Technology
Mr. Clay Nix, Director of Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Roy Odum, Deputy Warden of Security, Ware State Prison
Ms. Amy Pataluna, Deputy Executive Director of GCI
Mr. Mike Riley, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. David Smith, Director of Engineering & Construction Services
Mr. Rob Thrower, Legislative Liaison
Ms. Betsy Thomas, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Chris Tiller, Executive Director of GCI
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain
Mr. Chris Walker, Director of Strategic, Planning & Management

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Ms. Tina Piper, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Ms. Channell Singh, Attorney General's Office

VISITORS:

None

First, Chairman Alton Russell called to order the January meeting for the Board of Corrections ("the Board") at 10:00 a.m. and Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi, recorded the minutes.

Chairman Russell then asked Chaplain Steven Turner to deliver the invocation. Following such, Chairman Russell led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and then recognized all guests and visitors, and the Board meeting, being duly convened, proceeded with business.

Chairman Russell presented the January 2020 Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made a motion to approve the Agenda, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams. The Agenda was voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

Chairman Russell also presented the December 2019 Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams. The Minutes were then voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

To begin the Commissioner’s Report, Commissioner Timothy C. Ward discussed the dashboard, which is a three-page overview highlighting key areas within the Agency.

To follow, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner of Facilities Division, to present a Facilities Division overview.

In his presentation, Mr. Holt discussed several project updates such as Video Hearings, Next Generation Assessment Algorithms, Evidence Based Prison Expansion, Hawk’s Ear, Burruss Correctional Training Center Peer-Mentor Program and American Correctional Association Accreditation.

This concluded Mr. Holt’s report.

Next, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner of Inmate Services Division, to present an Inmate Services Division overview.

In his presentation, Mr. Sanders discussed the Fiscal Year 2019 and Fiscal Year 2020 Priorities. Some of the highlights were the Treatment Effect of Programming and Education, the Fiscal Year 2019 Cognitive Programming Enrollments and Completions, the Reentry Assessment Centers (RAC), the Chaplaincy and Volunteer Services and the Fiscal Year 2015 through 2019 GED and High School Equivalencies.

Last of all Mr. Sanders discussed the Fiscal Year 2015 through 2019 Career, Technical and Higher Education Completions, Library Services, Fiscal Year 2019 Program Treatment Completion Certificates (PTCC) issued and the Cognitive Programming & Reentry and Education focus for 2020.

This concluded Mr. Sanders ‘report.

Next, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner of Health Services Division, to present a Health Services Division overview.

Mr. Sauls discussed the Physical Health, Mental Health and Dental Health for state offenders. In his presentation Mr. Sanders mentioned cost containment with regard to evaluating GCHC/GDC for opportunities to manage healthcare cost, requesting information, evaluating model of care delivery, increasing availability of service in facilities and Telemedicine -Tele Emergency Department-My Wound Care: Reducing outside transfers.

Plus, Mr. Sauls discussed Augusta State Medical Prison Telemedicine, the Expansion of Mental Health Services, Statewide Mental Health Training, Installation of Dental Electronic Health Records, and prioritization of maintenance and replacement of equipment.

This concluded Mr. Sauls’s report.

To follow, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Alan Watson, Assistant Commissioner of Administration and Finance Division, to present an Administration and Finance Division overview.

In his presentation, Mr. Watson discussed several projects such as Kronos goals for collecting real time data, the Regional Business Office processes and training, Budget Monitoring and Analysis of travel and of Albany Transitional Center.

This concluded Mr. Watson's report.

Next, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner of the Facilities Division, to present the "Beyond the Call" employee recognition awards. Mr. Holt stated that he would be presenting the awards to Ms. Latrima McNeal, Correctional Officer, Ware State Prison, Ms. Toni Hammock, Lieutenant, Ware State Prison and Mr. Gerald Brummett, Sergeant, Ware State Prison.

Mr. Holt stated that these officers were being recognized for assisting a small child that was struggling to breathe and began choking while at the facility during visitation at Ware State Prison. Mr. Holt stated that the officers conducted the infant Heimlich maneuver to dislodge the obstruction from the child's throat. After a few attempts the obstruction became dislodged and the child began breathing on its own. When Emergency Medical Services arrived, they were able to examine the child's vitals and medically clear the young child. Thanks to the quick actions of everyone involved the child and his mother were able to continue their visit with their loved one.

A photo was taken of the plaque presentations.

Afterwards, Commissioner Ward asked Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs, to introduce and present a short video on the Hancock Evidence Based Program.

This concluded the Commissioner's Report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Alton Russell began the "Chairman's Report" by asking the Board members to contribute to the 2020 Georgia Prison Wardens Association Scholarship Fund and the Board of Corrections Flower Fund.

Chairman Russell continued by moving into Old or New Business to approve a Georgia Correctional Industries employment.

Chairman Russell called upon Ms. Amy Pataluna, Deputy Executive Director, Georgia Correctional Industries (GCI), to present the Approval of Employment to hire for a Georgia Correctional Industries Drafter 2 position.

Ms. Pataluna stated that the Department and GCI are authorized by state law to hire an individual who has a misdemeanor conviction without prior approval of the Board. However, if an individual has a felony conviction, prior approval by the Board is needed. As such, the Board was asked to approve the Georgia Correctional Industries to interview Mr. William Rutledge for the Drafter 2 position and to hire him if the interview process indicates that he is the best candidate for the position.

After that, Chairman Russell asked for a motion to approve the interview and the possible hire if the interview process indicates that he is the best candidate for the position. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Jerry Willis and Ms. Andrea Shelton. The interview and the potential employment of Mr. Rutledge's employment was voted "approved" by the Board.

To close the Chairman's Report, Chairman Russell continued with the following announcements:

- He reminded the members to file their Annual Affidavit of Public Officer before Jan 31, 2020;
- The next Board of Corrections meeting is on February 6th in Forsyth, Georgia.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Alton Russell, Chairman

Duke Blackburn, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison