

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

January 5, 2023
Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sheriff Barry H. Babb
Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. J.C. “Spud” Bowen
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Ester Fleming Jr.
Mr. Larry Haynie – Chairman
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Sheriff Donnie Pope
Mr. Alton Russell
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Mr. W. D. Strickland
Ms. Rose Williams

CONFERENCE CALLS:

Mr. Chris Clark
Mr. Guy A. Daughtrey
Ms. Janelle King
Mr. Luis “Lou” M. Solis Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Thomas Culpepper
Mr. Gary Gullede
Mr. Rossie Ross

ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE:

Ms. Tina Piper, Attorney General’s Office

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Tyrone Oliver, Commissioner
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
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Mr. Jamie Clark, Director of Engineering and Construction Services
Ms. June Collins, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Terry Edge, Director of OPD
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs
Mr. Cliff Hogan, Director, Data Unit
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Executive Assistant
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Mr. Keith Lank, Inspector, OPS
Ms. Dawn Mock, OIT
Mr. Robert Raymond, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. John Richey, Deputy Director, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Henry Rutherford III, Director of OIT
Mr. Chris Tiller, Director of GCI
Ms. Betsy Thomas, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Rob Thrower, Legislative Liaison
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain

VISITORS:

Mr. Spencer Shelton, HeartBound Ministries
Ms. Karen James, NIA
Ms. Kate Boccia, NIA

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

Chairman Haynie presented the January 5, 2023 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 were voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

Chairman Haynie presented the December 1, 2022 Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made a motion to approve the Minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Alton Russell. The Minutes were voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

Chairman Haynie presented the December 22, 2022 Virtual Meeting Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Ester Fleming made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams. The Minutes were voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

To begin the Commissioner’s Report, Commissioner Tyrone Oliver introduced himself to the Board and stated that Chief of Staff Alan Watson would present the Commissioner’s Report for this meeting. Chief of Staff Watson discussed the Commissioner’s Dashboard, which is a four-page overview highlighting key areas and significant events within the Agency.

Commissioner Oliver then asked Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner, Facilities Division, to give a Facilities Division update.

Mr. Holt began his presentation by discussing the 34 State Prisons, 4 Private Prisons, 21 County Prisons, 12 Transitional Centers, 8 Probation Detention Centers, 6 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (PRSAT), and 2 Integrated Treatment Facilities (ITF).

Mr. Holt continued with an incarceration overview of the prisons, and he discussed the 34 state prison units, four of which are designated for women. Mr. Holt discussed the 22 facilities that are ACA accredited and stated that the remainder are applying for accreditation via ACA audit scheduling process. Mr. Holt discussed security classifications (close, medium, minimum) within state prisons, the offenders having access to classes/services (programs) to prepare them for reentry, and that able-bodied offenders are assigned to work details, food and farm operations, and fire services.

Mr. Holt continued with an overview of the Private Prisons. Some of the highlights discussed were that the 4 private (contract) prisons house medium and lower security classified male offenders. These facilities are accredited by the American Correctional Association (ACA) and Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) as required by contract. The security classifications within the private prisons are medium and minimum, and offenders have access to classes, services, and work details. Lastly, GDC’s private prison monitors ensure compliance with state standards of sanitation, safety, security, and health care.

Mr. Holt then discussed the 21 County Correctional Institutions/Prisons stating that Georgia has interagency agreements with the counties to lease beds in county correctional institutes (prisons) or county work camps to house state offenders. Some of the highlights included discussing managing the jail backlog, providing additional bed space for state offenders, discussing security classifications, and offenders providing a major source of general and skilled labor to the local community. Mr. Holt also stated the Georgia Department of Corrections monitors county facilities through an on-going inspection and auditing process by full-time County Facility Coordinators. Mr. Holt discussed the daily per diem rate of \$22.00 per offender.

Mr. Holt continued with discussing the 12 Transitional Centers that provide select offenders an opportunity to slowly reintegrate back into society with a job and enhanced prospects for stability. Some of the highlights were discussing research showing offenders are 33% more likely to succeed after having stayed in a transitional center, the security classifications within transitional centers, offenders being referred for the program by the State Board of Pardons and Paroles or the prison staff, the 2 transitional centers specifically for female offenders; Lee Arrendale Transitional Center (LATC) and Metro Transitional Center, and that each offender contributes a portion of their salary to cover the cost of their room and board.

Last of all, Mr. Holt discussed the Probation Detention Centers stating that they may be used as an initial sentencing option or that they may be used as a sanction for offenders who fail to meet basic

probation or Intensive Probation Supervision (IPS) conditions. Some of the highlights were discussing the intent for probation offenders who require more security and supervision, it also provides regimented environment with structured programming, offenders perform unpaid work in both the community and at the center, the length of stay is between 60 - 120 days, and there are 7 detention centers throughout the state.

Mr. Holt concluded his presentation with discussing Winter Weather Protocols for the prisons statewide.

This concluded Mr. Holt's presentation.

Commissioner Oliver then asked Mr. Keith Lank, Inspector with the Office of Professional Standards (OPS), to give a brief OPS update. Some of the highlights from Mr. Lank's presentation were discussing arrests and warrants for North, Southwest, and Southeast regions, and the physical arrest of staff, civilian, and offenders.

Mr. Lank closed his presentation by asking ASAC Robert Raymond to briefly discuss a contraband case from Calhoun State Prison from November 23, 2022 and a Valdosta Transitional Center homicide/suicide case from December 24, 2022.

This concluded Mr. Lank's report.

Next, Commissioner Oliver 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 Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) and Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT). Some of the highlights discussed were providing access to treatment, protecting individuals from discrimination who are in recovery from Opioid Use Disorder, discussing the Americans with Disabilities Act, the U.S Department of Justice's guidance on protection for people with Opioid Use Disorder, the opioid crisis, and the Department of Justice responding with a comprehensive approach prioritizing prevention, enforcement, and treatment.

Mr. Sauls concluded with discussing what ADA is, what is a disability, the Department of Justice (DOJ) guidance, and Wellpath providing a resource to provide guidance and technical assistance in assuring that GDC meets the requirements of the ADA.

Mr. Sauls concluded with discussing GDC, Wellpath, and Centurion collaborating together to assure that individuals who are covered under the DOJ guidance are provided with access to both MOUD and/or MAT, and/or behavioral health interventions and treatment.

This concluded Mr. Sauls' report.

Next, Commissioner Oliver asked Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner, Inmate Services Division, to give an Inmate Services Division Update.

Mr. Sanders began his presentation by discussing the Inmate Services dashboard. Mr. Sanders then discussed the Admissions and Orientation (A&O) Enhancements. Some of the highlights discussed were the Offender Orientation Policy 220.04, which states that per GDC Policy: All offenders will be provided a formal orientation upon intake and admission to all Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) facilities. All offenders will undergo a thorough screening and assessment at the time of admission or transfer and receive a thorough orientation to the facility's procedures, rules, programs, and services.

Mr. Sanders continued by discussing Offender Orientation, Orientation sessions including: GDC rules and regulations, facility rules and regulations/procedures, facility departments - staff responsibilities, how to access programs and services, classification, disciplinary, and grievance procedures, offender rights: Right to Know, PREA, Legal Library, offender privileges, assistance with social security and birth certificate applications, medical, dental, and mental health screening (if applicable), personal hygiene, notifying their next of kin/families of admission to the facility, program and treatment completion certificates, and all other items on the orientation checklist.

In addition, Mr. Sanders discussed enhancements to the A&O Process, the A&O Core Content, Communication Skills, Choices & Consequences, How to Do Time Without Getting Caught Up, Creating a Safe Environment, Managing My Anger, Elective Content, New Freedom (CORE), Conflict Resolution, TOPUCU – The Only Person U Cheat is You, Implementation and Next Steps.

This concluded Mr. Sanders' report and the Commissioner's report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Larry Haynie began the Chairman's Report by asking Mr. Wayne Dasher, Vice Chairman, to explain how the yearly collection for the Georgia Prison Warden's Association Board of Corrections scholarship fund is handled. Mr. Dasher advised that the scholarship collection would begin today, and the Board continues to collect for this scholarship for a few months until the fifteen hundred dollar (\$1,500) goal is met.

Under Old or New Business, Chairman Haynie asked Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel, to present a property resolution on a Revocable Lease Agreement for Calhoun State Prison.

Ms. Ammons stated that Georgia Power Company Energy, an energy generating and distribution utility, has a need for a revocable lease agreement and permanent non-exclusive utility easement for the switching cubicles replacement. The Georgia Department of Corrections has determined that it can accommodate the Revocable Lease Agreement request without causing harm to the operations of the Calhoun State Prison; and the Georgia Department of Corrections has determined that the easement will exclusively benefit the State.

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

Mr. Wayne Dasher Vice Chairman of the Board made a motion to draft honorary resolutions for the former Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Corrections, Mr. Timothy C. Ward, and for former Board Member John Mayes for their years of service with the Department of Corrections, and for the Board of Corrections.

Mr. Wayne Dasher made a motion to approve the resolutions, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams and Mr. Alton Russell. The drafting of the resolutions for Mr. Ward and Mr. Mayes were voted approved by the Board as presented.

Mr. Wayne Dasher made a motion to approve changing the April 2023 board meeting from April 6th in Forsyth, Georgia to April 13th in Glennville, Georgia.

Mr. Wayne Dasher made a motion to approve the date and location change of the April meeting, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams. The April 2023 board meeting date and location were changed and were voted approved by the Board as presented.

To close, Chairman Haynie wished a few members "happy birthday," he reminded board members to file their annual affidavit, and stated that he will do committee assignments before the next board meeting.

There being no further business, Chairman Haynie reminded the Board that the next Board of Corrections meeting is on February 2, 2023, at State Offices South at Tift College, in Forsyth, Georgia.

The board meeting was adjourned.

Larry Haynie, Chairman

Ester Fleming Jr., Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison