

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

June 2, 2022

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sheriff Barry H. Babb
Mr. Duke Blackburn – Chairman
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Guy A. Daughtrey
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Mr. John Mayes
Sheriff Donnie Pope
Mr. Alton Russell
Mr. Luis “Lou” M. Solis Jr.
Mr. W. D. Strickland
Ms. Rose Williams

CONFERENCE CALLS:

Mr. J.C. “Spud” Bowen
Mr. Chris Clark
Ms. Janelle King
Mr. Bill White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Ester Fleming Jr.
Mr. Larry Haynie
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse
Ms. Andrea Shelton

ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE:

Ms. Tina Piper, Attorney General’s Office

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Timothy C. Ward, 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 & Construction Services
Mr. Terry Edge, Director of Office of Professional Development
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs
Mr. Cliff Hogan, Director, Data Unit
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Commissioner’s Executive Assistant
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Mr. Bernard Miller, Chaplain
Mr. Clay Nix, Director of Office of Professional Standards
Ms. Amy Pataluna, Deputy Director, GCI
Mr. Henry Rutherford III, Director of OIT
Mr. Cedric Taylor, Mitchell County Warden (Conference Call)
Ms. Betsy Thomas, Human Resources Director
Mr. Rob Thrower, Legislative Liaison
Mr. Chris Tiller, Executive Director, GCI
Mr. Rinaldo Williams, Lieutenant-Burruss CTC

VISITORS:

Ms. Page Dukes, SCHR
Ms. Hannah Riley, SCHR
Mr. William Rutledge, Citizen

First, Chairman Duke Blackburn called to order the June meeting for the Board of Corrections (“the Board”) at 10:00 a.m. and Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi, recorded the minutes. Chairman Blackburn then asked Chaplain Bernard Miller to deliver the invocation. Following such, Chairman Blackburn led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed and swore in new Board

Member Guy Daughtrey – Member at Large, to the Board, and additionally recognized all guests and visitors, and the Board meeting, being duly convened, proceeded with business.

Chairman Blackburn presented together the June 2022 Agenda and the May 2022 Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Alton Russell made a motion to approve both the Agenda and Minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams. The Agenda and Minutes were voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

To begin the Commissioner’s Report, Commissioner Ward announced the upcoming Family Day being held on July 15th in Forsyth. Family Day consists of wherein family members can sit down with Wardens and Superintendents from different facilities. The Commissioner also mentioned that beginning this weekend, facility visitation will be fully operational again as long as visitors have a prescheduled visit. Also, on June 16th there will be a Special Agent Graduation in Forsyth on Tift Campus at 10 a.m. with 21 agents graduating.

Commissioner Ward discussed the dashboard, which is a four-page overview highlighting key areas and significant events within the Agency.

Commissioner Ward then 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 the CorrectRx Pharmacy Vendor. Some of the highlights discussed were the pharmacy vendor introducing Computerized Provider Order Entry (CPOE) to all providers for the ordering of pharmacy prescriptions as opposed to handwriting on prescriptions pads. Other topics discussed were prescriptions electronically ordered, the centralized packaging-intervention management-distribution which improves the overall administration of the pharmacy benefit program, medical administration review, multi-state pharmacy provider, supply chain stability, access to specialty drugs, and optimal purchasing control.

Mr. Sauls closed with discussing the prescriptions filled in year one, June 7, 2021 – April 30, 2022) the total cost of drugs, drug cost per beneficiary per month, and the clinical pharmacy pharmacokinetic/therapeutic programs.

This concluded the report of Mr. Sauls.

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

Mr. Sanders began his presentation by discussing the numbers on the Commissioner’s dashboard under Inmate Services. Mr. Sanders continued with discussing the Transitional Center (TC) Recidivism and Programming. Some of the highlights were transitional center recidivism rates for Fiscal Years 2014 through 2018, academic education (Literacy/Remedial Reading (L/RR), Adult Basic Education (ABE), GED Prep/Testing), growth of GED’s earned in transitional centers, the type of people that go to transitional centers, math being the hardest part to pass in the GED, math pass rate, and nontraditional class times.

To close, Mr. Sanders continued by discussing Programming/Reentry, the Odyssey Program which is an open-ended program completed during the orientation phase (1st 30-days), over 8,000 completions since inception, transition skills, interactive journaling, substance use, Reentry Assessment Center (RAC) being available at all TC’s, other programming, Career, Technical and Higher Education (CTHE) completions, Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) partnership and classes, CDL, Forklift Certification, Manufacture Ready, OSHA General Industry, ServSafe, and Welding.

This concluded Mr. Sanders’ report.

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

Mr. Holt began his presentation by discussing the upcoming Georgia Department of Corrections Family Day scheduled for July 15, 2022. Mr. Holt discussed the registration process, the purpose

of Family Day, and the State Board of Pardons and Paroles attending this event. In addition, Mr. Holt discussed updated visitation procedures, upcoming rollouts on Evidence Based Prisons, Mental Health Expansion, Tier Management, Enhance Supervision Model, Enhanced Cameras (Analytics), Offender Tablets, Optamo, Virtual Court Production, Hawk Ear, Officer Radios, Drone Detection Technology, and Officer Tablets.

To close, Mr. Holt discussed ACA Accreditations, 37 initial Georgia Department of Corrections facilities accredited, 11 re-accreditations, and the 2021-2022 ACA Accreditation Hearings.

This concluded Mr. Holt's report.

Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Clay Nix, Director of the Office of Professional Standards (OPS), to give a brief OPS update on Georgia Department of Corrections Fugitive Apprehension Unit.

In his presentation, Mr. Nix discussed escapes and apprehensions for transitional centers, state prisons, Released In Error (RIE), county, private, and detention centers. Plus, escapes by the month for Fiscal Year 2020, 2021, and 2022, arrests, assists, violation of probation/parole, narcotics, sex offenses, assault, homicide, robbery, and other felony warrants.

To close, Mr. Nix discussed recaptures and Operation Washout Classic City for the Athens-Clark, Oglethorpe, and Oconee Counties of Georgia conducted in May 2022, and Operation Washout River City held in Columbus, Georgia beginning in August 2021. Both operations were conducted in an effort to combat violent crime in the areas.

This concluded Mr. Nix's report.

Following such, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner of Facilities Division, to present the "Beyond the Call" employee recognition award. Mr. Holt stated that he would be presenting the award to Correctional Officer (CO) Nehemiah Robinson, who is an officer at Burruss Correctional Training Center.

CO Robinson has been employed with the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) for three years, serving as a CO, a Detail Officer, and as a Multi-functional Officer for the juvenile population at Burruss Correctional Training Center. While attending Basic Correctional Officer Training, Robinson received an outstanding leadership award and was chosen to participate with the color guard. Robinson takes the community's safety seriously and felt that he would be able to make an impactful contribution to his community by joining the agency. CO Robinson's service, dedication, and courage encompasses the GDC's values and mission. We are grateful to have him serving on the GDC team!

Mr. Holt stated that CO Robinson was unable to attend the board meeting, so Lieutenant Rinaldo Williams is accepting CO Robinson's plaque on his behalf. The plaque was presented on behalf of the Board of Corrections and Commissioner Timothy C. Ward. A photo was taken of the plaque presentation.

Next, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Clay Nix, Director of Office of Professional Standards, to present the "Beyond the Call" employee recognition award. Mr. Nix stated that he would be presenting the award to the Fugitive Apprehension Unit.

The Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) Fugitive and Apprehension Unit's mission is to re-capture escapees and absconded offenders from GDC facilities, to include State Prisons, Transitional Centers, and County Prison Camps. The Special Agents assigned to this unit are detached to the United States Marshal Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force (SERFTF) in each Federal District in Georgia. These agents are federally deputized and possess both Federal and State Law Enforcement Authority. In addition to recapturing escapees from GDC Facilities, these agents also participate in the arrest of wanted violent felons and sex offenders across the state and the country.

Mr. Nix presented the plaques to the Fugitive Apprehension Unit on behalf of the Board of Corrections and Commissioner Timothy C. Ward.

Last of all, Commissioner Ward asked Ms. Amy Pataluna, Deputy Director of Georgia Correctional Industries, to introduce Mr. William Rutledge for his presentation. Mr. Rutledge briefly spoke on his incarceration, his work with/at Georgia Correctional Industries (GCI), his enrollment at Georgia Northwest Technical College, his time at the transitional center, his post release, and his drafting CAD training and certification.

This concluded the Commissioner's report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Duke Blackburn began the Chairman's Report by moving into Regular Session to approve a County Warden's appointment.

The candidate was Mr. Cedric Taylor of Mitchell County Correctional Facility.

Chairman Blackburn called upon Mr. Lou Solis Jr., Chairman of the Board Facilities Committee, to give the Board the Committee's recommendation on Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Solis stated that the Committee received the report on Mr. Taylor and the Committee would like to make a motion to approve Mr. Taylor's appointment as the Warden of Mitchell County Correctional Facility.

Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve the appointment, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams. The motion was voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

Chairman Blackburn congratulated Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Taylor thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Under Old or New Business, Chairman Blackburn asked Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel of the Office of Legal Services, to present the Revocable Lease Agreement – Georgia Department of Corrections and Georgia Power Company/ Washington State Prison resolution.

Ms. Ammons stated that the Georgia Power Company, an energy generating and distribution utility, has a need for a revocable lease agreement and a permanent utility easement for the construction and operation of an upgraded transmission line connecting the prison property with the electrical distribution system. The Georgia Department of Corrections has determined that it can accommodate the easement request without causing harm to the operations of the Washington State Prison and has determined that the easement will exclusively benefit the State.

Chairman Blackburn asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Wayne Dasher made a motion to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams. The resolution were voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

To conclude the meeting, Chairman Blackburn reminded the members of the following:

- The Georgia Prison Warden's Conference is on June 5-8, 2022 in Atlanta.
- The July and August 2022 board meetings are canceled.
- The next meeting is on September 1, 2022, at State Offices South at Tift College, in Forsyth, Georgia.

The board meeting was adjourned.

Duke Blackburn, Chairman

Andrea Shelton, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison