BOARD OF CORRECTIONS
June 5, 2025
Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Sheriff Barry H. Babb
Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. J.C. "Spud" Bowen
Ms. Kellie Brownlow
Mr. Rodney Bryant
Mr. Chris Clark
Mr. Thomas Culpepper
Mr. John B. Edwards
Mr. Ester Fleming Jr. – Chairman
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Sheriff Donnie Pope
Mr. Rossie Ross
Mr. Alton Russell
Mr. Luis "Lou" M. Solis Jr.
Mr. W. D. Strickland

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Mr. Bruce Carlisle
Sheriff Gary Gulledge
Ms. Rose Williams

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:
Ms. Elizabeth Crowder, Attorney General's Office

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
Mr. Tyrone Oliver, Commissioner
Mr. Alan Watson, Chief of Staff
Mr. Jackson Defore, Assistant Commissioner of Finance and Admin
Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner, Facilities Division
Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner of Inmate Services
Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner of Health Services Division
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Mr. Adam Baswell, Director of Office of Professional Development
Mr. Antonie Caldwell, North Regional Director
Mr. Jamie Clark, Director of Engineering & Construction Services
Ms. Komola Edwards, Director of Human Resources
Dr. Kenneth Ellis, Statewide Chaplain
Mr. Benjamin Ford, Facilities Director
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Office of Communications
Mr. Cliff Hogan, Director of Data Management and Research
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Executive Assistant
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Ms. LaTonya King, Senior Manager, Correctional Admin, SMU
Ms. Dawn Mock, Office of Information Technology
Mr. Henry Rutherford, Director of Office of Information Technology
Mr. Joel Tolliver, Office of Information Technology
Mr. Joe Williams, Warden, SMU
Mr. Brian Wilson, Deputy General Counsel
Mr. Matthew Wolfe, Director of Office of Professional Standards

VISITORS:
Ms. Kate Boccia, CEO of NIA
Ms. Tracy King-Gray, Citizen
Ms. Iris Guzman, Citizen
Ms. Merteen Wilson, Citizen

First, Chairman Ester Fleming Jr. called to order the June 5, 2025 meeting for the Board of Corrections ("the Board") at 10:00 a.m. and Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi, recorded the minutes.

Chairman Fleming then asked Chaplain Kenneth Ellis to deliver the invocation. Following such, Chairman Fleming led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Fleming welcomed and recognized all guests and visitors and the Board meeting, being duly convened, proceeded with business.

Chairman Fleming presented the Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. W. D. Strickland made a motion to approve the Agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Alton Russell and Mr. Lou Solis Jr. The Agenda was voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

Chairman Fleming presented the April 30, 2025 Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Rossie Ross made a motion to approve the Minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Lou Solis Jr. The Minutes were voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

To begin the Commissioner's Report, Commissioner Tyrone Oliver discussed briefly the Commissioner's Dashboard, which is a four-page overview highlighting key areas and significant events within the Agency.

Commissioner Oliver then briefly discussed the following items: the new prison (cell mockups), ongoing projects, Guidehouse, procurements, ACA Accreditation for several facilities, SMU Update, and a few Focus Recognitions were given to staff for assisting with the SMU mission.

Commissioner Oliver asked Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel, to present a Legislative Update. Some of the legislative bills discussed were:

House Bill 238

Requires POST to add training on dementia and Alzheimer's disease; Effective July 1, 2025.

House Bill 288

Giglio list procedures for situations in which a POST certified officer has given false testimony; Effective upon signature.

Senate Bill 12

Modifies the Open Records Act to shift the burden for obtaining public records in vendors' possession to agencies; Undoing SCOG's *Milliron* decision; Effective upon signature on May 14, 2025.

Senate Bill 68

Tort reform; Anticipating direction from the Law Department on litigation process changes that we will make, if any; Effective upon signature on April 21, 2025.

Senate Bill 147

Directs the GDC to make sure that offenders are given documents upon release, including: Vocational training record, Work record, Birth certificate, Social Security card, Resume, Documentation of a practice job interview, and Information about occupational licensure or certification; Effective July 1, 2025.

Senate Bill 185

Prohibits expenditure of state funds for gender-affirming care; Effective upon signature on May 8, 2025; Anticipate beginning regulatory action at June meeting related to transitioning offenders off care they previously received.

This concluded the report of Ms. Ammons.

Next, Commissioner Oliver asked Mr. Matt Wolfe, Director of the Office of Professional Standards, to present an Office of Professional Standards Update. Some of the highlights from the April 2025 Monthly Rollup presentation were discussing the Criminal Investigations Division Criminal Cases Opened and Closed, total physical arrests, Fugitive Apprehension Unit (escapes, current escapes, apprehensions, arrests, and assists).

Mr. Wolfe continued by discussing a few Case Highlights (Smith State Prison – Contraband Recovery; Riverbend Correctional Facility – Contraband Arrest; Drug and K2 Conspiracy; and Canine – Case Highlights).

Mr. Wolfe closed by discussing the Criminal Intelligence Unit, Digital Forensics Unit, Drones, STG Inmates, Canine Operations, PREA, and ACA Accreditation.

Before concluding Mr. Wolfe's report, Commissioner Oliver briefly gave an update on the FAA drone mitigation cellphone bill by Tom Cotton.

This concluded the report of Mr. Wolfe and the Commissioner's Report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There was no business under the Chairman's Report, so Chaiman Fleming moved to Old or New Business.

Chairman Fleming asked Ms. Jennifer Ammons, GDC General Counsel, to present the Administrative Rule for Initial Approval. Ms. Jennifer Ammons briefly spoke about Senate Bill 185 and O.C.G.A. § 42-5-2(e)(1) which prohibits the expenditure of state funds for:

> (A) Sex reassignment surgeries or any other surgical procedures that are performed for the purpose of altering primary or secondary sexual characteristics.
>
> (B) Hormone replacement therapies; and
>
> (C) Cosmetic procedures or prosthetics intended to alter the appearance of primary or secondary sexual characteristics.

Ms. Ammons stated that the required regulatory action of O.C.G.A. § 42-5-2(e)(2) directs the Board of Corrections to adopt rules and regulations regarding limited instances in which the otherwise prohibited procedures and therapies are authorized. Additionally, Ms. Ammons discussed Limited Permissible Uses:

> The only permissible uses are:
> (A) Treatments for medical conditions other than gender dysphoria and not for sex reassignment;
> (B) Treatments for intersex offenders;
> (C) Treatments for partial androgen insensitivity syndrome; and
> (D) Transitioning offenders with gender dysphoria off hormone replacement therapy

Ms. Ammons closed with discussing that the New Regulation:

- Defines "Intersex" and "Gender Dysphoria."
- Requires assessments and treatment plans for offenders who are Intersex or who have Gender Dysphoria.
- Prohibits treatments not allowed by O.C.G.A. § 42-5-2(e)(1).
- Articulates the exceptions allowed in O.C.G.A. § 42-5-2(e)(2).

Chairman Fleming then asked the Board for a motion of approval of the Administrative Rule for Initial Approval. Mr. Rossie Ross made a motion to approve the initial draft, which was seconded by Mr. W. D. Strickland. The Administrative Rule for Initial Approval was voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

Last on the agenda, Chaiman Fleming asked if there was a need to go into Executive Session and Commissioner Oliver expressed there was so that the Board could consult with legal counsel pertaining to legal matters.

Chairman Fleming then asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. Mr. Alton Russell made a motion to move into the Executive Session, which was seconded by Mr. Rossie Ross. The vote for the Board to move into Executive Session were voted "approved" by the Board.

Chairman Fleming asked for a motion to approve moving out of Executive Session. Mr. Rossie Ross made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Thomas Culpepper. The vote for the Board to move out of Executive Session were voted “approved” by the Board.

Chairman Fleming asked for a motion to approve moving back into Regular Session. Mr. Alton Russell made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. W.D. Strickland. The vote for the Board to move back into Regular Session were voted “approved” by the Board.

Chairman Fleming advised the Board that the 2025 GPWA scholarship recipient was Jonathan Simpson. Mr. Simpson is the son of Johnny Simpson who works for Mobile Construction. Jonathan Simpson will be attending Kennesaw State University, and we will have more information on him at the next board meeting.

Chairman Fleming reminded the Board that the July and August Board of Corrections meetings are canceled and that the Board would resume on Thursday, September 4, 2025, at State Offices South at Tift College, in Forsyth, Georgia.

There being no further business, the board meeting was adjourned.

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Ester Fleming Jr., Chairman

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Chris Clark, Secretary

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Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison