

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

March 3, 2016

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Rose Williams, Chairman
Ms. Sonja Allen-Smith
Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. Mac Collins
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Carl L. Franklin
Sheriff Roger Garrison
Mr. Larry E. Haynie
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Mr. John Mayes
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse
Mr. Alton Russell
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Mr. W. D. Strickland
Mr. Jerry Willis
Ms. Rocio D. Woody

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Lee Anderson
Mr. Bruce Hudson

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Commissioner Homer Bryson
Mr. Gregory C. Dozier, Chief of Staff
Dr. L. C. "Buster" Evans, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Scott Poitevint, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Assistant Commissioner
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Mr. Dan Brown, Director of Information Technology
Mr. Hal Gibson, Director of Engineering & Construction Services
Mr. Milton Graham, Craftsman, Metro TC
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs
Mr. Walter Hudson, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Tanner Jordan, CO 2, Interdiction Response Team (Cobra)
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Mr. Jim Laine, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Director of Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Antonnio Printup, Director of Special Operations
Mr. Mike Riley, Office of Professional Standards
Ms. Patricia Smith, Director of Special Projects
Mr. Nick Spates, GDC Tech Support
Mr. Cedric Taylor, Warden of Baldwin State Prison
Ms. Donna Tebought, Director of Risk Reduction Services
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain
Mr. Norman Wilson, Executive Director of GCI

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General

VISITORS:

Ms. Jackie Franklin, Wife of Carl Franklin
Ms. Melissa Hargrove, NORESKO
Ms. Kristen Kinney, Governor's Office of Planning & Budget
Mr. Stacy Williams, Cherokee Sheriff Office

Chairman Rose Williams called the March meeting of the Board of Corrections to order at 10:00 a.m. and Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi, recorded the minutes. Chairman Williams asked Chaplain Steven Turner to give the invocation.

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

Chairman Williams presented the March Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Ms. Sonja Allen-Smith and the Agenda was voted approved by the Board as presented.

Chairman Williams presented the February Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. John Mayes made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Sheriff Roger Garrison and the Minutes were voted approved by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Homer Bryson began his report by inviting the Board members to the Basic Correctional Officer Training (BCOT) graduation today at Tift College. The graduation will be held in Roberts Chapel at 11:00 a.m.

Commissioner Bryson presented a four-page overview highlighting key areas within the agency such as inmate population, inmate security levels, bed utilization, safe and secure facilities, inmate services, fire services and Correctional Industries. In addition, Commissioner Bryson discussed Georgia's legislation and budget, which will provide the department some funding to help with salary issues and to retain and recruit employees.

Commissioner Bryson continued by stating that the agency is excited about the opportunities ahead and the plan is to begin pay increases on July 1, 2016. 95.5 percent of the funds that the agency receives will go to the uniform officers. If the agency receives the anticipated funds, it can move the starting Correctional Officer entry level salary from \$24,000 to \$27,922. Moreover, a Correctional Officer 2, who has worked with the agency for a period of two years and has performed their job successfully, will be making a little over \$30,000 a year. The agency thanks Governor Deal, the Senate and House for being supportive.

Subsequently, Sheriff Stacy Jarrard stated that he would like to go on record to state that he is fighting for an increase to the Lumpkin County detention officer's salaries. Sheriff Jarrard believes the hardest state job is the job of the correctional officer within the Department of Corrections. Primarily, the pay varies between the Department of Natural Resources, Georgia State Patrol, Georgia Bureau of Investigations and the Department of Transportation. Sheriff Jarrard would like to see the correctional officer salary be in compliance with other state agencies because correctional officers, including county jail employees do not get a chance to leave after coming to work. Other law enforcement positions have the freedom of movement; therefore, a correctional officer has a more challenging position. Commissioner Homer Bryson agreed with Sheriff Jarrard's statement.

Afterwards, Commissioner Bryson mentioned a couple of legislation bills that crossed over and are of particular interest to the agency.

Senate Bill 367:

The Governor's Criminal Justice Reform. This bill passed out of the Senate and crossed over into the House.

House Bill 874: This bill has crossed over to the Senate. Primarily, it focuses on gangs and gang activity. There is a segment in this bill that would create mandatory minimums for people that are convicted of bringing contraband into facilities. The agency is watching and monitoring this bill and anticipates testifying on it in a Subcommittee meeting next week.

House Bill 1066: This is the agency's only piece of legislation. This bill gives the agency a little more latitude and flexibility with the signature of warrants when an individual walk away from a transitional center or an escape.

Commissioner Bryson also briefly spoke about the Inmate Services Division, stating that the Division is trending in the right direction. Six years ago, Governor Nathan Deal was briefed on Corrections when he came into office. At that time, the Governor was told that the Georgia Department of Corrections had 710 inmates out of 56,000 that were in programming. Today, the agency has 52,000 inmates confined and 25,000 of them are in some type of programming. This is a huge difference in a short amount of time. Commissioner Bryson noted that the hard work and effort goes to Dr. L.C. "Buster" Evans, Mr. Timothy C. Ward and their divisions; the agency congratulates them today.

Commissioner Bryson then formally recognized Mr. Daniel (Dan) Brown, who will represent the agency as Director, Office of Information Technology. Commissioner Bryson stated that Mr. Brown joins us from his most recent position with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, where he served as Chief Information Officer and Director of Administration since 2012. His past experience includes serving as Chief Information Officer with the Georgia Department of Public Safety, where he led significant technology projects such as modernizing the State Patrol fleet with digital communications. As Special Projects Director and State Operations Center Director with the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA), Mr. Brown was responsible for managing technology issues associated with the statewide 911 program, and served as co-chairperson of the Interagency Communications Committee for the G8 Summit. Mr. Brown has more than 25 years of experience in both public and private sector technology applications and the agency is confident in his ability to continue moving its OIT efforts forward.

Immediately following, Assistant Commissioner Timothy C. Ward presented an Employee Recognition plaque on behalf of the Board of Corrections and Commissioner Homer Bryson to Mr. Milton Graham, Craftsman, at Metro Transitional Center. Assistant Commissioner Ward showed a short video depicting the strategies used by Mr. Tanner Jordan, Correctional Officer 2, Interdiction Response Team, to find contraband in our facilities. Assistant Commissioner Ward stated that Mr. Robert Gillon works beside Mr. Jordan on the Interdiction Response Team. He is absent today but the agency would like to honor him for his hard work as well.

The plaques were then given to Mr. Graham and Mr. Jordan for "*Going Above and Beyond the Call of Duty.*" A photo was taken of the plaque presentations.

At that moment, Ms. Andrea Shelton commented about the great job Mr. Milton Graham did in assisting the completion of the Children's Center at Metro Transitional Center.

Next, Assistant Commissioner Timothy C. Ward introduced Warden Cedric Taylor and gave a quick overview of his career. Warden Taylor presented a Facilities Division update of Baldwin State Prison and talked briefly about the facility's Lifers program. Warden Taylor began his presentation by discussing Baldwin State Prison's mission, history, classification of inmates, outside details and security. In addition, Warden Taylor discussed the facility's food services department, medical and dental services, C.E.R.T and tactical squads.

To conclude, Warden Taylor spoke briefly on the programs that are offered at Baldwin State Prison such as the Motivation for Change, Matrix Early Recovery Skills, Sex Offender Psycho-Educational Programming, Graphic Arts/OJT Programs, Faith and Character Program, Integrity Project and the Mission Possible Lifers' Group.

Dr. L. C. "Buster" Evans, Assistant Commissioner of Inmate Services, introduced Ms. Donna Tebought, Director of Risk Reduction Services to present a Statewide Lifers/Long Term Offender Program presentation. Ms. Tebought began by stating the mission of the Georgia Department of Corrections' Statewide Lifers/Long-Term Offender Program is to offer interactive programming to assist in guiding personal development along with restoring hope, empowerment and purpose. Ms. Tebought spoke about the members that are on the Process Action Team (PAT), the features of the program design and the six (6) months curriculum providing cognitive lessons to support prosocial thinking and behavior.

To finish, Ms. Tebought spoke on program availability in all state prisons and selected private prisons, the opportunities for the offender to enroll in vocational and other Risk Reduction

Services programs, future expansion to include mentoring training and specialized detail assignment such as hospice workers.

This concluded the Commissioner's Report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Rose Williams began by offering condolences to Sheriff Roger Garrison for the passing of his father, Mr. Wesley Garrison. Sheriff Garrison thanked everyone for their encouragement and support throughout this difficult time.

Next, Chairman Williams asked Mr. Wayne Dasher to speak briefly about the April Board meeting and the Annual Law Enforcement Cookout held in Glennville on April 13-14, 2016. Mr. Dasher gave the members a tentative agenda and discussed some of the events planned.

Chairman Williams continued with any Old or New Business by asking the board members for a motion to approve the following resolutions:

Mr. Kenny Boyett: Honoring Mr. Kenny Boyett, Woodshop Instructor at Ware State Prison, for a lifetime of teaching and creating woodwork for the Department of Corrections and the State of Georgia.

Correctional Officer's Appreciation Week: Recognizing the week of May 1 - 7, 2016, for the faithful and dedicated service performed by correctional officers each day.

National Nurses Week: Recognizing the week of May 6 - 12, 2016, for the vital roles nurses play in the health care industry and for their commitment in providing healthcare to each individual.

At that juncture, there was some discussion. Ms. Andrea Shelton noted there were two mistakes in the Correctional Officers resolution. There were two incorrect apostrophe usage in the resolution and the word "appreciation" was mistakenly left out in "Correctional Officer's Appreciation Week." Immediately, Board Liaison Simone Juhmi made the corrected changes during the board meeting and presented the revised resolution to the board members for approval.

Therefore, Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve all three resolutions, which was then seconded by Sheriff Stacy Jarrard and Sheriff Roger Garrison, and all three resolutions were voted approved by the Board as presented.

To continue, Chairman Williams asked Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel of Legal Services, to present two property resolutions. Ms. Ammons stated the two resolutions are the Augusta Day Reporting Center transfer of custody to the Georgia Department of Community Supervision and the Metro State Prison Demolition.

Ms. Ammons gave a brief description of each property and stated the Georgia Department of Community Supervision is interested in using the buildings and premises of Augusta Day Reporting Center in support of its mission and the Georgia Department of Corrections has ceased operations on these properties and has no intent to use these properties in the future. The Georgia Department of Corrections is willing to transfer custody of this property to the Georgia State Properties Commission and we ask for Board approval to transfer custody of this property.

Likewise, the Metro State Prison Demolition is for an accessory building adjacent to the maintenance shop buildings, namely BLLIP ID# 695, Metro State Prison Training Center. This building has been abandoned, contains no salvageable equipment of value, and has been identified as hazardous in its present state; therefore, the agency requests to demolish it.

Mr. Alton Russell made the motion to approve the two property resolutions, which was then seconded by Vice Chairman Jerry Willis, and the two property resolutions were voted approved by the Board as presented.

Chairman Williams reminded the members that the Budget/Utilities Committee will have a committee meeting at our next board meeting on April 13th at the Gordonia Altamaha State Park in Reidsville, Georgia.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rose Williams, Chairman

Alton Russell, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison