BOARD OF CORRECTIONS
March 6, 2025
Forsyth, Georgia

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

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:
Ms. Elizabeth Crowder, Senior Assistant Attorney General

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. Ronald Barnes, Superintendent, Paulding PDC
Mr. Adam Baswell, Director of Office of Professional Development
Ms. Lori Benoit, Office of Communications
Mr. Jacob Beasley, Warden, Smith State Prison
Mr. Jamie Clark, Director of Engineering and Construction Services
Mr. Lenard Copenhaver, Superintendent, Valdosta TC
Ms. Jessica Eanes, Office of Communications
Ms. Komola Edwards, Director of Human Resources
Dr. Kenneth Ellis, Statewide Chaplain
Mr. Charles Fleming, Superintendent, Charles D. Hudson TC
Mr. Phillip Glenn, Warden, Coastal State Prison
Mr. Cliff Hogan, Director of Data Management and Research
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Executive Assistant
Mr. DeShawn Jones, Warden, Augusta State Medical Prison
Mr. Terry Jones, Superintendent, Macon TC
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Ms. Christina Lunebach, Manager, Judicial and Governmental Affairs Unit
Ms. Lesley Medlock, Superintendent, West Central ITF
Mr. Brad Metz, Assistant Superintendent, Treutlen PDC
Ms. Dawn Mock, Office of Information Technology
Mr. Tracy Page, Warden, Montgomery State Prison
Mr. Lonnie Pritchett, Superintendent, Bacon TC
Ms. Janine Robinson, Director, Admin Support/ Fleet Operations and Risk Management
Mr. Henry Rutherford, Director of Office of Information Technology
Mt. Travis Stubbs, Asst. Superintendent, Columbus TC
Mr. Dennis Udzinski, Warden, Hall County Correctional Institution
Ms. Kochelle Watson, Warden, Johnson State Prison
Ms. Sandi West, Warden, Rogers State Prison
Mr. Joe Williams, Warden, Special Management Unit
Ms. Whitney Williamson, Asst. Superintendent, Emanuel PDC
Mr. Scott Wiza, Warden, Rutledge State Prison

Mr. Matthew Wolfe, Director of Office of Professional Standards

VISITORS:
Ms. Betsy Thomas, Culture Partners

First, Chairman Ester Fleming Jr. called to order the March 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. The Agenda was voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

Chairman Fleming presented the February 6, 2025 Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Alton Russell made a motion to approve the Minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Rossie Ross. 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 asked Ms. Betsy Thomas of Culture Partners to give a brief Culture Partners Update. Ms. Thomas began by discussing the Oz Principle and by giving the definition of what accountability is to Culture Partners.

Ms. Thomas continued by discussing the Georgia Department of Corrections Culture Equation, the Culture Assessment and feedback such as top areas of success, top areas of opportunity, psychological ownership, creative problem solving, taking effective action, cultural strength, clarity of results, engagement, personal development, and speed and agility.

Ms. Thomas discussed GDC's positive improvement from the previous assessment, the categories having the most improvement from last year to this year, and the progress needed and milestones ahead.

Ms. Thomas closed with giving Focused Recognition cards to several GDC employees for having a 10% reduction in incidents at their facilities. The individuals were Kochelle Watson, DeShawn Jones, Phillip Glenn, Lonnie Pritchett, Brad Metz, Ronald Barnes, Lesley Medlock, Scott Wiza, Charles Fleming, Travis Stubbs, Joe Williams, Sandi West, Terry Jones, Tracy Page, Jacob Beasley, Whitney Williamson, and Lenard Copenhaver. Also, Commissioner Oliver acknowledged the newly designed artwork on the elevators at Tift Campus that were designed by Ms. Jessica Eanes of the Office of Communications, since Ms. Eanes was absent from last month's board meeting.

Following such, Commissioner Oliver asked Ms. Christina Lunebach, Manager of the Judicial and Governmental Affairs Unit, to present a Video Court Hearing presentation.

To begin, Ms. Lunebach stated that video hearings have been conducted since 2018 and that the savings from video hearings was over $4.5 million on transport costs. Ms. Lunebach stated that the usage continues to grow among the courts and that the unit handles over 600 hearings a month. She advised that all state facilities have video conferencing capabilities, and legal telephone and video conferencing is also available. Ms. Lunebach stressed that her unit is building partnerships internally and externally, and explained the reason for the growth of video usage. .

Ms. Lunebach then closed by discussing detainers and the fingerprint project (implementation, innovation, pilot project, statewide), in which the Georgia Department of Corrections developed the ability to handle clearing detainers and electronically fingerprinting offenders for local law enforcement. Ms. Lunebach explained how this stops unnecessary transport of offenders, continues to increase safety for all stakeholders, and relieves detainers thus allowing offenders to progressively move through the correctional system.

To conclude the Commissioner's Report, Commissioner Oliver briefly discussed the following items: Crossover Day and legislative bill tracking at the state Capitol, cellphone jamming and drone mitigation, and Governor Brian P. Kemp signing the Amended Budget.

This concluded the Commissioner's Report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Under the Chairman's Report, Chairman Fleming moved into Regular Session to approve a County Warden's appointment.

Chairman Fleming called upon Mr. Duke Blackburn, Chairman of the Board Facilities Committee, to give the Board the Committee's recommendation on Mr. Dennis Udzinski.

Mr. Blackburn stated that the Committee received the report on Mr. Dennis Udzinski – Warden of Hall County Correctional Institution, and the Committee reviewed his report and would like to make a motion to approve Mr. Udzinski's appointment as the Warden of Hall County Correctional Facility. Mr. Blackburn made the motion to approve the appointment and stated that the entire Committee formally recommended approval so there was no need for a second motion. The motion were voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

Chairman Fleming congratulated Mr. Udzinski and Mr. Udzinski thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Next, Chairman Fleming advised the Board that we collected a total of one thousand nine hundred forty dollars ($1,940.00) towards the 2025 Georgia Prison Warden's Association Board of Corrections scholarship fund at the last meeting. The Board will continue to collect for this scholarship until the ($2,500) goal is met.

Chairman Fleming discussed the 2025 Board Calendar advising that he wanted to change the May 1st board meeting in Forsyth to Wednesday, April 30th in Augusta. There was some discussion, and Chairman Fleming advised the Board that the venue was not able to accommodate the Board on Thursday, May 1st, so he decided to conduct the meeting the day before instead.

Chairman Fleming asked for a motion to approve the new location. Mr. Alton Russell made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams. The motion was voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

Under Old or New Business, Chairman Fleming asked to approve honorary resolutions recognizing the following:

Correctional Officers Week: Which recognizes the week of May 4 - 10, 2025, for the faithful and dedicated service performed by correctional officers each day.

National Nurses Week: Which recognizes the week of May 6 - 12, 2025, for the vital role nurses play in the healthcare industry, and for their commitment in providing healthcare to everyone.

Chairman Fleming asked for a motion to approve both honorary resolutions. Mr. W. D. Strickland made a motion to approve the resolutions, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams. The resolutions were voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

Last on the agenda, Chairman Fleming asked Ms. Janine Robinson, Director of Administrative Support Division, Fleet Operations and Risk Management, to present the approval of employment for two (2) Mechanic 2s.

Ms. Robinson began by stating that GDC Fleet Operations respectfully recommends hiring Mr. Michael Stevens and Mr. Thomas Anderson as Mechanic 2 employees at Fleet Operations. Ms. Robinson stated that both individuals are Automotive Academy graduates and are now eligible for participation in the work-release program at Macon Transitional Center.

The specific job duties for these individuals, as defined by the Standard Occupational Classification Manual, will include the following:

Michael Stevens: (Mechanic 2)
49-3023: Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics
Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles.

49-3093: Tire Repairers and Changers
Repair and replace tires.

49-2096: Electronic equipment installers and repairers, motor vehicles
Install, diagnose, or repair communications, sound, security, or navigation equipment in motor vehicles.

Ms. Robinson went on to say that Mr. Stevens completed all Automotive Academy curriculum, labs, and hands-on training requirements. Since then, he has continued to work on Fleet's long term maintenance detail repairing state vehicles. In addition, he has become proficient in electrical wiring of emergency equipment in our law enforcement vehicles. He has exhibited an excellent work ethic, professionalism, and the commitment to a successful future. Mr. Stevens is an asset to the Department.

In addition, Mr. Stevens is a self-starter, eagerly accepts additional job responsibilities, and has shown great initiative and dedication to self-improvement. Mr. Stevens has demonstrated commitment to employment at GDC where he will continue to learn and grow and prepare for a successful transition to the community.

Thomas Anderson: (Mechanic 2)
51-9124 Coating, Painting, and Spraying Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders
Set up, operate, or tend spraying or rolling machines to coat or paint any of a wide variety of products, including glassware, cloth, ceramics, metal, plastic, paper, or wood, with lacquer, silver, copper, rubber, varnish, glaze, enamel, oil, or rust-proofing materials. Includes painters of transportation vehicles such as painters in auto body repair facilities.

49-3021 Automotive Body and Related Repairers
Repair and refinish automotive vehicle bodies and straighten vehicle frames

49-3022 Automotive Glass Installers and Repairers
Replace or repair broken windshields and window glass in motor vehicles.

51-4121 Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers
Use hand-welding, flame-cutting, hand-soldering, or brazing equipment to weld or join metal components or to fill holes, indentations, or seams of fabricated metal products.

Ms. Robinson stated that Mr. Anderson has demonstrated an excellent work ethic, professionalism, and the desire for a successful future by his commitment and dedication to safe vehicle repairs, knowledge of GDC's Fleet policies and procedures, and impeccable commitment to making GDC's vehicles presentable and road worthy.

Ms. Robinson closed by stating that she respectfully recommends offering Mr. Stevens and Mr. Anderson employment at GDC where they will continue to prepare for a successful transition to the community. Once released, they both plan to continue employment with the Georgia Department of Corrections.

Chairman Fleming asked for a motion to approve both employments. Ms. Kellie Brownlow made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Thomas Culpepper. The Board approved, the motions to approve both individuals' employment were voted "approved" by the

Board as presented.

Chairman Fleming reminded the Board that the next Board of Corrections meeting is on April 3, 2025, at State Offices South at Tift College, in Forsyth, Georgia.

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

Ester Fleming Jr., Chairman

Chris Clark, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison