

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS
November 4, 2021
Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Duke Blackburn – Chairman
Mr. J.C. “Spud” Bowen
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Ester Fleming Jr.
Mr. Larry Haynie
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Mr. John Mayes
Sheriff Donnie Pope
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse
Mr. Alton Russell
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Mr. Luis “Lou” M. Solis Jr.
Mr. W. D. Strickland
Ms. Rose Williams

CONFERENCE CALL:

Ms. Janelle King
Mr. Bill White
Mr. Richard Kilby, Warden, Terrell County Correctional Facility

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sheriff Barry H. Babb
Mr. Chris Clark
Mr. Guy A. Daughtrey

ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE:

Ms. Tina Piper, Senior Assistant Attorney General

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Commissioner
Mr. Alan Watson, Chief of Staff
Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Mr. Sharrod Campbell, Office of Professional Standards
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
Ms. Dawn Mock, OIT
Ms. Mary Jane Moss, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Clay Nix, Director of Office of Professional Standards
Ms. Amy Pataluna, Deputy Director, GCI
Mr. Mike Riley, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Savario Spencer, AV Specialist
Ms. Betsy Thomas, Human Resources Director
Mr. Chris Tiller, Executive Director, GCI
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain

VISITORS:

Henry Hall Arnold Jr., Citizen
Patricia Bennett, Citizen
Amy Oliver Cook, Citizen
Jay Gardner, Citizen
Harvey Jenings Nichols II, Citizen
Spencer Shelton, Citizen

First, Chairman Duke Blackburn called to order the November 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 Steven Turner to deliver the invocation. Following such, Chairman Blackburn led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Blackburn welcomed all guests and visitors to the board meeting, and the Board meeting, being duly convened, proceeded with business.

Chairman Blackburn then confirmed the following individuals were present via conference call: Board Members Ms. Janelle King and Mr. Bill White. In addition, Mr. Richard Kilby, Warden, Terrell County Correctional Facility, was on via conference call.

Chairman Blackburn presented the November Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. John Mayes made a motion to approve the Agenda, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams and Mr. W. D. Strickland. The Agenda was voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

Chairman Blackburn also presented the October Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. J.C. “Spud” Bowen. The Minutes were then voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

To begin the Commissioner’s Report, Commissioner Timothy C. 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 Healthcare Transition Update. In his presentation, Mr. Sauls discussed Pharmacy - Correct Rx, Wellpath - Transition Phase 1, and the Mental Health Expansion.

Specifically, Mr. Sauls discussed the Correct Rx Contract, Invoice versus Budget, Pharmacy Discrepancies, Total Fills, and the State Cost by Disease Chart. Mr. Sauls also discussed the Wellpath Healthcare Provider timeline for Phase 1, Assumption of Operations, Vendor Management Start Trainees, Recruitment and Retention, Medical Protocols, Director Duties, Propose Electronic Health Record, Audit Profiles, Inventory Assessment, Beta Sites-SOP Preparation, IT Infrastructure, Standardize and promote access to timely care, Staffing Ratios, CQI, Management, Clinicals, Program, Meeting Cadence, and Go Live Phase II.

In closing, Mr. Sauls discussed the GDC commitment to expanding Mental Health (MH) Service Facilities, providing MH services, the Mental Health Profile, and Total MH Population and Treatment Beds.

This concluded Mr. Sauls’ report.

Next, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner, Inmate Services, to give an Evidence Based Prisons and Gang Renunciation update.

Mr. Sanders began by discussing Evidence Based Prisons Training and Programming. This included discussing Staff Training, Motivational Interviewing, Effective Communication, Cognitive Leadership, and the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. Also, Mr. Sanders discussed Inmate Programming, Gang Renunciation (Identity Reformation), Lee State Prison, Hancock State Prison and Arrendale State Prison, Peer Mentoring/Support, Programming based on validated Risk/Needs assessment, Family Reunification, and Community Involvement.

Mr. Sanders continued by discussing the Evidence Based Prisons facilities: Metro State Prison, Lee State Prison, Hancock State Prison, Autry State Prison, Smith State Prison, and Coastal State Prison.

Next, Mr. Sanders discussed the Offender Mentoring Program, the Reinforcing .. Instructing .. Supporting .. Encouraging (R.I.S.E.) Program, Program requirements, the Gang Renunciation Program, and Security Threat Group (STG) Offenders participating in the Identity Reformation Courses.

Mr. Sanders closed by discussing the completion of the Identity Reformation Course, verification of no ongoing gang activity, offenders having an opportunity to renounce their gang affiliation, STG Sergeants monitoring program participants and completers to ensure their gang activity has ceased, and the program in conjunction with Evidence Based curriculum. A total of 209 offenders have renounced their gang affiliation since inception.

This concluded Mr. Sanders' report.

Commissioner Ward then asked Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner, Facilities Division, to give a Facilities Division update on GDC's Body Worn Camera Pilot.

Mr. Holt began his report by discussing being awarded a grant to address three critical issues that currently affect GDC and other law enforcement agencies: Safety, Officer Accountability, and Operational Efficiency.

Mr. Holt continued on by describing how the Body Worn Camera works, the Cloud network with unlimited storage, GPS Tracking of Officer Movements, camera technology, the Man Down Feature, and the pilot locations.

This concluded Mr. Holt's report.

Following such, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Clay Nix, Director, Office of Professional Standards (OPS), to give an OPS update on the Security Threat Group (STG).

Mr. Nix began his report by discussing the STG Sergeant Lifecycle and explaining that there are 30 STG Sergeants throughout the state. STG Sergeants respond to gang related incidents, gather information on incidents and share with the Wardens, conduct gang and gang members interviews, gather intelligence, and validate and re-validate STG/Gang affiliations.

Mr. Nix continued by discussing the numbers of GDC STG inmates and OPS Institutional Investigators. Mr. Nix stated there are 30 Institutional Investigators throughout the state that investigate criminal activity at their assigned prison, gather criminal intelligence related to the facility, maintain control and custody of evidence and hard contraband at the facility, and transfer evidence and hard contraband to the regional evidence facility.

Lastly, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Jay Gardner to give his Torn Pages presentation.

Mr. Gardner began his presentation by explaining how the Torn Pages ministry impacts the world, empowering lives with a message of hope and strength by crafting jewelry made from torn pieces of recycled paper.

Mr. Gardner continued his presentation with a brief radio broadcast from 104.7 "The Fish." The radio station interviewed Mr. Gardner on-air regarding his Torn Pages ministry.

To close, Mr. Gardner showed a short video which highlighted a few stories of impact and then handed out a few Torn Pages bracelets and necklaces.

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. Richard Kilby, Warden for Terrell County Correctional Facility.

Chairman Blackburn called upon Ms. Rose Williams, Chairman of the Facilities Committee, to give the Board the Committee's recommendation on Mr. Kilby. Ms. Williams stated that the Committee received the report on Mr. Kilby and the Committee would like to make a motion to approve Mr. Kilby's appointment as the Warden of Terrell County Correctional Facility.

Ms. Rose Williams made the motion to approve the appointment, which was seconded by Mr. W.D. Strickland. The motion was voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

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

Next, Chairman Blackburn asked Mr. Larry Haynie, Chairman of the Nominations Committee, to give the Board an update on the 2022 Nomination of Officers for the Executive Officer positions.

Mr. Haynie stated that the Nominations Committee met, discussed, and agreed to nominate the same officers, Mr. Duke Blackburn as Chairman, Mr. Wayne Dasher as Vice Chairman, and Ms. Andrea Shelton as the Secretary, for the 2022 calendar year.

Mr. Haynie also added that this recommendation will be done formerly in the form of a motion at the December board meeting.

Lastly, under Old or New Business, Chairman Blackburn asked for a motion to approve the honorary resolution that was drafted for former Board Member, Mike Coggins, for his years of service on the Board of Corrections.

Mr. Wayne Dasher made a motion to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams. The resolution was voted “approved” by the Board.

To close, Chairman Blackburn reminded the Board the following items:

- The Board of Corrections Holiday Luncheon will follow at the adjournment of the board meeting in December;
- The January 6th board meeting will be held in Oglethorpe, Georgia at Macon State Prison;
- The April 14th board meeting will be held in Glennville, Georgia;
- Mr. Wayne Dasher assisted with collecting funds for the 2022 GPWA Board of Corrections Scholarship Fund and the Board of Corrections Flower Fund; and
- The next Board meeting will be held on December 2nd, at State Offices South at Tift College, in Forsyth.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Duke Blackburn, Chairman

Andrea Shelton, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison