

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

November 3, 2022

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sheriff Barry H. Babb
Mr. Duke Blackburn – Chairman
Mr. J.C. “Spud” Bowen
Mr. Chris Clark
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Ester Fleming Jr.
Mr. Larry Haynie
Sheriff Donnie Pope
Mr. Alton Russell
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Mr. W. D. Strickland
Ms. Rose Williams

CONFERENCE CALLS:

Mr. John Mayes
Mr. Luis “Lou” M. Solis Jr.
Mr. Bill White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Guy A. Daughtrey
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Ms. Janelle King
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse

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 and Construction Services
Ms. Latoya Doucette, Deputy Human Resources Director
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs
Mr. Cliff Hogan, Director, Data Unit
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Executive Assistant
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Ms. Dawn Mock, OIT
Mr. John Richey, Deputy Director, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Henry Rutherford III, Director of OIT
Mr. Chris Tiller, Director of GCI
Mr. Rob Thrower, Legislative Liaison
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain

VISITORS:

Mr. Greg Icard, Citizen
Mr. Gregory Reddin, 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, welcomed all guests and visitors, and the Board meeting, being duly convened, proceeded with business.

Chairman Blackburn presented together the November 2022 Agenda and the October 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 and Mr. Wayne Dasher. The Agenda and Minutes were voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

To begin the Commissioner's Report, Commissioner Ward started by stating that he was invited by Mr. Ester Fleming Jr. to speak at the Kiwanis Club of Covington. Commissioner Ward then discussed his visit to McRae Facility and the recruitment efforts there. Commissioner Ward continued by discussing 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 mental health care and treatment. Some of the highlights discussed were the prevalence of mental health illness in prisons, the percentage receiving mental health services from 2011 to 2021, mental health treatment, GDC offender population overview, types of mental health services, the primary diagnoses by gender- male, and the primary diagnoses by gender- female.

Mr. Sauls concluded his presentation by discussing mental health services facility expansion.

This concluded Mr. Sauls' report.

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 state and community partnerships, peach pass lanes, peach pass partnership, the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA), the peach pass image reviews, the Georgia Justice Project, Indeed.com's visit, and documents for release.

To close, Mr. Sanders discussed the Great Promise Partnership with Monroe County School System.

This concluded Mr. Sanders' report.

Commissioner Ward asked Mr. John Richey, Deputy Director of the Office of Professional Standards (OPS), to give a brief OPS update. Some of the highlights from Mr. Richey's presentation were the total physical arrests for September and October 2022 of staff, inmates, and civilians, the Fugitive Apprehension Unit overview, the fugitive apprehensions that were made, and who the Fugitive Apprehension Team is currently looking for.

This concluded Mr. Richey's 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 utilization of technology. Mr. Holt discussed how the agency maximizes the use of technology to gain efficiencies and aid in the daily operations of our facilities.

Some of the highlights discussed were the company Optamo, the enhanced cameras (analytics), officer radios, Inmate Assignment Decision Support System (IADSS), Optamo: non - association profiles, Optamo: non - association profiles, Fusus Video Platform (realtime cloud command center), Motorola radio upgrade, new repeaters, control stations, portable and mobile subscriber radios.

Mr. Holt closed with discussing project phases, equipment that was ordered, site survey, frequency ordered, repeaters, program equipment, and deployment and training.

This concluded Mr. Holt's presentation and the Commissioner's report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Duke Blackburn began the Chairman's Report by asking Sheriff Barry Babb, Chairman of the Nominations Committee, to give the Board an update on the 2023 Nomination of Officers for the Executive Officer positions.

Sheriff Babb stated that the Nominations Committee met, discussed, and agreed to review all the nominations but that the Committee will make a formal recommendation and nomination of officers at the December board meeting.

Last of all, there were no Old or New Business, so Chairman Blackburn reminded the board members about the Board of Corrections holiday luncheon and the next meeting on December 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