

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

**October 1, 2015
Savannah, Georgia**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Rose Williams, Chairman
Ms. Sonja R. Allen-Smith
Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. Mac Collins
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Carl L. Franklin
Sheriff Roger Garrison
Mr. Larry E. Haynie
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
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Mr. John Mayes

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. Lester Foster, Chaplain
Mr. Cliff Hogan, Planning and Strategic Management
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Public Affairs
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Mr. Keith Lank, Fugitive Task Squad
Mr. Jose Morales, Warden Coastal State Prison
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Director of Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Clay Nix, Office of Professional Standards
Ms. Donna Payne, Baldwin State Prison
Ms. Lisa Rodriguez-Presley, Public Affairs
Mr. Artis Singleton, Warden of Lee State Prison
Mr. Maurio Sinkford, Superintendent of Costal TC
Mr. Nicholas Spates, Tech Service
Mr. Robert Toole, Regional Director
Mr. Norman Wilson, Executive Director of GCI

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General

VISITORS:

Mr. Lee Beckmann, Georgia Port Authority
Ms. Lynn Blackburn, Wife of Duke Blackburn
Ms. Lisa Bryson, Department of Juvenile Justice
Ms. Julie Collins, Wife of Mac Collins
Ms. Jackie Franklin, Wife of Carl Franklin
Mr. Dimitri Lotovoki, CBS 46
Mr. Michael Ray Payne, Citizen
Mr. Ellis Wood, Board of Public Safety
Mr. Buster Cushing, Cherokee County

Chairman Rose Williams called the October meeting of the Board of Corrections to order at 10:30 a.m. and Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi, recorded the minutes. Chairman Williams asked Chaplain Lester Foster 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 recognized Mr. Lee Beckmann, Manager of Governmental Affairs with the Georgia Ports Authority. Mr. Beckmann gave a brief overview about the history of the port and showed a five minute video of the daily operations.

Next, Chairman Williams presented the October Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Sheriff Roger Garrison and the Agenda was voted approved by the Board as presented.

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

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Homer Bryson began his report stating the Upcoming Events calendar is located in the back of the booklets for review and members can attend any up-coming event or graduation. Next, Commissioner Bryson presented a three page overview PowerPoint highlighting keys areas within the agency such as inmate population, inmate security levels, bed utilization, safe and secure facilities, inmate services, fire services and contraband, specifically cell phones. Commissioner Bryson noted that cell phones in prisons are a huge national issue. In mid-October, the Department of Corrections is meeting with the FCC in reference to cellphones and we hope Corrections will be able to get permission from the FCC to use "jamming" technology. Commissioner Bryson then spoke briefly on the welding program, diesel mechanic program, OJT program, volunteer services and chaplaincy services.

Next, Assistant Commissioner L.C. "Buster" Evans gave an Inmate Services update covering areas within his division such as academic education, vocational education, chaplaincy, risk reduction, reentry services and health services. Dr. Evans stated his role over Inmate Services enables him to visit and speak at several facilities and meet staff as well as people that are incarcerated. As a result, while visiting Baldwin State Prison, Dr. Evans met Ms. Donna Payne who invited him to come and speak to the Lifers group at Baldwin State Prison. Dr. Evans stated that he was impressed with Ms. Payne's leadership structure and her willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty. Dr. Evans explained that Ms. Payne helped organize the program by creating a curriculum and he believes she found her passion in doing this.

Likewise, while visiting Baldwin State Prison, Dr. Evans met Tracy Xavier Hickey who had a story that captures the heart and soul of the ability of this group of people to make a positive difference in our facilities. Dr. Evans stated Mr. Hickey has a powerful and positive influence on the culture inside Baldwin State Prison that helps positively change the culture. Dr. Evans then showed a video from the Baldwin State Prison Lifers Program called "Reducing Recidivism through Education."

Immediately following, Assistant Commissioner Timothy C. Ward presented the area and functions of the Facilities Operations Division. Mr. Ward stated in his role over the Facilities Division, he is responsible for the Communication Center, Emergency Management Operations, Fire Services, and Life Safety Services. Mr. Ward explained that the Facilities Operations Division restructured around 4 basic functions (Field Operations, Planning, Support, and Analysis, Special Operations and Communication Center) with an emphasis on regionalizing field operations. To conclude, Mr. Ward displayed an organizational chart for the Facilities Operations Division.

Next, Mr. Artis Singleton, Warden of Lee State Prison, presented a facility overview. Warden Singleton began his presentation with the general history of Lee State Prison, the mission statement and motto of the facility. Some highlights discussed were the inmate population numbers, staffing, Evidence Based Facility, programs offered, Education-GED, ABE, LR/R, Cognitive programs, Substance Abuse, Self-help groups and Electives.

Subsequently, Assistant Commissioner Timothy C. Ward presented an Employee Recognition plaque on behalf of the Board of Corrections and Commissioner Homer Bryson to Ms. Donna

Payne of Baldwin State Prison. The plaque was given to Ms. Payne for “*Going Above and Beyond the Call of Duty.*” A photo was taken of the plaque presentation.

This concluded the Commissioner’s Report.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Chairman Rose Williams requested Mr. Wayne Dasher, Chair of the Nominations Committee, to give an update on the upcoming Nomination of Officers for 2016. Mr. Dasher stated the 2016 Committee Request Form is inside each board booklet for all members to specify if they wish to be considered for the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary position for year 2016. All forms should be sent to Board Liaison Simone Juhmi, and she will submit them for review by the Nominations Committee.

Next, Chairman Williams stated the Health Services Committee is unable to do their presentation at this time since several members are not present today. Therefore, the meeting will continue with any Old or New Business. There was no Old or New Business, therefore, Chairman Williams reminded the members the next Committee to present will be the Nominations Committee and the next board meeting will be on November 5th in Forsyth at State Offices South at Tift College.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rose Williams, Chairman

Alton Russell, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison