

## **BOARD OF CORRECTIONS**

**October 6, 2016  
Dawsonville, Georgia**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Rose Williams, Chairman  
Ms. Sonja Allen-Smith  
Mr. Duke Blackburn  
Mr. Mike Coggins  
Mr. Mac Collins  
Mr. Wayne Dasher  
Sheriff Roger Garrison  
Mr. Larry Haynie  
Mr. Bruce Hudson  
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard  
Mr. John Mayes  
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse  
Ms. Andrea Shelton  
Mr. W. D. Strickland

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Christopher Clark  
Mr. Alton Russell  
Mr. Jerry Willis  
Ms. Rocio D. Woody

### **CONFERENCE CALL:**

Mr. Carl L. Franklin

### **DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:**

Commissioner Homer Bryson  
Mr. Jack "Randy" Sauls, Assistant Commissioner  
Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Assistant Commissioner  
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel  
Mr. Dan Brown, Director of Office of Information Technology  
Mr. Tommy Fountain, Statewide Transitional Center Coordinator  
Mr. Brad Hooks, Assistant Executive Director of Operations for Georgia Correctional Industries  
Mr. Walter Hudson, Office of Professional Standards  
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison  
Mr. Bruce Lee, Warden of Walker State Prison  
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Director of Office of Professional Standards  
Ms. Amy Pataluna, Georgia Correctional Industries  
Mr. J. M. "Bob" Plemons, Legislative Liaison  
Mr. Aaron Reaves, Chaplain  
Mr. Otis Stanton, Statewide Tier Segregation Manager

### **ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:**

Ms. Tina Piper, Assistant Attorney General

### **VISITORS:**

Ms. Lynn Blackburn, Wife of Duke Blackburn  
Captain John New, Cherokee County Sheriff's Office  
Mr. Frank Reynolds, Sheriff Elect-Cherokee County Sheriff's Office  
Ms. Susan Strickland, Wife of W. D. Strickland  
Mr. Kevin Tanner, Georgia State Representative

Chairman Rose Williams called the October 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 Aaron Reaves to deliver the invocation.

Chairman Rose Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance and recognized new board member Mike Coggins and Georgia State Representative Kevin Tanner to the meeting. Chairman Williams acknowledged all visitors and the Board meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed to business. Chairman Williams acknowledged the attendance of Mr. Carl L. Franklin via conference call.

Chairman Williams presented the October 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 September Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Mr. John Mayes and the Minutes were voted approved by the Board as presented.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Homer Bryson began his report by mentioning that the four-page overview highlighting key areas within the agency is in the Board member's booklets for their convenience. Commissioner Bryson expressed that he would forgo giving much detail about this overview since time was of the essence. Instead, Commissioner Bryson gave a brief update on the status of Hurricane Matthew and what the agency plans to do regarding the facilities along the coast of Georgia. In addition, Commissioner Bryson spoke about the large turnout at the Family Day event on September 30th at the Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia. Commissioner Bryson thanked the State Board of Pardons and Paroles for their participation at this event.

Immediately following, Commissioner Bryson called on Mr. Otis Stanton, Statewide Tier Segregation Manager, to present a Tier Recidivism Update. Mr. Stanton stated that the Tier Segregation Management System is a facility-wide stratification plan that manages the institutional conduct and programmatic needs of the assigned population. Mr. Stanton highlighted the criteria for placement in Tier, Tier facility locations, Tier bed breakdown, reasons for returning to the Tier program and Tier completions and returns.

To follow, Commissioner Bryson called upon Tommy Fountain, Statewide Transitional Center Coordinator, to present a Transitional Center Cellphone overview. Mr. Fountain gave the number of active cellphones in use, the cellphone distribution levels by center, the positive impact of the cellphones, individual success stories, the importance of family reunification, and overall statistics. To conclude, Mr. Fountain spoke on the minimal negative impact and perceptions of the cellphone program.

Finally, Commissioner Bryson gave a brief update on the recommendation to name the Reentry Dorm at Phillips State Prison after Chaplain Katie Wright. Commissioner Bryson clarified his recommendation and advised that he approves the request and will endorse the decision of the Board.

This concluded the Commissioner's Report.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Rose Williams began the Chairman's report by asking Ms. Andrea Shelton, Chair of the Correctional Industries/ Food and Farm Committee, to give a presentation. Ms. Shelton introduced and called upon Warden Bruce Lee of Walker State Prison to give a presentation on the idea to expand the gardening operation at Walker State Prison.

Warden Lee began his presentation by stating that the garden at Walker State Prison has produced over 2,000 pounds of food so far this year. The garden produced over 4,000 pounds of food last year. All produce is organically grown without the use of herbicides, pesticides, or fertilizers. In addition, Warden Lee discussed a possible vocational horticulture certificate program, goals for the future such as having produce that is certified as organically grown, expanding the size of the garden, increasing productivity and improving gardening skills. To close, Warden Lee expressed that his ultimate goal is to provide fresh supplemental food to the inmate population.

Next, Sheriff Roger Garrison, Chair of the Nominations Committee, gave an update on the 2017 Nominations of Officers and stated that each board member will need to fill out the form inside their booklet for 2017 committee requests. To close, Sherriff Garrison introduced his invited guests, Mr. Frank Reynolds-Sherriff Elect and Captain John New of Cherokee County Sherriff's Office to the Board.

To follow, Chairman Williams continued with Old or New Business by presenting an honorary resolution that was drafted for Dr. L. C. "Buster" Evans. Dr. Evans was the Assistant Commissioner of Inmate Services and he is now working for the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia. This resolution honors his work in the education field and his work with the Department

of Corrections. Chairman Williams asked for the motion of approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Ms. Andrea Shelton and the resolution was voted approved by the Board as presented.

Chairman Williams continued by asking Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel, to present a property resolution for Johnson State Prison's Training Building Demolition.

Ms. Ammons briefly described the property and stated that a larger modular structure is replacing the training building and must be located on the same spot due to underground utilities and available space inside the perimeter fence. In addition, the existing building is a pre-fabricated, modular building in poor condition with no salvage value; therefore, the Department asks for the Board's approval to demolish this building.

Chairman Williams asked for a motion to approve the property resolution. Mr. Tommy M. Rouse made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Sheriff Roger Garrison and the property resolution was voted approved by the Board as presented.

Last on the agenda was the naming of the Reentry Dorm at Phillips State Prison after Chaplain Katie Wright under Rule 125-2-2-.04., Name Designation of State Prison/Center or Part Thereof. Chairman Williams called upon Mr. Duke Blackburn, Chairman of the Facilities Committee, to give the Facilities Committee's recommendation. Mr. Duke Blackburn stated that the Committee reviewed the request and concluded that there needs to be a more formal set of standards and guidelines for this kind of request. Moreover, a procedure of steps on which to base a decision should be given to the committee. There was some discussion. Sheriff Roger Garrison made a motion to withdraw his previous motion to deny the request to name the Reentry Dorm at Phillips State Prison after Chaplain Katie Wright. Mr. Wayne Dasher seconded the motion to withdraw the denial recommendation, and the motion to withdraw the denial of this request was voted approved by the Board.

Sheriff Garrison recommended that the agency develop some criteria for the selection process for naming a facility after an individual. In addition, there should be a review committee from the Department of Corrections' staff to pre-select candidates from which the Nominations Committee would select an individual. Commissioner Bryson stated that he would have the Office of Legal Services draft and submit criteria for naming a Georgia Department of Corrections' facility after an individual at the December board meeting.

As a result, Chairman Williams asked for the motion of approval to name the Reentry Dorm at Phillips State Prison after Chaplain Katie Wright. Mr. Duke Blackburn made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Sheriff Roger Garrison, and the naming of the Reentry Dorm at Phillips State Prison after Chaplain Katie Wright was voted approved by the Board.

Next, Mr. Wayne Dasher asked the Board to consider changing the April 2017 board meeting to April 13<sup>th</sup> to coincide with the Board of Public Safety Board meeting and allow a joint meeting in conjunction with hosting the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Law Enforcement Supper in Glennville, Georgia.

Mr. Dasher made a motion to change the April board meeting date and location, which was then seconded by Mr. Bruce Hudson, and the vote to move the April board meeting to April 13<sup>th</sup> was voted approved by the Board. Therefore, the April 2017 board meeting will be on April 13, 2017 in Glennville, Georgia.

To conclude the meeting, there were several announcements:

- Chairman Williams thanked Commissioner Bryson for his assistance with hosting the meeting at Amicalola Falls;
- Chairman Williams thanked Warden Bruce Lee for the tour and overview at Walker State Prison;
- Chairman Williams thanked Warden Ahmed Holt for his assistance and for his staff's assistance at Amicalola Falls;

- Mr. Mac Collins thanked the board members for their phone call and prayers for his daughter;
- Chairman Williams reminded the board members that each board committee will need to finish their presentations before the end of the year; and
- Sheriff Stacy Jarrard invited the board members to the Gold Rush weekend in Dahlonega on Saturday and to the sponsored event for the Georgia Sheriff's Youth Homes.

To close, Chairman Williams reminded the members that the next meeting will be on November 3, 2016 at State Offices South at Tift College in Forsyth, Georgia.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Rose Williams, Chairman

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Alton Russell, Secretary

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Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison