

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

**October 4, 2018
Forsyth, Georgia**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. Chris Clark
Mr. Mike Coggins
Mr. Mac Collins
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Sheriff Roger Garrison
Mr. Larry Haynie
Mr. John Mayes
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse
Mr. Alton Russell
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Ms. Rose Williams
Mr. Jerry Willis, Chairman
Ms. June Wood
Ms. Rocio D. Woody

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Carl Franklin
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Mr. W. D. Strickland

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Gregory C. Dozier, Commissioner
Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Chief of Staff
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Scott Poitevint, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Dr. Heather Corbett, Director of Career, Technical, & Higher Education
Dr. Melinda Dennis, Director of Education Programs
Mr. Terry Edge, Director of Office of Professional Development
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Executive Assistant to Commissioner
Mr. Walter Hudson, Office of Professional Standards
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Mr. Clay Nix, Director of Office of Professional Standards
Ms. Amy Pataluna, Deputy Executive Director, Georgia Correctional Industries
Mr. David Smith, Director of Engineering & Construction Services
Mr. Mike Riley, Office of Professional Standards
Ms. Betsy Thomas, Director of Human Resources
Ms. Annette Toby, Warden, Hancock State Prison
Mr. Robert Toole, Director of Field Operations
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain
Ms. Calpurnia Washington, Unit Manager, Hancock State Prison
Dr. Angela Williams, Deputy Director of Facilities Admin/Support
Ms. Virginia Williams, Counselor, Hancock State Prison

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Ms. Tina Piper, Senior Assistant Attorney General

VISITORS:

Ms. Penny Coggins, Wife of Mike Coggins
Ms. Lisa Haynie, Wife of Larry Haynie

First, Chairman Jerry Willis called to order the October meeting for the Board of Corrections (“the Board”) at 10:00 a.m. and Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi, recorded the minutes.

Chairman Jerry Willis then asked Dr. Steven Turner to deliver the invocation. Following such, Chairman Willis led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and then recognized all guests and visitors, and the Board meeting, being duly convened, proceeded with business.

To begin, Chairman Willis presented the October Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made a motion to approve the Agenda, which was seconded by Ms. June Wood. The Agenda was voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

Chairman Willis also presented the September Minutes to the Board for approval. Vice Chairman Alton Russell made the motion to approve, which was also seconded by Ms. Rose Williams. The Minutes were then voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Gregory C. Dozier began his report by introducing recently promoted Georgia Department of Corrections staff members Mr. Robert Toole, Director of Field Operations and Dr. Angela Williams, Deputy Director of Facilities Admin/Support. In addition, Commissioner Dozier talked about the recent Warden promotions and moves. Plus, Commissioner Dozier stated that the Agency kicked off the meeting of the new Citizens Advisory Panel and Commissioner Dozier briefly discussed the last Family Day that was held in Valdosta on September 21st.

Next, Commissioner Dozier discussed the Commissioner's dashboard, which is a three-page overview highlighting key areas within the Agency.

Afterwards, Commissioner Dozier asked Mr. Ricky Myrick, Assistant Commissioner of the Facilities Division, to present the "Beyond the Call" employee recognition awards. Mr. Myrick stated that Hancock State Prison employees Ms. Virginia Williams and Ms. Calpurnia Washington, were being honored today because on August 16th at Hancock State Prison, an inmate had attempted suicide. Ms. Virginia Williams and Ms. Calpurnia Washington, immediately responded. Rushing up the stairs, the two employees immediately began to render assistance. They did not cease their efforts until the Medical Unit arrived and took control of the situation. Ms. Williams and Ms. Washington not only demonstrated their knowledge and experience, but set the standard high for all staff.

Mr. Myrick presented Ms. Williams and Ms. Washington with a plaque on behalf of the Board of Corrections and Commissioner Gregory C. Dozier. A photo was taken of the plaque presentations.

Next, Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner of Inmate Services Division, introduced Dr. Heather Corbett, Director of Career, Technical, & Higher Education, to present a Career & Technical Education overview.

Dr. Corbett began by discussing the key personnel that were in each region/ section, which makes a complete cohesive team for the section which she supervises. Dr. Corbett continued by highlighting items such as the career and technical daily enrollment, highest average, completions, programs by categories, and some of the new higher education programs that are being initiated. To continue, Dr. Corbett discussed mobile classrooms and their benefits, expanding dog programs, shelter dog programs, America's vet dog program, wheelchair repair program and other potential sites that may be possible to start these programs.

Furthermore, Dr. Corbett discussed some existing contracts, applying for Federal - Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funding, Coastal Pines and Ware State Prison - welding, Athens Tech, Goodwill, Whitworth - welding, and the federal funds allocated through the Georgia Department of Education for program monitoring.

To conclude, Dr. Corbett mentioned a few things on the horizon such as manufacturing, distribution, and forklift training at all transitional centers, pottery & music production programs, reforming arts theater program at Whitworth, Georgia Film Academy & Blackhall Studio Partnership with Metro Reentry Facility and/or Metro Transitional Center and the Construction Academy.

Thereafter, Commissioner Gregory C. Dozier asked Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs, to introduce the “Beyond the Walls” article and short video on Mr. Shaun Harris.

Mr. Harris was released from the Atlanta City Detention Center after serving four years behind bars at Wheeler Correctional Facility. He was released as the first graduate from a new PAT 3 Program that developed from a partnership with the Georgia Department of Corrections, Atlanta Department of Corrections and the Department of Watershed Management. The new re-entry program focuses on Preparing Adult Offenders to Transition through Training and Therapy (PAT 3). It provides previously incarcerated males with job training and employment through the Department of Watershed Management.

PAT 3 is a three-tiered process that includes state-mandated vocational training, workforce development and employment. Once the former offenders officially become City employees, they also get full health benefits and their earnings are placed in an account until they are released from the Atlanta City Detention Center. Program participants include those with 12 to 18 months remaining in their sentences and only those with non-violent crimes. The overall goal is to help reduce recidivism and make the transition smoother for those reintegrating back into society.

Harris became one of the very first to go through the PAT 3 Program, get a job and start rebuilding his life.

This concluded the Commissioner’s Report.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Chairman Jerry Willis began the Chairman’s Report by asking the board members to fill out the 2019 Committee Assignments & Nomination of Officers form so that the Nominations Committee could meet and discuss the upcoming nominations.

To conclude the meeting, there were a few announcements:

- Chairman Willis stated that the board members would possibly take a board photo in December.
- The next Board meeting will be held on November 1st, at State Offices South at Tift College, in Forsyth.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jerry Willis, Chairman

Larry Haynie, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison