

**BOARD OF CORRECTIONS**

**September 3, 2015**

**Forsyth, 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  
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard  
Mr. John Mayes  
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

**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  
Ms. Ameya Cannon, Calhoun State Prison  
Mr. Terry Edge, Training Director  
Mr. Benjamin Ford, Burruss CTC  
Mr. Hal Gibson, Director of Engineering & Construction Services  
Mr. Dwight Hamrick, Muscogee County  
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs  
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Public Affairs  
Mr. Brad Hooks, Georgia Correctional Industries  
Mr. Walter Hudson, Office of Professional Standards  
Mr. Donald Jones, Office of Professional Standards  
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison  
Mr. Chi King, Department of Corrections  
Mr. Daniel King, Muscogee County  
Mr. Jim Laine, Director of Human Resources  
Mr. Johnny Miller, Office of Professional Standards  
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Director of Office of Professional Standards  
Ms. Lisa Rodrigues-Presley, Public Affairs  
Mr. Nicholas Spates, Tech Service  
Mr. Scott Stallings, Georgia Correctional Industries  
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain  
Mr. Norman Wilson, Executive Director of GCI

**ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:**

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General

**VISITORS:**

Ms. Maya Chaudairi, Southern Center for Human Rights  
Mr. Kevin Clark, Georgia Environmental Finance Authority  
Mr. Lee Hackworth, CBS 46, Atlanta  
Mr. Carey Miller, Governor's Office  
Mr. Terry Norris, Georgia Sheriff's Association  
Mr. David Pratt, GEO  
Ms. Sally Sears, CBS 46, Atlanta

Chairman Rose Williams called the September 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 Steven Turner to give the invocation. Chaplain Turner asked everyone to remember the family of Correctional Officer Dianna Jackson from Washington State Prison who died in an automobile accident yesterday evening.

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 welcomed and congratulated new Board Members Mr. Larry E. Haynie and Mr. W. D. Strickland to the Board of Corrections. Chairman Williams stated their bios were in the booklets for the members to review. Mr. Haynie resides in Carrollton and Mr. Strickland resides in Patterson, Georgia; both are currently assigned as Members at Large. Mr. Haynie and Mr. Strickland stated they appreciate the opportunity to serve on the Board and they each thanked the Chairman for acknowledging them. Additionally, Chairman Williams recognized Mr. Carey Miller who was in attendance from the Governor's office.

Next, Chairman Williams presented the September Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Mr. Alton Russell and the Agenda was voted approved by the Board as presented.

Chairman Williams presented the June Minutes to the Board for approval. Sheriff Roger Garrison 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 welcoming and asking Mr. Terry Norris from the Georgia Sheriff Association to address the Board. Mr. Norris stated that he worked with our board for many years and he acknowledged the appointed sheriffs on the Board of Corrections. Mr. Norris thanked the sheriffs for serving and asked that we all serve in our communities and support law enforcement. Mr. Norris then distributed the Georgia Sheriff's Magazine, spoke briefly about the Sheriff's Youth Home and noted that the city of Glennville always hosts the Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Cookout.

To follow, Commissioner Bryson introduced Mr. Jim Laine, Director of Human Resources, and Mr. V. Harold "Hal" Gibson, Director of Engineering and Construction Services. Mr. Laine retired from Georgia state government in 2014 following more than 25 years of service. He spent the latter eight years of his public sector career as Human Resources Director with the Department of Natural Resources. His prior experience includes more than 10 years with the Department of Corrections, five of which were in the role of Human Resources Director.

Likewise, Mr. Hal Gibson joined the Department of Corrections from his most recent position as President and CEO of Hal Gibson Companies, LLC in West Point, GA, a multi-service consulting firm he founded, where he was responsible for the management of more than \$2.5 billion in construction projects. His past experience includes six years with the University System of Georgia, serving first as Director of Preventive Maintenance & Special Projects, then as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Facilities Operations. Mr. Gibson also served as Director of Plant Operations for Columbus State University, and as Facilities, Safety & Security Manager with Hughes Aircraft in Lagrange.

In addition, Commissioner Bryson mentioned that Mr. Brad Hooks is now the Assistant Executive Director of Operations with Georgia Correctional Industries and he will be assisting Mr. Norman Wilson in moving Correctional Industries forward.

Commissioner Bryson expressed that when he first came to Corrections, many board members appeared interested in changing the format of the Board; therefore, the Chief of Staff, Assistant Commissioners and I have been meeting and working for several months on a new format. Commissioner Bryson asked that the members give him their feedback on the new format after the board meeting.

To begin, Commissioner Bryson stated the Upcoming Events calendar is now located in the back of the booklets. Next, Commissioner Bryson presented a three page overview PowerPoint highlighting key areas within the agency such as inmate population, inmate security levels, bed utilization, safe and secure facilities and inmate services.

Next, Assistant Commissioner L.C. "Buster" Evans presented an Inmate Services update. Some of the program highlights were Charter Schools at LASP & BCTC, the Welding programs at Walker and Ware State Prison, and the Diesel Mechanic Technician programs at Telfair, Rogers and Ware State Prison. In addition, Dr. Evans mentioned the Online College for veterans at Emmanuel, the 20 full-time teachers hired for "big mediums" that expanded the instructional hours per week, the 80,000 books collected in the reading initiative, GED numbers on the rise, JPAY tablet devices, including over 3,000 being scheduled for October deployment, and placing Chaplains in all facilities with upgrades to full-time status for max and large medium facilities and the Tier programming.

Dr. Evans continued his presentation with information on enrollment criteria for academic education. He talked about the selection criteria for Risk Reduction Services programs and their participation numbers, the GED completions year to date, the OJT enrollments, the vocational enrollments, the rate of recidivism and the 100,000 book initiative that is on-going.

To close, Dr. Evans displayed an organizational chart for his division and spoke of future plans such as the GED Fast Track, making Charter Schools fully operational, and expanding Vocation Educational programs, College Programs, Evidence Based Facilities, RSAT (Bleckley & Paulding), Juvenile Assessment and Programming and the Lifers / Mentoring programming.

Immediately following, Assistant Commissioner Timothy C. Ward presented a Facilities Operations update. Some of the highlights were safety and security updates such as hardening projects, taser implementation and combination locks. In addition, Mr. Ward talked about facility re-missioning of Bleckley PRSAT and Paulding PRSAT. To conclude, Mr. Ward discussed the visitation process at facilities and offender programming.

Next, Mr. Benjamin Ford, Warden of Burruss Correctional Training Center, presented a facility overview. Warden Ford began his presentation with the general history of Burruss Correctional Training Center, housing of offenders, inmate population numbers and the facility's overall mission. Some highlights discussed were the amount of personnel, the satellite facility- West Central Integrated Treatment facility, the business office services, population breakdown, the Foothills Charter High School, care and treatment / programs, education, OJT programs, food service and work details.

Subsequently, Assistant Commissioner Timothy C. Ward presented an Employee Recognition plaque on behalf of the Board of Corrections and Commissioner Homer Bryson to Ms. Ameya Cannon of Calhoun State Prison. The plaque was given to Ms. Cannon 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 Williams proceeded to move into Regular Session to approve the appointment of Mr. Daniel King. Chairman Williams called upon Mr. Alton Russell, Chairman of the Operations Committee, to give the Board the Committee's recommendation on the appointment of Mr. King.

Mr. Russell stated that the Operations Committee received a board packet for Mr. King recommending him as the Deputy Warden of Administration/ Care and Treatment for Muscogee County Correctional Institution. The Operations Committee has reviewed Mr. King's report and the Committee unanimously recommends appointment approval of Mr. King as the Deputy Warden of Administration/ Care and Treatment of Muscogee County. Mr. Russell made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher and Mr. Jerry Willis, and was then voted approved by the Board.

Chairman Williams congratulated Mr. King on his appointment and asked if he would like to say a few words to the Board. Mr. King thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Chairman Williams then requested that Ms. Andrea Shelton, Member of the Education/Programs and Recidivism Committee, give her Committee's presentation. Ms. Shelton spoke on several great things that she and Board Member Rocio Woody witnessed at Burruss Correctional Training Center while visiting. Some of the highlights mentioned by Ms. Shelton were the training and the Integrity dorm principles. Ms. Shelton continued with more examples and testimonies from the Integrity Project such as its core values, behavior and accountability. To conclude Ms. Shelton showed a snippet of the Integrity video. This concluded the Education/Programs & Recidivism Committee presentation.

Next, Mr. Wayne Dasher gave an update on the Savannah Board Meeting scheduled for October 1<sup>st</sup> at the Port Authority. Mr. Dasher expressed that there was a packet with information about Savannah included in the board booklets. In addition, Mr. Dasher stated that he plans to do a pre-visit to ensure all the details are finalized for the meeting.

Chairman Williams continued asking for any Old or New Business. Chairman Williams asked Mr. Hal Gibson, Director of Engineering and Construction Services to present the Energy Performance Contract resolution. Mr. Gibson stated that he is asking the Board to sign a resolution that gives the Commissioner's Designee the right to sign a contract with an Energy Performance Company for the purpose of committing the Georgia Department of Corrections to a new funding opportunity that will put energy conservation measures in place with a payback that will exceed our commitment. .

Ultimately, the contract will give the department an opportunity through energy savings/ guaranteed savings to address some items such as chillers, boilers, water treatment issues and equipment at certain facilities that have been worn out for twenty years. Mr. Gibson stated the contract is 28 million dollars funded through a loan that will be facilitated through an already existing schedule. This process will fund new energy management facilities, new chillers, boilers and address water treatment issues at five facilities with the biggest needs: Arrendale, GD&CP, GSP, Hayes and Wilcox. This contract will allow the department to fix some important problems without having to wait for the state to commit any kind of capital resources up front. In addition, the contract will more than pay for itself because although this is a 28 million dollar loan, we are getting about a 50 million dollar return on investment.

Chairman Williams asked for a motion to approve the resolution. There was some discussion by Mr. Carl Franklin and Mr. Alton Russell. Ultimately, Sheriff Roger Garrison made the motion to approve the contract/resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Carl Franklin and Mr. Wayne Dasher. Mr. Alton Russell and Mr. Mac Collins opposed the vote to approve by stating that there is not enough information provided for them to approve; however, with a vote of fourteen member's approval and two opposing, the resolution was voted approved by the Board.

To conclude the meeting, Chairman Williams reminded the members that the next Committee to present will be the Health Services Committee, the next board meeting will be on October 1<sup>st</sup> in Savannah and we will take an official photo at the adjournment of today's meeting.

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