

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

September 1, 2016

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Rose Williams, Chairman
Ms. Sonja Allen-Smith
Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Carl L. Franklin
Sheriff Roger Garrison
Mr. Larry Haynie
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. Bruce Hudson
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard

CONFERENCE CALL:

Mr. Mac Collins

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Commissioner Homer Bryson
Dr. L. C. "Buster" Evans, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Scott Poitevint, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Jack "Randy" Sauls, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Assistant Commissioner
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Ms. Vickie Brown, Deputy Warden of Screven County
Mr. Dan Brown, Director of Office of Information Technology
Ms. Sander Carter, Teacher, Coastal State Prison
Ms. Nichelle Cox, Teacher, Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Prison
Ms. Beverly Dorsey, North Region SSPC
Mr. Terry Edge, Director of Office of Professional Development
Mr. Hal Gibson, Director of Engineering & Construction Services
Ms. Cleo Griswold, North Area Principal, North Region
Mr. Brad Hooks, Assistant Executive Director of Operations for Georgia Correctional Industries
Mr. Walter Hudson, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Carl Humphrey, Warden of Spaulding County
Ms. Jennifer Irving, Southeast Area Principal, SE Region
Mr. Anthony Jenkins, Director of Education & Programs
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Mr. John Miller, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Director of Office of Professional Standards
Ms. Robin Owens, Deputy Warden of Coastal State Prison
Ms. Amy Pataluna, Georgia Correctional Industries
Ms. Lisa Presley, Office of Public Affairs
Ms. Betsy Thomas, Director of Human Resources
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain
Ms. Heather Vickers, Southwest Area Principal, SW Region
Mr. Victor Walker, Warden of Effingham County
Mr. Anthony Washington, Deputy Warden of Security of Spaulding County
Mr. Scott Wilkes, Warden of Augusta State Medical Prison
Ms. Myra Wilkinson, Teacher, Bainbridge RSAT
Ms. Althea Wooden, Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Prison

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Ms. Tina Piper, Assistant Attorney General

VISITORS:

Mr. Blake Ashbee, Consultant, GT
Ms. Jackie Franklin, Wife of Carl Franklin
Mr. David Pratt, Southern Strategy Group
Mr. Eric Robinson, Carl Vinson Institute
Mr. Stacy Williams, Cherokee Sheriff's Office

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 deliver the invocation. Chaplain Turner remembered and prayed for Mr. Mac Collin's daughter and w Board Member Bruce Hudson and recognized prostate cancer month.

Vice Chairman Jerry Willis led the Pledge of Allegiance and Chairman Williams recognized Assistant Commissioner of Health Services, Jack "Randy" Sauls. Assistant Commissioner Sauls has more than 25 years of experience in healthcare administration and joins the agency from his most recent position as a Consultant and Adviser with the South Georgia Toxicology and Primera Health Group. 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. Mac Collins via conference call.

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

Chairman Williams presented the June 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 by expressing to the board that Dr. L.C. "Buster" Evans, Assistant Commissioner of Inmate Services, will be leaving the agency to join the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia as the Executive Director. In addition, Commissioner Bryson spoke briefly on several issues such as legislation, pay increases for state employees, transitioning from the 38 revolver to 9 millimeter semi-automatic firearms, and GDC's honor guard doing more events. Plus, Commissioner Bryson spoke on the new uniforms that are being considered for correctional officers, an AJC article regarding cellphones and he spoke on the changes that are being made within the Georgia Correctional Industries. Commissioner Bryson also mentioned the four-page overview highlighting key areas within the agency were in the Board member's booklets for their convenience.

Immediately following, Dr. L. C. "Buster" Evans, Assistant Commissioner of Inmate Services, presented an Inmate Services Update. Some of the highlights mentioned were an overview highlighting key areas such as GED Charter High School completions, Diesel Mechanic and Welding completions, Volunteer and Chaplaincy Services, and Vocational and On-the-Job Training enrollments. Also mentioned was the monthly comparison of Behavioral Program enrollments and completions, Specialized Program monthly comparisons, trends of PIC eligible offenders that are within 36 months of release, and Chaplaincy and Volunteer numbers. To close, Dr. Evans discussed the Annual Report for GDC's Academic Education and Risk Reduction Services, Career Technical and Post-Secondary Education and Technology Implementation for Inmate Services Division.

To follow, Assistant Commissioner Timothy C. Ward introduced Mr. Scott Wilkes, Warden of Augusta State Medical Prison (ASMP), to present an overview of ASMP. Mr. Wilkes gave the history of facility, stating that ASMP's 61 acres were donated by the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare in 1976 to the Georgia Department of Offender Rehabilitation to be used for educational purposes. The Augusta Correctional Medical Institute opened in 1982 and the name was changed to Augusta State Medical Prison in 1995. Mr. Wilkes highlighted topics such as staff, general population, and specialized meals. To conclude, Mr. Wilkes spoke on programs that are offered at the facility and reentry efforts.

Next, Assistant Commissioner L.C. "Buster" Evans presented Ms. Myra Wilkinson, Teacher at Bainbridge Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Center, Ms. Sandra Carter, Teacher at Coastal State Prison, and Ms. Nichelle Cox, Teacher at Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Prison, with Employee Recognition plaques on behalf of the Board of Corrections and Commissioner Homer Bryson for "*Going Above and Beyond the Call of Duty.*" A photo was taken of the plaque presentations.

This concluded the Commissioner's Report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Rose Williams began the Chairman's report by calling upon Mr. Duke Blackburn, Chairman of the Facilities Committee, to give the Board the Committee's recommendation on the appointments of three candidates. Chairman Williams asked Mr. Blackburn if the Board needed to go into Executive Session to discuss the County Warden approvals. Mr. Blackburn stated "no." Chairman Williams proceeded to move into Regular Session to review the appointments.

At that moment, Vice Chairman Jerry Willis made a motion to recommend that the Committee give their recommendations of each candidate separately. Ms. Rocio Woody seconded, and the motion to give recommendations of each candidate separately was voted approved by the Board.

Mr. Blackburn stated that the Facilities Committee received the board packet for Mr. Anthony Washington, Deputy Warden of Security for Spaulding County. The committee reviewed this candidate's file and the committee is unanimous on recommending appointment approval for Mr. Washington as the Deputy Warden of Security for Spaulding County.

Mr. Duke Blackburn made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Vice Chairman Jerry Willis and Ms. Rocio Woody, and the motion was voted approved by the Board. Chairman Williams congratulated Mr. Washington as he simultaneously thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Then, Mr. Blackburn stated that the Facilities Committee received the board packet for Mr. Victor Walker, Warden of Effingham County. The committee reviewed this candidate's file and the committee is unanimous on recommending appointment approval for Mr. Walker as the Warden of Effingham County.

Mr. Duke Blackburn made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. John Mayes and Ms. Sonja Allen-Smith, and the motion was voted approved by the Board. Chairman Williams congratulated Mr. Walker as he simultaneously thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Chairman Williams congratulated Mr. Walker and then Mr. Walker thanked the Board for the opportunity.

To continue, Mr. Duke Blackburn stated that the Facilities Committee also received the board packet for Ms. Vickie Brown. The committee reviewed this candidate's file and the committee is unanimously recommending denial of the appointment of Ms. Vickie Brown to Deputy Warden of Screven County because she does not meet the criteria. There was some discussion by Secretary Alton Russell. Mr. Duke Blackburn made the motion to disapprove the appointment, which was seconded by Mr. Tommy Rouse, and the appointment was voted denied by the Board.

To follow, Chairman Williams continued with Old or New Business by asking Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel, to present the transfer of Inmate Alejandro Pitts (GDC#1001697553) into Federal Custody pursuant to Georgia Comp. R. & Reg. 125-2-4-.11.

Ms. Ammons briefly asked for the Board's approval to transfer Inmate Alejandro Pitts into federal custody. Chairman Williams asked for a motion to approve the federal custody transfer. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Secretary Alton Russell, and the transfer was voted approved by the Board.

Chairman Williams called upon Mr. Duke Blackburn, Chairman of the Facilities Committee, to give the Facilities Committee's recommendation on naming the Reentry Dorm at Phillips State Prison after the Chaplain Katie Wright Dorm under Rule 125-2-2-.04., Name Designation of State Prison/Center or Part Thereof.

Mr. Duke Blackburn stated that the Committee has reviewed the recommendation of the naming of the Reentry Dorm and the Committee unanimously recommends that the Board deny naming the Reentry Dorm at Phillips State Prison after Chaplain Katie Wright. There was some discussion by Ms. Andrea Shelton who requested the Committee to reconsider. In addition, there was discussion by Sheriff Roger Garrison, Secretary Alton Russell, Mr. Wayne Dasher, Commissioner Homer Bryson and Ms. Andrea Shelton. Board Attorney Joseph Drolet clarified that the statute states that the request must be "considered" by the Board for a period of thirty days before the vote can be formally approved or denied.

For that reason, Chairman Williams asked for the vote of approval to consider the request for a period of thirty-days. Mr. Duke Blackburn made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Sheriff Roger Garrison, and was voted approved by the Board. Mr. Duke Blackburn stated that the Committee will follow the correct procedure, but the Committee stands in agreement to deny this request upon the end of the thirty-day period. Mr. Wayne Dasher suggested that any additional recommendations for naming the Reentry Dorm after Ms. Katie Wright, or any information about Phillips State Prison such as the history/ mission, should be sent to Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi, for forwarding to the Board members during the consideration period. Subsequently, the full Board will approve or deny this request at the October Board meeting.

Chairman Williams reminded the members that the next meeting will be held on October 6, 2016 at Amicalola Falls State Park & Lodge in Dawsonville, Georgia.

To close, Chairman Williams asked Secretary Alton Russell to read a thank you letter to the Board members from Mr. J. M. "Bob" Plemons. In addition, Chairman Williams stated that Mr. Tommy Rouse added one hundred dollars to the Board of Corrections Flower Fund, bringing the fund to \$545.25. Board Attorney Joseph Drolet stated that Ms. Tina Piper, Assistant Attorney General will attend the October Board meeting on his behalf. Lastly, Chairman Williams reminded the Board members that each Board Committee will need to finish their presentations before the end of the year.

There being no further business, Secretary Alton Russell asked for a motion to adjourn, which was then seconded by Vice Chairman Willis, and the meeting was approved to adjourn by the Board.

Rose Williams, Chairman

Alton Russell, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison