

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS
September 2, 2021
Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sheriff Barry H. Babb
Mr. Duke Blackburn – Chairman
Mr. J.C. “Spud” Bowen
Mr. Chris Clark
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Guy A. Daughtrey
Mr. Ester Fleming Jr.
Mr. Alton Russell
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Mr. W. D. Strickland
Ms. Rose Williams

CONFERENCE CALL:

Ms. Janelle King
Mr. John Mayes
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse
Mr. Luis “Lou” M. Solis Jr.
Mr. Bill White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Larry Haynie
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Sheriff Donnie Pope

ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE:

Ms. Tina Piper, Senior Assistant Attorney General

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Commissioner
Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Alan Watson, Assistant Commissioner
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Mr. Dan Brown, Director of Office of Information Technology
Mr. Terry Edge, Director of Office of Professional Development
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs
Mr. Cliff Hogan, Director, Data Unit
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Commissioner’s Executive Assistant
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Ms. Dawn Mock, OIT
Ms. Mary Jane Moss, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Clay Nix, Director of Office of Professional Standards
Ms. Amy Pataluna, Deputy Director, GCI
Mr. Mike Riley, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Savario Spencer, AV Specialist
Ms. Betsy Thomas, Human Resources Director
Mr. Rob Thrower, Legislative Liaison
Mr. Chris Tiller, Executive Director, GCI
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain

VISITORS:

None

First, Chairman Duke Blackburn called to order the September meeting for the Board of Corrections (“the Board”) at 10:00 a.m. and Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi, recorded the minutes. Chairman Blackburn then asked Chaplain Steven Turner to deliver the invocation. Following such, Chairman Blackburn led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Blackburn

welcomed and recognized new Board Member Mr. Guy A. Daughtrey to the board meeting as well as all guests, and the Board meeting, being duly convened, proceeded with business.

Chairman Blackburn then confirmed the following individuals were present via conference call: Board Members Ms. Janelle King, Mr. John Mayes, Mr. Tommy M. Rouse, Mr. Luis “Lou” M. Solis Jr., and Mr. Bill White.

Chairman Blackburn presented the September Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Alton Russell made a motion to approve the Agenda, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams. The Agenda was voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

Chairman Blackburn also presented the June Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Ester Fleming. The Minutes were then voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

To begin the Commissioner’s Report, Commissioner Timothy C. Ward discussed the dashboard, which is a four-page overview highlighting key areas and significant events within the Agency.

Commissioner Ward then asked Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Health Services, to give an Office of Health Services Update.

Mr. Sauls began his presentation by discussing the transition of the pharmacy program on June 7th. Mr. Sauls then discussed the transferring of our physical health provider, stating that after the Request for Proposal, we announced the results of Wellpath becoming our provider.

Mr. Sauls continued by introducing Wellpath and discussing the Offender Healthcare Physical Services. Mr. Sauls discussed the Medical Provider Delivery System and gave an overview of Wellpath, both at a glance and enterprise wide. In addition, Mr. Sauls specifically spoke about Wellpath the company, including the state and federal prison contracts they hold.

Mr. Sauls then discussed the “Go Live” date, the Project Management Plan for GDC, and FTI-Wellpath which is a project management company handling the daily/weekly meetings. Mr. Sauls continued by discussing maintaining existing functions, behind the wire/outside the wire, consults and referrals, transition preparation to Wellpath Operational Model, Electronic Health Record, Tele Emergency Department, enhanced behind the wire health care system, population health principles, Wellpath Management Team, organization model, and functional groups (operations support, regional, information technology team).

To close, Mr. Sauls discussed the overall program status, key metrics for the week, the transition command center, the Wellpath ambassadors, and the transition guide.

This concluded Mr. Sauls’ report.

Next, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner, Inmate Services, to give an update on Inmate Services.

Mr. Sanders began by discussing how the Inmate Services Unit has begun to “Regain Momentum” by creating a list of Top Five initiatives/priorities. The Inmate Services Top Five are:

- Develop a comprehensive technology and training plan.
- Develop inmate-led training and programming.
- Utilize purposeful and integrated placement of education/programming completers.
- Address special populations (Special Ed, Neglected, and Delinquent).
- Improve assignment and tracking of volunteers.

Mr. Sanders then discussed Culture of Care Staff Training, In Person Training, Virtual Training, Inmate Programming, Grant supported programming, Additional programming, Implementing Virtual Programming, Focus on increasing community resources, Expanding training and use of mentors, Expansion of Metro Reentry Facility (MRF) Concept, and the Concordance Center (Day Reporting Center coming soon).

Mr. Sanders continued by discussing the Career, Technical Higher Education (CTHE) programs with more than 500 completions during Fiscal Year 2021. Those programs were Culinary, Manufacturing/Distribution/Transportation, Sanitation, Horticulture, Building Trades, Business/Technology/Leadership, Soft Skills, Health/Recreation, Welding, and Automotive/Diesel/Mechanical.

Additional Career, Technical Higher Education (CTHE) programs for Fiscal Year 2022 are Soft Skills (taught by TCSG), Hospital Cleaning Certification/ Augusta State Medical Prison (ASMP)/ then statewide, Barbering/ Wilcox State Prison, Persevere (Coding Program)/ Metro Reentry Facility, Manufacturing Ready/ all Transitional Centers, Diesel Mechanics/ Small Engine Repair/ Ware State Prison, Welding/ Manufacturing/ Distribution/ Coastal State Prison, Welding/ Whitworth Women's Facility, Lead Cook/ Mural/, Irrigation/ Music Production/ and pursuing an interest/aptitude assessment to aid in program and work detail assignment.

In closing, Mr. Sanders discussed Academic Education and highlighted New Resources such as Distance Learning Equipment, Distance Learning Training, new software for information and lesson plan sharing, Tuesday Training Toolbox. In addition, some of the highlights from Library Services were FY21 circulation of 66,000 books, 70,000 donated books, quarterly training for librarians, developed storage repository, Million Book Project, and implementing circulation software.

This concluded Mr. Sanders' report.

Commissioner Ward then asked Mr. Alan Watson, Assistant Commissioner, Administration and Finance Division, to give a Budget update.

Mr. Watson began his report by discussing AFY22 and FY23 Budget Requests. Mr. Watson discussed several key areas regarding the Jail Subsidy, Administration, Detention Centers, Food and Farm Operations, Health, Offender Management, Private Prisons, State Prisons, and Transition Centers. Mr. Watson also discussed the FY22 Bonds, gave the bond descriptions, spoke about the AFY22 and FY23 Budget Priorities, Open Procurements on Offender Tablets, and New Procurements - Residential Substance Abuse Treatment, Officer Tablets, and Food Service.

Mr. Watson continued by discussing the completion of Metro Reentry Facility's four renovated TC dorms, the upcoming completion of the renovated laundry building, and the forthcoming new administration and dining hall. As a final point, Mr. Watson discussed the forthcoming completion of the Smith TC Dorm, Bacon TC Dorm, and the Rogers Kitchen Renovation.

This concluded Mr. Watson's report.

Next, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner, Facilities Division, to give a Facilities Division update.

Mr. Holt began his report by discussing the Mission and the Vision of the Department and how they accomplish the Vision by focusing upon the Commissioner's Strategic Priorities which are Employees First: Recruit and maintain a quality workforce, Operate safe and secure facilities, Zero tolerance: Gang Activity; Sexual Misconduct and Contraband, Enhance transition and community reentry through effective programming, education and healthcare, and American Correctional Association (ACA) Accreditation.

Mr. Holt continued by discussing the Facilities Division Top 5 (Recruitment and Retention, Basics and Beyond, Staff Development and Training, Infrastructure, and Utilization of Technology). Mr. Holt then discussed the population prior to COVID-19, Physical Bed Utilization Prior to COVID-19, Population Reduction at Level 5, Optamo (Inmate Assignment Decision Support System

(IADSS) that optimizes inmate assignments to facilities statewide), Mental Health Expansion, Basic Mental Health Training, Newly hired Mental Health Director, and GDC Special Operations.

This concluded Mr. Holt's report.

Lastly, Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Clay Nix, Director, Office of Professional Standards (OPS), to give an OPS update.

Mr. Nix began his report by discussing GDC's Organized Crime and Gang Unit. In his presentation, Mr. Nix discussed federal partners HIDTA Atlanta, United States Marshals Service (Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force), FBI (Atlanta, Macon, Columbus, Savannah, Gainesville, Athens, Brunswick), DEA (Macon, Atlanta), and state and local partners GBI, Georgia State Patrol, and Georgia DNR. To close, Mr. Nix discussed civilian arrests for June, July, and August, and drone and contraband photos were shown.

This concluded Mr. Nix's report and the Commissioner's report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Duke Blackburn began the Chairman's Report by speaking briefly about his attendance at the Georgia Prison Warden's Association Conference. In addition, Chairman Blackburn mentioned the names of the board members that attended the conference, and he briefly discussed the Board of Corrections scholarship.

To close the Chairman's report, there was a brief thank you video from the scholarship recipient, Mr. Zachary J. McBurrough, the son of a Valdosta State Prison employee.

Lastly, under Old or New Business, Chairman Blackburn asked Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel of the Office of Legal Services, to present five (5) property resolutions.

Ms. Ammons presented the following five (5) resolutions:

- **Metro Reentry Facility Demo Request**
The buildings, namely BLLIP ID# 694, Metro State Prison Training Storage, Block House, and BLLIP ID#708, Pole Barn, have been abandoned, contain no salvageable equipment of value, and have been identified as hazardous in their present state.
- **Fleet Atlanta, Demo Request**
The two buildings, namely BLLIP ID# 713, Auto Garage, and BLLIP ID#716, Radio/Body Shop, have been abandoned, contain no salvageable equipment of value, and must be cleared to make way for new construction.
- **Augusta State Medical Prison Demo Request**
The Sanitation Warehouse Building, BLLIP ID#30175, and the Ground Maintenance Equipment Room, BLLIP ID#30189, are excess to requirements and must be demolished to make way for new construction.
- **Montgomery State Prison Demo Request - Old Egg Laying Facility**
Several buildings at the old Egg Laying Facility are in poor condition and are excess to requirements, namely BLLIP ID#1832 Farm Egg Cooler, #2047 Farm Office, #6326 Layer House #1, #1822 Layer House #2, #1820 Layer House #3, #2039 Layer House #4, #2048 Farm Storage, and #43527 Covered Storage Building. The condition of these buildings continues to deteriorate, and the property would be best served by demolishing the same.
- **Smith Transition Center Radio Building Demo Request**
The Smith Transition Center Radio Building, BLLIP ID #616, must be removed and rebuilt in a new location to make way for new construction.

After her presentation, Ms. Ammons asked the Board to approve all five (5) property resolutions at one time, so Chairman Blackburn asked for a motion to approve all five (5) property resolutions.

Mr. Russell made a motion to approve the resolutions, which was seconded by Mr. W.D. Strickland and Mr. J.C. Bowen. The five (5) resolutions were voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

To close, Vice Wayne Dasher reminded the Chairman and the Board that the Annual Law Enforcement Cookout would be held on April 14, 2022.

Chairman Blackburn then asked for a motion to move the date of the April 2022 board meeting to April 14th and the location to Glennville.

Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. J.C. Bowen and Ms. Andrea Shelton. The April 2022 board meeting date and location were then voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

Chairman Blackburn reminded the board members that the next Board of Corrections meeting is on October 7, 2021, at State Offices South at Tift College in Forsyth, Georgia.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Duke Blackburn, Chairman

Andrea Shelton, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison