

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

September 1, 2022

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sheriff Barry H. Babb
Mr. Duke Blackburn – Chairman
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Ester Fleming Jr.
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Sheriff Donnie Pope
Mr. Alton Russell
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Ms. Rose Williams
Mr. W. D. Strickland

CONFERENCE CALLS:

Mr. J.C. “Spud” Bowen
Mr. Guy A. Daughtrey
Mr. John Mayes
Mr. Luis “Lou” M. Solis Jr.
Mr. Chris Clark
Ms. Janelle King

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Larry Haynie
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse
Mr. Bill White

ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE:

Ms. Tina Piper, Attorney General’s Office

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Commissioner
Mr. Alan Watson, Chief of Staff
Mr. Peter Adams, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Mr. Jamie Clark, Director of Engineering and Construction Services
Ms. Latoya Doucette, Deputy HR Director
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
Mr. Keith Lank, Inspector
Mr. Kenneth Mantle, TC Statewide Coordinator
Ms. Dawn Mock, OIT
Ms. Amy Pataluna, Deputy Director, GCI
Mr. Henry Rutherford III, Director of OIT
Mr. Rob Thrower, Legislative Liaison
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain

VISITORS:

Ms. Kate Boccia, NIA
Ms. Robin Chandley, Chandley Communications
Ms. Stephanie-Anne Van Zyl

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, welcomed all guests and visitors, and the Board meeting, being duly convened, proceeded with business.

Chairman Blackburn presented together the September 2022 Agenda and the June 2022 Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. W.D. Strickland made a motion to approve both the Agenda and Minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams. The Agenda and Minutes were voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

To begin the Commissioner’s Report, Commissioner Ward began by welcoming the board members back after summer break. Commissioner Ward also said he was excited to have Chandley Communications here to discuss our efforts in recruitment and retention, and that GDC is building good positive momentum and the presenters today would discuss those efforts.

Commissioner Ward discussed the dashboard, which is a four-page overview highlighting key areas and significant events within the Agency.

Commissioner Ward then asked Mr. Alan Watson, Chief of Staff for the Department of Corrections, to give an Executive Update. Mr. Watson began his presentation by discussing the McRae Correctional Facility. Some of the highlights discussed were the construction completion in 2000, the facility opening for low security male population in December 2002, the precast construction, and the additional dorms and administrative space added in 2012.

Mr. Watson continued by discussing facility improvements, the non-lethal electric fence done in 2012, CCTV camera upgrade addition in 2017, the contraband netting in 2018, the high-mast lighting transitioned to LED in 2018, additional technology, drone detection, the body scanner in the front bunker, cell sense, and the managed access system.

Mr. Watson also discussed the McRae dormitories, gave a dorm overview, discussed the interior lighting transitioning to LED in 2019, the lock and control system upgrade in 2019, the roof replacements in 2020, 2021, and 2022, the fire alarm replacement in 2022, and all dorms being air conditioned.

Mr. Watson continued by discussing the housing unit description, the number of dorms, the dorm capacity, the total population, McRae Health Services area, the existing healthcare delivery spaces: dental, clinical, emergency/radiology, 3 observation cells, 2 negative pressure cells, and an infirmary.

Mr. Watson then discussed McRae’s Inmate Services space, the 5 education classrooms, 5 vocational classrooms, 1 greenhouse, the library/law library, and chapel. Moreover, McRae’s recreational space was discussed, and areas highlighted were the 10,600 square feet covered gymnasium, the 25,200 square feet paved recreation areas, the soccer field, the softball field, and the volleyball field.

In closing, Mr. Watson discussed the new facility being approximately 900,000 square feet and housing approximately 3,000 offenders. The new facility could replace up to 3 existing facilities and the goal being that there will be a much higher level of security utilizing newer durable construction, improved floorplan layout/sightlines, leveraging technology to improve officer efficiency, safety and retention, and the facilities energy efficient design.

Mr. Watson ended with announcing that programming has been awarded to Nelson Worldwide and the vendor is currently obtaining data to begin needs analysis.

This concluded Mr. Watson’s presentation.

Commissioner Ward asked Ms. Joan Heath, Director of the Office of Public Affairs, to give a Communications Update.

Ms. Heath began her presentation by discussing the communications strategies. Some of the items discussed were the PAO team visiting facilities for video/photos, the robust social media communications, developing and packaging highlights on Derek McKinney’s team (Security Threat Group), EMT training for officers (CGTC), Diane Hassett’s interview highlighting the dog programs, and the Emanuel Women’s Facility female Braille success story.

Plus, there was discussion about using the internal smart phone app for internal communications. This was first developed during the pandemic. The update now includes information for staff related to Human Resources, agency news, promotions, training opportunities, and messages from leadership.

To close, Ms. Heath discussed social media highlights – interdiction efforts, graduations and programming, earned media, staff recognition, recruitment highlights, recruitment communications and recently partnering with Chandley Communications to assist with our recruitment campaign. Some of the items being offered by Chandley Communications are Skillset is Advertising / Strategic Media Buying, PIO team providing creative (video, photo, graphics) for use in developing campaign; teaching Corrections 101 and being able to track success of the ads based on click-through to jobs page.

This concluded Ms. Heath's presentation.

Next Commissioner Ward asked Ms. Robin Chandley, Owner, Chandley Communications, to give the Strategy and Implementation Plan for GDC's Recruitment Campaign.

Ms. Chandley began her presentation by discussing the primary objective, market areas, and secondary audiences. Some of the highlights were developing extensive awareness of GDC's opportunities and driving increased applications, targeting the state of Georgia with possible expansion into Alabama, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Florida, targeting men 21-55 with a household income under \$40,000, reaching retired military, secondary opportunities include males 18-20 for training facilities, retired males 55+, and women 21-55.

Ms. Chandley continued by discussing initial launch targets for Arrendale, Baldwin, GDCP and SMU, Hays, Macon, Smith, Ware, Phillips, Telfair, Hancock, and Valdosta state prisons. Strategy tactics like targeting linear cable, streaming TV/OTT, Next Gen Geofencing, Facebook/Instagram, YouTube, keyword search retargeting, site retargeting, Advanced Targeted Display, and SEM / Paid Search.

Ms. Chandley concluded her presentation by showing some creative video ads for the Georgia Department of Corrections.

Commissioner Ward then asked Mr. Peter Adams, Assistant Commissioner of Administration and Finance, to give a Budget Update.

Mr. Adams began his report by giving a brief overview of the Fiscal Year 2022 and Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Updates. In his presentation, Mr. Adams discussed Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Overview and Budget to Actual Report on administration, food and farm, health, offender management, jail subsidy, private prisons, Probation Detention Center, state prison, transitional center programs, surplus, expenses, and percentage spent.

Some of the highlights that were discussed were the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget RFP update, CorrectRx – Pharmacy, Wellpath – Physical Health, Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Overview, agency specific changes, statewide changes, total budget increase, FY 2023 program overview, and adjustments.

This concluded the report of Mr. Adams.

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 Electronic Health Record (EHR). Some of the highlights were discussing the real-time, patient-centered records that make information available instantly and securely to authorized users, the EHR going beyond standard clinical data collected in a provider's office and being inclusive of a broader view of a patient's care. EHR features such items as patient's medical history, diagnoses, medications, treatment plans, immunization dates, allergies, radiology images, and laboratory and test results, allow access to evidence-based tools that providers can use to make decisions about a patient's care, and automate and streamline provider workflow.

To continue, Mr. Sauls discussed Wellpath rolling out the Electronic Health Record (ERMA - Electronic Records Management Application) the week of February 14th, 2022, ERMA being successfully deployed to all 59 GDC sites, ERMA's record screenshot sample, a photo of the medical record file room prior to ERMA, photos of the medical workstation that replaced the file room, health professionals utilizing ERMA, the impact of ERMA on care, and Wellpath Healthcare Cloud.

Mr. Sauls concluded his presentation by discussing several project updates such as Coastal State Prison Mobile Surgery Unit, Augusta State Prison Dialysis Facility, Astry M Building - Skilled Nursing Facility Planning Update, Crisis Stabilization Unit and Mental Health Expansion, and Emergency Medical Technician course.

This concluded Mr. Sauls' report.

Next Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner, Inmate Services Division, to give an Inmate Services Division Update.

Mr. Sanders began his presentation by discussing the Fiscal Year 2022 highlights in Inmate Services. Some of the highlights were Career, Technical and Higher Education (CTHE) Completions, Behavioral Programs enrollments and completions, Reentry documents distributed and driver's license/ID cards issued, Chaplaincy active volunteers trained or renewed, Academic Education, total High School equivalencies and Charter High School graduates.

Mr. Sanders continued by discussing staff training, EBP Training and Programming, Inmate Programming, Gang Renunciation (Identity Reformation), Family Reunification, CTHE Programs for Fiscal Year 2022 such as Soft Skills (taught by TCSG), Hospital Cleaning Certification, Barbering, Persevere (Coding Program), Forklift, OSHA, ServSafe, Manufacturing Ready, Diesel Mechanics & Small Engine Repair: Ware State Prison, Welding, Manufacturing & Distribution, Lead Cook, Mural, Irrigation, Music Production, hired part-time position to oversee all animal programs, Service, rescue or therapy program focus with canine, and Virtual Reality for Juveniles (in process).

To close, Mr. Sanders continued by discussing Academic Education, Grant Funded Resources, Distance Learning Equipment and training, Tuesday Training Toolbox, Instructional Coaches, Special Education Resources and the Special Education Hub.

This concluded Mr. Sanders' report.

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

Mr. Holt began his presentation by discussing the Special Operations Unit. Some of the highlights were discussing Contraband Interdiction, Shakedown, Facility Staff Support, Full Shakedown, Quick Strike, and Parking Lot and Portal Shakedown. Mr. Holt discussed Safe & Secure Facilities, Special OPS-IRT/TACT/CERT, Tier Management, Mental Health Expansion, MFCO EMT, FUSUS, Enhanced Cameras (Analytics), Optamo, Virtual Court Production, MAS/WCS/Remote MAS, Cell Sense Devices, Drone Detection Technology, Tag Readers, and Body Scanners. Mr. Holt closed with discussing GDC's Multi-Functional Correctional Officer EMT Program.

Also, within his Mr. Holt's presentation, Mr. Kenneth Mantle, Statewide TC Coordinator, briefly spoke on TC Operations. Some of the highlights were discussing transitional center locations and capacity, the TC cell phone process, and current locations with cellphone implementation.

This concluded the presentations of Mr. Holt and Mr. Mantle.

Commissioner Ward asked Mr. Keith Lank, Inspector with the Office of Professional Standards (OPS), to give a brief OPS update

In his presentation, Mr. Lank discussed arrests, contraband, and drones. Some of the highlights were discussing total physical arrest for staff, inmates and civilians, tobacco, marijuana and meth

contraband recovered for calendar year 2022, cellphone and drone contraband by regions recovered for calendar year 2022, and drone recoveries by month.

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Duke Blackburn began the Chairman's Report by updating the Board on the 2022 Board of Corrections Scholarship recipient for GPWA. The awardee is Ms. Cynthia Anderson, Senior Counselor at Wilcox State Prison. Ms. Anderson is currently attending Southern New Hampshire University and is working on her MBA with a concentration in Public Administration. She started at Georgia Military College wherein she obtained an Associates in Education and also earned a Bachelor of Psychology at Georgia College and State University.

Under Old or New Business, Chairman Blackburn briefly discussed the board members visiting Milledgeville but said that everything is up in the air right now depending on if the Governor can attend the building dedication. Chairman Blackburn said tentatively we may have a board meeting in Baldwin in October and possibly it may be a 2 day meeting, but the dedication is not mandatory. And, we may try to go to Hancock, but that Commissioner Ward will advise the board members on when this all can happen, and this is just a discussion.

To conclude the meeting, Chairman Blackburn reminded the members of the following:

- 2023 Board Committee Assignments are due and to fill out their forms and get them to the Board Liaison so that it can be reviewed.
- The next meeting is on October 6, 2022, at State Offices South at Tift College, in Forsyth, Georgia.

The board meeting was adjourned.

Duke Blackburn, Chairman

Andrea Shelton, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison