

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

September 5, 2024

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sheriff Barry H. Babb
Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. J.C. “Spud” Bowen
Mr. Bruce Carlisle
Mr. Chris Clark
Mr. Thomas Culpepper
Mr. John B. Edwards
Mr. Ester Fleming Jr. – Vice Chairman
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Ms. Janelle King
Sheriff Donnie Pope
Mr. Rossie Ross
Mr. Alton Russell
Mr. W. D. Strickland

CONFERENCE CALL:

Sheriff Gary Gullede
Mr. Luis “Lou” M. Solis Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Rose Williams

ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE:

Ms. Christina Correia, Attorney General’s Office

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Tyrone Oliver, Commissioner
Mr. Alan Watson, Chief of Staff
Mr. Jackson Defore, Assistant Commissioner of Finance & Admin
Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner of Inmate Services
Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner of Health Services Division
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Mr. Adam Baswell, Director of Office of Professional Development
Ms. Deborah Bennett, Facility Compliance Specialist, Appling Integrated Treatment Facility
Ms. Vanessa Brewton, Statewide Specialist (North)
Ms. Vashti Brown, Superintendent, Appling Integrated Treatment Facility
Mr. Roderick Clanton, Warden, Long Unit
Mr. Lee Clark, Superintendent, Smith Transitional Center
Mr. Daryl Cody, Superintendent, Colwell Probation Detention Center
Ms. Amory Evans, Statewide Specialist (Central)
Ms. Katrina Sutton, Deputy Director of Human Resources
Dr. Kenneth Ellis, Statewide Chaplain
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Office of Communications
Mr. Cliff Hogan, Director of Data Management and Research
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Executive Assistant
Mr. Terry Jones, Superintendent, Macon Transitional Center
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Mr. Tracy McIntyre, Assistant Superintendent, Macon Transitional Center
Ms. Dawn Mock, Office of Information Technology
Ms. Melanie Nettles, Facility Compliance Specialist, Smith Transitional Center
Ms. Angel Pinckney, Statewide Specialist (South)
Ms. Catherine Price, Statewide Compliance and Accreditation Manager, OPS
Ms. Amy Rahn, Facility Compliance Specialist, Colwell Probation Detention Center
Ms. Jaylen Reyna, Facility Compliance Specialist, Long Unit
Mr. David Stokes, Former Superintendent, Long Unit
Mr. Rob Thrower, Legislative Liaison
Mr. Matthew Wolfe, Director of Office of Professional Standards

VISITORS:

Ms. Carol Bird, Citizen

Ms. Alissa Northcutt, Citizen

First, Vice Chairman Ester Fleming Jr. 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.

Vice Chairman Fleming then asked Chaplain Kenneth Ellis to deliver the invocation. Following such, Vice Chairman Fleming led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Vice Chairman Fleming presented the September 5, 2024 Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. W. D. Strickland made a motion to approve the Agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Rossie Ross. The Agenda was voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

Vice Chairman Fleming presented the August 8th Special Called Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Thomas Culpepper made the motion to approve the Minutes, which was seconded by Mr. W. D. Strickland and Mr. Rossie Ross. The Minutes were voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

To begin the Commissioner’s Report, Commissioner Tyrone Oliver gave condolences for the Barrow County, Georgia school shooting victims and then he discussed briefly the Commissioner’s Dashboard, which is a four-page overview highlighting key areas and significant events within the Agency.

Commissioner Oliver asked Ms. Catherine Price, Statewide Compliance and Accreditation Manager, to present the American Correctional Association Recognitions and Update. Ms. Price discussed the Compliance staff and their key roles, the initial one-year process for accreditation, the three-year reoccurring reaccreditation process, the accreditation summary for prisons, probation detention centers, transitional centers, and the agency accreditation average for the 49 sites.

To close, Commissioner Oliver recognized and gave Commissioner’s Coins to the following individuals for their outstanding assistance with the American Correctional Association process:

Mr. Daryl Cody, Superintendent, Colwell Probation Detention Center; Ms. Amy Rahn, Facility Compliance Specialist, Colwell Probation Detention Center; Ms. Vashti Brown, Superintendent, Appling Integrated Treatment Facility; Ms. Deborah Bennett, Facility Compliance Specialist, Appling Integrated Treatment Facility; Mr. David Stokes, Former Superintendent, Long Unit; Mr. Roderick Clanton, Warden, Long Unit; Mr. Jaylen Reyna, Facility Compliance Specialist, Long Unit; Mr. Terry Jones, Superintendent, Macon Transitional Center; Mr. Tracy McIntyre, Assistant Superintendent, Macon Transitional Center; Mr. Lee Clark, Superintendent, Smith Transitional Center; Ms. Melanie Nettles, Facility Compliance Specialist, Smith Transitional Center; Ms. Catherine Price, Statewide Compliance and Accreditation Manager, Office of Professional Standards; Ms. Angel Pinckney, Statewide Specialist (South); Ms. Amory Evans, Statewide Specialist (Central); Ms. Vanessa Brewton, Statewide Specialist (North).

Commissioner Oliver asked Mr. Adam Baswell, Director of the Office of Professional Development, to present a Regional Academies Update. Mr. Baswell began by discussing the Basic Correctional Officer Training program, the requirements established by the Georgia Department of Corrections and the Georgia Peace Officer Standards Training Council for new Correctional Officers, and other staff who supervise offenders as a part of their normal duties in state, county, and private facilities.

Mr. Baswell also discussed the Office of Professional Development starting the Regional Academy concept in August 2023, and the various locations (State Offices South Tift College Georgia Corrections Academy, Northeast Georgia Corrections Academy, Southeast Georgia Corrections Academy, Middle Georgia Corrections Academy, and the Southwest Georgia Corrections Academy).

Mr. Baswell closed with discussing the Success Coaching program providing one-on-one personalized assistance to cadets attending the Basic Correctional Officer Training academies and Mr. Baswell showed a Success Coaching Program Testimonial video.

This concluded the Commissioner's Report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Under the Chairman's Report, Vice Chairman Fleming began by giving a final update on the 2024 Board of Corrections Georgia Prison Warden's Association scholarship fund.

Vice Chairman Fleming advised the Board that the \$1,500 dollar goal was surpassed and that the Board collected a total of \$1,600 dollars this year. In addition, Secretary J.C. "Spud" Bowen stated that he would like the scholarship fund to be raised to \$2,000 or \$2,500, and going forward, to rename the Board of Corrections Scholarship Fund to honor former Chairman Larry Haynie, thus changing the name to the "Larry Haynie Board of Corrections Scholarship Fund." There was no discussion or motion, and all members agreed with these changes.

Further, Vice Chairman Fleming stated the 2024 Board of Corrections scholarship recipient is Taylor Alexander. Taylor is the daughter of Danielle Richardson who works at Burruss Correctional Training Center. Taylor is now a Certified Nursing Assistant and will be attending Kennesaw State University in the Fall pursuing her degree in Nursing.

Vice Chairman Fleming briefly discussed the October board meeting being held in Statesboro, Georgia.

Vice Chairman Fleming then asked for a motion to approve an honorary resolution celebrating the retirement of former Director of Field Operations, Stan Shepard, for his dedication and commitment to the Georgia Department of Corrections.

Vice Chairman Fleming asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Alton Russell made a motion to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Rossie Ross. The resolution were voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

Under Old or New Business, Vice Chairman Fleming stated that he decided to give the board members the 2025 Committee Requests nomination sheets earlier so that the Board could fill out their requests for the upcoming year. All members were asked to fill the forms out so that they can be reviewed for the 2025 Executive Officer positions.

Last on the agenda, Vice Chairman Fleming asked Ms. Janine Robinson, Director of Administrative Support Division, Fleet Operations and Risk Management, to present an approval of employment for one (1) Fleet Operations Mechanic 2.

Ms. Robinson began by stating that Mr. Brian Meadows - (GDC Fleet Mechanic 2's) specific job duties as defined by Standard Occupational Classification Manual, will include the following:

49-3023: Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics: Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles.

49-3093: Tire Repairers and Changers: Repair and replace tires.

51-4121 Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers: Use hand-welding, flame-cutting, hand-soldering, or brazing equipment to weld or join metal components or to fill holes, indentations, or seams of fabricated metal products.

49-2096: Electronic equipment installers and repairers, motor vehicles: Install, diagnose, or repair communications, sound, security, or navigation equipment in motor vehicles.

Ms. Robinson stated Mr. Meadows is an Automotive Academy graduate who has been on the Fleet detail for almost 2 years. He is eligible and Fleet would like to hire him.

Vice Chairman Fleming asked for a motion to approve Mr. Brian Meadows - (GDC Fleet Mechanic 2) for employment.

Mr. W. D. Strickland made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Alton Russell. The employment of this individual was voted “approved” by the Board.

Vice Chairman Fleming closed the board meeting by reminding the Board that the next Board of Corrections meeting is on October 3, 2024, at the Holiday Inn – University Area, in Statesboro, Georgia.

There being no further business, the board meeting was adjourned.

Ester Fleming Jr., Vice Chairman

J.C. “Spud” Bowen, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison