

**BOARD OF CORRECTIONS**

**June 4, 2009**

**Atlanta, Georgia**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Robert Jones, Chairman  
Mr. Bill Acuff  
Mr. Wayne Dasher  
Sheriff Roger Garrison  
Mr. Bruce Hudson  
Mr. John Mayes  
Mr. George Potter  
Sheriff Carlton Powell  
Mr. Tommy Rouse  
Mr. Roger Waldrop  
Ms. Rose Williams  
Mr. Larry Wynn

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Carl Franklin  
Sheriff Cecil Nobles  
Mr. Kris Nordholz  
Mr. Jim Whitehead, Sr.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:**

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General

**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:**

Commissioner Brian Owens  
Ms. Laura Jones, Board Liaison  
Ms. Diane Avery, Liaison from State Board of Pardons and Paroles  
Mr. Derrick Schofield, Assistant Commissioner  
Mr. Stan Cooper, Director of Probation  
Mr. Danny Horne, Director of Chaplaincy Services  
Ms. Patricia Smith, Executive Assistant  
Mr. Mark Guzzi, Legal Services  
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs  
Mr. Jack Koon, Transitional Centers Coordinator  
Mr. Michael Nail, Deputy Director of Corrections Division  
Mr. Mark Waldron, Director of Planning and Analysis  
Mr. Sharrod Campbell, Investigations and Compliance  
Ms. Stacia Stokes, Intern for Legal Services

Coordinating Chief Probation Officer Pam Rittweiger  
Probation Officer Kevin Bennett  
Surveillance Officer Stefan Davenport

Coordinating Chief Probation Officer Shirley Griggs  
Probation Officer Tamika Harvey  
Probation Officer Lerrod Freeman  
Chief Probation Officer David Biddle  
Probation Officer Shannon Chastain

Warden Elijah McCoy, Decatur County Prison  
Warden Jeffrey Chandler, Floyd County Prison  
Deputy Warden Michael Long, Floyd County Prison  
Warden David Peek, Gwinnett County Prison  
Warden Alex Haden, Harris County Prison  
Mr. Danny Bridges, Harris County Manager

**VISITORS:**

General James Donald  
Ms. Sara Totonchi, Southern Center for Human Rights  
Mr. Brent Streets, grandson of Sheriff Carlton Powell  
Mr. Jim Balkcom, Talent Quest

Chairman Robert E. Jones called to order the June meeting of the Board of Corrections. He requested Chaplain Danny Horne start the meeting with prayer. Chairman stated there are a lot of great folks attending today; requesting all visitors to introduce themselves.

Chairman Rob Jones asked former Commissioner James Donald to come forward for a presentation. Vice-Chairman Larry Wynn, Chairman Rob Jones, and Commissioner Brian Owens presented a Resolution, on behalf of the Board of Corrections, to Mr. Donald for his service to the Georgia Department of Corrections. Many accolades were given to honor Mr. Donald.

Chairman Rob Jones requested Mr. Stan Cooper to come forward and introduce the Probation Chiefs and Officers. Mr. Cooper introduced Chief Probation Officer David Biddle, who, in turn, introduced Probation Officer Shannon Chastain. Mr. Cooper introduced Coordinating Chief Probation Officer Shirley Griggs, who, in turn, introduced Probation Officer Tamika Harvey and Officer Larrod Freeman. Mr. Cooper introduced Chief Probation Officer Pam Rittweiger, who, in turn, introduced Probation Officer Kevin Bennett and Surveillance Officer Stefan Davenport. A Governor's Proclamation was read to the probation officers in honor of Probation, Parole, And Community Supervision Officers Week which is set for July 19 – 25, 2009. Mr. Cooper

described how probation officers do an exceptional job under extreme circumstances and the ones here today represent the entire state probation staff.

Chairman Rob Jones requested approval of the June Agenda. Mr. Bill Acuff made the motion to approve the Agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher, and voted approval by the Board.

Chairman Rob Jones requested approval of the Minutes of the May meeting. Mr. Larry Wynn made the motion to approve the Minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Bill Acuff, and voted approval by the Board.

Chairman Rob Jones called on Commissioner Brian Owens to proceed with his report.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Brian Owens began with stating he wanted to thank Chairman Rob Jones for attending Corrections Annual Awards. This was a celebration to recognize top performers for the Department and was held at Rutland Student Center on the new Tift Campus. The event was well attended with about 300 staff. With no one getting a pay raise this year, it is extremely important to reward people for outstanding achievements. Commissioner Owens stated he wanted to thank Board member Wayne Dasher, who put together a function to support the troops. Attending that event were a Brigadier General, some line staff, some colonels, and community folks. This event was to thank the troops for their service and to make sure the troops knew the community was there to support them.

Commissioner Owens reported on the Jail Backlog. The offender population is 58,322, which is an increase of about 200 over the previous month. The jail backlog continues to decline; sits at about 1,928 which is a reduction of 417 from previous month. Commissioner Owens stated that as briefed before, there are three additional fast tracks opening up in the next ninety days. Each fast track building is 256 beds, so that will bring 768 beds in the next ninety days. Probation population is sitting at 160,000. Commissioner Owens stated he had asked that an asterisk be put by that number. He explained that since transitioning from a mainframe computer system to a web based computer system, this number will be around 160,000 until that transition is complete.

With a brief update on what is coming up, Commissioner Owens pointed out that the Georgia Prison Wardens Conference will be held at Lake Lanier beginning Sunday, June 7.

Commissioner Owens reported that Operation Safeguard will be held June 15 – 19. Commissioner Owens explained that with about 58,000 inmates and 160,000 probationers, the

summer months are coming up, budgets are down, so Operation Safeguard is an annual internal exercise that Corrections will be conducting. Commissioner Owens then called on Mr. Mark Waldron to explain what Operation Safeguard is. Mr. Mark Waldron stood to address the Board members, stating Operation Safeguard is a simulated crisis exercise environment for the staff throughout the Department of Corrections. Mr. Waldron stated that it is to hone skills with the decision-making process in a crisis management situation, and, also to properly align trained staff on resource allocation and utilization. It will be a 48 to 72 hour timeframe of running multi-activities, both as internal crisis and a state emergency. This is much like what Corrections has done in the past with supporting the state in the tornado recovery in Americus and with the fires in Waycross area. Mr. Waldron stated these are exercises which will actually cull out tactical teams with a tactical scenario to go through. Over this 48 to 72 hour period, Corrections will hone skills and work on the contingency operations manual. The intent is for each warden, chief, superintendent out in the field to have the manual on their desk so that when a crisis occurs, that the operations manual is pulled up to know where resources are and know what should be done.

Commissioner Owens continued with his report in stating a legislative Fiscal Affairs committee will be held June 16. Essentially, every year this happens. Corrections has twelve budget programs and with shifting dollars around to make sure the budget balances this year, this committee meeting is to get approval to shift resources and to have a balanced budget.

Commissioner stated that the Board members have probably read where state allotment for the month of July was reduced by 25% in order to save cash to get through fiscal year.

Commissioner Owens stated that Corrections negotiated with Office of Planning and Budget for a smaller reduction. The good news is that for the first time in many years, Corrections will come in under budget with a total of about \$10 million. This is because of the great work and great effort by Office of Health Services. The Department of Corrections will be returning to the State Treasury approximately \$10 million in savings and that will be allotment reduction for end of the Fiscal Year. Commissioner Owens stated Corrections received notice that the allotment for July will be reduced by 5%. So, instead of getting the full appropriated amount, Corrections will get 95% of the appropriated amount. Corrections has been told to plan in the area of 5% to 8% a month for the entire fiscal year. If Corrections takes a 5% monthly reduction in allotment, that will leave \$60 million additional reduction, on top of the \$71 million reduction, after this fiscal year. Commissioner stated this will be a challenge, but the Think Tank started up again approximately two months ago. If Corrections does have to take additional 5% cut, Commissioner stated the Think Tank will be the planning team in looking at how to make the reduction and at the same time continue to fulfill the mission of Department of Corrections. Commissioner Owens stated he will keep the Board members updated on that process.

Commissioner Owens reported that on the 30<sup>th</sup> of this month, the Quarterly Service Awards ceremony will be held for Corrections employees; Central Office staff are given their tenure certificates and are recognized for their great performance every quarter. Commissioner Owens pointed to the calendar of the Board meetings for July and August. With the calendar, Commissioner stated that he added a July 20<sup>th</sup> event; wherein, on the third Monday of every

month Commissioner holds a Monthly Roll-Up. This is when Executive Staff looks at indicators, budget, personnel, the entire organization. Also, selected wardens or probation chiefs are invited to attend and spend the entire day at central office; visiting Legal Services, Personnel, Investigations, and other sections. Commissioner Owens recently started sending the wardens or chiefs to State Board of Pardons and Paroles to spend time with Parole Board members. Every month four wardens or four chiefs are brought to Central Office to be exposed at this level to help with their professional development.

Sheriff Roger Garrison requested the powerpoint slides be changed to add back the Jail Backlog slide. He requested that the sheriffs' figures of jail backlog be added to the slide. Sheriff Garrison made a motion that those numbers be added back to the powerpoint presentation, which was seconded by Mr. Bill Acuff. Chairman Jones asked if there were no objections from Board members, then the powerpoint slide will be shown at the next Board meeting.

Chairman Rob Jones congratulated Commissioner Owens and his team on the fiscal management of this organization. Chairman stated it is tremendously impressive to be returning money to the state. He stated he has heard about the Judicial Branch's concerns about their decreased budget and how they are not going to be able to handle a 25% decrease in their allocation this year. Chairman Jones stated that, however, Corrections is set to do that and will be sending money back to the state. It is a tremendous accomplishment. Chairman Jones stated that is outstanding work and speaks to the professionalism of Commissioner and staff. Mr. Bruce Hudson stated that he would like to mention that Georgia Correctional Industries has returned money to the state treasury. Commissioner Owens addressed several comments and questions regarding the potentially decreased budget.

Commissioner Brian Owens then reported that Chairman Jones has toured prisons but then began asking about Probation Operations. Commissioner thanked Chairman Jones for what he did on a Friday night in southwest Atlanta. By way of explanation, Chairman Jones stated he had the opportunity to ride with Officer Harvey and Officer Freeman, which was arranged by Chief Griggs. Chairman Jones stated it was an honor to watch them work, in particular because they were known in the community and clearly respected. It was a Friday evening and were rolling up on places where there were many folks standing outside. The officers were completely respected and just absolutely conducted themselves with the utmost professionalism. Chairman Jones stated it was an honor to be able to watch the officers work. Chairman Jones stated a couple of things jumped out at him. First of all, he asked about the caseload. The officers are handling sexual offender caseloads, high probation management caseloads. Chairman Jones stated these are the toughest, most dangerous areas; most of the crime occurs in those areas. Chairman Jones stated that what shocked him was that these officers go out with their vest and carry a state-issued sidearm, and a radio on the side of their vests. Chairman Jones thought the radios did not look like police radios; and in fact, probation officers do not have police radios. If the probation officers are in a situation where they are fired upon and they are attacked, then the officer has to dial with his/her own personal cell phone and call 911 for assistance. The radios they have on the shoulder are two-way radios purchased in addition to their own phones to be

able to communicate with the officer who is with them, so they don't have to yell back and forth from front to back. That is a real concern; something Chairman Jones hopes to address soon. Chairman Jones stated these are situations where these officers are going to dangerous places; both officers had another weapon on their ankle. Chairman stated he asked if that is a state issue weapon, and the officers told him no; that these weapons are their personal weapons the officers purchased. Chairman Jones stated the probation officers are making the salary that they are making but spending \$500 to purchase a separate weapon. Chairman Jones stated the probation officers are truly putting their lives on the line every time they go out. Chairman Jones stated these officers have the heart and are concerned for the former inmates who are being supervised; the probation officers are hoping the former inmates will get on the right track and hoping they will not go back to prison. Chairman stated the probation officers do an outstanding job, and, it was his pleasure to ride with them.

Commissioner Owens stated he was calling on Mr. Stan Cooper, Director of Probation Operations, for a presentation. Mr. Cooper stated he was presenting solutions to issues about what has been talked about the last ten minutes. He stated he will go through a powerpoint of the initiatives that are going on in Department of Corrections and Probation Operations. With a powerpoint slide, Mr. Cooper started with showing the Department of Corrections Vision Statement. Corrections believes it is the best Corrections system in the nation with protecting citizens from convicted felons and providing effective opportunities for offenders to achieve positive change. Mr. Cooper stated Corrections knows it is a leader and a partner in making Georgia a safer, healthier, better education, growing and best managed state. This is accomplished by ensuring public safety; by operating safe and secure facilities; by providing effective community supervision of offenders; by creating opportunities for restoration to offenders. Mr. Cooper stated that Corrections insures right of victims; partner with public, private, and faith-based organizations in order to help accomplish this mission. Mr. Cooper stated that Corrections sustains core value of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. Mr. Cooper stated Corrections ensures the well being of employees and their families.

With a perspective on how Corrections stands in Georgia, Mr. Cooper stated that in March of 2009, the PEW Center On The States released the *One In 31* report. That report indicated nationally that one-in-thirty one individuals are under some type of correctional control in the United States. In Georgia, that is 1-in-13 who are under some form of correctional control. Mr. Cooper stated Georgia ranks first in the nation of 1-in-15 of being under some community supervision. The PEW report stated that Georgia is fourth in the nation in adult incarceration at the rate of 1-in-70.

In providing background information, Mr. Cooper stated the PEW Center On States launched the Public Safety Performance Project (PSPP). This was done in order to help states advance fiscally sound, data-driven policies and practices in sentencing and corrections to protect public first, hold offenders accountable, and control correctional costs at the same time. In 2008, the

PEW Center published a policy brief *Putting Public Safety First* that recommended specific strategies for accomplishing successful supervision and reentry, thereby reducing recidivism. This is the primary goal as far as supervision is concerned, other than protecting the public. In March of 2009, PEW released the *One In 31* as far as perspective is concerned.

Mr. Cooper stated the intent and purposes of these initiatives is that back in March of 2009, Commissioner Owens discussed this report with Mr. Cooper, by laying out the mission and vision for Probation Operations. The mission and vision are to plan and implement and sustain the exceptional felony probation operation in the nation. Department of Corrections thinks it is very good now, but very good is not good enough. Department of Corrections wants to be the exceptional Probation Operations in the nation. This will be done by implementing best strategies and practices that includes methods, interventions, partnerships and technologies that are proven to reduce recidivism, thereby, maximizing public safety while continuing to practice sound stewardship principles.

Mr. Cooper further explained his meeting with Commissioner Owens in that Commissioner wanted to make sure that everything that Probation Operations did was based on research and best practices. After that, ten steps were developed to shape this with the Overall Mission and Vision of Probation Operations. Process Action Teams (PAT) were developed to address these steps.

With last year's *Putting Public Safety First*, the strategies were taken out of that report. Mr. Cooper showed thirteen strategies for successful supervision and reentry based on PEW's research and based on what is going on now in United States on what needs to be done. (1) Define success as recidivism reduction and measure performance. Everything that Probation Operations does will be measured, will make sure it is done correctly, and, reduce recidivism at the same time. (2) The report also stated that Tailoring conditions of probation to the offender was important; that will be worked in the Framework. (3) The report also states to focus resources on higher risk offenders. As Chairman Jones had mentioned, he saw those high risk offenders when he went out with the probation officers. (4) Probation Operations needs to frontload supervision resources. Mr. Cooper explained that when someone is being released from prison system, Probation Operations needs to be right there at the hand off so that the transition between facilities and probation is seamless. That is the goal. (5) Implement earned discharge is another strategy, which means early termination for cases where the offenders have demonstrated they are not a threat to the community and they have abided by the conditions that the judges set out for them. (6) Supervise offenders in their communities is another strategy. (7) Engage partners to expand intervention capacity is another strategy. Mr. Cooper stated Probation believes they are doing that but that will be expanded. (8) Probation needs to assess criminal risk and needs factors, and, (9) balance surveillance and treatment in case plans. Mr. Cooper explained these two strategies would be to let that case plan drive what is being done. (10) Mr. Cooper stated Probation needs to involve the offenders in the supervision process, and, (11) engage informal social controls. This means families and others in the community help with this, and, (12) Use incentives and rewards not only for probation officers but also for the

offenders as well. Research tells that when doing this, Probation Operations will be successful. The last strategy (13) is to respond to violations with swift and certain sanctions.

With the next powerpoint slide, Mr. Cooper stated this is the framework that was laid out in order to address those thirteen strategies. The ten steps are that Probation Operations (1) sort offenders by risk to public safety and by currently identifying the top 25 geographic probation hotspots in Georgia. Mr. Cooper stated that research indicates where probation needs to be out in the community and where they need to be addressing the supervision of these offenders. (2) Probation is identifying and creating community partnerships to reduce recidivism. Mr. Cooper stated that many have heard of the Savannah Impact program that is a collaborative effort between Police Department, Pardons and Paroles, Corrections, Juvenile Justice, and others that shadow ex-offenders. Probation Operations is looking to expand that program into the 25 geographic hot spots. (3) Probation Operations needs to base intervention programs on science. Probation Operations does not want anything that just sounds great; the intervention programs need to be based on research. (4) Mr. Cooper stated that Probation is designing a GDC Sentencing Model that leverages specialty courts, the mental health courts, the drug courts, the family violence courts across the state. Probation Operations wants to get more involved and want to know where all those courts are across Georgia and become more involved with being an integral part in getting those judges on board with Probation.

The next step (5) is to utilize technology that improves efficiencies in probation supervision and enhances public safety. Mr. Cooper stated that it also includes those communication issues; also having technology in the field for the officer to get in an offender's case. Probation Operations needs to leverage technology in order for it to be safer for the probation officers out in the field, but also being able to address the needs and risk of that offender. (6) Probation Operations wants to impose swift, certain, and proportionate sanctions. Mr. Cooper stated the Probation Options Management bill was signed by Governor Perdue, and, Probation Operations now has a plan to roll it statewide by July of 2010. Mr. Cooper stated Probation Operations is way ahead on this and will be working this step hard over the next few months. Mr. Cooper stated Probation Operations is (7) developing a system of incentives for success; not only for the offenders, but also for probation officers. Research states that is something that needs to be done in order to be successful in supervision. Step (8) is to create seamless transition from prison to probation. Probation Operations is way ahead with the Georgia Reentry Initiative Project (GRIP) Project, and will capitalize on what has already been done and add to it on the community side. Mr. Cooper stated (9) probation will measure progress through accountability, over communication, and teamwork. Currently, Probation Operations is doing COMPSTAT (computer statistics) meetings with Probation Chiefs and Field Operations Managers. Mr. Cooper stated the last step (10) is to identify legislation that will enhance public safety in an efficient manner. Probation Operations is looking at what is going on in other states and legislation that will help accomplish this framework.

Mr. Cooper stated the desired outcome is to implement and sustain the exceptional statewide felony probation operation in the nation. The timeline is to do this no later than December of



2010. Probation Operations will fully implement strategies that are outlined by PEW Center, and, Corrections will set the national standard for Probation Operations in the nation. Mr. Cooper stated Probation Operations will show a measured and marked reduction in recidivism within the prison and probation populations while going through this process. The theme is Standard Is Exceptional; not being just good but being exceptional with probation supervision. Mr. Cooper completed his report and addressed comments and questions.

Commissioner Owens added to the report with requesting Assistant Commissioner Derrick Schofield to report on his observations of the 'ride along' with probation officers. Mr. Schofield explained that he rode with Officer Bennett and Officer Davenport of the Cobb Judicial Circuit. Mr. Schofield complimented both officers for their excellent job; both knew what was going on, knew what the population was, got respect from those offenders, had the demeanor of being fair but firm when addressing offenders, but more than that it was about public safety. Mr. Schofield stated their first stop was in the woods. Those offenders in the woods are sex offenders, who have been pushed away so far that the only way they can live is to live in makeshift camps. The first site had three offenders; the second site had two offenders. Mr. Schofield stated that one of the offenders, who had been under his supervision when he was the warden at Augusta State Medical Prison, indicated that it was better being in prison than having to live like this. Mr. Schofield stated that when probation officers go out, they knew the areas they were going to, knew the offenders, knew their history, were always aware of the surroundings. Mr. Schofield stated it is not just about public safety but it is about officer safety as well. During the day it is okay; but when it gets dark, it changes the rules. The probation officers are out by themselves with their wit and a glock and work in a team environment. Mr. Schofield stated it was a good learning experience for him.

Mr. Cooper added that there are 160,000+ probationers being supervised. The caseloads have grown to over 30,000 cases in a five year period of time. There are about 800 probation officers, Probation Officers I and Probation Officers II, who supervise those cases. Mr. Cooper stated it is important to point out their responsibility to the courts, which takes a tremendous amount of time as well.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Rob Jones began with encouraging the Board members to visit the probation offices in their areas. Arrangements can be made for Board members to visit at any time. As a Board, one thing that can be done is to encourage officers who are out in the field and visit with them in their offices, in addition to visiting the correctional facilities. Chairman Jones encouraged the Board members to try in the next three months to visit a probation office and to visit a facility.

Ms. Rose Williams asked about visiting private probation offices. Commissioner Owens called on Mr. Michael Nail to address this question. Mr. Nail explained that private probation is

regulated by the Municipal Probation Association. What that does is regulate not just the private but the public providers who are misdemeanors. There are 43 registered private probation companies in the State of Georgia to supervise misdemeanor cases.

### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Rob Jones called on Mr. Mark Guzzi, Acting General Counsel, to present property Resolutions. Mr. Guzzi explained there are two property Resolutions to bring for consideration. The first is related to a 3.14 acre of parcel of property that is located next to Hancock State Prison in Sparta, Georgia. A farmer, who has land adjacent to that particular piece, requested that the Department of Corrections put it out for bid, so it would give the farmer the opportunity to purchase the parcel and include it with his farm. Department of Corrections looked at the proposal and have no use for that parcel; it is not currently used and there are no future plans to use it. Mr. Guzzi recommended that the Board vote to allow that property be put up for sale on a competitive bid process. Mr. Bruce Hudson made the motion to approve the Resolution, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams, and voted approval by the Board.

Mr. Mark Guzzi explained the second resolution is for a temporary construction easement and then a permanent easement to allow City of Barnesville in Lamar County to lay a water main across Corrections property. Mr. Guzzi stated he has looked at the request and believes Corrections can accommodate without any significant interference of operations at the Lamar Pre-Release Center. Mr. Guzzi recommended approval of this request. Sheriff Carlton Powell made the motion to approve the Resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Bill Acuff. Mr. Roger Waldrop questioned if there were any covenants attached to the transfer, as far as Corrections not being able to hook on later if there is the need; for any future rights to have access to the water main. Mr. Guzzi responded that there is no covenant and would have to do that through a separate contract. The Board voted approval of the Resolution.

Chairman Rob Jones called on Mr. Bill Acuff, Chair of Operations Committee, for his report. Mr. Acuff began with reporting that several rules changes were published some thirty days ago. Copies of the rules are in each Board notebook. Mr. Acuff stated his committee met by teleconference and reviewed the rules changes. These changes are updating rules, such as communication devices, taking into account cell phones, things that did not exist when original rules were written; as well as, rules on certain payments by inmates for medications in self-inflicted situations. Mr. Acuff stated it is the motion of the Operations Committee that the Board adopt the rules as published thirty days ago. Mr. Bruce Hudson seconded said motion, and, the Board voted approval of the rules. The adopted rules are Rule 125-2-4-.22, Rule 125-3-2-.08, Rule 125-3-2-.04, and Rule 125-4-4-.01.

Chairman Rob Jones stated it is time to approve several county wardens. Mr. Bill Acuff made a motion to move into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing the county wardens as listed on the agenda. Sheriff Carlton Powell seconded said motion, and, each Board Member affirmatively approved moving into Executive Session.

Following the Executive Session, the Board members re-convened into Regular Session.

Chairman Rob Jones stated the Board needs to vote on personnel issues. Chairman Jones called for Mr. Bill Acuff to bring the recommendation to promote David Peek to Warden position. Mr. Acuff stated the Operations Committee makes the motion to approve Warden David Peek of Gwinnett County Prison, which was seconded by Mr. Larry Wynn, and voted approval by the Board of Corrections. Warden Peek addressed the Board members, with stating he is honored by the vote by the prestigious individuals sitting around the table.

Chairman Rob Jones called for Mr. Bill Acuff to bring the recommendation for Jeff Chandler to Floyd County Prison. Mr. Acuff stated the Operations Committee makes the motion to approve Warden Jeff Chandler of Floyd County Prison, which was seconded by Mr. Bruce Hudson, and voted approval by the Board of Corrections. Warden Chandler stated he wanted to thank the prestigious members of the Board and appreciated their consideration. Warden Chandler stated the prison has strong mission and will be the best in the business.

Chairman Rob Jones called for Mr. Bill Acuff to bring recommendation for Elijah McCoy to Decatur County Correctional Institute. Mr. Acuff stated the Operations Committee makes a motion to approve Warden Elijah McCoy as permanent status of Decatur County Correctional Institute, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher, and voted approval by the Board of Corrections. Warden McCoy addressed the Board members, thanking them for this opportunity and they will not be disappointed.

Chairman Rob Jones called for Mr. Bill Acuff to bring the recommendation for Alex Hayden of Harris County Prison. Mr. Acuff stated the Operations Committee recommends and make a motion to approve Warden Hayden of Harris County Prison, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher. Chairman Jones called for a vote of this motion, which was given by eleven Board of Corrections members and with one vote opposing the motion. Warden Hayden thanked the Board members for their vote, adding that Harris County Prison will be run with integrity and core values that come from the Georgia Department of Corrections.

Chairman Rob Jones thanked the Operations Committee of Mr. Acuff, Chief Potter and Sheriff Garrison for their outstanding work; their expertise and homework on the county wardens was very much appreciated.

Chairman Jones stated the date of the July Board meeting falls before the holiday of July 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Bill Acuff made a motion that the July Board meeting be suspended with holding the Board subject to a teleconference, if business dictates a Board meeting. Roundtable discussion ensued. Sheriff Roger Garrison seconded said motion. The Board members voted approval of the motion.

Chairman Jones asked about location of holding the August Board meeting. Commissioner Owens stated that at some point he would recommend holding a Board meeting on Tift Campus, with a walking tour of the campus. It will be at the Board's pleasure. The Board members recommended waiting until fall for holding a Board meeting at Tift.

Chairman Jones stated that Sheriff Cecil Nobles called and said please do not take away his chair. Mr. Wayne Dasher reported that Sheriff Nobles got out of the hospital this past Tuesday; that being his third chemotherapy treatment. The doctors are saying that the cancer has been contained and is in remission, but Sheriff is going through precautionary treatments.

Mr. Wayne Dasher questioned about the status of the PIE program. Commissioner Owens responded that it has started and a handful of inmates will start working. In response to the question of what PIE is, Commissioner Owens stated it is a federal program that has been around since 1979 and authorizes states who get enabled legislation to work inmates in private industry for pay. Corrections is trying to get this program up and running; it being difficult during these economic times. There is a small operation at Georgia State Prison with making signs.

Chairman Rob Jones welcomed Chief George Potter, who was introduced last month over the teleconference. Chief Potter stood and stated he is thankful to be working with the Board. He stated that with coming from a law enforcement background, it is different to see how a \$1.2 billion industry operates. He stated he is looking forward to working with everyone. Chief Potter stated he has 39 years of law enforcement; spending 26 of those years with Columbus Police Department and then to Perry, Georgia as Police Chief. After ten years as Police Chief in Perry, they promoted him to Director of Public Safety. Perry is the home of the Georgia National Fair with half million people visiting for those ten days. Perry is located right in the center of Georgia; a great town to be in and Chief really enjoys it. Chairman Jones welcomed Chief Potter to the Board; stating his experience will add to this Board and to the Department of Corrections.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Robert E. Jones, Chairman

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James L. Whitehead, Sr., Secretary

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Laura Jones, Board Liaison