

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

**August 6, 2009
Atlanta, Georgia**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Robert Jones, Chairman
Mr. Bill Acuff
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Carl Franklin
Sheriff Roger Garrison
Mr. George Potter
Sheriff Carlton Powell
Mr. Tommy Rouse
Mr. Roger Waldrop
Mr. Jim Whitehead, Sr.
Ms. Rose Williams
Mr. Larry Wynn

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Bruce Hudson
Sheriff Cecil Nobles
Mr. John Mayes
Mr. Kris Nordholz

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. Harris Hodges, Division Director of Corrections Division
Mr. Danny Horne, Director of Chaplaincy Services
Mr. Mark Guzzi, Legal Services
Mr. Wes Landers, Operations, Planning and Training
Mr. Tom Sittnick, Director of Office of Investigations and Compliance
Mr. Sharrod Campbell, Office of Investigations and Compliance
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Office of Investigations and Compliance
Ms. Sarah Draper, Office of Investigations and Compliance
Ms. Shevondah Fields, Office of Investigations and Compliance
Mr. George Smith, Office of Investigations and Compliance
Ms. Cynthia Nelson, Office of Investigations and Compliance

Warden Jason Driver, Carroll County Prison

VISITORS:

Ms. Carl (Jackie) Franklin

Ms. Layla Franklin

Mr. Jim Lee Scott, A Closer Look

Ms. Judy Stapleton, A Closer Look

Mr. Brandon Hembree, Massey and Bowers

Ms. Alison Hodgson, Senate Budget Office

Mr. Fran Mangari, Southern Strategy Group

Mr. Chuck McMullen, Piedmont Public Affairs

Chairman Robert E. Jones called to order the August meeting of the Board of Corrections. He began with requesting Chaplain Danny Horne open the meeting with prayer. Chairman Jones welcomed all visitors; beginning with introducing Ms. Jackie (Carl) Franklin and granddaughter, Ms. Layla Franklin. Chairman Jones asked all visitors to stand and introduce themselves.

Chairman Rob Jones requested approval of the August Agenda. Mr. Bill Acuff made the motion to approve the Agenda, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams, and voted approval by the Board members.

Chairman Rob Jones requested approval of the Minutes of the June meeting. Sheriff Carlton Powell 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 bring his report.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Brian Owens started his report with a powerpoint presentation; the first slide being Upcoming Events. Commissioner Owens stated he will highlight a few of the events, beginning with the ACA conference. A colleague, Juvenile Justice Commissioner Al Murray, will receive the highest award that can be received in this business. Commissioner Murray is receiving that award because he is the Commissioner who has taken the Department of Juvenile Justice out of the consent decree, that has been in place for over a decade, with the Department of Justice. Commissioner Owens gave kudos to colleague Al Murray for the great job he did

with the Juvenile Justice System. Commissioner Owens will be attending the banquet to recognize Commissioner Murray's great work.

The other events that are upcoming will be speaking to District Attorneys Association on September 9th, where he will be talking about issues that will be talked about this morning. Commissioner Owens stated this is about what the Department of Corrections is doing in the prison system.

With the next slide, Commissioner Brian Owens showed the Jail Backlog, which was put back into the presentation at the request of Sheriff Roger Garrison. Commissioner Owens pointed out that Corrections' count for jail backlog is about 2,400; the Sheriffs' numbers are just under 5,000. There are about 670 probationers sitting in county jails waiting to be sentenced and this brings the total backlog to 3,164. Currently, the jails are at about 94% of capacity; about one-third is over capacity, however, around the state. The state prison population today is at about 104.3% capacity in the state system.

Commissioner Owens pointed to the next slide, Operational Update. Commissioner Owens began with recognizing the good work that some Board members have done to help the Department. Commissioner Owens recognized and thanked Mr. Tommy Rouse, who put together a meeting with Judge Boggs in Waycross; this was a great conversation about issues, sentencing, alternatives to incarceration. Commissioner Owens thanked Ms. Rose Williams for her calming influence with the closing of Scott State Prison in Milledgeville; almost 100% of the staff has been placed in like jobs. Commissioner Owens thanked Mr. Wayne Dasher and Sheriff Cecil Nobles for helping in Claxton, with the Department converting a small facility to a transitional center; and in Glennville, with some utility issues down there. Commissioner Owens thanked Chief George Potter for setting up a meeting with Grace Village folks; this being a great program of using inmate labor to build a 26-unit apartment complex for homeless women and children in Perry, which will be a treatment center to help get women back on their feet. Commissioner Owens thanked Mr. Carl Franklin for the great feedback on the Metro Women's Choir in church. Commissioner Owens thanked Mr. Jim Whitehead in advance for a meeting tomorrow with Chairman Ben Harbin to update on budget status and apprise him of the Department's budget reductions. Commissioner Owens thanked Mr. Bill Acuff for stepping up to fix the problem on the policy on how the Department authorizes county wardens; due to his diligence there is a new Board rule which will make it a better process. Commissioner Owens stated if he missed someone, he apologized; but felt it important for others to know what the colleagues are doing to help this Department.

Commissioner Owens reported on the budget. The Department has been advised that it will be taking a 5% reduction in cash allotment monthly for the foreseeable future. What that means is that with the \$1 billion budget over a year's worth of time, that 5% will be about a \$50 million reduction. The Department has also been asked, and has responded, to submit a 4%, 6%, and 8% proposal on top of the 5% cash allotment withholding. The Department has provided that information to the Office of Planning and Budget for Governor's review. Commissioner Owens

explained further that the Department took a permanent \$71 million reduction last year, which was briefed to the Board members. The briefing described how the Department would accomplish that while still being able to perform the mission. On these reduction requests, the Department will take care of the 5%, but it will be tough. And with adding 4%, 6%, or 8% on top of the 5% reduction, the bottom line is that it will become harder. Commissioner Owens stated the Department will continue to work that and will keep the Board members informed as process goes on.

Commissioner Owens reported on the employees in the military. The Department is a large department with a lot of heroes who volunteer for the military. There is something about these men and women, whether correctional officers, jailers, deputies, firefighters, or police officers, to make them want to go to the front lines. The Department of Corrections has 160 employees who are currently on active duty in the Guard or Reserve. The mass majority are with the 48th Infantry Brigade in Afghanistan. The Department is making a heavy effort to make sure to remember them, to let them know we support them, to send cards or packages, and help take care of the families. Commissioner Owens requested that at an appropriate time the Board of Corrections might talk about what to do to support the men and women who are overseas. Commissioner Owens requested the Board members to please keep those 160 people in their thoughts.

Commissioner Owens reported there are two Requests for Proposals (RFP) on private prison beds. The first one was to expand an existing private prison for up to 1500 beds. That has been awarded to Corrections Corporation of America, which will be expanding private prisons by approximately 750 beds apiece. The strategy has been to eliminate all aging infrastructure in the Department of Corrections; to replace that infrastructure with more modern fast tracks that are far less staff intensive. Commissioner Owens stated that also since an overabundance of inmates in the prison system are medium security and below, the Department also likes the private option. There is also an RFP currently issued for a new private prison, which will be 1,00 beds and expandable up to 2,500 beds. This RFP is still ongoing; perhaps by October, there will be results on that RFP process.

Commissioner Owens, with the slide on Scott SP Status, explained that the Department's strategy is that when replacing old aging infrastructure, the Department has to shut a facility down. The Department starts with identifying all positions within a 50-mile radius of where that facility is and then begins holding the vacancy rates; to not hire as vacancies come up. The Department does this in order to place the hardworking folks, from the closing facility, into similar jobs within fifty miles of where they currently reside. Commissioner Owens stated the good news here is that, even with announcing it at the beginning of the Fiscal Year of shutting down Scott State Prison, there were some 280 employees who have been taken care of. As of today, 271 have been placed; seven decided to resign or retire; and there are three who will be placed in open positions. Commissioner Owens thanked Mr. Tim Ward and Ms. Cindy Schweiger for their help with placing the 271 staff members. There are some employees who will take a reduction in status, but no one is taking a reduction in pay. It is critically important to

take care of employees. With not giving a pay raise and with health insurance premiums going up, it is incumbent upon the Department to protect the employees.

With the next slide, Organizational Chart, Commissioner Owens stated it would be good for the Board members to have this org chart; showing who does what within the Department of Corrections. When the new Chairman took over earlier this year, it was decided that rather than Commissioner Owens briefing the Board meetings, that he would highlight certain portions of the Department. As a point, the Food and Farm Committee met recently and were very impressed with the Farm operations.

By further way of explanation, Commissioner Owens stated that today the Office of Investigations and Compliance (OIC) will bring its presentation. Pointing to the Org Chart, Commissioner Owens noted where OIC is in the organization. Commissioner Owens continued with his explanation in that the organization has a \$1.1 billion budget; there are 60,000 locked up; there are 160,000 felons on the street; there are 13,000 employees; which totals about 233,000 people. That is equivalent to running a city of 233,000; and, OIC is the Department's police force; the auditors; the inspectors; the internal investigators; the staff who take care of inmate complaints. This is a fairly large division; these staff members are the eyes and ears of the Department. Commissioner Owens asked Mr. Tom Sittnick, Director of OIC to give a brief overview and then ask each direct report to give a two-minute briefing.

Mr. Tom Sittnick, Director of Office of Investigations and Compliance (OIC), began with showing a wire diagram of OIC. He then announced that today he will graduate in the Basic Probation Officer Training course; wanting to point out that the new probation officers who hit the street are fully qualified and are more than prepared to go out in the streets. Mr. Sittnick stated it was an honor and privilege to be associated with those young men and women. Referring back to the wire diagram, Mr. Sittnick stated there are new changes to point out. He stated that, as Commissioner Owens had stated, OIC is the eyes and ears for the Department. Mr. Sittnick stated folks go down range and put boots on the ground; principally the investigators and auditors. OIC is set up for success by being in the field and working directly with wardens and chiefs and superintendents. In pointing to the diagram to show where the activity goes on, it the area below the directors' line; where the investigators and the auditors are all the stalwarts of the operations. At the top of the diagram, it reflects that OIC has established liaisons with GBI and FBI; the Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center (GSIAC), High Intensity Drug Trafficking Agency (HIDTA), and Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). Mr. Sittnick stated that over the last three years, OIC has been able to embed with these agencies on a day-to-day basis in order to now have a continuum of operations and information flow, as well as intelligence, that is fed back out into the field on a daily basis. A yellow folder of information was given to each Board member, and, inside each folder were examples of things that have been produced out of OIC.

Mr. Sittnick explained that GSIAC was created after 9/11. After September 11, 2001, the Georgia legislators realized the state needed to be better engaged and interoperable. GSIAC is a

multitude of state agencies in a forum with connectivity to federal intelligence groups. GSIAC allows national connectivity with everything that is going on. Mr. Sittnick explained that HIDTA is under the DEA control; agencies look at information on threats regarding drugs coming in or look at information on what gang business is going on. Mr. Sittnick reported that Mr. Cedric Taylor, who is over the Special Operations unit and which is under the Corrections Division, is linked to the Intelligence Unit. A monthly intelligence report is done, and, that information is shared with Special Operations. In that process, OIC is able to tell where the most likely threats are within the state.

Mr. Sittnick continued with pointing to the wire diagram. He stated there is a new addition to the team. When the federal mandate came down with regard to Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), it stated that sexual assaults are of significant concern. This system will now be managed and watched closely by Ms. Betty Lance, who was a deputy warden. Ms. Lance will be providing that information to the compliance side of the house and staff will go down and look at the facilities. Ms. Lance will be managing the reports and watching the process at the federal level and will insure that the Department of Corrections for Georgia is the benchmark to the nation.

Mr. Sittnick then called on his direct reports to talk about their mission specifics,. Mr. Sittnick introduced Ms. Sarah Draper, who is in charge of Internal Investigations and is working hard on her masters degree and will graduate from Command College. Mr. Sittnick introduced Mr. George Smith, Director of Audits and Compliance, who has 34 years of experience in the prison system. In this last year, Mr. Smith salvaged about \$8.6 million with doing a staff analysis in the facilities and looking at all the positions. Also, Mr. Smith is about to endeavor on a new analysis on non-security positions. Mr. Sittnick introduced Ms. Shevondah Fields, who is in charge of Inmate Affairs/Ombudsman Office, and who is also at Command College and will graduate soon. Mr. Sittnick introduced Mr. Ricky Myrick, in charge of Apprehensive Unit, who just graduated with a B.A. degree and will start on his masters degree. Mr. Sittnick added that Mr. Richard Chromi, head of Intelligence section, is out today celebrating his 30th wedding anniversary. Mr. Sittnick, therefore, introduced Mr. Sharrod Campbell, who will stand in for Mr. Chromi. Mr. Campbell has his masters degree and is an ordained minister. The Board members might remember that Mr. Campbell brought a briefing to the Board of Corrections April meeting.

Mr. Sharrod Campbell, Intelligence Unit, began with explaining that it is designed to collect and analyze information and disseminate relevant intelligence to proactively reduce threats. First and foremost to deal with any threat, the Intelligence Unit has to identify, whether it be an individual or group. When identifying it, Intelligence looks at what type of subversive activity this threat presents to the facility. As Mr. Sittnick had alluded to earlier, the Intelligence Unit works in close conjunction with various federal and state agencies to collect and receive information from them. The Intelligent unit maintains a secure analyzed data. Intelligence not only looks at information, but they also take it and analyze it and determine its relevance and its value to the setting. The Intelligence Unit also has four Intelligence investigators who conduct intelligence

inquiries. There are certain issues that come up that may not yet rise to the level of an Internal Investigation. The Internal Investigation, in turn, will request that an Intel investigator go out and conduct a preliminary inquiry to determine what the level is of this particular threat. There are four Internal Investigations regions. Mr. Campbell stated he is assigned to the security threat program supervised by the Intelligence Unit. That is a program by which the unit identifies and gathers all gang intelligence and maintains a true database within Scribe system of that information. The Intelligence Unit conducts inmate surveys with the Audit and Compliance section. The Intelligence Unit goes out into the facilities and conducts random surveys with all populations, whether it is Close security population or segregated population, to determine some of the issues they have; what are some of the things that are going on. The Intelligence Unit produces a report and passes it back up to the Compliance section. Mr. Campbell continued explaining that the Intelligence Unit analyzes sensitized data; also looks at some of the Use of Force going on in the facilities, as well as what drug testing shows. Mr. Campbell explained that there is a monthly 'lay down.' This is where those around the table talk about what is going on in a region. Everyone at the lay down looks at that information collectively and produces a document that is shared with other division heads. Mr. Campbell pointed to the folder of information and explained there is an information summary (INTSUM) in the booklet. That is a summary of what information is received from an outside agency or information from an internal agency. As an example, the INTSUM has a picture of a cell phone watch. That is information that the Intelligence Unit makes sure to get out to all Corrections staff, and try to prevent inmates, visitors, staff with bringing that in the prison. If someone shows a new technique to try to bring something in, Intelligence will show it immediately with rest of the Department, so they will be aware of what could potentially come into facilities. Mr. Campbell completed his report and he and Mr. Sittnick addressed questions.

Mr. Ricky Myrick, manager of the Apprehension Unit, began with giving a rundown of what the Unit does. One thing that most people do not know about the Apprehension Unit is that it also participates in a partnership with Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) state-level task force in Atlanta. Because of the partnership, not only does this help the citizens of Georgia but the Unit also gets the share in the assets seized, based on the amount of effort and amount of work the investigator puts into it. As an example, in FY 06 to FY 08, the Department benefited from \$1.2 million in seized assets. The \$1.2 million was put into the Department to supplement the shrinking budget. Mr. Myrick stated that right now approximately \$1.3 million is being processed through court system; which may or may not be given to the Department, but this depends on the court system. Mr. Myrick stated that is just to give an idea of what is out there and what seized on a yearly basis. The level of cases is a cartel level; not average street dealers; these are high profile cases. The Apprehension Unit is also embedded with the United States Marshal Service in the Southeast Region of Fugitive Task Force. What this does for the Apprehension Unit is be a force multiplier for it. This enables to turn ten investigators into several thousand across the country; it shifts the burden of having to travel outside the state to recover escapees. As an example, couple of weeks ago two state inmates from Muscogee County Prison stole a vehicle and fled the state. The Unit's investigators, through a lead they developed and technology assistance received from U.S. Marshal's Service, determined that the

escapees were out in Las Vegas, Nevada. Instead of the Department having to come up with the funds to send investigators to look for the escapees, the sister taskforce in that area put up a surveillance and were able to apprehend them and recover the stolen vehicle without any incident. That is a great benefit to the Apprehension Unit and the Department. Mr. Myrick reported that to give an idea of type of cases that the Unit works on their own origin, there have been 99 cases open this calendar year; from January 1st until August 5th. These cases are individuals who left county work details or transitional centers. Mr. Myrick stated there were only two escapees from state prisons and they left from work details. The majority of the business does come from transitional centers. Inmates are given an opportunity to merge back into society and become beneficial begin, but some fall back into the category of getting on to drugs again and decide to not report back to the transitional center. Of the 99 cases, the Unit has recaptured 90. There are currently nine cases remaining open right now. Mr. Myrick reported the numbers right now are about a 25% increase from 2006. As the population changes and the security level changes, there will be more occurring. Mr. Myrick reported on Operation FALCON. It is a United States Marshal Service driven initiative. FALCON stands for Federal and Local Cops Organized Nationally. This year is the fifth year that the Marshal's Service has put this into play. What this does is target sex offenders and violent offenders nationwide, and, it requests all law enforcement agencies that have manpower available to participate in a month-long event. The goal is to build partnerships between agencies. During that time all agencies come to the table with their highest severity warrants so the agencies concentrate just on those cases. This year in Georgia alone, agencies were able to lock up over 1,200 people on those outstanding warrants. Mr. Myrick stated it does a tremendous amount of good for the citizens of Georgia. With that, Mr. Myrick concluded his presentation and responded to questions.

Ms. Sarah Draper, director of Internal Investigations, began with explaining the top three investigative issues this unit is dealing with right now. About 60% of the caseload focuses on physical assault, (that is inmate-on-inmate as well as inmate-on-staff assaults); sexual assaults; and personal dealings. Sexual assaults are also inmate-on-staff and inmate-on-inmate cases. The top two areas of Personal dealings are cell phones and drugs. Ms. Draper stated Internal Investigations is finding very good cooperation with prosecutors. This is attributable to the fact that Internal Investigations works with the prosecutors during the investigation, as opposed to going to the prosecutor at the end of the investigation. There are several cases on sexual assault and personal dealings that district attorneys are willing to prosecute for Corrections. Ms. Draper stated she wanted to report on the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) situation, because the Federal Commission came up with mandates. The United States Attorney General has approximately one year to approve those mandates and make changes. There is a very good foundation for the PREA mandate, because the Department of Corrections is under the federal Consent Decree itself, *Cason v. Seckinger*. Therefore, the Georgia Department of Corrections is ahead of the game when handling sexual assault cases. Ms. Draper stated the one thing they are facing is inmate-on-inmate sexual assaults, especially in the male facilities; and, this is a new subject area for most prosecutors. Ms. Draper continued with her report in describing the caseload. Ms. Draper proudly stated that the unit is steadily decreasing the backlog of cases; it

being at the lowest point since 2003 and 2004. The average caseload ranges about 35 cases per investigator. Ms. Draper concluded her report and responded to questions.

One particular question raised was the growing problem of possession of cell phones in the prisons. Ms. Draper responded with the following explanation. If an inmate is found with the possession of a cell phone, that is a felony offense and the inmate can be prosecuted. There is a rise in the cell phone possession and the number of cell phones taken has increased greatly. The prosecutors are taking the more egregious cases; they decide whether or not to prosecute particular cases. In cases such as if a cell phone is found in a living area or in the vent of a dorm, that might not be a good case to take to prosecution; as much as finding a cell phone on the person would be. Also, the Internal Investigations unit is, instead of prosecuting every inmate, taking the forensics off the cell phone to determine if a civilian was responsible for bringing that cell phone in or if a staff member was. The investigators are trying to push those cases just as hard as cases of inmates actually found with cell phones. If cell phones are found in a living area, and there is nothing that connects to a civilian or a staff member, then that goes into a contraband type situation. Ms. Draper stated that what they are trying to do with those cell phones collected in the past couple years, (the number collected ranges up to the 2,000), is donate them to charitable organizations. A lot of those cell phones are broken, do not have chargers, do not have batteries and the charitable organizations do not mind. One charitable organization is Cell Phone For Soldiers. Ms. Draper added that the penalty is five years for a civilian caught with bringing in a cell phone. Ms. Draper stated that cell phones are now in the form of a watch worn on the arm or i-phones to have access to the internet. Inmates dismantle cell phones and the pieces are hidden in different places. When the pieces are put back together, it is passed around for use, and then dismantled again. Ms. Draper stated when a charger is found or a battery is found, then the cell phone will not be activated. In response to a question of the prosecution, Ms. Draper stated that Internal Investigation takes the case to the district attorney and asks what information do they need and if they will prosecute. Internal Investigations follows the same process with cases of aggravated assault and sexual assault between inmates. There is a lot more dialogue with prosecutors. In response to a question of technology detection for the cell phones, Commissioner Brian Owens explained there is a lot of technology out there. The Department of Corrections has several pieces of equipment that can detect cell phones whether they are turned off or on. Some states are actually training dogs to find cell phones. Commissioner stated that, as Mr. Dasher pointed out, the solution is gaining technology that is available. The federal government can use it, but the states cannot use the technology. The State of Texas is sponsoring legislation because cell phones have become epidemic in the prison systems. The Southeastern Commissioners of the Departments of Corrections, along with Commissioner John Ozmint of South Carolina Department of Corrections, has petitioned the federal government to change that law to allow us to use jamming technology. However, the cell phone companies lobby against this legislation. Ms. Draper added that the investigators are attending cell phone forensic courses; to learn techniques on how to glean information out of the cell phone itself; software, and things of that nature.

Ms. Shevondah Fields, chief manager of Inmate Affairs/Ombudsman unit, began with explaining that Inmate Affairs is the office for Grievances and for Disciplinary Reports (DR). The Inmate Affairs unit investigators handle appeals of the grievances and DR's. Once the inmate has the ability to file grievances at the local level to where the inmate can complain, then the inmate can file an appeal of the grievance to the Inmate Affairs level. If the inmate gets a DR while in prison, the inmate can appeal the DR at his/her local level and appeal it up to the Inmate Affairs level. Ms. Fields reported that thus far this year, Inmate Affairs has received 2,500 grievances and 1,500 DR's. Ms. Fields stated training is provided for institutions that may have problem areas. If there are repetitive issues, then the investigators go in and provide training to those facilities. The Ombudsman side of the house receives a number of phone calls, visits, emails and faxes from family members and friends of inmates. Thus far this year, from January to July, the Ombudsman office has received over 4,900 office visits, calls, emails, letters regarding inmate concerns. The Ombudsman unit works very hard to respond to these concerns. The top issues of concern to family are medical, conditions of confinement, and classification. Ms. Fields stated that the Ombudsman works hand-in-hand with Corrections Division on Family Day. The investigators work to make sure the issues of all family members and concerned citizens are addressed at Family Day. Commissioner Owens added that Family Day is held twice a year in Milledgeville. In addition to him being there to talk to family members and interested individuals, the leadership team and all the wardens in the state are there. If a family member wants to have a face-to-face conversation with him or anyone in the chain of command, Family Day is offered twice a year and the Ombudsman Unit is there to help work out issues. Ms. Fields continued in her report of the 2,500 grievances filed, 194 were overturned. Regarding the 1,500 disciplinary reports, Inmate Affairs expunged and/or modified 489. Commissioner Owens added that is why Inmate Affairs exists, so to have consistency across the correctional setting. Years ago, a study was done to find who has the highest disciplinary rate in Georgia prison system, and, the highest rate was out of Milan State Prison. In this small 200-bed prison, inmates couldn't move without being seen and received disciplinary reports. The reason Inmate Affairs exists is to standardize these practices. Ms. Fields continued with explaining that a lot of DR's expunged and/or modified; not because they did not commit the offense, but also because technicalities caused the DR to be modified. This is why the Inmate Affairs investigators go into the facilities to provide training on the technicalities. Ms. Fields completed her report and responded to questions.

Mr. George Smith, Director of Compliance, began with stating that he is winding down on his career. He stated that Commissioner Owens gave Mr. Smith the opportunity to bring in Ms. Cynthia Nelson. Ms. Nelson was the warden at Central State Prison; is now filling the Compliance Manager spot and is getting her feet on the ground before Mr. Smith retires. Mr. Smith stated he had started as a correctional officer at Georgia State Prison, and has been a warden at four prisons, in addition to doing Audits the past ten years in some way, shape, or form. Mr. Smith began his report with explaining what they do in the compliance section is evaluate the operations of all facilities, to include the field offices. The compliance section conducts comprehensive audits and/or basic audits at the 32 prisons. The comprehensive audits are two-day audits and are done at Close security and Maximum prisons. Basic audits are one-

day audits conducted at Medium security prisons. The comprehensive audits are very detailed audits spending two days, with a briefing for them and a follow-up briefing on the last day. Corrections staff will attend on that day to see how well the facility had done. Compliance section conducts security audits at 36 other facilities; those being the transition centers, the probation detention centers, and the pre-release centers. Those sites are one-day audits with going in and doing pretty much the same thing as the basic security audits. On top of that issue, there are three sites to audit Food and Farm. Mr. Smith stated Compliance also conducts audits of judicial circuits. With the judicial circuits, there are many offices to look at, but the 49 probation circuit audits are done. After doing the audits, the Compliance section comes up with the compliance issues. After having a pretty good discussion with the auditors from the State Capitol, the setup of what is being done was perfect with the exception of doing a good official follow-up. This fiscal year, the Compliance section had the ability to go back and do follow-up audits. Mr. Smith stated this is talking about in the neighborhood of 232 audits that were actually performed during a fiscal year. When doing this, the Compliance section provides great information to all sections. Quarterly, the Compliance section goes over these with Assistant Commissioner Derrick Schofield and other section directors in order to go over the findings. Decisions are made on anything that needs corrective action from their standpoint. Mr. Smith also goes through every item with Commissioner Owens and advises him of all non-compliances that may have been found through the process. Many times there are systemic issues that require Commissioner Owens' leadership to correct the items. Mr. Smith reported that the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) is an agency that offers training programs in many subjects; one on conducting prison audits. Mr. Smith stated that most of the auditors have attended the training program. Mr. Smith concluded his briefing and responded to questions.

Chairman Rob Jones thanked Mr. Sittnick and Directors, of Office of Investigations and Compliance, for their presentation and their hard work. Mr. Sittnick thanked the Board members for the opportunity for OIC to be at this meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Rob Jones called on Mr. Bill Acuff, Chair of Operations Committee, for his report. Mr. Acuff stated that Rule 125-2-1-.02 is being changed and has been reviewed by the Operations Committee. The Operations Committee recommends that this rule be posted for thirty days and be voted on at the October Board meeting. In a capsule, the rule change is that county entities seeking to hire county wardens for county correctional institutes, which hold state inmates, must do a background check and credit check and submit that information to the Operations Committee prior to making an offer or announcement of a person being named interim warden, temporary warden, or the warden. Mr. Acuff explained that the background and credit checks are done after the fact. Because state inmates are in the care and custody and control of county prisons, it is the obligation of the Board of Corrections to see that the men and women hired as wardens for county institutes are beyond reproach. Mr. Acuff stated that is the

proposed rule change, therefore making the motion for this rule to be posted for a thirty-day period. Questions were posed and addressed. Sheriff Carlton Powell seconded said motion and the Board members voted approval to post the rule change for thirty days.

Chairman Rob Jones called on Sheriff Carlton Powell, Chair of Food and Farm Services Committee. Sheriff Powell stated the committee met last month and all were tremendously impressed. This is one of the best kept secrets in the State of Georgia; this is the biggest farm operations in the state. Sheriff Powell stated when he first heard about Food and Farm, he thought it was a sharecropper's farm. But this is a major operation on several thousand acres; with very well trained and specialized people working in this operation; and this operation gives inmates an opportunity to work and learn discipline. This provides a tremendous service by feeding prisoners at a low cost; much lower than food can be bought. Sheriff Powell stated that he told Mr. Norman Wilson, who is the man over all the operation, and under Mr. Jerry Watson, director of Georgia Correctional Industries, that this is something to be proud of. Sheriff Powell called on Mr. Jim Whitehead to add to the report about the committee meeting. Mr. Whitehead stated this is the best kept secret; one of the things that came out in the committee meeting was that this is being done in the state and what it means to the taxpayers. Mr. Whitehead stated that people would not realize the cost is through this program in feeding prisoners; the figure, which includes transportation cost and cost of food, is \$3.03 per day. This is unbelievable in this day and time. Mr. Whitehead stated the committee saw all the vegetables that are being grown; the canning process; the process of turning corn into cornmeal and grits; that trucks deliver these products to every prison once a week. Mr. Whitehead pointed out they learned that 400,000 half-pints of milk are delivered once a week, and that 203,000,000 dozen eggs a year are delivered as liquid in containers. Some of the things that the committee learned are that people need to be told what is going on; there is criticism of what Corrections is trying to do. People need to know what is being done for \$3.03 per day for the prison population. Mr. Whitehead stated he called the editor of his local newspaper and told him the cost of feeding an inmate is \$3.03 per day, that this shocked his editor. Mr. Whitehead believes that the taxpayers need to be told about this job that is being done; that this needs to be written in the newspapers of what is being done. The Department of Corrections takes criticism but does not take credit. Mr. Wayne Dasher added to the report that Mr. Norman Wilson and his team made a presentation to the committee. This presentation should be presented early before a Board meeting and board members need to see what is going on. Mr. Dasher requested this presentation be done next month to all Board members. Mr. Dasher stated this is an opportunity for inmates to get a work ethic and have an opportunity to learn a trade. Mr. Tommy Rouse added this is one of the best kept secrets; he has visited the farm operations several times and they do a great job and do a great service. Mr. Rouse stated that this operation is desperately in need of transportation equipment. Sheriff Powell concluded that this is something to be proud of; it is good to have newspapers cover the story and get the message out. Sheriff Powell thanked Chairman Jones for allowing this committee report.

Ms. Rose Williams, Chair of Utilities Committee, stated that the committee met this morning with Mr. Larry Latimer and Mr. Michael Woodliff. Both gentlemen have given a lot of information to the committee, but Ms. Williams stated she would like to report at a later date.

Chairman Rob Jones stated there are two matters to address. Judge Salter passed away earlier this year, and, Sheriff Bill Masee completed his term with the Board. Mr. Bill Acuff made a motion for the Board to recognize both former Board members by retiring their badges and present resolutions to Mrs. Salter and to Sheriff Masee for their service. Mr. Tommy Rouse seconded said motion and the Board members voted approval.

Chairman Rob Jones reported that Mrs. Ida Hudson, wife of former Board member Mr. Charles Hudson, passed away this week. Flowers have been sent from the Board to Mr. Charles Hudson. It was requested that contributions be made to the flower fund.

Chairman Rob Jones requested a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Warden Jason Driver of Carroll County Prison. Mr. Bill Acuff made the motion for the Board to go into Executive Session, Ms. Rose Williams seconded the motion, and members present affirmatively approved moving into Executive Session.

Following Executive Session, the Board of Corrections went back into Regular Session.

Chairman Rob Jones called the meeting back into regular session. Mr. Bill Acuff, Chair of Operations Committee, stated the committee met this morning to meet Warden Jason Driver of Carroll County. It is the recommendation of the Operations Committee that the Board approve this appointment of Warden of Carroll County. Mr. Acuff made the motion to approve Warden Jason Drive; first asking Warden Driver to address the Board before the vote was taken.

Warden Jason Driver stood before the Board to say it was an honor and privilege to be here today. Warden Driver stated he has been with the Carroll County Prison for thirteen years now; working up his way through the ranks. Warden has been through Care and Treatment Counseling to Deputy Warden and now the appointment into this position. Warden Driver stated he has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and bachelor's degree in Public Administration from University of West Georgia. Warden Driver stated he will bring a lot of good to the table and appreciates the vote of confidence. Chief George Potter seconded the motion and the Board voted approval. Chairman Jones congratulated Warden Driver and stated they appreciate his service.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Wayne Dasher stated that Sheriff Cecil Nobles called to say he appreciated all the cards and phone calls. Sheriff is moving forward and is now in physical therapy; but his cancer has arrested and Sheriff Nobles will fully recover from that.

Chairman Rob Jones wanted to address an issue. He and Ms. Rose Williams had the opportunity to attend the Wardens' Conference in June. One of the things that is interesting is that the Wardens Association funds a number of scholarships for children of employees of the Department of Corrections. Ms. Rose Williams added that the Association tries to give out between fifteen to twenty scholarships every year. These are \$1,000 scholarships for department employees and employees' children. The Wardens Association is a non-profit organization and raises money through ads, as well as fund raisers. For the past five years, the Wardens Association has given out over \$100,000 in scholarships. The Wardens Association has criteria for applicants to go by to apply for a scholarship. Chairman Jones stated it would be a nice gesture if the Board of Corrections could do something like that; pitch in and come up with an annual scholarship. Chairman requested the Board members think about this for next few weeks; and, if there is sufficient interest to do something like that, it would be a nice gesture for Corrections employees. Chairman Jones stated he recognized that the Board members give in many areas, but to just let him know if that is something the Board could be interested in doing. Sheriff Carlton Powell stated he appreciated Chairman bringing it up and he would support the idea.

Commissioner Brian Owens stated he wanted to point out how proud these OIC managers were in getting their bachelor's degree and working on their master's degree; that is an emphasis with the Department of Corrections. There is a 3% bonus if employee gets an associate's degree; 5% if get the bachelor's degree; and 5% if get the master's degree. There are six fully-paid scholarships to Command College in Columbus, Georgia. The Department of Corrections set a mark to have 500 individuals actively involved, whether a correctional officer or unit manager, in improving education. Education is a core value of this department. Commissioner Owens announced that effective June 30, 2001, there is a new qualification that a person must have a bachelor's degree to be warden in State of Georgia.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Robert E. Jones, Chairman

James L. Whitehead, Sr., Secretary

Laura Jones, Board Liaison