

**BOARD OF CORRECTIONS**

**May 6, 2010**

**Atlanta, Georgia**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Larry Wynn, Chairman  
Mr. Bruce Hudson  
Mr. Kevin Tanner

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. John Mayes  
Sheriff Roger Garrison

**PRESENT VIA CONFERENCE PHONE:**

Mr. Bill Acuff  
Sheriff Carlton Powell  
Mr. Jim Whitehead, Sr.  
Mr. Wayne Dasher  
Mr. Carl Franklin  
Mr. Robert E. Jones  
Sheriff Cecil Nobles  
Chief George Potter  
Mr. Tommy Rouse  
Mr. Roger Waldrop  
Mr. Justin Wiedeman  
Ms. Rose Williams

**ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:**

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General

**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:**

Commissioner Brian Owens  
Assistant Commissioner Derrick Schofield  
Ms. Laura Jones, Board Liaison  
Ms. Becky East, Division Director of Administration Division  
Mr. David Roussel, Office of Investigations and Compliance  
Mr. Mark Guzzi, Legal Services  
Mr. Adam Baswell, Executive Assistant  
Chaplain Danny Horne

**VISITORS:**

Mr. Bob Keller, State Board of Pardons and Paroles  
Ms. Diane Avery, State Board of Pardons and Paroles  
Mr. Lewis Massey, Massey & Bowers  
Mr. Dave Pratt, GEO Group  
Ms. Kathryn Hammondah, Southern Center for Human Rights  
Ms. Deborah Moore, Department of Juvenile Justice

Chairman Larry Wynn called the May meeting of the Board of Corrections to order. Chairman Wynn called on Chaplain Danny Horne for the invocation. Chairman Wynn began with a roll call to confirm who were connected by conference call.

Chairman Wynn welcomed all visitors and staff this morning; requesting everyone to introduce themselves to the Board.

Chairman Wynn welcomed the newest Board member, Mr. Kevin Tanner, to the Board. Mr. Tanner responded that he was glad to have attended last month's meeting at Glennville; that he is very impressed with Commissioner Owens and staff; appreciating everyone's cooperation in getting him inducted. Chairman Wynn stated the Board looks forward to Mr. Tanner's services.

Chairman Wynn stated the Board has the May Agenda, then asked for a motion to accept. Mr. Roger Waldrop made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Kevin Tanner, and voted approval by the Board.

Chairman Wynn requested approval of the April Minutes. Mr. Bruce Hudson motioned approval of the Minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Jim Whitehead, Sr., and voted approval by the Board.

Chairman Wynn then called on Commissioner Brian Owens to present his report.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Owens began with introducing Mr. Bob Keller, a colleague on the State Board of Pardons and Paroles and Vice Chairman of the Parole Board. Chairman Wynn welcomed Mr. Keller, and, Commissioner Owens added he appreciated Mr. Keller being here.

Commissioner Owens stated he wanted to thank several Board Members for going above and beyond the call of duty.

Commissioner Owens first thanked Mr. Wayne Dasher and Sheriff Cecil Nobles for the great event down in Glennville, for the delicious food, great camaraderie, for team building; and for hosting and allowing the Board Members to stay at the lodge.

Commissioner Owens thanked Ms. Rose Williams, Chief George Potter, Mr. Tommy Rouse, and Chairman Wynn for accompanying the Department at the Annual Awards Ceremony last week. Commissioner Owens thanked them for their support; staff members enjoyed seeing the Board members.

Commissioner Owens thanked Ms. Rose Williams for volunteering to help in the women's audit process. Ms. Williams headed up the team and did the first female audit at Pulaski State Prison. The intent is to go ahead and do an annual special women's audit at all female facilities, so the Department will keep a finger on that pulse.

Commissioner Owens thanked Sheriff Carlton Powell for supporting the Department last Friday at a graduation at Thomas University. Sheriff Powell represented the Board at that event. The Department had four graduates to receive their Bachelors Degree. Commissioner reported that Mr. Ricky Myrick was named the CJ Student of the Year at Thomas University, and, Mr. Hilton Hall received the President's Award. The Department is honored to see those commendations.

Commissioner Owens thanked Mr. Roger Waldrop for his support. It is not easy closing down a probation detention center, which the Department had to do. Commissioner Owens stated he heard many things about Mr. Waldrop's work to support the Department about the closing at Cedartown.

With the powerpoint slides, Commissioner Owens stated he wanted to highlight one event on the Upcoming Events slide. On July 19-22, a National Law Enforcement Exploring Conference will be held at Georgia Tech. Commissioner explained the Explorers are a national group and have various subject matters; such as, law enforcement, aviation, medical, designed to target teenagers who are making career choices. Colonel Bill Hitchens, being a CEO of law enforcement in State of Georgia, has been asked by Governor Perdue to sponsor the event. The Department of Corrections has been asked to chair one of the committees to provide support for that event at Georgia Tech. Commissioner Owens invited the Board Members to drop in and see some of the conference.

Commissioner Owens reported on the Jail Backlog. The current jail backlog of state sentenced inmates is 2,872. The Sheriffs numbers are 5,600. The total backlog is about 3,600, and this is a result of closures that the Department has done. Commissioner Owens stated the good news is the beds that are opening up will replace those closed beds; the backlog number will start coming back down this summer.

Commissioner Owens stated he is pleased to report that as of first of May, there are eleven major facilities that have gone tobacco free. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, the facilities of Hancock State Prison, Walker

State Prison, and Calhoun State Prison will join the initiative. Commissioner stated that the plan is by the end of this calendar year, 100% of state facilities will be tobacco free.

Commissioner Owens reported on the fasttrack beds, in that the Department received full funding to open four fasttracks this year. Those fasttracks will be 260 beds, giving a total of 1,024 additional beds coming on line. Those fasttracks are located at Augusta State Medical Prison, Telfair State Prison, Central State Prison, and Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Prison. Commissioner reported that the Department also received full funding for 800 additional beds to private prisons, Coffee Correctional Prison and Wheeler Correctional Prison. Commissioner Owens stated there will be a total of over 1,800 beds coming on line this year.

Commissioner Owens stated that as an update on private prisons, the Request For Proposal was issued several months ago. The Notice of Intent To Award was issued to GEO in Milledgeville. At the same time, the Department learned that Cornell Companies was going away; the Department is negotiating with Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) to try to get two additional private prisons underway.

Commissioners Owens proudly reported that there are 148 days remaining until the relocation to Tift College South. As soon as this meeting is over, Commissioner Owens will be going to Forsyth to meet with contractors, architects, inmate construction crews, and State Property Officer to keep that project on track.

Commissioner Owens called on Ms. Becky East, Division Director of Administration, for a briefing. Commissioner stated the General Assembly completed the session and there is a budget for Fiscal Year 2010 and upcoming Fiscal Year 2011.

Ms. Becky East began with a powerpoint presentation, stating that what the Board Members see on the screen is the Amended FY 10 budget. Ms. East stated that the information was seen by the Board Members at a presentation made at the January Board meeting. The Department has come out really well; the same as Governor's Recommendation. Ms. East highlighted a few things. The Department did have a little bit reduction in Health Services; received additional funds in Jail Subsidy; the private prison expansion beds will come on line in FY 2011; closure has been done on two facilities and three probation detention centers. With a second slide, Ms. East explained this shows the FY 11 budget. A lot of this is the same as Governor's Recommendation that was presented at the January Board meeting. Ms. East highlighted a few things; funding for Montgomery State Prison was restored and it will not be closing as was originally planned; the Family Violence Commission will transfer to the Judicial Council in July; and there is a funding reduction in Health Services. Ms. East stated what the Department is seeing happening in Health Services, is that additional savings from House Bill 464 will give leverage on the Medicaid contract rate. Ms. East continued with highlighting statewide changes, such as Georgia Building Authority rental, Workers Compensation, the GAIT project. Ms. East stated, that as Commissioner Owens mentioned about the private prison beds, the \$27 million is

to bring on line the expansion beds at CCA and the new facility with GEO. The funding is in the budget for those beds and for the new fasttrack beds that will come on line. Ms. East concluded her briefing with stating the Department saw several versions during the General Assembly Session; with this budget the Department is very pleased with the way the Session ended. Commissioner Owens added that the General Assembly did stay very close to the Governor's Recommendation. Commissioner Owens stated that given the difficult year, the Department came out pretty well.

Commissioner Owens called on Assistant Commissioner Schofield to talk about a grant for the Department that will save money years from now, as well as a major piece of legislation that state departments have been trying to get passed for many years. The legislation passed the General Assembly, but will require a vote on a constitutional amendment for it to be passed. This authority will allow Georgia to do creative things to save money.

Assistant Commissioner Schofield began reporting on Performance Contracting. Mr. Schofield stated that basically, it takes a long term approach with infrastructure enhancements utilizing cost savings from what the Department gains from energy improvements to fund future projects. Some of the benefits, as shown on a powerpoint slide, reflect 'creates incentive for highly efficient projects'; 'resolves chronic equipment deferred maintenance'; and many other features. Mr. Schofield stated that the bottom line is that it gives opportunity to improve infrastructure, not with using state funding but instead from the repairs. The General Assembly passed Senate Bill 194, which was introduced in 2009. The legislation was brought back this year with some improvements and the legislators tacked on a proposed constitutional amendment. This legislation passed in both House and Senate and will go to the voters in November, 2010.

With approval of the constitutional amendment, this legislation will allow, compared to previously the Department was not able to participate in performance contracting, the Department to have full participation to benefit the state as well as contractors. Commissioner Owens added that, as an example, if the Department had to do a major renovation on a system in a prison, the Department had to go to General Assembly to get a bond appropriation, purchase the equipment, then install it. If this constitutional amendment on energy savings passes, it will allow all state agencies to contract with service providers who will use their own funding to provide the equipment. The state agencies will pay for the equipment, but will be based upon the savings that equipment will produce. This will be a much better value to the taxpayers.

With a second powerpoint slide, Assistant Commissioner Schofield explained that back in 2009 the Department was awarded \$16.5 million under Federal Stimulus funds. Mr. Schofield stated there were several Energy Stimulus Fund Projects. The Department is waiting to hear the announcement of the First Project Award, which will be \$8.1 million for equipping facilities with energy measuring devices. The measuring devices will provide the Department with very good cost savings data; anticipating about \$1.2 million in savings. Mr. Schofield explained this will give a central reporting system; with every building being metered, this will give a Warden or

Probation Chief Officer the ability to monitor what is going on with utility costs. With metering and alarm thresholds, the administrator of the facility can see what is happening in the buildings and make modifications. This will be done in major facilities statewide. The Department is excited about this project. Commissioner Owens added that the big impact will be utility costs; the Department is spending about \$38 million a year in utilities, so this will help chip away the costs.

Commissioner Owens stated this completed his report.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Larry Wynn stated he wanted to comment on the Awards Ceremony last week. It was an excellent, well done program. Chairman stated it not only was very much a testimony to the Department's commitment to excellence but also to the value placed on the employees.

Chairman Wynn thanked the staff for doing a tremendous job. He stated it was fun to see the various people receive the awards and hear their stories and how they are involved. Chairman Wynn stated this was a small sampling of a lot of people who are doing a great job. Chairman Wynn thanked Commissioner Owens for that opportunity. Commissioner Owens added that a Legacy Award went to Ms. Brenda Murrell, who retired from the Department after 34 years. Ms. Murrell was the first female division director of the Corrections Division.

Chairman Larry Wynn reported that the Wardens Conference will be held in June. Two Board members, Mr. Justin Wiedeman and Mr. Carl Franklin, will represent the Board at the conference.

Chairman Wynn asked if there was any Old or New Business. Sheriff Carlton Powell said he wanted to commend Commissioner Owens for the nice article in *Georgia Trend* magazine. Sheriff Powell congratulated Commissioner Owens on his nice work.

Mr. Bob Keller, member of State Board of Pardons and Paroles, stated he wanted to mention a couple of things. An event occurred in Forsyth; one of the best events that has been held in years. This event held was Victims Right Week, and this time eight state agencies came together in Forsyth. Mr. Keller stated it was the best program. The agencies were Department of Juvenile Justice, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Prosecuting Attorneys Council, Department of Corrections, State Board of Pardons and Paroles, Governor's Office of Children and Youth, Governor's Office of Highway Safety, and State Patrol. Mr. Keller stated the agencies participated in a round table discussion, hosted by Mr. Mark Winne. There were a lot of victims there; Victims Rights Week was combined with Victims Visitors Day. On Victims Visitors Day, the victims have an opportunity to come in and talk to wardens, members of Pardons and Paroles Board, to understand exactly what happens to an inmate while incarcerated and during the parole process. All the agencies could not have been treated any better; it was a compliment to Commissioner Owens and staff in how it was handled. The Pardons and Paroles

Board met with 112 victims that day. Mr. Keller stated that from the feedback from other agencies, it appears that Corrections will have to host the event again. Mr. Keller stated it is good to see coordinated efforts coming from state agencies.

Mr. Keller reported on another program. In trying to come up with cost savings measures, he and Commissioner Owens had met to talk about a plan in trying to fasttrack certain cases that receive sentences of two years or less. With using Coastal State Prison in a new way, it now houses three programs which will save tremendous amount of money in jail subsidies and save money in bed space. The State Board of Pardons and Paroles is working closely with Department of Corrections in the program. This is getting very good reviews so far; it is too early to report; but potentially 3,000 people a year go through this. Mr. Keller stated when start adding up figures on this, everybody wins. This is something that will do well for this Board to get a report on this program, because this is one of those things being done in concert with Department of Corrections.

Mr. Keller thanked Chairman Wynn for letting him attend the meeting. Chairman Wynn thanked him for his input and for attending today.

Chairman Larry Wynn stated the next meeting will be June 3 and will be here in Atlanta. Chairman Wynn thanked the Board Members for joining in from their offices.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Larry Wynn, Chairman

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Tommy Rouse, Secretary

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Laura Jones, Board Liaison