

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

November 4, 2010

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Larry Wynn, Chairman
Mr. Bill Acuff
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Bruce Hudson
Mr. Carl Franklin
Mr. John Mayes
Sheriff Cecil Nobles
Chief George Potter
Sheriff Carlton Powell
Mr. Tommy Rouse
Mr. Kevin Tanner
Dr. Henrie Treadwell
Mr. Roger Waldrop
Mr. Jim Whitehead, Sr.
Mr. Justin Wiedeman
Ms. Rose Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sheriff Roger Garrison
Sheriff Cecil Nobles
Mr. Ashley Paulk, Jr.

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
Mr. Adam Baswell, Executive Assistant
Mr. Rob Jones, General Counsel
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs
Mr. Larry Latimer, Director of Engineering
Ms. Simone Juhmi-Green, Assistant to Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Tim Ward, Director of Facilities Operations
Mr. Jerry Watson, Director of Georgia Correctional Industries
Ms. Sharmelle Brooks, Office of Public Affairs
Mr. Mark Waldron, Director of Planning and Analysis
Mr. Sharrod Campbell, Investigation Unit
Mr. Stan Cooper, Director of Probation Operations

Chief Probation Officer Will Driver of the Athens Probation Office

Probation Officer III Georg Trexler of the Brunswick Judicial Circuit
Probation Officer Deonna Johnston of the Jackson Probation Office
Police Officer Brooker of the Atlanta Police Department
Probation Officer Isaac Gilliard of CIP of Columbus Probation Office
Probation Officer II Tony Rutland of CIP Atlanta Probation Office
Probation Officer II Marissa Viverito of CIP Atlanta Probation Office
Probation Officer II Terra Cochran of Americus Probation Office
Probation Officer III Dawn Corbin of Lawrenceville Probation Office
Probation Officer II Baird of Lawrenceville Probation Office.

VISITORS:

Ms. Jackie Franklin, wife of Carl Franklin

Mr. Bruce Bowers, Massey & Bowers

Mr. Will Davis, Monroe County Reporter

Chairman Larry Wynn called to order the November Board Meeting, welcoming everyone to the new facility and board room. Chairman Wynn then called on Chaplain Horne to bring the invocation. Chairman Wynn requested the attendees to introduce themselves.

Chairman Larry Wynn called for a motion to approve the November Agenda. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion, which was seconded by Chief George Potter, and voted approval by the Board.

Chairman Larry Wynn requested approval of the October Minutes. Mr. Roger Waldrop motioned approval, which was seconded by Chief George Potter, and voted approval by the Board.

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

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Brian Owens began with explaining the microphones. The sound quality is far better; a person can talk in a normal tone of voice and everyone will be able to hear. Commissioner Owens welcomed everyone to Forsyth, the new home of Georgia Department of Corrections. He stated that the furniture seen all over the campus, with very few exceptions, were manufactured, upholstered, assembled, or handmade by inmate population. The Board table was made by hand at Ware State Prison. The majority of Gibson Hall was restored by

inmates. Out front of Gibson Hall, there were inmates working on the landscape. Commissioner Owens is proud of what they do and proud of this facility.

Commissioner Owens stated his report will be brief. With a powerpoint slide, Commissioner Owens stated he will talk about Upcoming Events, Jail Backlog, and Operational Update. The next slide, Upcoming Events, reflects several events. Two important events coming up will be held on November 10 and November 12. Commissioner Owens stated that the members, who have been on the Board for years, will recall in 2005 that Correctional Sergeant Phil Dodson had deployed to the 48th Brigade in Iraq and lost his life to an IED. Commissioner explained that when the Department of Corrections took over the campus, a road had to be cut from Patrol Road to Railroad Avenue. On November 10, with the Dodson family, the Department will dedicate Dodson Memorial Drive to Sergeant Phil Dodson. Commissioner Owens invited the Board members to attend this ceremony, which will be held at Roberts Chapel at 9:00 a.m. On Friday, November 12, the Department will cut the ribbon to this new location. Commissioner Owens stated this project was done on time and on budget; this was done because of Larry Latimer's team of construction supervisors and incredible amount of inmate labor. Following today's Board meeting, the Board members will go on a tour of these main buildings on Historic Circle, and then to Rutland Center for lunch. Commissioner Owens continued with the calendar; for December, January, and February there are routine events. Commissioner pointed to an event set for December 15th, wherein he reminded the members that the Department of Corrections entered into a contract with Corrections Corporation of America to construct a private prison in Jenkins County. Commissioner Owens stated Governor Perdue will be there for that groundbreaking event. For January, the Board Meeting is scheduled to meet in Atlanta. The General Assembly Session begins January 10, 2011.

With the next slide, the Jail Backlog is 2,800. Commissioner Owens explained that number is larger than last month. Commissioner stated that in the General Assembly session last year, the Department planned to close Men's State Prison. Also, a few months ago a groundbreaking was held for the private prison to replace the older prison. Therefore, the Department is currently moving inmates out of Men's State Prison, but now has about 148 inmates remaining. With the moving of those inmates throughout the system, the backlog will go up a bit and should come back down by the time the General Assembly begins.

With the Operational Update, Commissioner Owens announced that the Department of Corrections is now tobacco free. This initiative to go tobacco free started in January, with three or four facilities at a time so to manage the situation. As of the first of this month, tobacco is now contraband in the Georgia prison system. Commissioner Owens stated that the Department is combating attempts to get tobacco into the facilities. This is a good problem to have instead of combating drugs coming into the system; tobacco is the number one contraband. Inmates are getting very creative with getting tobacco inside, so the Department's techniques are aggressively interdicting.

Commissioner Owens stated that the Georgia Department of Corrections operates the most safe and secure prison; the most disciplined prison in the United States. Over the years, as the prison population is booming, building more and more prisons to try to keep up with the demand. The good news is the prison system is actually flattening and projections are beginning to decline a little bit. Commissioner Owens stated that has enabled the Department to ship resources into the other half of this organization, which is Probation Operations. Commissioner explained that there are about 60,000 inmates locked up; that is the bulk of the \$1.1 billion budget.

Commissioner Owens stated that there are 150,000 probationers that the Department of Corrections is responsible for. The growth in the probation population has been phenomenal in the last five years; has actually grown about 40%. The reason is that Judges has seen the value of post-sentence supervision. No matter who goes to prison and gets out of prison, there is supervision on the back end to help keep the offender in line. Commissioner Owens stated that for the past two years, the Department has focused heavily on beefing up the Probation Operations with taking a look at best practices. Commissioner stated that what he wants to do today is bring in some probation officers, who do the job. Commissioner Owens encouraged the Board members to ask as many questions because these officers are proud of what they do. Commissioner Owens called on Mr. Stan Cooper to give a brief overview of Probation Operations.

Mr. Stan Cooper, Director of Probation Operations, came before the Board stating it is an honor to talk about something they believe in. Mr. Cooper stated he is bringing in people who are out there doing the job and doing well. With a powerpoint overview, Mr. Cooper explained that there are over 1,400 staff. About 1,100 are sworn staff, who are probation officers, surveillance officers, chief probation officers and others who work the field every day. Mr. Cooper stated there are at around 150,000 offenders. About 104,000 of those are actively being supervised. What that means is that the other 46,000 or so are on probation but under an unsupervised staff, based on statute that require it done that way. Of that, about 24,000 are considered high-risk offenders. Mr. Cooper stated that is where the focus is; those high risk offenders.

Probation Operations is broken down in 49 judicial circuits by statute. In those 49 circuits, there are 100 plus probation offices, 13 day reporting centers across the state, five community impact programs. Also, the organization is broken down in four areas of operations with a field operations manager in charge of each area. Mr. Cooper stated that Probation Operations serve 205 superior court judges in the state. Technically, that is 205 courts that probation officers serve.

Mr. Cooper stated the budget is little over \$86 million for Probation Operations. When put into context in looking at other agencies, the Probation Operations budget is larger than the Georgia Bureau of Investigation budget; larger than Department of Defense's budget; is larger than the State Board of Pardons and Paroles budget. In essence, Probation Operations is actually a stand-

alone agency within the state, if looking at that context. Mr. Cooper requested staff members to come forward for introduction.

Mr. Cooper stated it is a great honor to introduce some great employees of the Department of Corrections. He started with introducing Chief Probation Officer Will Driver of the Athens Probation Office; Probation Officer III Georg Trexler of the Brunswick Judicial Circuit, Probation Officer Deonna Johnston of the Jackson Probation Office, Atlanta Officer Brooker of the Atlanta Police Department, Probation Officer Isaac Gilliard of CIP of Columbus Probation Office, Probation Officer II Tony Rutland of CIP Atlanta Probation Office, Probation Officer II Marissa Viverito of CIP Atlanta Probation Office, Probation Officer II Terra Cochran of Americus Probation Office, Probation Officer III Dawn Corbin of Lawrenceville Probation Office, Probation Officer II Baird of Lawrenceville Probation Office. Mr. Cooper then called on Chief Will Driver, of the Athens Probation Office to speak on Probation Operations.

Chief Driver stated it is a privilege to talk about something he believes in, and, that is Probation Operations. Probation Operations has a two-fold mission. The first is Public Safety, which is a non-negotiable mission. The second mission is Service To The Courts. Probation is statutorily required to provide service to the courts.

Chief Driver continued with explaining about how Probation accomplishes this mission. Chief described that the officers are a multi-faceted agency. With talking about the Public Safety part of the core mission, that is accomplished by having well-trained officers. Officers undergo a four-week basic Probation Operations training course. Upon successful completion of that course, they are certified by the Peace Officers Standards and Training Council (P.O.S.T.). However, training does not stop there. Chief Driver stated he is passionate about training because he believes it is an absolute necessity in order to accomplish the mission. Probation Operations has basic mandated in-services each year; has other qualifications that have to be done each year; so, the Department has gone a step further this year. Probation has introduced a new training program which helps insure the safety of the probation officers while in the community. Probation Operations adopted a new 24-hour intensive training class. Each one of the 1,100 sworn staff are required to go through this class. The officers are required to sit in a classroom in the morning, but that evening each officer has to be put through practical exercises and life-threatening scenarios. The probation officers have to show that they understand these concepts. This class is being done to enhance the safety of our officers in the field.

Chief Driver introduced two officers to speak about field supervision aspect of the job. Chief introduced PO III Dawn Corbin and PO II Ryan Baird out of Lawrenceville Probation Office.

Probation Officer Dawn Corbin thanked the Board members for letting her come here today to talk about what the officers do. Officer Corbin has been in this job for 13 years and could not imagine doing anything else. When saying field supervision, what the officers are talking about

is going out to the community at the offenders' home, at their work, monitoring their behavior. These offenders have told the probation officers where the offenders work and live, but the officers do not know for sure that that is what they are doing. Officer Corbin stated that when out in the field, the officer is monitoring the offender's behavior to make sure the offender is working there and making sure they live where they say they do; not only talking to the offender at the home but also talking to parents, to a girlfriend, to victims of the crime; all to make sure the offender is in compliance with their terms and conditions. Officer Corbin explained that Probation Operations is different from other law enforcement agencies, in that every person being visited is a convicted felon. Officer Corbin stated there is a risk assessment that is completed to determine who needs that extra attention. A field team is comprised of two probation officers, they are put in a certain area of that circuit, they know the area and know the sex offenders in that area, they know the highly risk offenders in that area. If something happens in that area, the officers respond. If a child comes up missing in that area, they know who is likely to have committed the offense. In the last year, field officers have been given well-needed technology. Officer Corbin pointed to some mini notebooks, as an example of what the officers can take out in the field. The mini notebooks hold the Department's database, have contact information and photos of offenders, and a place in the notebook to enter the notes. There is one particular function in the database to be able to map probationers. Officer Baird provided an example on the screen, by searching a particular street address of one Board member. When the map popped up, the information found that there were 113 offenders under supervision, living within a three-mile radius of that particular address. Officer Corbin stated that another piece of technology that the officers have been given is a blackberry, which is very helpful. Officer Corbin stated these blackberries have GPS technology. Officer Corbin, as a supervisor, explained that officers had been sent out in the field but did not have radios, did not have communication with a dispatch system; if something had happened, they would hope they could find a cell phone and call 911. However, a blackberry has GPS technology, so Officer Corbin can be notified if an officer has been at a residence too long then the system will send a notice to her blackberry so that she can get help to that officer. Having a blackberry has been reassuring to the officers. Officer Baird spoke about another piece of technology equipment which allows doing fingerprint ID. The Lawrenceville Probation Office has a pilot program to use equipment to enable the officers to scan the index finger and middle finger. The equipment gives criminal history and checks to see if a person is wanted anywhere in the country or if a person is a registered sex offender. This equipment can do three, four, five, six persons at a time. Officer Corbin stated they are excited about this field supervision going out, not only trying to catch the offender doing wrong but also trying to catch the offender doing right. Several questions were addressed and the officers completed their presentation.

Chief Driver continued his report with introducing Probation Officer II Terra Cochran to talk about Case Management Teams. Officer Cochran is a PO II from Americus, Georgia and will talk about lower risk offenders.

Probation Officer Terra Cochran began with explaining she is from the Southwest Circuit. She began talking about Case Management and how officers supervise low risk offenders. Officers supervise low risk offenders by monthly contact. These monthly contacts consist of face to office, where the probationer comes into the office and report directly to the probation officer. Another contact is the telephone contact, where the probationer reports by telephone and talks to the probation officer. There is another contact of talking with an employer or talking to someone who knows about the offender. Officer Cochran explained the monthly contact is monitored by the court order which is sent down by the judge; making sure that the probationer is in compliance with their fees and restitution fees. Officer Cochran stated the Department recently implemented a new initiative, which is Probation Reporting Contact Center (PRCC). This is for the low risk offenders and they have to show the Officers that the probationer can make good on their probation conditions. This is a reward; the Officers reward the ones that do what they are supposed to do. Officer Cochran stated the officers continue to supervise the probationers with giving a toll free number to phone in and not be required to make regular visits. Probationers love this because they do not want to report monthly; but this puts the responsibility back on the probationer. This also helps the Probation Officer with extra time to be able to work out in the field and focus on high risk offenders. Officer Cochran completed her presentation.

Chief Driver stood to talk about Community Impact Program (CIP). Each offender that is coming out of the prison system, that person has to reenter into society. Probation Operations wants the person to be successful. Chief Driver introduced Officer. Marissa Viverito and Officer Tony Rutland from the Atlanta Community Impact Program, along with Officer Isaac Gilliard from the Columbus Community Impact Program.

Officer Marissa Viverito began with explaining she is here today as representative of the Atlanta Community Impact Program. CIP is in Atlanta, Macon, Augusta, Columbus, and Savannah with several being developed in the future. A community impact program is a collaboration of local law enforcement agencies and community stakeholders to come together to discuss and develop strategies to increase public safety, reduce recidivism, and make the transition safe for the person coming out of the prison system. When an offender gets out of prison, that person goes from being supervised 24 hours a day in a facility to nothing. The offender reports to probation for a 15-minute visit in the office once a month. Officer Viverito stated that when the offender comes to probation, the first thing the officer asks is what does the offender need; whether it is housing, employment, or mental health. The offender is then held fully accountable for their actions. The probation officer stresses accountability; if the offender messes up, the person comes to the office so the probation officer can help. Officer Tony Rutland began with reporting that the Community Impact Program is a very 'hands-on' program. There are offenders released from prison and simply disappear. Now, probation officers make contact with the prisons, introduce who they are, and tell about the services to let the offenders they are required to report in. Officer Rutland stated the officers also go by the residence, meet the parents and siblings, and verify the address. Officer Rutland stated that another thing offered under the Community Impact Program is the service to offenders who are released with no probation. The probation

officers meet with an offender; sometimes going to the home, and offering services to those offenders to let them know that the offender has needs and there are benefits for them. The CIP assists with housing, shelter, ways to let the offender know that he is important. Officer Rutland stated the main focus is to let just-released offenders know they are on probation. Officer Isaac Gilliard began his report that the probation officers supervise intense for the first ninety days. Within those ninety days, the officer identifies mental health, drugs or alcohol issues, and if housing is needed. Once those areas are identified, the officer lets the offender know to report to the counselor, whether it is reporting once a month, once a week; depending on what the offender's level is. Once those areas are identified, the officer goes to the house to check if the offender is doing everything he has to do. The officer has to go three or four times, whether it is at 1:00 a.m. or 3:00 a.m.; this being done to make sure the offender is not out in the streets. Officer Viverito added that a typical day for a Community Impact Officer is anything but typical. CIP officers have had training; SWAT training, mental health crisis training; Officer Viverito is a certified as a gang investigator; and officers work alongside Atlanta Police Department, officers such as Officer Brooker. Probation officers are out on the street, answering 911 calls, identifying probationers committing crimes; probation officers carry mini notebooks to be able to run a name to see if the offender is wanted. CIP officers attend community meetings, work undercover to try and catch up with probationers; and serve warrants. Officer Viverito stated CIP is a great program with a great team. Officers Viverito and Gilliard completed their presentation.

Chief Driver stood to state they have talked about what they do in training, talked about field supervision, and talked about community programs. Chief Driver stated one new initiative, in enhancing court services, is the Probation Officer Sentencing Specialist (P.O.S.S.). Chief introduced Officer Deonna Johnston, who is from Jackson Probation Office.

Officer Deonna Johnston began with explaining she is a Probation Officer Sentencing Specialist. Officer Johnston stated she will talk about this new initiative of POSS and what she does to serve the courts. She explained that this started nationally and this is an evidence based sentencing initiative. This initiative was that the courts have access to information in Corrections as available sentencing options. The Columbus State University Command College conducted a survey, with results showing that 81% of Georgia's 205 Superior Court Judges felt that they would benefit from having a local single point of contact within the Department of Corrections to help the judge have a better understanding of what the officer does and what the policies and procedures and sentencing options are. Officer Johnston stated the Probation Officer Sentencing Specialist was created; commonly referred to as the POSS. This is one knowledgeable, experienced, and professional officer who is the go-to person from the Department. The POSS provides effective, efficient, and evidence based information to assist the courts with sentencing recommendation based on an offender's risk and need, in a way that will help reduce recidivism and utilize all persons in a way to make Georgia a safe and well managed state. Officer Johnston stated that since its inception, 54 POSS officers have been called to serve the Georgia's 49 judicial circuits. In May, POSS officers were armed with the 3G mini-notebooks so they would

have access to the probationer's database there in the courtroom, in order to give judges up-to-date information. Officer Johnston stated that in the future, the POSS will work hand-in-hand with a district attorney, public defender, and judge using a risk assessment to use cost effective, evidence based practices, and make the best use of prison bed space, of the probation officer, and community resources. Officer Johnson completed her presentation.

Chief Driver stood to state Officer Georg Trexler will talk about another part in the community. Officer Trexler with Corrections Emergency Response Team, is from Brunswick Probation Office.

Officer Trexler began with stating he is thrilled to explain Corrections Emergency Response Team (CERT), which is one hat the team wears. Another hat is Community Emergency Response Team. Officer Trexler stated that about two years ago, if a probation officer was willing to 'step up to the plate' with energy, stamina and desire to participate in these 10-man teams, then this would be additional duties for the officer. Officer Trexler stated the teams are geographically located in northwest, northeast, central, southwest, and southeast. Officer Trexler is an assistant team leader in the southeast team. The basic existence of CERT is two-fold. The teams are members of tactical squads, which are specialized teams to go in facilities and try to quell any type of uprisings and control disturbances, as well as assist Warden and staff in removing contraband. Officer Trexler and the southeast team has participated in shakedowns, which assist prison staff in removing, searching, and confiscating any drugs, alcohol, cell phones, weapons, shanks that might be present. The team augments prison staff as support. Officer Trexler stated that additionally, CERT assists in Executions. These teams are the front gate and secondary gate security providers. Two CERT Probation teams work the protest crowds of pro or anti-capital punishment forces, in case the crowds get out of hand. Officer Trexler stated that CERT Probation teams also are a community emergency response team. These teams are an available resource for partners in law enforcement, sheriff departments, police departments. On short notice the teams are rapidly deployed when called out to assist in natural or man-made disasters, whether it be hazardous chemical spill or be it a tornado or hurricane. Also, if a child is missing, CERT Probation teams are an available resource. Officer Trexler completed his presentation, stating the CERT Probation teams want to collaborate and be available to build a partnership.

Chief Driver stood to state that one thing he wanted to express today is that he hoped that the Board members could feel the energy of the probation officers. The officers are positive, upbeat, and have pride in what they do. At the beginning of this presentation, Chief Driver had stated the reason he looked forward to being able to talk about Probation Operations is because this is what he believes in; this is where they can make a difference.

Mr. Stan Cooper thanked the Board members for allowing them to be here. When looking at these professionals, they are passionate about what they do; along with other 1,400 plus members

in the field. Today's presentation is a short piece of what they do. Another thing Mr. Cooper wanted to bring to Board members is Probation Operations will start getting new vehicles. With legislation approval, 110 new Dodge Chargers will be purchased for probation officers to go out and do their job. Today, out front of the building there are vehicles parked for the Board members to view. Those vehicles show the way that probation vehicles will be marked; will have cages in the cars, have radios in the car, have mini 3G notebooks available for the officers. Also, nine SUV's will be purchased for those particular circuits that officers get into difficult terrain areas. Supervision takes place in the homes, in the community; not in the probation offices. Mr. Cooper appreciates the Board's support and what they have done for the Department.

Chairman Larry Wynn thanked Commissioner Owens, Mr. Cooper, and Chief Driver and teammates for a great presentation. The Board is very proud of work done.

Chairman Wynn thanked Mr. Larry Latimer and his team for a great job for the new location; appreciate what that team has done as well.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Wynn asked for any Old or New Business. Chairman Wynn stated the Board needs to entertain a motion determining where to meet in December. Chief George Potter made a motion that the Board hold the December meeting in Forsyth. Mr. Bruce Hudson seconded the motion. Chairman Wynn asked for discussion. Mr. Wayne Dasher requested a possibility of having a Christmas sandwich luncheon at the Atlanta Board Room, with inviting the members of the State Board of Pardons and Paroles. With the continued partnership with Pardons and Paroles, this would give an opportunity to fellowship with the Parole members; keep closer ties. Mr. Roger Waldrop agreed with Mr. Dasher. Chairman Wynn called for a vote of the motion on the floor, that the Board meet in Forsyth. With raising of hands, the count was nine for yes and remainder for no. Chairman Wynn stated the December meeting will be in Forsyth.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Larry Wynn, Chairman

Tommy Rouse, Secretary

Laura Jones, Board Liaison