

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

**January 6, 2011
Atlanta, Georgia**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Jim Whitehead Sr., Chairman
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Carl Franklin
Sheriff Roger Garrison
Mr. Bruce Hudson
Mr. John Mayes
Mr. Ashley Paulk, Jr.
Sheriff Carlton Powell
Mr. Tommy Rouse
Mr. Kevin Tanner
Dr. Henrie Treadwell
Mr. Roger Waldrop
Mr. Justin Wiedeman
Ms. Rose Williams (conference call)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Bill Acuff
Sheriff Cecil Nobles
Chief George Potter
Mr. Larry Wynn

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Commissioner Brian Owens
Assistant Commissioner Derrick Schofield
Ms. Simone Juhmi-Green, Board Liaison
Mr. Kenneth Mantle, Executive Assistant
Mr. Sharrod Campbell, Investigation Unit
Ms. Sarah Draper Deputy Director of Investigation and Compliance
Ms. Becky East, Director of Administration Division
Mr. Mark Guzzi, Assistant General Counsel
Mr. Danny Horne, Chaplain
Mr. Donald Jones, Investigations Unit
Mr. John Laurence, Investigations Unit
Mr. Keith Nash, Investigations Unit
Mr. Tim Ward, Director of Facilities Operations
Mr. Jerry Watson, Director of Georgia Correctional Industries

VISITORS:

Mr. Mike Brewer, Aramark
Mr. Will Davis, Monroe County Reporter
Ms. Susan Holmes, State Representative District 125
Mr. John Paul Holmes, State Representative District 125
Mr. James Donald, Chairman Pardons and Paroles
Mr. Dave Pratt, Southern Strategy Group
Ms. Kathryn Hamoudah, Southern Center for Human Rights
Mr. Brandon Hembree, Massey, Bowers & Hembree
Mr. Jim Lee Scott, Citizen
Mr. Bruce E. Bowers, Massey, Bowers & Hembree
Ms. Sara Totonchi, Southern Center for Human Rights
Mr. Kas, Southern Center for Human Rights

Chairman Jim Whitehead called to order the January Board Meeting, stating that he hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and that the year 2011 would be an improvement to the 2010 year. Chairman Whitehead then called on Chaplain Horne to bring the invocation. Chairman Whitehead stated that Board member Rose Williams was in attendance via conference call. Chairman Whitehead then requested the attendees to introduce themselves.

Chairman Whitehead thanked everyone for being in attendance. He thanked the visitors and all the individuals that work for the organization. Chairman Whitehead began by acknowledging two people that he truly loves and one of them is the newest Representative in the House. Back in 1960 when he was a freshman playing at Georgia, he met a gentleman by the name of John Paul Holmes and his wonderful wife Ms. Susan Holmes. Chairman Whitehead discussed some details regarding their college football days and how Ms. Holmes was courteous and so accommodating to put up with Mr. Holmes friends from the team. Chairman Whitehead stated that Ms. Holmes was certainly the queen of our football team. Mr. and Ms. Holmes have meant so much to the state of Georgia and Chairman Whitehead stated that he was so proud that they are here today.

Mr. Roger Waldrop stated that he would like to second Chairman Whitehead's remarks. He stated that he knew Mr. and Ms. Holmes from Jackson and that he got to know both of them very well in Monticello. Mr. Waldrop explained how Ms. Holmes was a Mayor at the time and that she turned that town completely around.

Chairman Whitehead called for a motion to approve the January agenda. Mr. Ashley Paulk, Jr. made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Tommy Rouse, and voted approval by the Board.

Chairman Whitehead requested approval of the January minutes. Mr. Justin Wiedeman stated that he noticed one correction in minutes that was needed. His last name was misspelled. Chairman Whitehead stated to Ms. Simone Juhmi-Green to please make that correction. Ms. Juhmi-Green acknowledged that she would make that correction.

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

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Brian Owens began with a football joke, stating that since Mr. Holmes is a graduate of the University of Georgia, he should put on his college football uniform and assist the 2011 football team.

Chairman Whitehead replied that he would do it if Commissioner Owens could get him some extra oxygen to get halfway through the huddle.

Commissioner Owens stated that his report will be very familiar. With a powerpoint slide, Commissioner Owens stated he will talk about Upcoming Events, Jail Backlog, and a brief Operational Update. The next slide, Upcoming Events, reflects several events.

With the next slide, the Jail Backlog is 2,800. Commissioner Owens gave the Board members a brief minute to review the Upcoming Events. As you look at these, we've included a little bit more detail and as we go and audit prisons or probation offices that are in your area. We would certainly welcome you if you are interested to come and join us on an audit either for the in-brief or the out-brief. We have added these now to our calendar, so that if you are available to make it we will encourage you and invite you to attend at a facility near you. The same thing would apply to our Day Reporting Center (DRC) graduations. You see that we've got some coming up in Augusta and Gainesville. So, any event that you see that is on here that you would like to attend, you are certainly welcomed and encouraged to attend.

With the next slide, Commissioner Owens discussed the Jailback log. Our count is about 2868 and our Probation backlog is 752 for a total backlog of 3620. The Sheriff's count is a little bit

differently, but both numbers are right. They count for their purposes and we count for our purposes; but, again both numbers are right. We are still sitting at about 105% of capacity in the state prison system. We do plan on opening additional fast tracks this year, so that will be an additional 768 beds coming online.

With the next slide, Commissioner Owens discussed a couple of events that have occurred in the Metro, Atlanta area. Beginning on Monday, December 6, 2010, and finishing up a week later on December 13th, we brought a task force from the state of Georgia into the city of Atlanta to assist the Atlanta Police Department in rounding up some bad guys. We got a little media attention, but not too many. We had 72 probation officers working around the clock that were actually assigned to the zone commanders doing what the zone commanders needed. Whether it was walking in shopping malls during the Christmas season, doing road blocks or serving warrants while working with the Red Dog unit. The result of that was that we had 246 arrests in a 7 day period. Nearly 100 of them were for failing probation violations in the city of Atlanta. So, I think we made it evident to everyone; everyone was safe; everybody went home and we were pleased to assist APD with that request. I think that this is something that you might see on a quarterly basis in some locations like Augusta, Savannah and Macon. We certainly had the technology to identify our people. You saw the probation officers do their presentation at the last meeting in Forsyth. They came and told you about their capabilities; about their training and about their technology. They were actually able to deploy with APD back in December and had a very successful operation.

On December 13th, we had our first ever graduation with college degrees. These were bachelor degrees in Divinity for 25 inmates for the state of Georgia. You may recall that the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, through no state funding; through volunteer funding; had stood up that program at Phillips state prison. We had 25 inmates who are serving long sentences, but were committed to getting their education and committed to the ministry, actually received their bachelors degree at Phillips state prison. These men now will be distributed about the inmate population to assist our Chaplains in the work that they do. Again, they are long term inmate; they are not going home any time soon. They volunteered. They were tested and the curriculum was exactly the same as a seminary in New Orleans. It is exactly the same as the free world and they were able to complete a four year program, in three years. We are very proud of the work that they did and Baptist Theological Seminary. So, if you heard we don't have college degrees, we actually do. But, you've got to earn it.

We did break ground on the new facility, in Jenkins County, in December. Mr. Hudson was there; Mr. Dasher was there; The Governor was there. We had quite a big turnout for that affair. Commissioner Owens asked Mr. Wayne Dasher and Mr. Bruce Hudson if they would like to make a comment about that groundbreaking facility.

Mr. Dasher stated, I think it was a great day for Milan and Jenkins County. There was a large crowd of people there and our local legislative and representatives were there.

Commissioner Owens asked Mr. Hudson if he would like to make any comments.

Mr. Hudson stated no, but we spent some hours there and several days after.

Commissioner Owens stated that we waited a long time, but we have to do these negotiations correctly or one ends up appealing or the other. So, I think we did this one right. Commissioner Owens then stated that he wanted to now transition to Mr. Schofield, but that he wanted to provide the Board members with a little bit of an update to ensure that we are all on the same track. If you've read your press packets there, you probably have heard about the lock-down situation that we had. Mr. Schofield is going to brief you on that lock-down situation. I've actually written out some comments that I would like to make for the record. Clearly the mission of our department is to protect the public from felony offenders, bottom line. And, that is not negotiable. We are going to protect the public from felony offenders. We have 57,000 inmates locked up in our prison system. We have 150,000 felony probationers on the streets of Georgia. That was our target back in December, in Atlanta. Those who were not abiding by the commission of their probation; one year from now, if you think about it, 20,000 of those 57,000

inmates who are in prison today, won't be there a year from today because we release about 20,000 inmates every year from the Georgia prisons. Those inmates clearly want to do their time and go home. The vast majority of inmates want to do their time and go home, but we have some inmates who are violent predators on the streets and they don't change their ways when they get to the prison system and we have prisons to deal with those kind of individuals. Now, we hope and pray that they change their ways and we do the best that we can hoping that they will change their ways, but we can offer all the programming in the world, but if somebody isn't interested in taking advantage of that programming, they are not going to take advantage of it.

Our mission is to also protect offenders from each other in prison. It's amazing the amount of the fights they will get into over the same things. We need to remember that 6 inmates in 10 are serving sentences that are violent offenses, such as murder, rape, arm robbery and child molestation; long sentences in Georgia. We would argue that those are the ones that are predecessors would say that they are afraid of. We need to lock them up. They need to be there until they stop their ways. You might be interested to know that we have 7700 sex offenders in the Georgia prison system, serving long sentences. We have over 25,000 non-sex offenders who are there for violent offenses. So, 31,000, nearly 32,000 are violent and or sex offenders in the Georgia prison system. The public doesn't care about it, bottom line. But, we do. We have to. As the Department of Corrections, we are responsible for their care and their custody, and their treatment and their medical care. So, we have to care about these inmates; they are human beings first, prior to whatever crime they committed. We have got an obligation to follow the law; make sure they serve their sentence. But, we believe that when you get sentenced to prison, losing your freedom is the punishment, not being in prison should not be further punishment. We should keep you away from society, but we should give you an opportunity to change yourself. In fact, many inmates take advantage of those opportunities to improve themselves. You know how we support; this Board has always, over the years, supported the programming opportunities for inmates who want to better themselves, always. That is probably the number one topic we talk about in here, over the years. Last year alone, 1400 inmates earned their GED. Mr. Justin Wiedeman and I were talking earlier today and he has asked for a lot of data. So, we have given him some data and one of the things that I think he was surprised to learn was, what?

Mr. Wiedeman replied, education? The education level of the inmates going in.

Commissioner Owens stated that they self report. They have been through 10th and 11th grade, but when we test them they test out to 6th or 7th grade. So, that is an accomplishment now for somebody who comes into the system functioning at the 6th or 7th grade level and earns their GED. That is an accomplishment to be recognized.

2006 inmates in the past year received Technical Educational certificates through Mr. John Paul Holmes and our partnership by the Chairman of the Technical School of Board. We have a great partnership between Ron Jackson and myself, working with Technical schools to give inmates who want to get them, who deserve to get them, and who earned their way to get to these programs; certificates of plumbing, electrical, masonry or whatever it may be. In addition, those certificates doesn't say Department of Corrections, it has the Technical schools logo on there. That is valuable. We had 2300 inmates that completed impatient drug treatment. That is pretty remarkable. And, if you read that we don't pay inmate for their work in the Georgia prison system, we release nearly 3000 inmates last year from half-way houses. Half-way houses where they earn a living wage in the community and they also pay back for their room and board to the state tax payers. So, they are working full time jobs.

Now, what is the difference between an inmate at a transitional center, half-way house, and an inmate in the state prison system? The inmate in the transitional center has earned his way to transition out based upon his educational talent, his vocational talent, his prison disciplinary record and the Parole board; who will grant them access to a transitional center for the last 6 to 12 months of the year. So, nearly 10,000 inmates this year alone have benefited from those opportunities.

Commissioner Owens stated that Mr. Derrick Schofield is going to give you more of a detail briefing about our lock-down, but what I want you to realize it that we have about a total of 90

lock-ups; of all types; across the state. We have half-way houses, county prisons, state prisons, private prisons and out of those 90 lock-ups, we only had to lock-down 4.

Commissioner Owens continued by explaining that we received some information that several facilities had some inmates who choose to not come out of their cells for their assigned work duties. This was either by their choice or through coercion. In fact, that did occur at 4 of our 90 facilities. And yes, you guessed it. Four of those facilities are the highest security facilities we have, holding the most violent and predatory inmates. Commissioner Owens then asked Mr. Derrick Schofield to report on the lock-down.

Mr. Derrick Schofield stated, good morning Mr. Chairman of the Board. Commissioner thank you and you set a very great framework for me to talk about the lock-down. I want to start by saying that in this agency of Corrections, I want you all to be assured that we are competent in what we do in terms of how we operate, manage and supervise offenders in the streets. On this particular case, we received indications in late August, early September of a possible protest by offenders, where they were going to try to organize what they called a work stoppage or a sit-down. From that, we asked our intelligence unit to work that case and work that information and make a determination where there was some credibility to it. That usually takes a little while. We have some internal measures on how we go about doing that and we don't actually discuss that, but they go to work and start looking for additional information. They came back to us in early October and told us that there may be some credibility to that. We told them to keep looking and keep us informed. We developed additional information that it was pretty credible and as always in any law enforcement agency, or in any agency responsible for providing protection of service, we implemented our emergency plan and came up with an operational plan where we were going to target facilities that we knew the greatest threat was. From that point, what we did was implement the plan. We staged some of our tactical units at special facilities knowing what to expect. I want to say that even though the Intel cell would be peaceful, when you prepare for an operation, you prepare for the worst case scenario, and that is what we did in preparing for this in staging and setting the stage for what may occur.

On the morning, of December 9th, we had about 2 or 3 points that we knew that if things went one way, we need to make some adjustments and decide which direction to go with those particular facilities. We want to clearly say that the operations control of those facilities remained with the Wardens. The Wardens were fully engaged. They were providing the Intel, providing the information through the Facilities Director to make the decisions. The decisions will eventually be made at the Directors level on what we would continue or not continue to do.

At 2:00 in the morning, that was our first critical point to measure what might and might not occur. Also, around 2:30, that's where we bring the bakers out to start cooking for the first meal. As the Commissioner said, we have about 90 facilities and all but about 6; all the offenders got up that were suppose to come out and go and bake and go to the kitchen without t incident. At those 6, we said; okay let's see what happens at about 3:30 to 4:30, when the next group comes out. 4 of the 6 tried to come out and they were harassed or threatened by other inmates that if they go to work, there will be some repercussions. So, the bottom line was that we identified 4 facilities that we decided based on that behavior that we were going to lock those facilities down, and that is what we did. Those facilities were Hays State Prison, Macon State Prison, Smith State Prison and Telfair State Prison.

As the Commissioner indicated earlier, 4 of our most, I don't want to say dangerous facilities, but they house some of the most dangerous offenders that we have. To tell you, we had the right facilities picked out in terms of where we had staged for the operation. Our decision was then, that the Director of Facilities would notify me that they are locking down those facilities; that the Wardens on the ground beside that was the best course of action. We agreed and told them that the operation belonged to the Facilities Director.

Mr. Schofield continued to discuss the plan you go into once you lock a facility down. The control goes then, at the facility level to the Warden, to the Director of Operations. We have protocol that we would do before we would bring that facility off lock- down also. Part of that protocol includes investigating the incident to see what might happen, or who were the

instigators involved. Then you go through and do a systematic investigation to learn as much as you can on what was happening.

Throughout this time, we did make the decision that we would do some shake downs, like we always do. If you have a facility lockdown, you shake it down. Go through and check every cell and look for contraband because they are not going anywhere. And, we did that. We knew that going through that there were cell phones in those facilities. We have been dealing with cell phones for a long time and in fact, that is how we gathered some of their information off cell phones. So, we took that opportunity to go through and shake it down. We found about 120 cell phones through those 4 facilities, inside there. We will discuss cell phones a little bit more later, but that they were able to identify 47 cell phones that were tied specifically to some people and we were able to continue to build our intelligence network from there. We then gathered a lot of Intel that we needed to move forward on. But, throughout this operation we maintained operational control. It was our decision; we kept the Commissioner briefed on where we were going and what our intent was. You may have read that we went and asked the inmates whether they were ready to come off lock down. Let me assure you; we lock the facility down and we decided when we were going to bring the facility off lock down. We did not give them an opportunity to tell us that they wanted to. It's not their responsibility. It's their responsibility to follow lawful orders that was given by staff and they did not. Once we decided that, that morning, we kept that facility on lock down until we went through our process to bring them off lock-down. We slowly brought those facilities off lock-down and by the following Friday, I believe, December 15th or 16th, those facilities went back to normal operations. I will say that even at Hays State Prison, one of the facilities that were lock down, we have an annex there and it has about 500 inmates. The main facility stayed on lock down, but that annex was not on lock-down. Those offenders went to work, and in fact, were out in the community providing labor in the community with no issues at all. As for the rest of the facilities throughout the state, same thing occurred. So, we maintained that control, we walked through the process and we will continue to investigate and look at what happened in those prisons, but we feel confident where we are right now, in terms of the lock-down.

Mr. Schofield then discussed cell phones for a minute. He stated that we have been reading and we hear it all. When I am out at meetings with other Deputy Directors from across the state and we talk with each other, our biggest challenge sometimes is not the budget; not staffing; but, preventing contraband from entering the facilities, particularly cell phones. Cell phones pose a unique threat and an example of how they use cell phones through text messages and calling to organize what they thought might be a major work stoppage that didn't occur. But, that technology exists and many years ago, we didn't worry about that when I was last a Warden, in 2005. At that time, cell phones were 1 or 2 every now and then, but this number will surprise you now. We found more than last year, 6000 cell phones trying to be introduced into the facilities whether it was on a work site detail; whether it was tossed over the fence; whether it was a staff or visitor attempting to bring them in. We found that many cell phones that we took or prevented from injuring or being in the hands of offenders. It's a significant amount. You measure that from east coast to west coast and you will find the same thing. In California last year, they had more than 9000 cell phones that they found in their system, to include one on Charles Maxim. It doesn't make it any different or any less important because that is an issue that we focus on and we try to do it and in fact we want to discourage that. It's a felony for an offender to have cell phone and that offender could get up to 5 additional years.

But, when we talk about the 4 facilities where we had these offenders on lock-down, we have folks with life sentences, and some with most of their life sentences with cell phones. Is it good tax payer's money to spend taking them thorough the court system to get the max of five years and add it to a life sentence? So, it is some disinvested for those folks with shorter sentences not to do it because most offenders want to just do their time and go home. But, when those cell phones are entered, it poses a unique problem.

Mr. Schofield further stated that just last year we had 142 visitors arrested for trying to enter this contraband into our facilities. We had another 45 staff members arrested for doing the same thing. We take that seriously. Just last night...and Commissioner I don't think I've briefed you on this one yet, but we had a sting operation down at one of our prisons in Tattall County, GSP.

We arrested a Correctional Officer who was trying to bring cell phones and marijuana into the facility. So, we are always watching and we are looking and we are trying to make a difference. We post that on our website and we post that expense on there, so that you can go out and take a look and know that it's a serious problem, but it is one that we are addressing.

Mr. Schofield continued to say that there was another article that said that it is the guards that are doing it. Mr. Schofield stated some of it. It does happen and we go after them very hard for prosecution. But, it's also not just the guard. The real issue is that, if they are getting in there, how do you stop? There are 3 areas we can focus on. One and only one of those that we really got full control of is prevention. When you come in there with protection, you do your searches from the front and you do your perimeter security and watch what is going on. You are always looking. The cell phones have very little metal in them and you can tape them to your leg. I'm just telling you that a lot of times you can walk through a metal detection and there isn't anything to it. We don't strip search every staff that comes in there unless we have some cause. We don't pat them down. Our officers are sworn officers and we expect them to uphold that oath and the same with any employee that comes through there. If we started strip searching everybody that comes in there, your phones would be off the hook as well as your emails. But, we try to do the other two methods. One is jamming. Jamming is a very inexpensive technology that could limit, isolate and restrict phone call uses into the prisons, but that is illegal based on a FCC rule that was established in 1944, so we can't do the jamming technology.

Another piece of manage access that I believe I briefed you all on is on a demonstration in Mississippi; where they went with the technology of manage access and its working. That's some expensive technology that is out there and we are exploring that opportunity here in Georgia to see whether we can do it at some of our facilities. Some things we are going to continue to do are: We are going to do the cell searches; we are going to search staff, randomly search; we are going to have our K-9 out there looking for contraband, looking for drugs coming in. Use of what we call our boss chair, as inmates, come into the facilities from the rear gate. We want the offenders to know that we are looking. But, as we tell them that we are looking, they look at different ways to change how they get contraband into the facility. But, we want to assure you that we will never give up. Every day and every piece of contraband that we find makes a difference in getting it out of that facility. It's been tough, but that is what we do. We are in the job to make those prisons safe and secure and we will continue to do that. The last piece I want to tell you about is the use of force investigation. I will say that at Macon State Prison and Smith State Prison, we had internal investigations going on there in terms of use of force or alleged use of force and assaults on staff. What we have done, Commissioner on yesterday, asked the Director of Georgia Bureau of Investigations, to take the lead on those investigations to look and make sure and ensure that things are going the way they need to be done. Those of you who work in law enforcement understand that sometimes it is necessary to bring in an outside agency to provide some over sight supervision; not to say anything was wrong; but, we always want to be transparent, when we can. We are security-minded but we want to do what is right for the public and as the Commissioner said, the punishment of coming to prison is coming to prison. People are not there to be punished. With that Mr. Chairman, that concludes my report.

Chairman Whitehead thanked Mr. Schofield for his report and stated that we all are just as excepting as anybody to hear these reports because we know it gives us confidence in what you are doing, which we've always had. But, certainly we hear it from the outside and that is not a good way for us to really know what is going on.

Chairman Whitehead thanked Commissioner Owens and Deputy Commissioner Schofield for their reports.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Whitehead stated that the next item is the Chairman's Report.

Chairman Whitehead asked for any Old or New Business stating that he noticed that

former Chairman Larry Wynn was not here today. I think that tells you something. He is so glad for me to takeover that he didn't even come. But, we certainly want to remember the job that former Chairman Larry Wynn has done and some of the others like, Mr. Wayne Dasher and Mr. Robert Jones. I certainly am very appreciative that you all would let me be in this position and we will honor Mr. Wynn at a later date.

Chairman Whitehead stated that he had to discuss a couple of things and that today we are having a drop-in, get together for former Board Liaison, Ms. Laura Jones who is now retired. Chairman Whitehead gave the Board members more details regarding the location of the retirement reception.

Chairman Whitehead stated that the Board needs to make a motion determining where the next Board meeting in February will be.

Mr. Roger Waldrop stated remember the legislation process Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Wayne Dasher stated that Commissioner Brian Owens may have a preference.

Commissioner Owens stated that he had no preference, but thank you.

Mr. Justin Wiedeman stated that he would personally prefer to be in Atlanta, but that he thought the South Georgia Board members may want the meeting to be held in Forsyth.

Mr. Wayne Dasher stated no. I will make the motion that we meet here in Atlanta.

Chairman Whitehead stated okay. We have a motion to meet in Atlanta. Mr. Roger Waldrop seconded which was voted approval by the Board. Chairman Whitehead stated the February meeting will be in Atlanta.

Chairman Whitehead stated that he appreciates everybody that attends these Board meetings. Chairman Whitehead also encouraged Representative Holmes to convey to the House about what is going on. I don't think that some of our wonderful newspapers really know. They read what is in there and a lot of cases they believe what's in there. I don't think they know the job that is being done by our Commissioner Owens, Deputy Commissioner Schofield and the people who serve under him. I've just been briefed before this meeting about some of the things that they are doing. I don't think anybody has any idea of how many cell phones get in. Chairman Whitehead stated that he heard about an incident regarding a cell phone getting in through a basketball. Chairman Whitehead stated that he doesn't think they understand the job that is being done here. I encourage everybody to please try to find out what is going on especially on the outside and that Commissioner Owens and Assistant Commissioner Schofield certainly are open to answering any questions they have. Chairman Whitehead stated that we need to be able to tell the story of what's happening in our prison system and that when you have almost 50% of the prison population that are violent offenders, that is a scary thing.

Chairman Whitehead asked if any of the Board members had anything additional that they would like to address.

Mr. Wayne Dasher stated I would like to address a question that Commissioner Owens touched on. On our education for the inmates, are we kind of on a stand-still? I know the budget cuts and this and that and the other...you know my thinking is, if we don't give them something to do when they get out eventually they will do something that will get them back in the same boat...where do stand with technical college, anything?

Commissioner Owens stated at this point Mr. Dasher, it's a financial situation. We are not going to be able to increase our capacity for training, vocational education, not even substance abuse, over the short term. What we try to do is target those inmates who are about to get out; 2, 3, 4 years from getting out; and that's when we really try to heavily apply, a drug treatment, vocational treatment, the educational treatment; of course you get education in interim in your imprisonment, but target them right before they get out so they've got those skills so they are

fresh when they get out. But, right now we are about as much capacity as we are going to have, over the short term. I would eventually love to expand that.

Mr. Dasher stated and that transitional center for the majority of them are pretty well maxed out as far as...

Commissioner Owens stated yes Sir...about 3000 beds. We keep them full.

Mr. Roger Waldrop stated Mr. Chairman, if I may just add to what Mr. Dasher just talked about. You know our whole temperament, here in the last 6 months to maybe a year has been for putting good productive people back into society. I would advise us and warn us not get a hitch at what our theme is; we are going to do custody care and control. But, to still keep that as our goal and to increase or better prepare those that can be indentified to go back and get them ready to go. These guys are the toughest. But, the attitudes they have; positive attitudes they have on transitioning people as productive citizens is amazing. It's amazing. If you go through that after cycle, after cycle, after cycle, after cycle, the leadership becomes testy. And, I am proud of how they maintain that professional approach. I wish that Representative Holmes, that there was some way that we could load you up with some; not propaganda, but the truth. So, if you could spread the word over there for us, it would be a big help. We do take the job very seriously and we carry on a very professional matter. .

Commissioner Owens stated if I may comment very briefly. I want to recognize Chairman Donald too. The relationship that he and I had personally and professionally was very close. Terry Bernard just did get the appointment to the Board for a 7 year term; former legislator from the House very distinguish gentleman. So, we have got a Board now who is very receptive to working with us in a professional way, to incentivize these men and woman, who if they do the right thing; if they attend the educational program, if they get their GED, if they complete their drug treatment, if they are participating in vocational education, if they stay DR free; they are willing to take a look at those folks, that are willing to behave in the system and give them a little bit of a break. And, quite frankly, we have not had that relationship for a number of years. So, I'm very encouraged Mr. Chairman, by that relationship that we have. Then just by the fact, Mr. Chairman, that he just shows up at a Board meeting; I mean how often do you see that? That just doesn't happen. So, thank you Sir.

Mr. Carl Franklin stated that he would like to commend the Department for finding these cell phones. But, with 142 citizen arrests and 145 staff arrests for having cell phones, that is scary. My question is what we are doing? What kinds of sentences are imposed on these individuals who are caught bringing in the cell phones, especially our staff?

Commissioner Owens stated that our recommendation through investigations, Ms. Sarah Draper is to seek the maximum punishment for any staff member bringing contraband into the prison system, period.

Mr. Franklin stated which is what?

Commissioner Owens stated which is 5 years of incarceration. It is up to the local community District Attorney and to the local law enforcement community down there; the local judicial community to make a decision on what that is and if it is a staff member then we ask for the maximum amount. And, it's not 145, its 45...45 staff...that is still high though. One is too high!

Mr. Wayne Dasher stated that he would like to update the Board members on Mr. Cecil Nobles. Mr. Dasher described briefly Mr. Nobles medical situation and advised the Board that he spoke to Mr. Nobles and that he was doing well. Mr. Dasher reminded the Board to keep Mr. Nobles in our thoughts and prayers and that Mr. Nobles is looking forward to coming back soon.

Mr. Dasher stated that that he would like to remind the Board about the reception for Ms. Laura Jones later on this morning. He reiterated that we were not using any state funds so encouraged everyone to contribute a donation so that Ms. Jones may have a little left over so she maybe can

buy herself a nice gift. She has been a friend to me and I'm sure she has to all of us. So, help her in that way, if you can.

Commissioner Owens stated where the location of Ms. Jones' reception.

Chairman Whitehead reconfirmed that Board member, Rose Williams was still in attendance via conference call and thanked her for her participation.

There being no further business so Chairman Whitehead asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Roger Waldrop motioned, which was seconded by Mr. Ashley Paulk Jr., and voted approval to adjourn by the Board.

Jim Whitehead Sr., Chairman

John Mays, Secretary

Simone Juhmi-Green, Board Liaison