

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

February 3, 2011

Atlanta, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Bill Acuff
Sheriff Roger Garrison
Sheriff Cecil Nobles
Mr. Ashley Paulk, Jr.
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 Fredrick Head
Ms. Simone Juhmi-Green, Board Liaison
Mr. Kenneth Mantle, Executive Assistant
Ms. Becky East, Director of Administration Division
Mr. Danny Horne, Chaplain
Mr. Donald Jones, Investigations Unit
Mr. Robert Jones, General Counsel
Mr. John Laurence, Investigations Unit
Mr. Tim Ward, Director of Facilities Operations

VISITORS:

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
Ethan Armentrot, Intern
Jeff Campbell, Intern-Massey, Bowers & Hembree
Ms. Sara Totonchi, Southern Center for Human Rights

Chairman Jim Whitehead called to order the February Board Meeting.

Chairman Whitehead then called on Chaplain Horne to bring the invocation. Mr. Wayne Dasher requested that Chaplain Horne place Sheriff Cecil Nobles in the prayer.

Chairman Whitehead then requested the attendees to introduce themselves. Chairman Whitehead thanked everyone for being in attendance.

Chairman Whitehead called for a motion to approve the February agenda. Mr. Roger Waldrop made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher, and voted approval by the Board.

Chairman Whitehead requested approval of the January minutes. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Kevin Tanner, and voted approval by the Board.

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

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Brian Owens began by stating that there was a card being passed around for everyone to sign for Sheriff Cecil Nobles. Commissioner Owens then stated that the month of January has been interesting for the Department of Corrections. Last year we loss Mr. Michael Nail in a good way. He was promoted to the Executive Director of the Parole Board and he is doing a wonderful job. Now, we loss Assistant Commissioner Derrick Schofield to the Tennessee Department of Corrections. Commissioner Owens went on to say that Mr. Schofield is now the Commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Corrections and that several people went to Mr. Schofield's swearing in as Commissioner, in Nashville, Tennessee. Commissioner Owens stated that the Tennessee Department Corrections is a smaller organization than the Georgia Department of Corrections, but that he had no doubt that Mr. Schofield would do a fantastic job. Commissioner Owens stated that we have Mr. Schofield's contact information for anyone that wants to contact him.

Commissioner Owens stated that by Mr. Schofield accepting the Commissioner's position this left us with a great challenge because the Assistant Commissioner is not just a title of the Department of Corrections; it's a working title and having served both roles as the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner; often times the Assistant Commissioner is more difficult than the Commissioner. So, I didn't want to make a rash decision, so I have called upon a retired Department f Correction and hero to come back from retirement and serve; with our retirement system you could serve for a total of six months and then you have to go back into retirement. I didn't have to dig very deeply and I've had enormous respect for this individual for all the time that I've been with Department of Corrections and prior to that with Pardons and Paroles. This individual is widely respected and known by the agency. I asked Mr. Fredrick J. Head, retired Regional Director, to come and serve as our Assistant Commissioner for the interim period.

Commissioner Owens then asked Mr. Head to stand up and to say a few words.

Assistant Commissioner Fredrick J. Head stated thank you. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to come back and to continue the vision that he love so much. He stated that he respected Commissioner Owens and that it was an honor to come back and work for Commissioner Owens and the Board and that he and the former Assistant Commissioner has the same purpose; to protect the public, protect the staff and to protect the offenders. He stated that it is a pleasure to be back working with the Department of Corrections.

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 he would spend little bit more time on the Operational Update. Mr. Roger Waldrop sent me a document the other day from Rome talking about the Governor's vision for Criminal Justice and I received one from Savannah. I received one from several other cities; all seem to be in favor of the direction that the Governor wants to take the Department of Corrections and Criminal Justice System. So, I will give you a little insight as to what we are working on strategically as we move forward in this process. I am also having Ms. Becky East come up and give you a brief update on our budget recommendations and the status of where we are. We will also be meeting with Senate Appropriations Sub-Committee this afternoon on the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 budget.

The next slide, Upcoming Events, the Commissioner told the Board to take a glance at the upcoming calendar that had several upcoming graduations. Commissioner Owens stated that Mr. Kevin Tanner attended the Day Reporting Center graduation in Gainesville, Georgia. Commissioner Owens then asked Mr. Tanner if he would like to make comment regarding his observations from the event.

Mr. Tanner stated that it was a moving experience listening to just three of the offenders that were in the program. When they spoke, all of them broke down in tears talking about their experience at the Day Reporting Center. Corrections obviously have a great staff there, so I would encourage anyone who has the opportunity to go to those graduations and listen to some of those testimonies. They are doing a great job up there.

Commissioner Owens stated that we have upcoming graduations in Athens, Macon and Rome. He encouraged the Board members to attend and support the staff if they could.

With the next slide, the Jail Backlog is 2,700 and our Probation backlog is 730 for a total backlog of 3400. The state of the county system do have a little bit of capacity, obviously some are over capacity and some are under capacity depending upon their situation. Our county jails are running at about 90% of capacity. The state prison population is running at about 106% capacity, so we're 6% of the capacity the state system.

With the next slide, Commissioner Owens called on Ms. Becky East to briefly update the Board on our recommended budget.

Ms. East stated that she was happy to. Ms. East started by saying that she does believe that we fair quite well in the Governor's recommendation. As you see, the total for FY 2011 is 7.8 million. That includes the closing of one of our major facilities which is Metro State Prison. It was closed down in May 2011. Then, they will annualize that close in FY 12. We do have the closure of three Pre-Release Centers and those will began in April of this year. One will close in April, May and then June. We do have a fast track delay and the 2.8 million that came out of that was actually from when we first figured the construction and opening dates those were over funded. So, those were actually opened when they were ready to open from construction.

Private prisons and the new facility were just put in the FY 2011 budget, the 1.6 million. That was so we could negotiate for the two new facilities that are opening in FY2012, the GEO and CCA facility. Then, statewide initiative those just include changes to Worker's Comp PRF etc...and so our total reduction for FY 2011 is 7.8 million. That is less than 1% of our state funds. Then, for FY2012 annualize cost of closure of Metro State Prison. There is an additional three Pre-Release Centers that will close in January 2012. That brings it to a total closure of six Pre Release Centers. The annualize cost of closing Mens State Prison that was closed last December; the annual cost of that is at 4.5 million. The fast track opening that has given us the rest of the money that we use to annualize the opening for the fast tracks. The health savings and transfer to Medicaid and that is related to the opening of a facility that would take our medically Paroled individuals. And, some of those funds are well over a million dollars was actually transferred to Medicaid to help bring down the federal match. The private prison facilities we have one opening in January and one opening in March 2012. The statewide initiatives again that ERF changes and Worker's Comp changes and that brings our total net reduction to 20.2 million. I would also to note though that you know we had the stimulus funds that ran our budget of 85 million. This had been replaced with state funds in FY2012, so we are very pleased to say that.

Ms. East then stated that if there are not any questions that complete my presentation.

Mr. Roger Waldrop stated regarding our six PRC's; can you run over the list of which ones you are referring to?

Ms. East stated that she wished she had those at the top of her head. I know that there is Wilkes, Turner, Lamar....

Mr. Waldrop stated that's okay.

Mr. Timothy Ward stated Appling and Wilkes are the two.

Ms. East stated that she was sorry that she did not have it at the top of her head.

Mr. Waldrop stated that okay.

Mr. Carlton Powell stated I see you're closing Metro. What are they doing?

Ms. East stated that we are in the process of working that plan right now. I know that Ms. Jamie Anderson and the Corrections Division-Mr. Timothy Ward is working on that. There are actually several missions at that facility that will be moved.

Mr. Wayne Dasher stated I haven't been there in a pretty good while, but it seemed to be in pretty good shape the last time I was there; has it gotten in bad shape?

Ms. East stated that it is one of our facilities that is more of a challenge when it comes to the infrastructure. It is an older facility and it does require a lot of maintenance and it actually had a private maintenance company in there working on that because of some of the challenges we've had. In the last 3-4 years we've had one dorm close in that facility so about 200 hundred beds are down at that facility.

Mr. Carlton Powell stated what will happen to the property?

Ms. East stated we've already had some interest expressed in the property. It is in a crime location so we do expect if not more interest than what we are seeing right now. Ms. East stated for us for a prison, it's not that it was in a bad location, it was just one that made stance for us. There are not a lot of females on the backlog. We've seen that number decrease in the last couple of years so to close a female facility was the next thing that made sense for Corrections.

Mr. Wayne Dasher stated in looking at the budget after the reductions, what is our total budget? I recall we had some stimulus funds left this year, but then in the in FY we don't have any stimulus left.

Ms. East stated in FY2012 we do not have any stimulus funds. So, in FY2011 we still have 85 million and then in FY2012 that goes to zero. So, FY2012 we are actually over 1 billion dollars again in state funds.

Mr. Wayne Dasher stated but that is actually down from where it was a few years ago...1.5 or something like that? Y'all have done a good job at reducing the cost.

Mr. Kevin Tanner stated bottom line reductions.

Ms. East stated that those are bottom line reductions and those are just from the Governor's recommendations. I understand that the House Sub-Committee is going to release their recommendations on Monday of next week, so I'm not expecting a big change on FY2011. I am hoping right now though that it's going to breeze through, but I always hope that every year.

Ms. East asked if there were any other questions. There were no more questions for Ms. East report.

Commissioner Owens stated that Ms. East did a good job answering those operational questions.

Commissioner Owens stated that he would expand on that just a little bit. It's actually as a result of opening up 13 Day Reporting Centers across the state; opening up female Residential Substance Abuse Treatment facility beds and Probation has more transfers incarceration; putting Mental Health Services in our Day Report Centers and we are finding that there is a drastic drop in the number of females coming into the prison system, which is a good thing.

Two years ago we would have seen 150-200 women a week being committed to the prison system. Now we are not seeing then in the system. So, even though the beds were in construction, there is only one prison in the state of Georgia that has empty beds; and a couple hundred empty beds, and that's Metro State Prison right here in Atlanta. It's actually in a good location for a prison. It's off Confederate Avenue, right across the street from Department of

Juvenile Justice facility in an industrial area. It isn't in the best of physical shape. We still have a bit of work to do in there, but we think we could take the population and do two, three things with them. One, spread them out to Pulaski State Prison and make our diagnostic mission up at Arrendale State Prison, but perhaps more importantly, send some of them home. We will be working with our colleges from the Parole Board to make sure that we have some.

Mr. Waldrop asked what is the current prison population there now before closing?

Commissioner Owens stated that it was 775.

Commissioner Owens stated that we have been reading in the newspaper about the Governor's talk about what his vision is for the future of Criminal Justice in general and I think it's exciting. If you have been keeping up with the media of course, it's exciting. He believes like many of us do that perhaps that we over-incarcerate some individuals. He believes what every one of us do, that if you are dangerous, violent predator; you need to go to prison and you need to go probably the rest of your life or at least until you are too old to reoffend again. So, I think he share this Board's vision for the future. If you notice he keeps getting asked the same question: Where are you going to get the money? But, he never answers that question. We have been working for about a year now internally on a term we are calling "Justice Reinvestment". This is a term that the Senate calls "New Money". There hasn't been any new money for 2-3 years and we haven't asked for new money with the exception if the Private Prisons money that we couldn't find ourselves. But, we are helping on those Private Prisons funds by shutting down the Pre-Release Centers. So, we are off-setting cost as much as we can.

Mr. Wayne Dasher stated what is the total budget for 2012?

Commissioner Owens stated that it is just over a billion.

Mr. Kevin Tanner stated that doesn't sound right.

Commissioner Owens stated that it is not. The question here is when you take the stabilization funds. We were popped up at 85 million dollars of federal funds in our budget. So, that has gone away and they have replaced that with state funds. So, it's a 2 year mechanism to keep States afloat. So, it's about level. Overall it's down over the last four years by over a hundred million dollars overall.

Mr. Waldrop stated that he thought that it was down more than a hundred million.

Commissioner Owens stated 120 million.

Mr. Carlton Powell stated wasn't it down there for a while?

Commissioner Owens stated yes Sir.

Ms. Becky East stated that in state funds we were actually 1.157 billion a couple years ago and then we got down to a low of 964 million. The thing that you have to remember though is that they do supplement us with those stimulus dollars and those are being replace now, but if you were to look at our total budget, we are down a little over a hundred million dollars total.

Mr. Carlton Powell stated Mr. Commissioner I'm going to ask you to continue. I appreciate you....New York state and the number of people there presently is twice our size in population, yet we are almost passing them in prison population.

Mr. Wayne Dasher stated are you talking about the budget or the people in prison?

Mr. Carlton Powell stated I'm taking about the number of people in prison.

Mr. Roger Waldrop stated that isn't us who is going to push it.

Commissioner Owens stated that we are going to help it. That is what I want to talk to you all about this morning and it's going to take just a little bit of time to go through this presentation. Now is the time that we really need you thinking and I think there is going to be a Legislative Study Committee coming up that we are working closely with, but I want you to see it before it comes out in public.

Commissioner Owens continued to say that first we need to understand what drives and what might have is great question to the Sheriff. When we talk about reducing your budget, you talk about reducing the population. The only way you can reduce the budget is to reduce the population and I think that is what we are all interested in hearing. There are two things in what drives you jail population. Its how many people come in; that's your admissions; and how long do they stay. So, the only way that you can drop a prison population and budget is to do what? Either reduce the number coming in or reduce how long they stay; or ideally both and it becomes a multiply effectively. So, admissions time; length of stay; equals population; equals your budget your appropriations.

Commissioner Owens continued by creating a mental situation stating to pretend that Georgia was a brand new state with no prisoners. We have zero budget and we think we're going to have a thousand prisoners this year. So, you would take a thousand admissions to the prison system and let's say they are there a year a piece. The prison population is going to be a thousand; basic financial terms. How many come in and how long they are there. You've got a population of a thousand so it's going to cost us 18,250,000 dollars to run a thousand person prison system for a year.

Commissioner went on to say that what happens if you reduce those admissions by just a hundred, by 10% and the length of stay stays the same. Then, your population becomes 900. There is your budget impact. It's about 2 million dollars less to operate a 900 bed system than it is a 1000 bed system. What happens if you reduce the length of stay? You get a thousand coming in, but they are only staying 9 months. Look what that does to your budget. It drops it from 18 million dollars to 16 million dollars to 10 million dollars, and we are using small numbers here. What happens if you have 21,000 a year comes in and they stay on average, three years; your population will be 63,000 and your budget is 1.1 billion dollars. That's sound familiar? That is where we are at today. So, we are at about a billion dollars, less than 60,000 inmates, we are getting 21,000 a year, they are staying on average 3 years. Now, if you could tweak admissions or length of stay the financial impact is enormous.

Let's say that we reduce our admissions by just 10%. Let's say they starting building the Day Reports Center; Mental Health court; Drug court. You take a 10% reduction of the people coming in the population drops to 56,000 and you save the tax payers a 110 million dollars a year. Just a small tiny change saves 110 million dollars a year.

What if you drop the length dollars a year? So, the lesson of this is that if we can make small changes in either admissions or length of stay in a prison system. We can have an emorous fiscal impact on the Department of Corrections and then what we want to do is take those savings and re-invest them in community options like drug treatment, day report centers, and mental health courts. So, this is what the Governor is talking about when there is a little bit of start of money needed but reducing your prison population we will sustain those community alternatives. But, we didn't. We started as I said about a year ago. Admissions; time length of stay; population; you see we get about 21,000 a year coming into our system. We have about 5000 Probation revocations and about 4000 Parole revocations and then about 12,000 directly from the courts. This is our business model.

You can see how much money we are spending to keep them in the jail before they come into the system. Some 12 million dollars go to the Sheriff for housing in the local jail. So, the question is how do we influence admissions and how do you influence length of stay at jails because we don't have control over that. All we can do is influence length of stay of admissions. And, as you know that right now if you are male you are going to Jackson for diagnostics and if you are female you're going to Metro for diagnostics. If you receive a sentence for two years or less you bypass diagnostics and you have a drug problem we send you directly to Coastal for six months

for a Residential Substance Abuse Treatment and then keep you out of the system on aftercare. We think that will drop our average daily population over time by about 3000 inmates. We are treating the disease rather than the symptom of the disease. Prior to opening up the Coastal Drug Treatment facility with 2000 beds, we were incarcerating these people with drug addicts for 18 months and kicking them out for 6 months of supervision without ever treating the disease. So, we are getting serious about the addiction hoping they are not going to come back to us. Again, the payoff to us, us taxpayers, is dropping our population by 3,000 dollars and at 18,000 dollars a year that is 54 million dollars of potential savings on the road. Savings could be reinvested.

State prison total population plus the jail backlog is 60,000 over one billion dollars in taxpayer's dollars. So, we are going to work on this business model to try to influence admissions, length of stay to drop our population and take those savings and reinvest them into alternatives and try to treat the disease rather than the symptoms of incarceration.

Mr. Wayne Dasher stated this model is it based on curve for the infliction classifying them according to where they would fit in? Has that been typical for the last 5-10 years maybe?

Commissioner Owens stated absolutely. No, it's actually not just been an inmate is provisional. Once you get sentence at the court, a court level we deal with 121 item assessments and if there is indication that you have a drug problem we bypass you if you got sentence of two years or less directly to drug treatment.

Commissioner Owens continued by explaining what we were currently working on to influence our admissions stating that assessment of pre-sentence investigations. You do that so you can bypass that jail time and get directly in treatment and get them back out in the community where the taxpayer citizens with aftercare.

We have expanded tremendously the residential substance abuse treatment programs across the state. We now have one now in Walker, 200 bed facility; Arrendale, Valdosta. We have about six of them and we want to expand more, so the judges will sentence drug treatment instead of hard prison time.

Revocation, policies and practices we need to take a look at how, who, and where we are revocating and what kind of services are available. Probation Officer Sentencing Specialist goes right back to your point to put probation officer back in the courtroom to help with sentencing. They actually have 3G mini laptops to enter information directly at the time of sentencing so we are not waiting on the body to get there so that we can do it over and over again. Probation Options Management that we had several years ago keeping the revocations down.

As the Governor talks about more drug courts more Mental Health court and our goal is to coordinate with them. The vision is Mental Health court and Drug court is the first step its pre-disposition before you get that felony conviction. If we can get you back treated and back on the streets and doing well; address your addiction, you don't pick up that felony conviction. You fail the Drug and Mental Health court you get that felony conviction and then you go to our day report center at the state level. If you fail the day reporting center at the state level then you go through the residential substance abuse treatment program until you get back out. So if graduate sanctions with treatment you can build a new system, I think that make good business sense.

Commissioner Owens continued by saying how do you influence the length of stay in jails. If you have visibility you have accountability. If you don't have visibility you can't have accountability. We are focusing on a new metric; it's not how many you have in county jails. It's how many you have in the county jails and how long are they staying. It's both pieces. Remember its admission and length of stay is 22.00 dollars per day and we are spending 12 million even more than that this year in those county jails. And, I love our Sheriff out there but I want to keep 20 million a year on those inmates. I want to get them out of your facility into mine and get them back on the streets.

Mr. Dasher stated that he has a question. I don't think that is you have a prison at 1000. That it will end up costing 18,520 dollars a year if you didn't have but 900. I don't believe that you could the whole 18, 0000 dollars per 100. So I don't think that this is a true picture

Commissioner Owens stated that you can't because there is sub -cost but that it actually is because the way you save money is to close down facilities which we have several facility that we close down. That is the only way you really save money in this business so your point is well taken. If you have 1000 bed facilities then you only have 900 inmates you are not going to save a 100 of those inmates. But, if you have zero inmates and you shut that thing down you save the whole 18 million dollars. The only way you save money is to shut it down. You are right.

Mr. Dasher then stated we have people in prison that have 2 years and some have 10 or 15 and they are both in the same prison. I feel like people that are in there have a much more serious crime and that's natural to think that. But, it looks like if it was possible to have the ones with the fewer sentences over here that didn't associate and get educated by these guys over here.

Commissioner Owens stated that that is good in theory but when you have got 21,000 coming in at 20, 000 and 30 facilities and we classify them based upon their risk at the facility not necessarily on the crime they commit. We want to know what the intuitional conduct is going to be. You might have a life sentence inmate who has been in 25 years who is probably a better inmate than somebody coming in on a 2 year sentence at 18 years old.

Mr. Dasher stated but there again you could have a list stout with the lower wherein the max out that over here you would have a lot more people operating that over here.

Commissioner Owens stated that we do have different levels of facilities; close medium; special mission. You will see that we've got a lot of inmate in the system that have gotten parole but don't have a place to live so instead of Parole handing this we are going to ask our Chief Probation Officers to help them out. We are all in this together.

Standardized sentences; we been trying to get this for 30 years in that state of Georgia and we've got it. It took us a year working with the judges and I forget specifically where it's at but we are days away from getting a single standardized sentencing form. You could imagine that we have 49 judicial circuits out there each worth their own handwritten sentencing dockets; mailed all to Atlanta where we've got clerks trying to figure out which judges, what circuit and what is he really trying to say? Now it will be a lot faster. It will be electronic also.

Mr. Waldrop asked what you mean by standardized.

Commissioner Owens explained that you will basically be able to read and process quickly and electronically what their sentencings are.

Commissioner Owens then briefly talked about hoe processing 21, 000 inmates' infrastructure drives your processes. He explained that we are doing a time motion study now at Jackson with some people who know what they are doing to show us where the bottle-necks are and we are going to build an infrustaure to facilitate the movement of these people through.

For 30 years Pardons and Paroles have done something called Personal History Statement and we do COMPAS which is the same information. Through Michael Nail, Executive Director of Pardons and Paroles all are being merged together and made electronic and we think we could save time and positions. Private sector has been doing this for 30 years.

Commissioner Owens stated does the public care about whether you get sentenced for 60 months sentence or 57 months. I don't think it matters. They just want you to be punished. We realized that 3 months of length of stay can make an enormous difference. We just decide if it's arrogating or mitigating factors to determine the 57 months or 60 months. Enhance Performance Incentive Credits- if a man or woman comes to prison and do everything we ask them to do such as behave, get their education, get their substance abuse; does everything right by statue; the

department can recommend credit which is already on the book. We just have to agree with what the reward system is going to be.

Mr. Dasher stated but Parole has to agree with this?

Commissioner Owens stated yes.

Commissioner Owens stated that we have 6000 prisoner that have been granted a tentative parole month that are still in prison and are past that month but some of them could be the late warrants that pop up late in the system. But, if we change our processes a little line item in our budget we are transferring 4 positions Department and Parole and Clemency hearing when we are blowing up the Clemency process and the offenders admin pre-processes and build it back together electronically so that business process can speed up to get inmate out on time. So we are not talking about early release we are talking about on-time releases just by improving our business processes.

Mr. Wayne Dasher stated what is the one thing that is holding these people? These 6000; it is the lack of someplace to go?

Commissioner Owens stated in some cases; Some cases its detainer but the majority of it is that Parsons and Paroles just like us are using business processes equivalent to having a 10,000 person state prison and not a 60,000 person state prison so we are still using the processes we used back in the 180's; both sides; this is what this is all about improving those business processes to get the system working the way it should be working in 2011 instead of 1981.

Commissioner Owens briefly discussed if you have a person that is hard to place and they have a Parole month why don't we get our Chiefs' involved so that we can find them a place to live. We are all in this together.

Ms. Rose Williams stated out of 6000 how many of them are sex offenders?

Commissioner Owens stated 750 to 1000. TPM extensions sometime can be our worst enemies; The Warden has the authority to extend it based upon an inmate's behavior. Year ago P& P put a sanctions matrix and if this violation occurs here is the sanction. Now we are putting a TPM extension matrix together that so that we are not keeping inmates in the system beyond the time that they should. Parole pre-conditions- Parole got out of hand years past with their pre-conditions. They assigned too many paroles-inmates too any pre-condition that they department didn't have resources to do. So they have since dies back a little bit on those pre-conditions and more matching our programming opportunities up because pre-conditions to push them through the system faster.

Parole vote now-Sentencing guideline calls for an inmate to serve between 40- and 50 months. The process is so bogged down because of so many inmates; sometimes that Parole Board doesn't get that case until they are 44 months into that sentence. So they are really set to be release now. Well we just lost 4 months because our business processes are so old. Transitional Center Placement;; we are doing a better job at placing the right inmates in transitional centers realizing that a 60 year old man won't run away like a young inmate than is upset with his mother. We will just have to catch him again and put him back in the Transitional Center once he gets some maturity.

Mr. Dasher stated in the Parole side, when they let them out early are they always notified? Who registers them? If they don't register then they don't have to send them one?

Commissioner Owens stated absolutely. If the victim is registered with Victim Services with Department of Corrections and Pardons and Paroles they are always notified prior to. They have to register themselves through victim services. If they don't then we won't know.

Bottom line is we have to continue to promote and enhance public safeties at all levels and what we are doing here because we are in a public safety business but I think you see the model there we would be smarter about how we are doing our business.

And then finally, is you have visibility you can have accountability in any business-Georgia Department of Corrections; Banking business; Industrial Engineering business. So that is kind of the strategic planner we have been working on for about a year and I believe that if we are reading right from the Governor's article and some of the article in the General Assembly, I believe that we can even move even beyond this in the coming years. I just wanted to give you a little ahead and advance news on what your Department has been doing.

That is my report Sir. I said that I would be quick.

Mr. Tanner Stated that Public Safety is not my expertise but what I get; what really make sense to me and what makes sense to the public is that we should incarcerate people we are scared of not people we are mad at. Let's face it, the judiciary, judges are elected and sometime we end up with people that are incarcerated that we are not accused of but we are mad at. It's very expensive because they can't make restitution while they are in prison. So, what I see from this we are going to starts to really break down those offenses that we believe we should be scared of verses mad at.

Commissioner Owens stated you nailed it. I have to ask a specific question; Joint Appropriations. What is the breakdown...violent versus non-violent offenders; 6 and 10 are violent in the prison system; 4 and 10 are not. I don't use that to say that 4 -10 don't deserve to be there because they may be serving for a non-violent offense but they may have a very violent background. So it's not that simplistic. 60% are violent for 40% are not violent.

Mr. Waldrop asked how are long would it take to implement that if you were told to do it in let's say 30 days.

Commissioner Owens stated well we are doing it. I mean this is just good business practice. There is no legislation involved here. Everything that you saw is in within the prevail of what our current law we are asked to do. I have some dollar figures attached to it that I'm not ready to show yet but if you take those dollar figures by downsizing the facilitates, reinvest that in these mental health, drug court, day repot centers...that's the model and not Mr. Whitehead..ask for new money to do. We got to essentially do a Justice Reinvestment model with existing Appropriations.

Chairman Whitehead stated that he received a telephone call from a lady who asked him question regarding why an inmate family member was still in the prison beyond he parole date. Chairman Whitehead stated that Commissioner Owens just answered his question and that he would be able to answer the question now. He stated that he didn't realize until he met former Commissioner James Donald him much money went into running prisons.

Commissioner Owens stated that when he attend the Sheriff Conference I always give out my personal cell phone number to every Sheriff and about once a week I will get a call from a Sheriff who will have an inmate who has sickle cell or who is pregnant or... and we will pick him up within a 24 hour period because that is that other hidden cost in there. We will pick them up because it could bankrupt some of these small counties.

Ms. Henrie Treadwell stated that this is really a great report and very encouraging. One question I have in talking to people who have been released. Do they get employment? Which is then what helps them to stay out of our facilities/ who is working with us or how are we working the job seen that as we reduce they really are stabilized out.

Commissioner Owens stated great question. My background is an Atlanta Chief Parole Officer but even back then I could get any parolee a job. It is not a problem getting a job. The problem is him having the skills to jeep that job because he is coming out of a prison setting where he was

told what do, when to wake up, . But he doesn't have those skills to say yes Sir when they Boss says work a little harder so he ends up mouthing off and getting fired.

Two full piece to that is that we have doubled our transition centers about 5 years ago so that we can have 3000 transition centers phase. So that we can transition out 5000-6000 inmate a year. During that transition period they learn those skills and we see a 10% reduction in return to prison rate for inmates who go out through transition versus inmates that are just maxed out or release with 25 dollars and a bus ticket.

The other piece is that Parole Officer or Probation Officer it is their responsibility to ensure that they have a job.

Mr. Wayne Dasher stated are we beginning to move out of this mountain top legislation that we had a few years ago where 3 strikes and you are out and everybody is being more tougher on crime this time.

Commissioner Owens stated its great you brought that up. House Sub Committee Chairman asked to look at any statutory requirement that perhaps we should be doing as an agency that could be changed that could make us more efficient or save money. So I asked Mr. Robert Jones to identify all the sentencing statue out there that perhaps they might want to take a look at and that it about as far a s I will touch that. That belongs to the Governor of the General Assembly.

Mr. Wayne Dasher stated Commissioner Owens were you able to get what you just explained to the Board before the Legislator?

Commissioner Owens stated no and that he didn't plan to because he was already in powered and have the authority to do everything that he talked about.

Commissioner Owens stated that concludes his report.

Chairman Whitehead thanked Commissioner Owens for his report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Whitehead stated that we need to sign a card for Mr. Cecil Nobles.

Chairman Whitehead stated that the Board needs to make a motion determining where the next Board meeting in March will be. Mr. Wayne Dasher made a motion for Atlanta, which was seconded by Mr. Kevin Tanner, and voted approval by the Board.

Chairman Whitehead then stated that the Board will be taking the official Board photo at the next meeting on March 3, 2011.

Chairman Whitehead stated that the Commissioner has asked that we do a resolution for Mr. Derrick Schofield at the next meeting.

Chairman Whitehead then asked if the Board would like to make a motion to change the date for the April meeting in Glennville to April 14th.

Mr. Kevin Tanner made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. roger Waldrop, and voted approval by the Board.

Mr. Dasher stated that the workshop will be on April 13th in Glennville.

Chairman Whitehead asked for any Old or New Business.

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

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

Jim Whitehead Sr., Chairman

John Mays, Secretary

Simone Juhmi-Green, Board Liaison