

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

**April 14, 2011
Glennville, Georgia**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Jim Whitehead Sr., Chairman
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Carl Franklin
Mr. Bruce Hudson
Sheriff Cecil Nobles
Mr. Ashley Paulk, Jr.
Sheriff Carlton Powell
Mr. Tommy Rouse
Dr. Henrie Treadwell
Ms. Rose Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Bill Acuff
Sherriff Roger Garrison
Mr. John Mayes
Chief George Potter
Mr. Kevin Tanner
Mr. Roger Waldrop
Mr. Justin Wiedeman
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
Stan Cooper, Director of Probation Operations
Ms. Becky East, Director of Administration Division
Mr. Donald Jones, Investigations Unit
Mr. Robert Jones, General Counsel
Mr. Tim Ward, Director of Facilities Operations
Chief Probation Officer Will Driver of the Athens Probation Office
Chief Probation Officer Georg Trexler of the Eastern 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:

Members, Board of Public Safety
Vice Chair Ellison Wood
Director Dale Mann
Assistant Director Dan Kirk
Georgia State Patrol Staff
Mayor Jean Bridges, City of Glennville
Ms. Pam Waters, *Glennville Sentinel*
Chairman James E. Donald, State Board of Pardons and Paroles
State Board of Pardons and Paroles Staff
Director Ken Vance, Peace Officer Standards Training

This Joint Board Meeting with the Board of Public Safety was called to order by Mr. Ellison Wood, Vice Chairman of the Board of Public Safety. The meeting began with Dr. Rick Cason leading the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Wayne Dasher recognized meeting hosts and distinguished visitors from the Glennville area. Mr. Dasher started with thanking the group of people who have been working diligently since Wednesday afternoon to decorate and set up the meeting location. Mr. Dasher also expressed his

appreciation for the team working to prepare for tonight's Law Enforcement Appreciation Cookout. Mr. Wayne Dasher stated the local television station and the Glennville local newspaper editor were in attendance.

Mr. Ellison Wood then proceeded to chair the Board of Public Safety's Meeting. Next, General James E. Donald, Chairman of the State Board of Pardons and Paroles introduced his staff and welcomed the guests.

General Donald was followed by Director Ken Vance of Peace Officer Standards and Training Counsel, who generally discussed the functions and operations of POST. Following these presentations, Mr. Jim Whitehead, Sr., Chairman of the Board of Corrections, called to order the April meeting of the Board of Corrections.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Whitehead stated it's a pleasure to do a Joint Board meeting. We had a great day at the Workshop the day before. Board Members were also able to visit Georgia State Prison in Reidsville and we had a wonderful visit with the Warden and Staff. Chairman Whitehead expressed his appreciation to the Department's employees who do an unbelievable job.

Chairman Whitehead then called the April Board meeting to order.

Chairman Whitehead noted that there were ten Board of Corrections members present, so there was a quorum, but there were no decisions which would require a vote. The Board members then stood and introduced themselves to the guests present.

Chairman Whitehead called for a motion for the approval of the April Agenda. Dr. Henrie Treadwell motioned, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher and approved by the Board.

Chairman Whitehead then called for a motion to approve the March Minutes. Mr. Bruce Hudson motioned, which was seconded by Mr. Carlton Powell and voted approved by the Board.

Chairman Whitehead then discussed two proposed resolutions that the Board will be presenting at the May 5, 2011 Board meeting. These resolutions are to honor our 8000 correctional officers and the outstanding work of registered nurses in Georgia. The Board will present the resolutions in honor of Correctional Officer's and Registered Nurse's Week in May 2011.

Chairman Whitehead then asked former Chairman Robert Jones, who is now the Department's General Counsel, to speak about the Board of Corrections' Scholarship Fund available to children of the Department's employees.

Mr. Jones explained that the Board of Corrections was simply attempting to following in the footsteps of our Wardens, who annually provide ten, \$1,000 dollar scholarships to the Department's employees and the children of employees. Mr. Jones expressed his appreciation to the Wardens for the great work they do, and he encouraged fellow law enforcement officers to get to know the Wardens in their area. Georgia's correctional officers are just fantastic folks who do a very good job under difficult circumstances. They are the unsung heroes of law enforcement in our state. These officers are ready to give their lives to protect convicted felons, and they are truly remarkable people. Mr. Jones advised the Board members that Simone Juhmi-Green would provide details to Board Members about making their contributions to the scholarship fund this year.

Chairman Whitehead stated this is very important and if the Board members feel led to contribute then they may do so to help finance the scholarships they give out. This is a small thing they do, but it's very important to us.

Chairman Whitehead then asked for a vote regarding the location of the May 5, 2011 Board meeting, either in Atlanta or in Forsyth. Sheriff Cecil Nobles made a motion for the Forsyth location, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher and voted approval by the Board.

The May 5, 2011 Board meeting location was confirmed for Forsyth, Georgia at the State Offices South at Tift College.

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

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Owens explained that following the meeting, vans would be available to take anyone who was interested from the community to tour Georgia State Prison, Rogers State Prison, or the Department's food and farm operations.

Commissioner Owens then explained the two missions of the Department: incarcerating felons and supervising felony probationers. Commissioner Owens then introduced Mr. Stan Cooper, Director of Probation Operations, then provided an overview of Probation Operations.

Mr. Cooper came before the Board stating that it was an honor to talk with them about the outstanding work of the officers and employees of the Probation Operations Division. With a PowerPoint overview, Mr. Cooper explained that there are over 1,400 Probation Division staff. About 1,100 are sworn probation officers, surveillance officers, and chief probation officers who work in the field every day. These officers supervise approximately 150,000 probationers. Of these, about 106,000 are "actively supervised" versus on an "unsupervised" status as required by Georgia law. Approximately 24,000 probationers are considered high-risk offenders. Mr. Cooper stated that the focus is on 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, and five community impact programs. Also, the organization is broken down into four areas of operation, with a field operations manager in charge of each area. Mr. Cooper stated that Probation Operations serve 205 superior court judges in the state. Mr. Cooper explained that the Probation Operations budget is slightly more than \$86 million dollars.

Mr. Cooper stated that it was an honor to introduce some of the great employees of the Department of Corrections. He started with Chief Probation Officer Will Driver of the Athens Probation Office, followed by Chief Probation Officer Georg Trexler of the Eastern 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 that it was 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, the second is service to the courts. Chief Driver then explained how Probation accomplishes this mission.

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

Probation Officer Dawn Corbin thanked the Board members for the opportunity to talk about what the officers do. Officer Corbin explained that field supervision involves going out into the community and visiting offenders at home or work to monitor their behavior. Officer Corbin explained that Probation Operations is different from other law enforcement agencies, in that every person visited is a convicted felon. Officer Corbin explained that there is a risk assessment that is completed to determine which probationers are at the greatest risk of re-offending. The officers completed their presentation.

Chief Driver continued his report by introducing Probation Officer II Terra Cochran to talk about Case Management Teams.

Probation Officer Cochran is from the Southwest Circuit. She began talking about the Case Management process and how officers supervise low risk offenders. Officers supervise low risk offenders by monthly contact, either by face to face visits, office visits, and telephone contacts or through reports from employers or associations of the probationer.

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 to talk about Community Impact Program (CIP). The Department has existing CIP programs in Atlanta, Macon, Augusta, Columbus, and Savannah with several being developed in the future. A Community Impact Program is a collaborative effort between local law enforcement agencies and community stakeholders who come together to discuss and develop strategies to increase public safety and reduce recidivism.

Next, Chief Driver discussed the role of a Probation Officer Sentencing Specialist or P.O.S.S. and introduced Officer Deonna Johnston, from Jackson Probation Office to discuss this task.

Officer Deonna Johnston is a Probation Officer Sentencing Specialist, and she explained the POSS initiative and that the purpose of POSS officers is to serve the Courts. She explained that this started nationally and is an evidence based sentencing initiative. 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 better understand available sentencing options which would be best suited for each offender. The POSS officer's role is to provide 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 keep Georgia a safe and well-managed state.

Chief Driver introduced Chief Probation Officer Georg Trexler to discuss the capabilities of the Corrections Emergency Response Teams fielded by the Probation Operations Division.

Chief 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. Chief Officer Trexler stated that about two years ago, if a probation officer was willing to "step up to the plate" with the energy, stamina, and desire to participate in these 10-man teams, than this would be additional duties for the officer. Chief Officer Trexler stated the teams are geographically located in northwest, northeast, central, southwest, and southeast. Chief 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. Chief 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, and shanks that might be present. The team augments prison staff as support. Chief Officer Trexler stated that additionally, CERT teams are an available resource for partners in law enforcement, including sheriff departments, and police departments. On short notice, the teams can be rapidly deployed when called out to assist in natural or man-made disasters, whether it be a hazardous chemical spill, tornado, or hurricane. Also, if a child is missing, CERT Probation teams are an available resource.

Mr. Cooper and Chief Driver thanked the Board for their support and what they have done for the Department.

Chairman Whitehead thanked Commissioner Owens, Mr. Cooper, Chief Driver and all the Probation Operation teammates for a great presentation.

There being no further business, the meeting was then adjourned.

Jim Whitehead Sr., Chairman

John Mays, Secretary

Simone Juhmi-Green, Board Liaison