

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

**June 2, 2011
Jackson, Georgia**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Jim Whitehead Sr., Chairman
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Carl Franklin
Sherriff Roger Garrison
Sheriff Cecil Nobles
Mr. Ashley Paulk, Jr.
Mr. Tommy Rouse
Mr. Kevin Tanner
Mr. Roger Waldrop
Ms. Rose Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Bruce Hudson
Chief George Potter
Dr. Henrie Treadwell
Mr. Larry Wynn

CONFERENCE CALL:

Mr. Bill Acuff
Mr. John Mayes
Sheriff Carlton Powell
Mr. Justin Wiedeman

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Elizabeth Yarbrough, Assistant Attorney General

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Commissioner Brian Owens
Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Assistant Commissioner
Former Assistant Commissioner Fredrick J. Head
Mr. Kenneth Mantle, Executive Assistant
Ms. Simone Juhmi-Green, Board Liaison
Mr. Adam Baswell, Director of Training
Mr. Terry Edge, Academy Director
Mr. Mark Guzzi, Assistant General Counsel
Mr. Danny Horne, Chaplain
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Office of Public Affairs
Mr. Buster King, Investigations Unit
John Laurence, Investigations Unit
Ms. Dawn Mock, Office of Information Technology
Mr. Mark Moll, Special Operations Training Unit Manager
Mr. Keith Nash, Investigations Unit
Mr. Tom Sittnick, Director of Office of Health Services
Mr. Arnold Smith, Director of Operations, Planning & Training

VISITORS:

John Clayton, Piedmont Public Affairs
Jackie Franklin, Wife of Carl Franklin
Layla Franklin, Granddaughter of Carl Franklin
David Pratt, Southern Strategy Group

Chairman Jim Whitehead called the June meeting of the Board of Corrections to order. Chairman Whitehead called on Chaplain Danny Horne for the invocation. Chairman Whitehead confirmed who were connected by conference call.

Chairman Whitehead welcomed all visitors and staff and requested everyone to introduce themselves to the Board.

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

Chairman Whitehead requested approval of the May Minutes. Mr. Wayne Dasher motioned approval, which was seconded by Mr. Roger Waldrop, and voted approval by the Board.

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

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Owens stated his presentation would be familiar. With the powerpoint slides, Commissioner Owens highlighted some of the Upcoming Events scheduled in June, July and August. Several golf tournaments were mentioned such as the Georgia Prison Warden's Association, Probation Association with Pardons and Paroles and the Correctional Association. Commissioner Owens invited the Board members to the Summer Conference for the Georgia Probation Association on August 17th through 19th at Jekyll Island.

Commissioner Owens reported on the Jail Backlog. The current jail backlog of state sentenced inmates waiting to come into the system is 3,805. There are around 400 inmates processed every week out of the county jails. Unfortunately, the state system is at about 108% capacity but the good news is that our two private providers in Jenkins County and Baldwin County will be assisting with the backlog in January and March 2012.

Commissioner Owens stated some of the Board members toured the Jackson facility and Training Complex this morning for the first time. Commissioner Owens pointed out the fact that the Training Complex where the Board meeting was being held, didn't exist two years ago. Mr. Terry Edge, Academy Director, will prepare a video on some of the training activities that go on at the Complex. Then, Mr. Adam Baswell, Director of Training, will give a briefing on the two student programs Corrections are involved in.

Commissioner Owens discussed the moving of Headquarters and Training operations to Tift College. One of the primary reasons is because the Georgia Public Safety Training Center had grown so large; from squeezing in locals; and, other state agencies. So, when we made the move down to Tift, we also decided to build this training complex. This complex was built with asset forfeiture funds; we did not use the state appropriation to build this complex; therefore, we do one hundred percent of our training now either at Tift College or the Training Complex at Jackson. We have 13,000 state employees and 10,000 POST certified employees, so it's very rare this place is not being used. We are very proud of this facility and our Headquarters are there to support the folks that are out in the field. We are going to start off with a very brief video to remind us of the business that we are in. This video will remind us on why we do all this training.

The Board was shown a brief video interview of a Probation officer describing an incident she witnessed on a routine field visit.

Mr. Terry Edge came up after the video and gave an overview about the history of the range, why the range was constructed, the purpose, and some of the training that takes place at the range. Mr. Edge continued his presentation with discussion about POST council standard requirements, agency mandated training, fire arms training, basic training and advance specialized training that is offered to over 10,000 peace officers in our agency statewide.

The building complex the Board meeting is in is about 4000 square feet with bays. We have two firing ranges with twenty five yard pistol range and a fifty yard multi-purpose range; both have turning targets. We also have a leadership reaction course and an obstacle course. The primary vision for the facility is to serve the Georgia Department of Corrections statewide and establish a law enforcement partnership with other state and county agencies by allowing them to use our firing range.

Some of the activities we do on an annual basis each year is the Annual Commissioner's Competitions. With these competitions, we conduct training through professional competition. The three competitions are: Commissioner's Challenge, Commissioner's Pistol Competition, and the Commissioner's Cert Competition. The winner of each competition receives their team name on the name plate that is placed on the same cup each year. Probation Cert Teams, Tactical Squads and K-9 units are all involved in this competition. The intentions of these competitions are to utilize training techniques. Mr. Edge gave examples on how these competitions teach what to look for when you draw a weapon and how to determine whether it is justifiable to utilize deadly force when encountered with a weapon. The vision of the competition is the critical values learned not the actual competition. These annual competitions build teamwork, motivation, morale and physical fitness.

A short video was shown on the annual competition winners.

The winners of the Commissioner's Challenge in 2010 were Hays State Prison. The first place winners for 2011 were the Canine Handlers who accepted the trophy from Hays State Prison as this year's winner. Valdosta State Prison was second place and third place was Southeast Probation CERT team. That concluded Mr. Edge's presentation.

Mr. Adam Baswell gave a brief update on a couple of programs that the Department is involved in the community. Mr. Baswell stated that the agency has a 12 for Life program that deals with at risk students in the local community of the Monroe County school system.

We have thirteen students that the school system identified as being at great risk for not graduating for miscellaneous reasons. Out of the thirteen students in our 12 for Life program that had mentors working with them, eight of them have graduated from high school last week. However, we have three that did not graduate. One of them had to move away and the others had personal reasons for not graduating. The other remaining two students will come back with the agency this August and finish up. They both are thriving seniors and it looks like they will be graduating the first semester of this next coming year. So, it looks like that program is an incredible success. This is just one of the programs we are doing that is making a difference for those at risk students that are having lots of personal issues in their lives.

The other program that we started last week through the summer with continued partnership through Monroe County school system is taking on summer interns. The school system has identified the top thirty upcoming senior students. We interviewed them and discussed specific agency fields higher level executive summer internship they may be interested in. Eighteen of the thirty students applied and we choose twelve to start interning with the agency. Mr. Baswell explained that these students are absolutely incredible. These are "A" students who are very focused. They are at the opposite end of that spectrum in the school system and we are proud to bring them aboard. They will be interns with the Department for two months and they will receive high school credits for the program.

Mr. Dasher stated that he really appreciates Corrections taking the initiative to do this training with students. It's easy to get so complacent but it's important to train for the future especially in this business we are in. Great job on the community involvement! We are building thinkers.

Mr. Waldrop spoke about Corrections being a leadership agency with all these programs. These types of programs build self esteem and self motivation. These are very important programs.

Commissioner Owens ended his report by informing the Board members that the Criminal Justice Reform Council has been named and their names and an article have been included in their packet. The first meeting is next Tuesday, at 3:00 p.m. in the State Capitol.

That concluded the Commissioner's report.

Chairman Whitehead thanked Commissioner Owens and all the training staff for a great presentation.

Chairman Whitehead asked that all Board members sign the card being passed around for Board member George Potter who was not in attendance today.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Whitehead began his report by addressing some of the Media Blitz while commending all the Board members for getting involved. Chairman Whitehead stated the Department is amazing and I'm blown away as to what happens in the Department and how these facilities are run. The Department is so well trained!

Chairman Whitehead stated he was honored to be a part of the GDC Annual Award Ceremony and he was able to meet so many outstanding employees of the Department. Assistant Commissioner Fredrick Head was the Legacy Award recipient. Chairman Whitehead congratulated Mr. Head on receiving the award.

Chairman Whitehead stated Representative Jay Neal and Commissioner Owens went to Chattanooga to speak on a radio program. Commissioner Owens spoke about the radio interview and stated it was very interesting and you have to be prepared for any question because anyone can call the show. Commissioner Owens touched briefly on some of the caller's questions.

Chairman Whitehead stated on June 22nd, Commissioner Owens will be in Augusta on a local television program sometime after lunch around 3:00 p.m. The Board members can listen to the program through the internet.

Chairman Whitehead asked Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi-Green, to give an update on the Scholarship Fund. We have a total of \$650.00 dollars as of today and I plan on mailing that out after the Board meeting. Ms. Juhmi-Green explained any future contributions can be made payable to the Georgia Wardens Prison Association and contributions are voluntary.

Chairman Whitehead asked the Board for a motion to approve a resolution honoring the Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Officers Week. Mr. Dasher made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Waldrop and voted approval by the Board.

Chairman Whitehead asked Mr. Mark Guzzi to give the Board a brief overview of the resolution on the Property Lease of ASMP. This lease will allow the Georgia Department of Corrections to lease approximately 300 square feet of office space at Augusta State Medical Prison to Medical College of Georgia Health, Incorporated so the Georgia Department of Corrections can obtain cost savings in obtaining pharmaceuticals to treat its inmate population at a reduced rate under a federal program known as the 340B program.

Chairman Whitehead asked the Board for a motion to approve the ASMP resolution. Mr. Bill Acuff made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams and voted approval by the Board.

Chairman Whitehead stated the Board needed to discuss the next Board meeting. Chairman Whitehead and Commissioner Owens both decided the Board will not meet in July or August 2011, but the Board needs to vote on the location of the September 1st Board meeting location. Some of the Board members stated they would like to swap back and forth every other month between Atlanta and Forsyth. Mr. Waldrop made a motion to meet in Atlanta. There was no

discussion. The Board members all voted and approved the next meeting would be in Atlanta on September 1, 2011.

Chairman Whitehead asked for any Old or New Business.

Ms. Rose Williams stated other Board members are doing some things for Corrections. Over a year ago, Commissioner Owens requested an assess team be put together to go and do assessments of the Women's Prison. I am a part of that team and last year we did all the female prisons; we did not do the center down in Claxton, but we did go this year. Now we started over again this year to visit the prisons to do an assessment. A few weeks ago, we were at Arrendale and the institution has inherited a lot of visions and I just want to say today I was so proud of the staff when I went to that institution. I saw a big difference from last year up until this year, but the staff is doing an outstanding job. Ms. Williams talked about the different things she saw at the facility but she feels the Warden has a handle on things. Ms. Williams thanked Commissioner Owens for allowing them to go into the intuition to do the assessment and she thanked the assessment team. Ms. Williams stated Dr. Henrie Treadwell brought up a question about how you measured the training; this is how you measure when you go out and you see the prisons and you see what the staff is doing. Ms. Williams commended Ms. Cynthia Nelson and Ms. Vanessa O'Donnell for the good work they do on the assessment team.

Chairman Whitehead thanked Ms. Williams for her comments.

Sherriff Roger Garrison stated he wanted to thank Ms. Patricia Smith, Human Resources, who have assisted with the retirement for Peace Officer's Fund.

Sheriff Carlton Powell asked Commissioner Owens to expand a little more on the money used to construct the firing range.

Commissioner Owens stated we have officers that work on the Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force from Savannah, Macon and Atlanta who work for the HIDTA team; High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area-Federal Initiative and several other initiatives were assets or funds are seized and that's our share of the forfeiture.

Chairman Whitehead stated the next Board meeting will be September 1st, at the Twin Towers in Atlanta.

Mr. Terry Edge stated there are certified firing instructors set up to take each Board member on the range and the firearms simulator was also be available for live interaction/ reaction.

Sheriff Cecil Nobles made a motion to adjourn. All Board members approved.

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

Jim Whitehead Sr., Chairman

John Mays, Secretary

Simone Juhmi-Green, Board Liaison