

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

**December 1, 2011
Forsyth, Georgia**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Jim Whitehead Sr., Chairman
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Carl Franklin
Mr. Bruce Hudson
Sheriff Carlton Powell
Mr. Tommy Rouse
Mr. Kevin Tanner
Mr. Roger Waldrop
Ms. Rose Williams
Mr. Jerry Willis

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. John Mayes
Mr. Ashley Paulk, Jr.
Chief George Potter

CONFERENCE CALL:

Mr. Bill Acuff
Sherriff Roger Garrison
Dr. Henrie Treadwell
Mr. Justin Wiedeman

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Brian Owens, Commissioner
Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Stan Cooper, Director of Probation Operations
Ms. Gayle Jordan, Chaplain
Ms. Simone Juhmi-Green, Board Liaison
Mr. John Laurence, Investigations Unit
Mr. Kenneth Mantle, Executive Assistant
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Investigations Unit
Mr. Randy Tillman, Facilities Division Director
Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant to Director of Probation

VISITORS:

Ms. Jackie Franklin, Wife of Carl Franklin
Ms. Kathryn Hamoudah, Southern Center for Human Rights
Mr. David Pratt, Southern Strategy Group
Sara Totonchi, Southern Center for Human Rights

Chairman Jim Whitehead, Sr. called the December meeting of the Board of Corrections to order at 10:00 a.m. and Board Liaison Simone Juhmi Green recorded the minutes. A quorum of directors were present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed to business.

Chairman Jim Whitehead, Sr. welcomed all visitors and staff to the Board of Corrections.

Chairman Whitehead confirmed that Mr. Bill Acuff, Sherriff Roger Garrison, Dr. Henrie Treadwell, and Mr. Justin Wiedeman were connected by conference call.

Chairman Whitehead presented to the Board the December Agenda for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve but asked that the agenda be amended to reflect the voting

on the approval of Driver License Rule 125-2-4-.13. Board Liaison Simone Juhmi-Green acknowledged adding this item to the agenda. The amended agenda was then seconded by Mr. Roger Waldrop and Ms. Rose Williams and was voted approved by the Board as amended.

Chairman Whitehead presented to the Board the November Minutes for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams, and the minutes were voted approved by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Brian Owens began his report, stating that the majority of his report will be on the Criminal Justice Reform Council's recommendations.

Commissioner Owens presented the Upcoming Events for December 2011, January 2012, and February 2012. Significantly, he mentioned the Riverbend Correctional Facility Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on December 6, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. in Milledgeville, the opening of another facility with 1150 additional beds in March 2012, the GDC Holiday Breakfast on December 14, 2011, and the start of the Georgia General Assembly session on January 9, 2012.

Commissioner Owens also reported on the Jail Backlog count, which is at 2,526; the Sheriff's count is at 4,902. He explained that both the Jail Backlog and the Sheriff's counts are accurate but are calculated differently for different reasons.

Finally, Commissioner Owens advised the Board to read some of the interesting articles contained in the press packet regarding disturbances at some of the prisons and an article on the mindset of gang members.

Commissioner Owens then asked Mr. Jay Sanders to present on the Criminal Justice Reform Council recommendations. Mr. Sanders provided a copy of the 25-page report to the Board, listed the members of the Special Council on Criminal Justice Reform for Georgians, and discussed Georgia's historical prison population, and the correctional budget for the next fiscal years.

In addition, Mr. Sanders went over the three goals of the Criminal Justice Reform Council which were:

*Address the growth of the state's prison population, contain corrections costs, and increase efficiencies and effectiveness that result in better offender management

*Improve public safety by reinvesting a portion of the savings into strategies that reduce crime and recidivism

*Hold offenders accountable by strengthening community-based supervision, sanctions, and services.

That concluded the Commissioner's report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Whitehead began his report by asking Mr. Dasher to explain briefly the change to Driver License Rule 125-2-4-.13. Mr. Dasher stated that the change would transfer the inmate driver licenses service from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Driver's Services. The Board had previously voted to have the rule posted for 30 days. Mr. Dasher also mentioned that Chief George Potter had sent a memo regarding some concerns he wanted added to the restricted driver regulations regarding an inmate being ineligible under the following extra conditions:

“If an inmate has participated in the planning of, or attempted to or succeeded in an escape from a detail or an institution.”

“If an inmate has been convicted of stalking, aggravated stalking, or domestic violence toward women or children.”

Mr. Dasher stated these were already in the Standard Operating Procedures but thanked Chief Potter for bringing this to the Board’s attention.

Chairman Whitehead asked the Board for approval of the Driver License Rule 125-2-4-.13 change. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Roger Waldrop, and the Rule change was voted approved by the Board as presented.

Chairman Whitehead asked Mr. Dasher, Chair of the Nominating Committee, to present the Nominations of Officers for 2012. Mr. Dasher presented the Nominations of Officers for 2012, stating that the Nominating Committee had met and agreed on officers. The committee’s recommendations were put in the form of a motion by Mr. Wayne Dasher that Mr. Tommy M. Rouse was recommended as Chairman, John Mayes to move up as Vice Chairman, and Ms. Rose Williams as Secretary. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bill Acuff and Dr. Treadwell and the new officers for 2012 were voted approved by the Board.

Chairman Whitehead stated the Board has a request to move the Board meeting in March 2012 to Colquitt County. Previously, the Board voted to have all meetings in Atlanta during the General Assembly and the Board would need to vote to change the location of the March meeting. Mr. Bill Acuff made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher. There were two oppositions but the majority of the Board voted to approve the changing of the March meeting location to Colquitt County.

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

Jim Whitehead Sr., Chairman

John Mayes, Secretary

Simone Juhmi-Green, Board Liaison