

## **BOARD OF CORRECTIONS**

**June 7, 2012**

**Forsyth, Georgia**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Sherriff Roger Garrison  
Chief George Potter  
Dr. Henrie Treadwell  
Mr. Justin Wiedeman

### **CONFERENCE CALL:**

Mr. Bill Acuff  
Mr. John Mayes  
Mr. Ashley Paulk

### **ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:**

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Ms. Vickie Bass, Intern, Attorney General's Office

### **DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:**

Mr. Brian Owens, Commissioner  
Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Assistant Commissioner  
Mr. Adam Baswell, Director of Training  
Mr. Danny Horne, Chaplain  
Mr. Robert E. Jones, Director Legal Services  
Ms. Simone Juhmi-Green, Board Liaison  
Mr. John Laurence, Investigations Unit  
Mr. Kenneth Mantle, Executive Assistant  
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Investigations Unit  
Mr. Tom Sittnick, Director of Health Services  
Mr. Arnold Smith, Director of Operations, Planning & Training  
Mr. David Taylor, Investigations Unit  
Mr. Randy Tillman, Facilities Division Director

### **VISITORS:**

Dr. Jim Dukes, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Dr. Jeffrey Farmer, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Ms. Jackie Franklin, Wife of Carl Franklin  
Dr. Peter Kendrick, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Chairman Tommy M. Rouse called the June meeting of the Board of Corrections to order at 10:00 a.m. and Board Liaison Simone Juhmi-Green recorded the minutes. Chairman Tommy M. Rouse welcomed all visitors and staff to the Board of Corrections, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed to business.

Chairman Rouse confirmed that Mr. Bill Acuff, Mr. John Mayes and Mr. Ashley Paulk were connected by conference call.

A brief news video was shown of inmates who had volunteered for farming jobs with the Vidalia onion farm in Glennville, Georgia. The new program allows transitional center inmates to volunteer for the program but they must be near the end of their sentences and they must be inmates who are serving time for non-violent crimes. Inmates earn minimum wage; and for some inmates, the funds pay their expenses at the prison and they can save the rest for when they are released back into society.

Chairman Rouse presented to the Board the June Agenda for approval. Mr. Bruce Hudson made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Mr. Jim Whitehead, Sr. and was voted approved by the Board as presented.

Chairman Rouse presented to the Board the May Minutes for approval. Mr. Kevin Tanner made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Bruce Hudson and Sheriff Carlton Powell, and the Minutes were voted approved by the Board as presented.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Owens' report began with an overview of the Boys and Girls Club of America's visit in Augusta, Georgia that he and Mr. Whitehead Sr. attended. Some of the highlights from his experience were meeting the people who manage the Club, learning about the neighborhoods the kids are from, the very difficult circumstances they face and the age group for the Boys and Girls Club. Commissioner Owens stated he would make an effort to encourage the implementation of a Boys and Girls Club of America in Forsyth. Commissioner Owens asked the members of the Board for their support.

Commissioner Owens presented the Upcoming Events for June, July, and August 2012. Significantly mentioned, is the Georgia Prison Wardens Association on June 10-13<sup>th</sup>, GDC's Quarterly Awards Ceremony on July 24<sup>th</sup>, and the Georgia Probation Association Conference on August 22-24<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Owens reported on the Jail Backlog count, which is at 1,101. Commissioner Owens stated that this is the lowest it has been in many years, which is allowing us to free up a little bit of prison space and provide relief to counties.

Commissioner Owens stated that for the next several Board meetings we are going to feature Operations, Planning and Training Division.

Commissioner Owens called on Mr. Arnold Smith to present his report. Mr. Smith gave an overview of Operations, Planning and Training Division's mission, vision and organizational structure. Mr. Smith then called on Mr. Tom Sittnick to present the Health Services Update.

Mr. Sittnick stated GDC's healthcare uses a "holistic" approach, by integrating the mind and body, to provide better health care to all offenders. Mr. Sittnick advised the Board how GDC has been able to reduce costs while concurrently providing the appropriate constitutional level of care. We have been able to do this by looking for "best practices", right-sizing, and establishing strong partnerships. Mr. Sittnick continued by explaining some of the claim trend indicators for the annual total of claims paid and the average cost per admission. In addition, per diem costs for inmate health care in several state prison systems across the United States were analyzed and compared to GDC's. At the completion of the report, Mr. Sittnick spoke about how we were able to reduce costs. Some of the highlights were: Helms Service Expansion, 340b Infectious Disease Clinic, Modular Surgery Unit (GSP), Medical Reprieve Process, 2012 Dental Services Expansion, and Correctional Dental Software Implementation. Mr. Sittnick also discussed future initiatives such as the Federal Funding Participation (FFP)/Medicaid, Electronic Health Records, and Aging Population PAT and Short-Term Behavioral Stabilization Unit. Mr. Sittnick concluded his report and introduced Mr. Adam Baswell, Director of Training.

Mr. Baswell then updated the Board on 12 For Life program.

The program was started locally in the Monroe County school system and includes students from the Monroe County alternative school. The alternative school is not only for kids with disciplinary or criminal actions but also for those at risk of not graduating for any reason. The program provides these individuals with academic support, real-world training and job skills, and individual mentoring.

There are seven students in the 12 FOR LIFE program this year. Two students returned this 2011-2012 school year, five students graduated on May 25, 2012, one student will be returning 2012-2013 school year and one student resigned for personal reasons. Mr. Baswell gave a brief

report on the students that graduated. To conclude Mr. Baswell stated 18 total students have been in the 12 FOR LIFE program to date:

13 students 2010-2011 school year  
7 students 2011-2012 (2 were returning from 2010-2011)  
14 have successfully graduated high school  
9 students 2010-2011  
5 students 2011-2012  
1 will be returning fall 2012

Moreover, Mr. Baswell gave an overview of GDC's Internship program. Mr. Baswell first stated this is NOT the 12 FOR LIFE program. These are students that will earn \$8.92 per hour working up to 29 hours a week maximum. Their work schedules will be determined by their direct supervisor. Internship positions will begin June 11<sup>th</sup> and end August 1<sup>st</sup>. These students came to GDC by referral from Mary Persons High School. These students are the highest achieving "Rising Seniors" as well as returning interns from last year. This program allows the students to be assigned to senior staff from all areas within GDC for shadowing. They are utilized similarly to an Executive Assistant. We have 21 students currently going through the application/interview process. This concluded Mr. Baswell's report.

This concluded Commissioner Owens' report.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Tommy M. Rouse began his report by asking Mr. Robert E. Jones to present three bond resolutions.

Mr. Jones stated this is one large bond package that includes three bond issues. The first bond is for 3.5 million dollars to be used for locking control systems, lock replacements and other security systems and improvements. In addition, it will be used for life safety equipment such as fire alarms.

The second bond issue listed is about 2.4 million dollars for vehicle purchases. The Department requested funds for 317 additional vehicles and the amount approved will be for roughly between 140 and 150 vehicles. These vehicles have an average of approximately 190,000 miles and they are desperately needed in the Engineering and Construction Services division, Office of Investigations and Compliance and Probation Operations division. Also, there are a number of transportation vans that will be purchased with those particular funds.

The last bond issue is for 2.8 million dollars. This will be used for continuing our progress in attempting to interdict and stop cell phone traffic coming into our facilities. Our Construction Services staff are installing additional netting, fences and cameras throughout our facilities to try to do everything we can to stop additional cell phones being introduced into our facilities.

Chairman Rouse asked for a motion to approve the bond resolution package which contained three bond issues. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams and Mr. Jim Whitehead Sr., and voted approved by the Board.

Chairman Rouse asked Mr. Robert E. Jones to present four property resolutions for Board approval. They are as follows:

1. Bostick State Prison Short-Term Lease Request - This resolution involves leasing the closed Bostick State Prison facility to CorrectHealth to house parolees or other former inmates who require skilled nursing care but cannot be placed in a regular nursing home because they are sex offenders or because of some other factor. The Georgia General Assembly already approved this in a property resolution this past session and it will be leased at the rate determined by the State Properties Commission.
2. Dalton Property Custody Transfer Request - The Dalton property, formerly known as the Dalton Police Academy, is owned by the State and in the custody of the Department of

Public Safety. This facility is not being utilized anymore and the Department of Public Safety has agreed to transfer the property to the Department of Corrections for use as the Dalton Probation Office and the Northwest Day Reporting Center. Instead of leasing private property, the Department can use that space for a Probation Office and Center and the Board of Pardons and Paroles may also occupy some of that space.

3. Augusta State Medical Prison Water Utility Easement & Temporary Revocable License Agreement Request - This matter involves the City of Augusta and easements involving wastewater lines. There is an existing City water line, City water meter and backflow preventer that the City has provided on our property at ASMP, and we need an easement and temporary revocable license agreement allowing the City access to that particular property so the City can monitor and maintain those utilities.
4. Georgia State Prison Water Tower Demolition Request-The final resolution involves an old and nonfunctioning water tower at Georgia State Prison that has been replaced by two new water towers. We need the Board's permission to demolish the old water tower.

Chairman Rouse asked for a motion to approve all four property resolutions. Mr. Bruce Hudson made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Jim Whitehead, Sr. and Mr. Jerry Willis, and voted approved by the Board.

Chairman Rouse asked the Chairman of the Food and Farm Committee, Mr. Bruce Hudson to give a short briefing about his experience at the farm in Milledgeville, Georgia. In addition, Mr. Jerry Willis discussed his experience at the farm. Some of the highlights mentioned were the food distribution center, organized staff, the tour of the cattle farm, and statistics about farming, surplus, crops and the meat packing plant.

To conclude, Chairman Rouse thanked Mr. Kevin Tanner for his service to the Board of Corrections and briefly discussed the nature of Mr. Tanner's resignation from the Board. Chairman Rouse stated that Mr. Tanner has qualified to run for the Senate House District 9 and we want to congratulate him. Mr. Tanner addressed the Board and thanked them for the opportunity to serve as a Board member.

Board Liaison Ms. Simone Juhmi-Green stated Commissioner Owens has set up a tour for the Board members to view the President's house at Tift College directly after the adjournment of the meeting.

Chairman Rouse reminded the Board of Corrections that there will not be a Board meeting in July or August unless there is necessary business the Board must vote on. The next Board meeting would be on September 6, 2012 at State Offices South at Tift College in Forsyth, Georgia.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Tommy M. Rouse, Chairman

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Rose Williams, Secretary

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Simone Juhmi-Green, Board Liaison