

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

December 6, 2012

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Tommy M. Rouse, Chairman
Mr. Bill Acuff
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Carl Franklin
Sherriff Roger Garrison
Mr. Bruce Hudson
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Mr. John Mayes
Chief George Potter
Sheriff Carlton Powell
Mr. Jerry Willis

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dr. Henrie Treadwell
Mr. Ashley Paulk, Jr.
Mr. Roger Waldrop
Mr. Jim Whitehead, Sr.
Mr. Justin Wiedeman

CONFERENCE CALL:

Ms. Rose Williams

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Brian Owens, Commissioner
Mr. Gregory C. Dozier, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Danny Horne, Chaplain
Mr. Robert E. Jones, General Counsel
Ms. Simone Juhmi-Green, Board Liaison
Mr. John Laurence, Investigations Unit
Mr. Kenneth Mantle, Executive Assistant
Mr. Randy Tillman, Facilities Division Director
Mr. Dwight Hamrick, Muscogee County
Mr. Sherman Thomas, Muscogee County Prison
Mr. Christopher Shane Morris, Troup County Prison
Ms. Lourdes Monterrosa, Correctional Officer
Ms. Shevondah Fields Manager of Inmate Affairs & Ombudsman Unit
Mr. Terry Edge Director of Audits & Compliance
Mr. Keith Lank Chief Investigator of Apprehension Unit
Mr. Bill King Manager of Criminal Intelligence
Mr. David Taylor Chief Investigator of Criminal Investigations
Ms. Karen Jett, PREA Coordinator
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Director of Office of Investigations & Compliance
Ms. Dabney Weems, Office of Public Affairs
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public & Intergovernmental Affairs

VISITORS:

Ms. Deborah Morris, Wife of Shane Morris
Ms. Kathryn Hamoudah, Southern Center for Human Rights
Mr. Brandon Hembree, Massey, Bowers and Hembree
Mr. Kevin Tanner, State House District 9
Mr. Steve Hemphill, Lumpkin County

Chairman Tommy M. Rouse 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. Chairman Rouse asked Chaplain Danny Horne to give the invocation

Chairman Rouse welcomed new board member Sheriff Stacy Jarrard of Lumpkin County to the Board of Corrections. Chairman Rouse welcomed all visitors to the Board of Corrections and confirmed Ms. Rose Williams was connected via conference call, and the Board meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed to business.

Chairman Rouse and Commissioner Brian Owens presented a board resolution and a departmental badge to Mr. Kevin Tanner. Mr. Tanner resigned his Board of Corrections seat in July 2012 to run for State House District 9. The resolution and badge was to honor Mr. Tanner for his service on the Board of Corrections.

Commissioner Brian Owens presented Correctional Officer Lourdes Monterrosa with the Commissioner's coin for her actions that demonstrated exceptional performance and her commitment to creating a safer Georgia.

Chairman Rouse presented to the Board the December Agenda for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher 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 November Minutes for approval. Chief George Potter made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. John Mayes, and the Minutes were voted approved by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Owens presented the Upcoming Events for December 2012, January 2013, and February 2013. Significantly mentioned were GDC's Holiday Breakfast at Tift, Wardens versus Chiefs Pistol Challenge at GDC&P, the 2013 Legislative Session beginning on January 14th and the Georgia Probation Association Mid-Winter Conference beginning on February 27th.

Commissioner Owens reported on the Jail Backlog count, which is at 1,623. The Probation Awaiting count is at 242; the total count is 1865 state inmates in the jail system across the state. The Sheriff's numbers are at 3,575; both numbers are correct stated Commissioner Owens.

Commissioner Owens stated that Ms. Dabney Weems, from the Office of Public affairs would be presenting on the Georgia Department of Corrections Facebook "Fact Sheet Friday" postings. To follow, we will have Mr. Ricky Myrick, Director of the Office of Investigations & Compliance and his team to give the Board an overview.

Ms. Dabney Weems began her presentation on the effective use of communication tools. Ms. Weems stated that each Friday a fact sheet is posted to Facebook. The fact sheets are basic information sheets on various topics within Corrections such as: GDC's career ladder, succession planning, diagnostic, classification and security levels, transitional centers, faith-based programming and security threats. There are eight completed sheets to date and there are eleven currently in production. Ms. Weems also discussed that the media uses Facebook as an information source for stories. Facebook gives leads for potential stories; it increases our viewership and engages our external and internal public. To end, Ms. Weems spoke briefly about the fact sheet statistics and GDC's Facebook users. This concluded Ms. Weems' report.

To follow, Mr. Ricky Myrick, Director of the Office of Investigations & Compliance began his report with the mission and organizational structure of the Office of Investigations & Compliance. Mr. Myrick then introduced the managers to follow.

Ms. Karen Jett, PREA Coordinator, presented on her role as Statewide PREA Coordinator for the Department. Ms. Jett acts as the department's liaison regarding all PREA – related issues. The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003 and Department of Justice Final Rule (2012), 28 CFR Part 115, National Standards to Prevent, Detect and Respond to Prison Rape, prohibits and seeks to eliminate sexual abuse of offenders in custody. Ms. Jett stated that pursuant to PREA and Georgia criminal laws, the Georgia Department of Corrections has zero-tolerance for sexual abuse of offenders. This concluded Ms. Jett's report.

Mr. David Taylor, Chief Investigator of Criminal Investigations presented on his role within the Department. The purpose of the Internal Investigations Unit is to enforce departmental standards and laws. We accomplish that task by conducting timely and comprehensive criminal and administrative investigations. We partner as necessary with other State, Federal and Local law enforcement agencies. We provide comprehensive results to senior leadership, and when

appropriate, share data and information with the Intelligence Unit for tracking trends and indicators within the facilities. This concluded Mr. Taylor's report.

Mr. Bill King, Manager of Criminal Intelligence presented on his role within the Department. The purpose of the Criminal Intelligence Unit is to collect, evaluate and analyze information and disseminate actionable intelligence regarding subversive and criminal activity involving inmates, probationers or employees of the Georgia Department of Corrections. This concluded Mr. King's report.

Mr. Keith Lank, Chief Investigator of Apprehension Unit presented on his role within the Department. Mr. Lank briefed on how the Apprehension Unit ensures public safety by conducting thorough Criminal Investigations that result in the safe apprehension of Escapees, Sex Offenders and other violent offenders. This concluded Mr. Lank's report.

Mr. Terry Edge, Director of Audits & Compliance presented on his role within the Department. Mr. Edge explained the purpose of the Audits and Compliance Unit. Mr. Edge spoke about this staff, their duties and their case loads. Mr. Edge stated that the Audits and Compliance Unit evaluates the operations of facilities and field offices utilizing departmental standards and ensuring safe, secure and efficient operations. This concluded Mr. Edge's report.

Last to present was Ms. Shevondah Fields, Manager of Inmate Affairs & Ombudsman Unit. Ms. Fields spoke about both units mission stating they ensure that the rights and safety of offenders are protected. The Inmate Affairs & Ombudsman Unit acts as a bridge between concerned citizens and the Department of Corrections by gathering information that potentially uncovers and reduces problems within the corrections system. This concluded Ms. Fields' report.

This concluded Commissioner Owens' report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Rouse began his report by asking if there was any old or new business. Mr. Robert E. Jones presented a property resolution for the Gainesville Probation Office and Day Reporting Center (PO-DRC) Utility Easement and Revocable License Agreement (RLA). This request is to install a permanent utility easement for a 24-inch ductile iron sanitary sewer pipeline within the property .

The Board voted on the property resolution. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Chief George Potter, and the resolution was voted approved by the Board.

Chairman Rouse asked the Board if they needed to go into Executive Session. The Board agreed no Executive Session was needed. The Board proceeds to move into Regular Session to approve two County Wardens. Chairman Rouse called upon Mr. Wayne Dasher, Chair of the Operations Committee to update the Board on their decisions.

Mr. Wayne Dasher stated that the Operations Committee has received two board packets on two County Wardens. The first was for Warden Christopher Shane Morris of Troup County Prison. The second report is for Deputy Warden of Security Sherman Thomas of Muscogee County Prison. Mr. Dasher stated that the Operations Committee has reviewed both candidates' reports and the Committee is recommending approval of both individuals to the Board for full approval.

Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve both County Wardens, which was seconded by Chief George Potter and voted approved by the Board.

Mr. Dasher congratulated the Deputy Warden of Security of Muscogee and the Warden of Troup County Correctional Prison.

Chairman Rouse reminded the Board that the next meeting would be in Atlanta on January 3, 2013.

Before concluding, Mr. Wayne Dasher asked the Board to start collecting for the 2013 Scholarship Fund and to add to the Board's Flower Fund. In addition, Vice Chairman John Mayes asked the Board to meet in Floyd County for the March 2013 meeting to conduct the Board Workshop. There was some discussion from several board members regarding the date. Several members asked that the Board meetings remain in Atlanta during the legislative session so Vice Chairman Mayes amended his suggestion for the Board to do the workshop in May 2013 instead.

Vice Chairman Mayes proceeded to put his request in the form of a motion, which was seconded by Chief George Potter and voted approved by the Board. The Board of Corrections Workshop was moved to May 2013 in Floyd County, Georgia.

Mr. Wayne Dasher then asked the Board to consider changing the April board meeting to April 18th to have the meeting in conjunction with the Department of Public Safety and the State Board of Pardons and Paroles so that the meeting could be a Joint Board meeting. Mr. Dasher also asked the Board to have the meeting in Glennville, Georgia. Mr. Dasher put his request in the form of a motion.

Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion, which was seconded by Chief George Potter and Vice Chairman Mayes and the vote was approved by the Board. The April joint Board meeting will be on April 18th in Glennville, Georgia.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Tommy M. Rouse, Chairman

Rose Williams, Secretary

Simone Juhmi-Green, Board Liaison