

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

October 3, 2013

Decatur, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. John Mayes, Chairman
Mr. Bill Acuff
Mr. Lee Anderson
Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Carl Franklin
Mr. J. M. "Bob" Plemons
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse
Mr. Alton Russell
Ms. Rose Williams
Mr. Jerry Willis
Ms. Rocio D. Woody

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sheriff Roger Garrison
Mr. Bruce Hudson
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Brian Owens, Commissioner
Mr. Gregory C. Dozier, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Assistant Commissioner
Dr. Jim DeGroot, Office of Health Services
Ms. Becky East, Administration Division Director
Mr. Danny Horne, Chaplain
Mr. Donald Jones, Investigations Unit
Mr. Robert E. Jones, General Counsel
Ms. Simone Juhmi-Green, Board Liaison
Mr. Mike Kraft, Director of Probation Operations
Mr. Kenneth Mantle, Executive Assistant
Mr. Tom Sittnick, Director of Office of Health Services
Mr. Arnold Smith, Director of Operations, Planning & Training Division
Mr. Scott Stallings, Assistant Director of GCI
Mr. Randy Tillman, Director of Facilities Operations
Mr. Norman Wilson, Executive Director of GCI

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General

VISITORS:

Ms. Zerlynda Fleming, Office of Planning & Budget
Ms. Kathryn Hamoudah, Southern Center for Human Rights
Mr. Charles Peterson, Director of Pharmacy, GCHC
Ms. Sara Totonchi, Southern Center for Human Rights

Chairman John Mayes called the October meeting of the Board of Corrections to order at 10:00 a.m. and Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi-Green, recorded the minutes. Chairman Mayes asked Chaplain Danny Horne to give the invocation. Chairman Mayes led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed new Board member, Rocio D. Woody. In addition, Chairman Mayes welcomed all visitors.

Chairman Mayes confirmed the Board meeting had a quorum of members, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed to business.

Chairman Mayes presented the October Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Ms. Rose Williams. The Agenda was approved by the Board as presented.

Chairman Mayes presented the September Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Jerry Willis made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams and the Minutes were approved by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Brian Owens began his report by discussing the Upcoming Events for October, November and December 2013. Significantly mentioned were the Senior Leadership Offsite, the Wardens vs. Probation Chiefs Firearms Competition, and the GDC Holiday Breakfast.

Next, Commissioner Owens reported on the Jail Backlog count, which is at 272. The total number of probationers waiting for placement is 522. Thus, the total number of state sentenced inmates in the state-wide jail system is 794. Commissioner Owens stated the Sheriff's count is at 2,274; both counts are correct.

Commissioner Owens then asked Mr. Thomas E. Sittnick, Director of Office of Health Services, to give a Health Services update. Mr. Sittnick stated the overall mission of the Office of Health Services is to provide the required constitutional level of health care in the most efficient, cost-effective, and humane manner possible, while protecting the public health interests of the citizens of Georgia. In addition, Mr. Sittnick explained the physical, mental, and dental healthcare systems the Department has in place. Additionally, Mr. Sittnick presented an overview of the regional sites that provide hospital care for State inmates. Mr. Sittnick then summarized changes in the Department's mental health population from 1995 through the year 2013. To conclude his presentation, Mr. Sittnick spoke about the primary diagnoses of inmates by gender and various program initiatives such as mental health diversion programs and re-entry initiatives.

Following Mr. Sittnick, Mr. Norman Wilson, Executive Director of Georgia Correctional Industries, presented a summary of the current operations and financial position of Georgia Correctional Industries. Mr. Wilson the discussed current product lines offered and plans for new products and updates which may be offered in 2014.

This concluded Commissioner Owens' report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Mayes began his report by thanking Georgia Correctional Industries for hosting the board meeting. Next, Chairman Mayes distributed an updated Committee Assignment list to the members.

Chairman Mayes then asked Mr. Joseph Drolet to address the board member compensation question. Mr. Drolet explained the legal arguments for and against permitting the receipt of per diem expenses by Board members who are not physically present at the location of a meeting but fully participate in the meeting by telephone. This issue was discussed by several board members. Mr. Bill Acuff made a motion to approve payment of per diem expenses to Board Members who attend meetings by telephone conference call, rather than in person. Mr. Carl Franklin and Mr. Jerry Willis seconded the motion. A majority of the members of the Board who were present voted to approve the motion, with Mr. Wayne Dasher abstaining and Mr. J.M. "Bob" Plemons voting no.

Chairman Mayes asked Mr. Wayne Dasher, Chair of the Nominations Committee to speak about the Secretary position. Mr. Dasher asked all members to fill out the Committee Request form informing the Committee if they would like to be considered for the secretary position or they could recommend another member. Mr. Dasher then stated the committee would take all nominations under consideration and advise at the next meeting who the Secretary will be.

Chairman Mayes asked members to sign get well cards for two board members who were absent from the meeting.

Chairman Mayes continued with Old or New Business stating that Mr. Robert E. Jones, General Counsel of Legal Services, would present a property resolution. Mr. Jones began his report by stating that the resolution is a request to demolish three abandoned staff housing units at Lee Arrendale State Prison. The buildings in question have no salvageable equipment of value and are in poor condition. The estimated repair cost for these staff houses far exceeds the cost to demolish the houses. Mr. Jerry Willis made the motion to approve the demolition request, which

was then seconded by Mr. Tommy M. Rouse. The Board then voted and approved the request to demolish three staff housing units at Lee Arrendale State Prison.

There being no further business, Chairman Mayes reminded the Board that the next Board meeting is November 7th at State Offices South at Tift College in Forsyth.

The meeting was adjourned.

John Mayes, Chairman

Carl L. Franklin, Secretary

Simone Juhmi-Green, Board Liaison