

**AMENDED
BOARD OF CORRECTIONS
January 9, 2014
Atlanta, Georgia**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. John Mayes, Chairman
Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Bruce Hudson
Mr. J. M. "Bob" Plemons
Ms. Rose Williams
Mr. Jerry Willis
Ms. Rocio D. Woody

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Carl Franklin
Sheriff Roger Garrison
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse
Mr. Alton Russell

CONFERENCE CALL:

Mr. Bill Acuff
Mr. Lee Anderson
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Brian Owens, Commissioner
Mr. Gregory C. Dozier, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Assistant Commissioner
Ms. Pamela Balling, Walker State Prison
Mr. Danny Horne, Chaplain
Mr. Rick Jacobs, Director of Facility Operations
Mr. Donald Jones, Investigations Unit
Mr. Robert E. Jones, General Counsel
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Mr. Robert Keller, Governor's Office of Transition, Support and Re-entry
Mr. Mike Kraft, Director of Probation Operations
Mr. Kenneth Mantle, Executive Assistant
Ms. Becky East, Director of Administration Division
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Director of Investigations & Compliance
Mr. Clay Nix, Inspector, Investigations & Inmate Affairs
Ms. Angelyn Smith-Curry, Manager of Ombudsman Unit
Ms. Sandra Partain, Statewide PREA Coordinator
Mr. Keith Lank, Chief Investigator of Fugitive Apprehension Unit
Mr. Terry Edge, Director of Audits & Compliance Unit
Mr. Patrick Wolfe, Investigations Unit

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Ms. Amy Radley, Attorney General's Office

VISITORS:

Ms. Zerlynda Fleming, Office of Planning & Budget
Ms. Kathryn Hamoudah, Southern Center for Human Rights
Mr. Matt Ogle, Office of Planning & Budget
Mr. David Pratt, Southern Strategy Group
Ms. Ann Taylor, Citizen

Chairman John Mayes called the January meeting of the Board of Corrections to order at 10:00 a.m. and Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi, recorded the minutes. Chairman Mayes asked Chaplain Danny Horne to give the invocation. Chairman Mayes led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed all visitors.

Chairman Mayes confirmed Mr. Bill Acuff, Mr. Lee Anderson and Sheriff Stacy Jarrard were connected via conference call and the Board meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed to business.

Chairman Mayes asked the Nominations Committee to announce the “Changing of Officer Seats” for the 2014 calendar year. Mr. John Mayes remained as Chairman, Ms. Rose Williams remained as Vice Chairman and Mr. Jerry Willis took his new seat as the Secretary.

Chairman Mayes presented the January Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Mr. Duke Blackburn and the Agenda was voted approved by the Board as presented.

Chairman Mayes presented the December Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Bruce Hudson made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Jerry Willis and the Minutes were approved by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Commissioner Brian Owens began his report by introducing Mr. Robert Keller who is the Deputy Director of the Governor’s Office of Transition, Support and Re-entry. Mr. Keller gave a quick highlight of some of the responsibilities of the Governor’s Office of Transition, Support and Re-entry.

Commissioner Owens discussed the Upcoming Events for January, February and March 2014. Some events that were mentioned were the Legislative Session beginning on January 13th and the Olde Order of Tift Alumnae and Forsythia Festival in March.

Next, Commissioner Owens reported on the Jail Backlog count, which is at 337. The total number of probationers waiting for placement is 452. Thus, the total number of state sentenced inmates in the state-wide jail system is 789. Commissioner Owens stated the Sheriff’s count is at 2,313; both counts are correct.

Commissioner Owens then asked Ms. Becky East, Director of Administration Division, to provide an overview and update on the high value, high profile procurements currently underway within the department. Ms. East discussed the Inmate Telephone System, Inmate Commissary, Offender Services (Financial Services/Kiosks), Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT), Substance Abuse Aftercare Services (SAAS), Offender Legal Research Services and the Mental Health/Integrated Treatment Facility Services.

To follow, Mr. Ricky Myrick, Director of Office of Investigations and Compliance, gave an update on the Office of Investigations and Compliance. Mr. Myrick began his presentation by showing his units organizational chart with each particular section that makes up the Office of Investigations and Compliance. To present first was Mr. Clay Nix, Inspector of Investigations and Inmate Affairs. Mr. Nix explained that the purpose of the Internal Investigations Unit is to enforce departmental standards and laws. We accomplish this task by conducting timely, comprehensive criminal and administrative investigations. In addition, we partner as necessary with other State, Federal and Local law enforcement agencies. Plus, 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.

To follow, Ms. Angelyn Smith-Curry, Manager of Ombudsman Unit gave a presentation on the Ombudsman Unit. Ms. Curry stated the purpose of the Ombudsman Unit is to ensure that the rights and safety of offenders are protected. This unit acts as a bridge between concerned citizens and the Department of Corrections by gathering information that potentially uncovers and reduces problems within the correctional system.

Next, Ms. Sandra Partain, Statewide PREA Coordinator gave a brief overview on the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 and Department of Justice Final Rule (2012), 28 CFR Part 115, National Standards to Prevent, Detect and Respond to Prison Rape which prohibits and seeks to eliminate sexual abuse of offenders in custody. In accordance with the PREA Standards and Georgia criminal laws, the Georgia Department of Corrections has established a zero-tolerance policy related to sexual abuse of offenders. Ms. Partain explained that as Coordinator, her job is to ensure departmental compliance.

Thereafter, Mr. Keith Lank, Chief Investigator of Fugitive Apprehension Unit presented on the Apprehension Unit. The Fugitive Apprehension Unit is embedded in the United State Marshals Service Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force (SERFTF), Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigations Safe Streets Task Force (FBI), Metro Atlanta Child Exploitation Task Force (FBI), and the Atlanta High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force (HIDTA). Mr. Lank stated the Fugitive Apprehension Unit investigates all GDC escapes from state prisons, county prisons, detention centers, transitional centers, GDC inmates that escape from county jails and inmates who are released in error. The unit also investigates drug and gang related crimes for state and federal prosecution.

Then, Mr. Terry Edge, Director of Audits and Compliance Unit presented on the audit briefing process. Mr. Edge explained the purpose of the Audits and Compliance Unit is to enhance facility and probation operations security, safety, and efficiency by taking a proactive approach to risk management by using audit data and trend analysis to identify, manage and mitigate risk.

Last to present was Mr. Ricky Myrick, Director of Investigations and Compliance. Mr. Myrick presented on the Criminal Intelligence Unit. Mr. Myrick stated the mission of the Criminal Intelligence Unit is to allow senior leadership to operate an intelligence driven agency by providing them with actionable intelligence for proactive decision making. The purpose of the Criminal Intelligence Unit is to collect, evaluate, analyze, and interpret information and then disseminate actionable intelligence to leadership. Mr. Myrick expressed that the investigative reports and intelligence data are classified as confidential state secrets and privileged under law, unless declassified in writing by the Commissioner.

This concluded Commissioner Owens' report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Mayes began his report by reminding the board members to file their Annual Affidavit of Public Officer with the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission. Next, Chairman Mayes passed around sympathy and get-well cards for Mr. Tommy Rouse's family and for Mr. Carl Franklin and his wife.

Chairman Mayes continued asking for any Old or New Business. The issue of board members receiving per diem for attending board meetings via conference call was discussed. Several members expressed wanting to rescind the motion to allow board members to receive per diem for conference call attendance. Mr. Bill Acuff expressed concern that it was inappropriate to address the issue without all board members being physically present at the meeting to discuss their concerns. Mr. Joseph Drolet, Board Attorney, spoke briefly and agreed with Mr. Acuff's request. Therefore, Mr. Bruce Hudson made the motion to table the issue until the February 6th board meeting, which was then seconded by Mr. J. M. "Bob" Plemons and was voted approved by the Board.

Chairman Mayes reminded the Board that the next Board meeting is February 6th at the James "Sloppy" Floyd Building in Atlanta.

The meeting was adjourned.

John Mayes, Chairman

Jerry Willis, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison