

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

September 4, 2014

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. John Mayes, Chairman
Mr. Bill Acuff
Mr. Lee Anderson
Ms. Sonja R. Allen
Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. Mac Collins
Mr. Bruce Hudson
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Mr. J. M. "Bob" Plemons
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse
Mr. Alton Russell
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Ms. Rose Williams
Mr. Jerry Willis
Ms. Rocio D. Woody

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Carl Franklin
Sheriff Roger Garrison

CONFERENCE CALL:

Mr. Wayne Dasher

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Commissioner Brian Owens
Dr. L.C. "Buster" Evans, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Gary Bell, Facilities Operations
Mr. Donald Dagen, Deputy Warden of Gwinnett County
Ms. Becky East, Director of Admin Division
Mr. Steve Edwards, Education Manager
Mr. Walter Hudson, Investigations Unit
Mr. Rick Jacobs, Director of Facilities Operations
Mr. Anthony Jenkins, Programs Director
Mr. Darrell Johnson, Warden of Gwinnett County
Mr. Robert E. Jones, General Counsel
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Mr. Michael Kraft, Director of Probation Operations
Mr. Kenneth Mantle, Executive Assistant
Mr. Johnny Miller, Investigations Unit
Mr. Jay Sanders, Probation Operations
Mr. Arnold Smith, Director of OPTD
Mr. Steven Turner, Chaplain
Mr. Norman Wilson, Executive Director of GCI

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General

VISITORS:

Ms. Kathryn Hamoudah, Southern Center for Human Rights

Chairman John Mayes called the September 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 Steven Turner to give the invocation.

Chairman Mayes led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed and introduced new Board Members Ms. Sonja R. Allen, Mr. Mac Collins and Ms. Andrea Shelton. Ms. Allen resides in Decatur and is currently assigned to the Fourth Congressional District. Mr. Collins resides in Jackson and is currently assigned to the Tenth Congressional District. Lastly, Ms. Shelton resides in Atlanta and is currently assigned to the Fifth Congressional District.

Next, Chairman Mayes confirmed Mr. Wayne Dasher was connected via conference call, and then welcomed all visitors, and the Board meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed to business.

Chairman Mayes presented the September Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Tommy M. Rouse made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Mr. Duke Blackburn and Mr. Bill Acuff and the Agenda was voted approved by the Board as presented.

Chairman Mayes presented the June Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Bill Acuff made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Mr. J.M. "Bob" Plemons and the Minutes were voted approved by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Brian Owens began his report by discussing the Upcoming Events for September, October and November 2014. Significantly mentioned were the Prison Fellowship Conference on September 27th, the Annual CERT Team Competition in October and the Wardens vs. Chiefs Pistol Competition in November.

Thereafter, Commissioner Owens introduced Dr. L.C. "Buster" Evans, Assistant Commissioner over Education and Programs for the Georgia Department of Corrections. Dr. Evans gave a brief overview of his career which included working with delinquent youth in a community based setting, local and regional management with one of the world's largest Fortune 500 agricultural corporations. In addition, Dr. Evans worked in adjunct faculty positions and has been a Consultant and Program Director, Assistant Superintendent of schools in Bleckley County and he was board appointed as Superintendent for the Bleckley County School System.

Commissioner Owens then reported on the Jail Backlog count, which is at 222. The total number of probationers waiting for placement is 551. Thus, the total number of state sentenced inmates in the state-wide jail system is 773. Commissioner Owens stated the Sheriff's count is at 1,988; both counts are correct.

Commissioner Owens called on Ms. Becky East, Director of Administration Division to present her report. Ms. East gave a brief budget update on the FY2014 final closeout and the FY2015 budget. Ms. East's presentation included the budget/expenditure projection by programs for the 2014 year, the beginning annual operating budget for 2015 and House Bill 744 which authorized general obligation bonds for capital projects such as facility sustainment and equipment replacements, (statewide) facility hardening at state prisons, renovation of infirmary area, (GDCP) enhanced locking controls and perimeter detection system, (statewide), facility major repairs, renovations and improvements (statewide) and construction wastewater treatment plant (Lee Arrendale, Alto, Baldwin County).

To follow, Mr. Norman Wilson, Executive Director of Georgia Correctional industries presented the Food and Farm Services FY2014 Production. Mr. Wilson's presentation included information on egg production, canning plant production, percentage of farm produced products, GDC's average food cost per inmate and milk production for the food and farm services/operations.

Dr. L.C. "Buster" Evans, Assistant Commissioner, began his report by giving an Education and Programs Overview followed by the introduction his staff. Dr. Evans stated that changes occur through education, our faith and how we think. Moreover, Dr. Evans discussed being more efficient and the effective utilization of expanding learning time. Lastly, Dr. Evans talked about maximizing and modernizing space as well using our resources (human and instructional) partnerships such as: Charter High School Partnership, Technical Certification Programs and Partnerships, College Education Partnerships, Ministry and Community Groups to assist in education.

Mr. Steve Edwards, Education Manager, began his report on GED Fast Track. Mr. Edwards stated the GED Fast Track Initiative is being implemented at Johnson State Prison, Arrendale State Prison and Washington State Prison. There will be utilization of full and part time staffing with timeline of 12 weeks. The FY2015 goals mentioned were to continue curriculum updates, program expansion and inclusion (DRCs, Counties, and Private Prisons).

Mr. Anthony Jenkins, Programs Director, began his report on Commissioner's Education Challenge. Mr. Jenkins stated the Commissioner's Education Challenge will award facilities for

their work on increasing the GED completion rate. The award will be given at the Annual Teacher Training Conference. It will be awarded to facilities with the highest number of completions and ones that meet/exceed their GED goal. We will recognize top performing students and recognize the most improved facility in 2016 in the categories of prisons, detention centers, day reporting centers, transition centers, and RSAT's. Mr. Jenkins also discussed the 100,000 book initiative wherein the Department partners with religious groups, schools, and corporations to provide inspirational, motivational, and educational materials suitable for inmate populations.

Next, Mr. Steven Turner, Director of Chaplaincy spoke briefly on chaplaincy initiatives stating that he had three main focuses: to visit all facilities and assess needs, provide chaplain coverage for all facilities and to increase volunteer programs.

Mr. Gary Bell, Facilities Operations, spoke on the Veteran Reentry Program Dorm. The mission of the Veterans Re-Entry Program Dorm is to provide opportunities for incarcerated veterans to live in a supportive environment that helps to rebuild individual character, while providing services and programs that provide opportunities for positive change. This program will assist in helping offenders make a successful, seamless transition from incarceration to the community. The Veterans Re-Entry Program Dorm sites are Rutledge State Prison, Johnson State Prison and Emanuel Women's Facility.

Mr. Jay Sanders, Special Assistant to the Director of Probation Operations, presented an overview of the Next Generation Assessment program. The program was developed by Applied Research Services, and is a more sophisticated method of continuously evaluating the programing and security needs of each offender. (ARS). This assessment will be used from prison to parole to probation to the release of the offender back into the community. Mr. Sanders explained that the objective was to place the the right offender in the right bed based on their risk and needs and more efficiently uses available programing resources.

This concluded the Commissioner's report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Mayes began his report by welcoming back Board Member Sheriff Stacy Jarrard. In addition, Chairman Mayes advised the members he would update the Committee Assignments list to reflect the new board members.

Chairman Mayes then asked if the Board members would like to discuss the possibility of changing the next meeting location to the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth, Georgia. There was some discussion then Commissioner Owens stated that he would like the members to tour and observe the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. The members agreed this was a good idea so Mr. Bill Acuff made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Tommy Rouse and Ms. Rocio Woody and was voted approved by the Board. Therefore, the next Board meeting will be October 2nd at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth, Georgia.

Chairman Mayes then proceeded to move into Regular Session to approve a County Deputy Warden. Chairman Mayes called upon Ms. Rose Williams, a member of the Operations Committee to give the Board their decision based on the report of the County Deputy Warden.

Ms. Rose Williams stated that the Operations Committee had received a board packet for Deputy Warden Donald Dagen of Gwinnett County Correctional Institution. The Operations Committee has reviewed this candidate's report and the Committee unanimously recommends approval of Mr. Dagen to the full Board for approval. Ms. Williams made the motion to approve County Deputy Warden Dagen, which was seconded by Mr. J.M. "Bob" Plemons and Mr. Bill Acuff and was then voted approved by the Board. Ms. Williams congratulated Mr. Dagen on his appointed position. Mr. Dagen thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Chairman Mayes continued asking for any Old or New Business. Chairman Mayes asked the Board for a motion to approve a resolution honoring Retired Deputy Director of Facilities Operations, Mr. Johnny Sikes. Chairman Mayes stated Mr. Sikes retired after 34 years of service to the Department of Corrections. He is being honored for his wisdom, experience and steadfast dedication in the career of public service. Mr. Lee Anderson made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Tommy Rouse and Mr. Bill Acuff and was voted approved by the Board. Chairman Mayes stated this resolution will be presented to Mr. Sikes at the next Board meeting

There being no further business, Chairman Mayes reminded the Board the next meeting will be on October 2nd at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth, Georgia. The meeting was adjourned.

John Mayes, Chairman

Jerry Willis, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison