

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

October 2, 2014

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. John Mayes, Chairman
Ms. Sonja R. Allen
Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. Mac Collins
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Sheriff Roger Garrison
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

CONFERENCE CALL:

Mr. Bill Acuff
Mr. Lee Anderson

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Commissioner Brian Owens
Mr. Gregory C. Dozier, Assistant Commissioner
Dr. L.C. "Buster" Evans, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Walter Hudson, Investigations Unit
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. Antonnio Printup, Director of Corrections Academy
Mr. Tom Sittnick, Director of OHS
Mr. Arnold Smith, Director of OPTD
Ms. Vonnie Stewart, Executive Assistant
Mr. Steven Turner, Chaplain
Mr. Mark Waldron, Director of Planning

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Ms. Becky Dobras, Attorney General's Office

VISITORS:

Ms. Kathryn Hamoudah, Southern Center for Human Rights
Mr. Lloyd Strickland, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Ms. Caris Moses, Citizen

Chairman John Mayes called the October 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 recognized Mr. Johnny Sikes, Mrs. Cindy Sikes and Mr. John Laurence who were guests at the meeting.

Next, Chairman Mayes confirmed Mr. Bill Acuff and Mr. Lee Anderson were connected via conference call and the Board meeting, 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 Mr. Duke Blackburn and the Agenda was voted approved by the Board as presented.

Chairman Mayes presented the September Minutes to the Board for approval. Sheriff Roger Garrison 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 presenting a Board resolution to honor the retirement of Mr. Johnny Sikes, Retired Deputy Director of Facilities Operations. 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.

Thereafter, Commissioner Owens discussed the Upcoming Events for October, November and December 2014. Significantly mentioned were the Annual CERT Team Competition, the Military Job Fair, the Wardens vs. Chiefs Pistol Competition in November and the events in December leading into the holidays.

Commissioner Owens then reported on the Jail Backlog count, which is at 205. The total number of probationers waiting for placement is 572. Thus, the total number of state sentenced inmates in the state-wide jail system is 777. Commissioner Owens stated the Sheriff's count is at 2,225; both counts are correct.

Commissioner Owens called on Mr. Arnold Smith, Director of Operations, Planning and Training Division to present his report. Mr. Smith stated the purpose of the training presentation is to provide the Board of Corrections with an overview of GDC's Training Strategy and how it is designed to support both the Department's needs and individual employee's goals for career advancement.

Mr. Smith's presentation included recruiting initiatives for GDC, career management for individual and senior leadership and major training program components that provides professional training and developmental opportunities to all Georgia Department of Corrections employees to build and maintain a quality workforce enabled to create a safer Georgia by effectively managing offenders and providing opportunities for positive change. Plus, Mr. Smith spoke on some of the professional education for basic, management and civilian/professional development. To conclude his presentation, Mr. Smith talked about the employee development model, corrections officer track, probation officer track and education initiatives return on investments and core organizational principles.

To follow, Mr. Gregory C. Dozier, Assistant Commissioner, Chief of Staff, presented a brief overview on Criminal Justice Reform, grants and reentry. Mr. Dozier reminded the board that House Bill 265 in 2011 created the Council on Criminal Justice Reform, thereafter we hit 3 straight years on CJR. The first year 2012 HB 1176 passed unanimously. It focused on the adult correctional population. It focused on things such as sentence thresholds, electronic records submission, PDC caps, pre-sentence Assessments, Accountability Courts and the expansion of our Day Reporting Centers and DRC Lites. The next year House Bill 349 passed in 2013. It mainly focused on the Juvenile Justice Reform with small areas of unsupervised probation definition, offender paid drug screens, medical reprieves and driving permits as it ties to accountability courts but for the most part it ties to Juvenile Justice. This last year is the 3rd phase of Re-entry which focused on Reentry and the Georgia Prisoner Reentry Initiative (GA-PRI) case load. Some of the items mentioned were the Georgia Veteran's Dorm, the GED Fast Track, the Next Generation Assessment, case plan and the requirement of the creation of Program and Treatment Completion Certificate.

Mr. Dozier continued his presentation quoting Governor Nathan Deal's press release stating, "The final step toward a lasting criminal justice overhaul is successful re-entry into society. This grant money will aid Georgia's efforts to remove barriers to employment, housing and education for rehabilitated offenders. The grants will be used to support the Georgia Prisoner Re-entry Initiative with additional training and staff, improve evidence-based supervision procedures, increase the flow of communication between stakeholders and strengthen community-based services for rehabilitated offenders returning to society."

Mr. Dozier continued with the four grants: the 2nd Chance Act Statewide Recidivism Reduction for 3 million with the length of the grant for 3 years. This is the backbone of the Georgia Prisoner Reentry Initiative (GA-PRI) that focuses on Evidence Based Practices (EBP). This is a Program Prison Enhanced Supervision/Motivational Training for prison staff. The next grant presented was the Justice Reinvestment (JRI): Maximizing State Reforms. This grant is for \$1.75 million for 3 years. It promotes EBP programs and strategies by third party providers in addition to increasing community based services for releasing offenders. This grant will provide training on developing Reentry Plans and Collaborative Case Management.

Moreover, the Smart Supervision grant is for \$750,000 for 2 years which focuses on Evidence Based Enhanced Supervision Training. The initial training is done by vendor. The Probation and Parole staff attends Train the Trainer training and assist in year 2 & 3 of the training. There will be around 700 plus individuals trained over the life of the grant. The Byrne-JAG Justice Information Sharing Initiative is for \$500,000 for 18-24 months. This grant will create information sharing solutions that allow corrections agencies and Community Service Boards to improve and automate information flow on offenders. The agencies involved are the Department of Corrections, the State Board of Pardons and Paroles, the Community Service Boards and the Dougherty County Accountability Courts.

This concluded the Commissioner's report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Mayes began his report by asking Ms. Rose Williams, Chair of the Education/Programs Committee for their recommendation of Rule 125-4-10, Program and Treatment Completion Certificate. Ms. Williams stated the Education/Programs Committee met this morning to review the proposed rule on Rule 125-4-10. As it states in the Board Rule, this certificate will be awarded to offenders who successfully complete certain programming and it will show that the offenders are making progress towards successful reentry into society. This is a great idea and it will provide positive change for these individuals. The Committee unanimously voted this morning to approve this rule being posted for 30 days and would then be up for adoption by the Board. Therefore, Ms. Williams made a motion to approve the posting of Rule 125-4-10, which was then seconded by Mr. Jerry Willis and Tommy Rouse. The Board then voted and approved the request to post Rule 125-4-10 for 30 days.

Chairman Mayes continued asking for any Old or New Business. Mr. Robert E. Jones, General Counsel, presented a property resolution for Georgia Power Easement and Revocable Lease Agreement. Mr. Jones stated this is a proposed board resolution that would approve an easement across the property which currently houses the Athens Probation Office and it would approve the transfer of slightly less than a tenth of an acre to Georgia Power for the easement.

Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Mr. Bob Plemons and Sheriff Roger Garrison, and the property resolution was then voted approved by the Board.

To conclude, Mr. Jerry Willis had a concern regarding the election of officers for the 2015 year and in regards to the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary remaining in their positions for two consecutive years. There was some discussion. To conclude the discussion, Board Attorney, Joseph Drolet clarified that by statute there must be an election of officers each year. The Board should formally elect officers each year, even if the Board chooses to continue the service of the officers from the prior year, an election should be held. A person can be elected for multiple years, but the Board must vote each year.

As a result, Mr. Bruce Hudson made a motion that the present officers are to serve a two year term and at the end of that term, the Board will elect members for a one year term. Sheriff Roger

Garrison seconded the motion. There was some discussion. Mr. Wayne Dasher suggested that Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi, should send out the Officer Request Form to all members so that each member can specify if they wish to be considered for the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary positions for year 2015. All members agreed and the forms will be submitted and reviewed by the Nomination Committee.

Therefore, Mr. Jerry Willis motioned to table Mr. Bruce Hudson's motion and revisit the matter of nominations and voting at the next Board meeting and before the next election. Ms. Andrea Shelton seconded the motion to table, and the motion was approved to be tabled by the Board.

Chairman Mayes reminded the Board that the next meeting will be on November 6th at State Offices South at Tift College in Forsyth, Georgia. Upon adjournment, the members took an official Board photo, had lunch and began tours of the Georgia Public Safety Training Center.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

John Mayes, Chairman

Jerry Willis, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison