

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS
December 4, 2014
Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

CONFERENCE CALL:

Ms. Andrea Shelton

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Commissioner Brian Owens
Dr. L.C. "Buster" Evans, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Assistant Commissioner
Ms. Becky East, Director of Admin Division
Mr. Steven Edwards, Educations Manager
Mr. Walter Hudson, Investigations Unit
Mr. Rick Jacobs, Director of Facilities Operations
Mr. Anthony Jenkins, Programs Director
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Mr. Bill King, Investigations Unit
Mr. Michael Kraft, Director of Probation Operations
Mr. Kenneth Mantle, Executive Assistant
Mr. Johnny Miller, Investigations Unit
Ms. Sheila Smith, Vocational Educations Manager
Ms. Donna Tebought, Director of Risk Reduction Services
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain

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 December 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 all guests and visitors at the meeting.

Next, Chairman Mayes confirmed Ms. Andrea Shelton was connected via conference call and the Board meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed to business.

Chairman Mayes presented the December Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Lee Anderson made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Mr. Bill Acuff and the Agenda was voted approved by the Board as presented.

Chairman Mayes presented the November Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Mr. Jerry Willis 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 December 2014, January 2015 and February 2015. Significantly mentioned was the 2015 Legislative Session beginning on January 12, 2015.

Commissioner Owens then reported on the Jail Backlog count, which is at 165. The total number of probationers waiting for placement is 486. Thus, the total number of state sentenced inmates in the state-wide jail system is 651. Commissioner Owens stated the Sheriff's count is at 3,101; both counts are correct.

Commissioner Owens then called on Dr. L.C. "Buster" Evans, Assistant Commissioner of Educations & Programs to present his report. Dr. Evans introduced his team and expressed they would have presentations on how we integrate technology into our education programs, facilities, Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Center (RSAT), communities & transition centers. In addition, we will discuss how we maximize the workforce, how we appropriately incentivize educational programs and how we utilize the Next Generation Assessment for educational and program needs. Lastly, we will discuss the 21st Century Correctional Education and the 2 Skunkworks Innovation Teams.

To follow, Dr. Steven Turner, Director of Chaplaincy Programs, began his presentation by giving an update on chaplaincy services, volunteer services, inmate participation in the program, chaplaincy organization and workshops/ trainings. Afterwards, Chaplain Turner called on Mr. Steve Edwards, Educations Manager, to present his report.

Mr. Edwards' began his report by explaining some of the reasons why inmates should receive correctional education. Some of the explanations given were that the recidivism rate decreases for individuals who have received an education while incarcerated. Plus, there is a decreased level of violence while incarcerated and after release. In addition, correctional education has a positive effect on children with incarcerated parents in pursuing their own educational endeavors. Thus, most inmates will be released and educational programs allow inmates to have something to fall back on in the real world. Thereafter, Mr. Edwards called on Ms. Sheila Smith, Vocational Educations Manager, to present on Vocational Education and Job Training.

Ms. Smith's presentation focused on Vocational/Technical Education Certificate Programs for such fields as Beekeeping, Braille Transcription, Commercial Driver's License (CDL), Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Diesel Mechanics, Computer Technology, Customer Service, Welding (Gas Metal Arc) and Plumbing. In addition, Ms. Smith spoke about new Vocational Programs for FY 2015 at Rogers State Prison, Telfair State Prison, Ware State Prison and Walker State Prison. To conclude, Ms. Smith briefly talked about College Partners – Online Programs at Atlanta Metropolitan College, Fort Valley State University, Middle Georgia State College, University of North Georgia, and Units of the Technical College System of Georgia. Ms. Smith then introduced Ms. Donna Tebought, Director of Risk Reduction Services to present her report.

Ms. Tebought started her presentation by stating the purpose of Risk Reduction Services is to provide evidence based Cognitive Behavioral Programs and Interventions which serves to assist offenders in identifying faulty and negative thoughts, attitudes, and beliefs and guide them, through a systematic process, in developing pro-social behaviors and thinking. In addition, we are here to provide education and train staff to effectively manage and facilitate positive offender change.

Ms. Tebought went on to say that studies have consistently indicated that Cognitive-Behavioral interventions have significant positive effects on recidivism. To continue, Ms. Tebought discussed some of the programs offered by the Substance Abuse Unit and the Counseling /

Cognitive Unit. Moreover, Ms. Tebought spoke about research, evaluation, assessments, enrollments and developments within the unit. To conclude, Ms. Tebought discussed some of the future initiatives such as the Returning Citizen Profile which will provide a blueprint for offender change and the Accomplishment Transcript which will captures all programs, activities, and skills the offender obtained during current incarceration. Subsequently, Ms. Tebought introduced Mr. Anthony Jenkins, Programs Director, to begin his report.

Mr. Jenkins initiated his report by speaking about the 100,000 Book Initiative program wherein 35 Georgia facilities will receive 3,000 books. The Department have partnered with religious groups, schools, and corporations to provide inspirational, motivational, and educational materials suitable for inmate populations. Furthermore, Mr. Jenkins spoke about the Charter High Program wherein inmates can receive his/her high school diploma while incarcerated in a Department of Corrections facility. To conclude, Mr. Jenkins spoke on the future of Correctional Education in Georgia.

This concluded the Commissioner's report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Mayes began his report by asking Mr. Wayne Dasher, Chair of the Nominations Committee, to present the Nomination of Officers for 2015. Mr. Dasher stated the Operations Committee has not received any new nominations and therefore, we would like to nominate Ms. Rose Williams for the position of Chairman, Mr. Jerry Willis for the position of Vice Chairman and Mr. Alton Russell for the position of Secretary. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion, which was then seconded by Sheriff Roger Garrison and the nominations were voted approved by the Board as presented. Mr. Bill Acuff then made a motion to close the nominations. Mr. Duke Blackburn seconded and the closing of the nominations were voted approved by the Board.

To conclude the meeting, Chairman Mayes made his end of the year comments which included a letter thanking the Board for their support to him as Chairman over the last two years.

Chairman Mayes continued asking for any Old or New Business. There was none so Chairman Mayes reminded the Board that the next meeting will be on January 15th at the James "Sloppy" Floyd Building in Atlanta, Georgia.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

John Mayes, Chairman

Jerry Willis, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison