

## **BOARD OF CORRECTIONS**

**January 4, 2018  
Forsyth, Georgia**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Jerry Willis, Chairman  
Mr. Duke Blackburn  
Mr. Chris Clark  
Mr. Mike Coggins  
Mr. Mac Collins  
Mr. Wayne Dasher  
Mr. Carl Franklin  
Sheriff Roger Garrison  
Mr. Larry Haynie  
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard  
Mr. John Mayes  
Mr. Alton Russell  
Ms. Andrea Shelton  
Ms. June Wood

### **CONFERENCE CALL:**

Mr. Tommy M. Rouse

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. W. D. Strickland  
Ms. Rose Williams  
Ms. Rocio D. Woody

### **DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:**

Mr. Gregory C. Dozier, Commissioner  
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Assistant Commissioner  
Mr. Scott Poitevint, Assistant Commissioner  
Mr. Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner  
Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner  
Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Chief of Staff  
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel  
Mr. Linton Deloach, Superintendent, Bacon PDC  
Mr. Terry Edge, Director of Office of Professional Development  
Mr. Hal Gibson, Director of Engineering & Construction Services  
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Office of Public Affairs  
Mr. Walter Hudson, Office of Professional Standards  
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison  
Mr. Clay Nix, Director Office of Professional Standards  
Ms. Amy Pataluna, Deputy Executive Director, Georgia Correctional Industries  
Mr. Mike Riley, Office of Professional Standards  
Mr. Devin Sears, Correctional Officer, Bacon PDC  
Ms. Betsy Thomas, Director of Human Resources  
Mr. Chris Tiller, Executive Director, Georgia Correctional Industries  
Dr. Steven Turner, Chaplain

### **ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:**

Ms. Tina Piper, Senior Assistant Attorney General

### **VISITORS:**

Ms. Jackie Franklin, Wife of Carl Franklin  
Ms. Sandra Thomas, Department of Community Supervision

First, Chairman Jerry Willis called to order the January meeting for the Board of Corrections ("the Board") at 10:00 a.m. and Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi, recorded the minutes.

Chairman Willis then asked Chaplain Steven Turner to deliver the invocation. Following such, Chairman Willis led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and then recognized all guests and visitors, and the Board meeting, being duly convened, proceeded with business.

To begin, Chairman Willis presented the January Agenda to the Board for approval. Vice Chairman Alton Russell made a motion to approve the Agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher. The Agenda was voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

Chairman Willis also presented the December Minutes to the Board for approval. Sheriff Roger Garrison made the motion to approve, which was also seconded by Vice Chairman Alton Russell. The Minutes were then voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

### **COMMISSIONER’S REPORT**

Commissioner Gregory C. Dozier began his report by announcing that Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan would assume the role as his new Executive Assistant. In addition, Commissioner Dozier mentioned that the ACA Conference will be held in Orlando, Florida and Corrections will be sitting before the panel to testify on our accreditation for headquarters and training. The Commissioner stated that the agency passed the audit, but we still have to go before a panel and testify on GDC policies and procedures so that the agency can receive the full accreditation. GDC will then move into getting each prison facility accredited in the future.

Commissioner Dozier continued by briefly discussing the Commissioner’s dashboard, which is a three-page overview highlighting key areas within the agency.

Afterwards, Commissioner Dozier asked Mr. Ricky Myrick, Assistant Commissioner of Facilities Division, to present the “Beyond the Call” employee recognition award to Mr. Devin Sears, Correctional Officer at Bacon Probation Detention Center.

Assistant Commissioner Myrick stated that Devin Sears is being recognized because of the quick actions and assistance in rendering aide to a civilian who fell from a ladder and landed on the ground. Officer Sears still maintained the safety of the community and security of his detail as he assisted the man in need until the ambulance arrived.

Assistant Commissioner Myrick presented Mr. Sears with a plaque on behalf of the Board of Corrections and Commissioner Gregory C. Dozier. A photo was taken of the plaque presentation.

To follow, Commissioner Gregory C. Dozier asked Mr. Scott Poitevint, Assistant Commissioner of Administration & Finance Division, to give a brief Budget update. Mr. Poitevint began by stating that he would give a brief update on the budget process going into the legislative session, which is scheduled to start on January 8, 2018. Mr. Poitevint provided the background on the budget instructions that the agency received for the Fiscal Year 2019 budget submissions, which came from the guidance letter that the agency received. The letter stated that “agencies are to maintain Fiscal Year 2018 spending levels for agency programs.” This means that our agency submitted a flat budget for Fiscal Year 2019. In addition, Mr. Poitevint mentioned that our agency met with the Office of Planning and Budget and shared with them what our funding needs were, but at this time we do not know what funding we will receive.

To conclude, Mr. Poitevint mentioned that the agency priorities for any new funding for the upcoming session were geared towards pension obligations, transportation infrastructure and funding growth needs in education and human services. Governor Nathan Deal is scheduled to do his State of the State address on January 11th at 11:00 a.m. Upon conclusion of his remarks, typically the budget recommendations document will be available. Once we receive the budget recommendations document, we will have a chance to go through it and analyze what the Governor’s recommendations are. Then, we will put a recap sheet together and communicate that information to the Board and periodically provide updates as the budget process moves through the session this year.

Thereafter, Commissioner Gregory C. Dozier asked Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel, Office of Legal Services, to give a brief Legislation update. Ms. Ammons began by stating that the legislative session is scheduled to start on January 8, 2018 and there were copies of a printout consisting of the pre-filed bills that are in the House and Senate that are within the Board member packets. Ms. Ammons explained that some of these bills date back to the beginning of last year’s session but were dropped or the sponsor is no longer a member. Although the bills are still technically active, nothing will happen unless a new sponsor picks up the bill and re-files

it. In addition, Ms. Ammons explained that there aren't many bills that are on the list for the House and Senate that will have a direct impact on the Georgia Department of Corrections. The early pre-filed legislation is related to individual legislators who have specific items on their agendas that they want to pursue during the session. Ms. Ammons expressed that we will continue to monitor all the bills in addition to anything new and update the Board if there is anything that is significant to the agency. In conclusion, Ms. Ammons stated that in our effort to fight contraband, there is only item that we anticipate asking for which is to seek language that prohibits the flying of a drone over a facility. There is a very small area of air space above the facilities that is not federally regulated and so we are going to ask the General Assembly to prohibit the operation of a drone over that air space.

Next, Commissioner Gregory C. Dozier asked Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Health Services, to give an Electronic Health Records update. Mr. Sauls began his presentation with information on the implementation of the Electronic Health Records mentioning that the implementation will include 33 facilities across the state of Georgia and it will occur across a span of approximately 30 months. Some of the highlights mentioned were initial implementation, stabilization, evaluation of effectiveness of the workflows and system adoption, ongoing operations and management of the system. Mr. Sauls concluded his presentation with the implementation schedule, facility schedule, payment schedule and deliverables for the Electronic Health Records.

Ms. Joan Heath, Director of the Office of Public Affairs, introduced the January "Beyond the Walls" article that features, Mr. John Lash, who, after incarceration was employed at the Georgia Conflict Center in Athens, wherein he is now the Executive Director. Mr. Lash got involved in different programs provided by the Georgia Department of Corrections, like Braille transcription, mentoring young offenders and working as a tutor and Mr. Lash teaches nonviolent communication and restorative justice. The article explains how Mr. Lash turned his life around and is now traveling to different organizations, like schools, churches and prisons to discuss with them how nonviolence changed his life and could change theirs.

This concluded the Commissioner's Report.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Jerry Willis began the 'Chairman's Report' by asking the Board members to contribute to the 2018 Georgia Prison Wardens Association Scholarship Fund and the Board of Corrections Flower Fund.

Next, Chairman Willis asked Mr. Blackburn to briefly speak on the March Board meeting that will be held in Coweta, Georgia. Mr. Blackburn stated that we are finalizing details and we will have the final information at the next Board meeting. In addition, Chairman Willis assigned Board members to their respective committees for the 2018 calendar year. Lastly, Chairman Willis reminded the board members that the next Board meeting will be on February 1<sup>st</sup> at State Offices South at Tift College in Forsyth, Georgia.

Chairman Willis asked if there was any Old or New Business. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Jerry Willis, Chairman

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Larry Haynie, Secretary

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Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison