

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

**June 2, 2016
Forsyth, Georgia**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Rose Williams, Chairman
Ms. Sonja Allen-Smith
Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Carl L. Franklin
Sheriff Roger Garrison
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Mr. John Mayes
Mr. Tommy M. Rouse
Mr. Alton Russell
Mr. W. D. Strickland
Mr. Jerry Willis

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Mac Collins
Mr. Larry E. Haynie
Mr. Bruce Hudson
Ms. Andrea Shelton
Ms. Rocio D. Woody

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Commissioner Homer Bryson
Mr. Gregory C. Dozier, Chief of Staff
Dr. L. C. "Buster" Evans, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Scott Poitevint, Assistant Commissioner
Mr. Timothy C. Ward, Assistant Commissioner
Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel
Mr. Dan Brown, Director, Office of Information Technology
Mr. Shawn Emmons, Warden, Johnson State Prison
Mr. Hal Gibson, Director of ECS
Ms. Lisa Haughey, Transitional Services Coordinator
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Public Affairs
Mr. Walter Hudson, Office of Professional Standards
Ms. Robbin Ingram, Chaplain
Mr. Anthony Jenkins, Director of Education & Programs
Mr. Brad Johnson, Statewide Canine Coordinator
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Mr. Michael Long, Warden/Floyd County
Mr. John Miller, Office of Professional Standards
Mr. Ricky Myrick, Director of Office of Professional Standards
Mr. James Scott Pickens, Deputy Warden/Gwinnett County
Mr. Antonnio Printup, Director of Special Operations
Mr. Robert Shuman, Lieutenant, Rogers State Prison
Mr. Gordon Screen, Warden/Decatur County
Mr. Steven Scroggins, Warden/Screven County
Ms. Betsy Thomas, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Norman Wilson, Executive Director, GCI

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General

VISITORS:

Ms. Jackie Franklin, Wife of Carl Franklin
Mr. David Pratt, Southern Strategy Group
Mr. Graham Thompson, Consultant
Mr. Stacy Williams, Cherokee Sheriff's Office

Chairman Rose Williams called the June meeting of the Board of Corrections to order at 10:00 a.m. and Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi, recorded the minutes. Chairman Williams asked Chaplain Robbin Ingram to deliver the invocation.

Chairman Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance, recognized all guests and visitors and the Board meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed to business.

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

Chairman Williams presented the May Minutes to the Board for approval. Vice Chairman Jerry Willis made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Ms. Sonja Allen-Smith and the Minutes were voted approved by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Homer Bryson began his report by presenting a four-page overview highlighting key areas within the agency such as inmate population, inmate security levels, bed utilization, safe and secure facilities, inmate services, fire services and Correctional Industries.

Immediately following, Dr. L. C. "Buster" Evans, Assistant Commissioner of Inmate Services, introduced Mr. Anthony Jenkins, Director of Education and Programs, to present an Offender Led Program presentation.

Mr. Jenkins began his presentation stating that 1,196 offenders are engaged through working as education, chaplaincy, and other programming assistants and leaders in the Georgia Department of Corrections. Mr. Jenkins stated that the purpose of the peer to peer program is to give offenders the opportunity to have a positive impact on another person's life, which will encourage both individuals to deepen their personal growth and discover how rewarding it is to encourage another person to learn and change.

Mr. Jenkins provided factual evidence of the benefits for the facilities that implement peer to peer programs. Mr. Jenkins discussed peer to peer instruction at Lee Arrendale, which has several programs including Character Development, Power of Positive Thinking, Discipleship Training, GED Tutoring, Arts and Crafts, Basic Spanish and Journaling Club. In addition, the Faith and Character Based program builds character, victim awareness, prayer and spiritual development, and life skills, and it mentors and reduces recidivism.

To continue, Mr. Jenkins discussed Post-Secondary Education Opportunities and the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary at Phillips State Prison. This seminary program was established in 1995 at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola Extension Center and provides inmates the opportunity to obtain an Associate of Arts (AA) and/or a Bachelors of Arts (BA) degree in Christian Ministry. Graduates of the program have been assigned to 22 prisons throughout the GDC system to assist and participate in Faith and Character Based opportunities within the inmate population. The program began in the Georgia Department of Corrections in 2007 and there have been 12 completions for Fiscal Year 2016. At Lee Arrendale, the theology program gives a certificate for Theological Studies, which allows offenders to improve academic skills, bible studies, history, ethics and pastoral care. Graduate students are able to teach a theology based course within the context of a prison and receive college credit.

To conclude, Mr. Jenkins discussed an article from the Foothills Education Charter High School newsletter that highlighted one of its students, Inmate Ladrona Hamilton, who came into the charter program with zero credits. She was incarcerated when she was only 14 and 7th grade was her last formal education. Through her focus and dedication after almost eight years of incarceration, Ladrona's top priority is equipping herself with the tools necessary to lead a productive, self-sufficient life once she steps outside the prison gates. She has completed 23 credits, which is all four years of high school in just 14 months. She is also the first one in her family to graduate from high school.

To follow, Assistant Commissioner Timothy C. Ward introduced Mr. Sean Emmons, Warden of Johnson State Prison, to present an overview of Johnson State Prison. Mr. Emmons stated the mission of Johnson State Prison is to protect the public by maintaining custody of offenders, while providing academic and vocational education, mental health, and specialized counseling programs. Johnson State Prison has over 289 employees and is the largest employer in the county. Mr. Emmons highlighted general population, medical, mental health, housing units, and academic and vocational programs such as GED Fast Track, GED Prep, OJT, Brewton Parker College Classes, Central Georgia Technical College Vocational Program, Career Center and Veterans Online College Courses. To conclude, Mr. Emmons spoke on some of the facility's

work on the reentry process, community missions, contract missions, contract details and fire teams for the community.

Next, Assistant Commissioner Timothy C. Ward introduced Mr. Antonnio Printup to present a brief Special Operations presentation on behalf of the Board of Corrections Facilities Committee. Mr. Printup's presentation included the day to day operations of the tactical squads, interdiction response teams (IRT), training, contraband and shakedowns.

To follow, Mr. Ricky Myrick, Director of Office of Professional Standards, introduced Mr. Brad Johnson, Statewide Canine Coordinator, to present a brief Canine Operations presentation on behalf of the Board of Corrections Facilities Committee. Mr. Johnson stated that the mission of the Georgia Department of Corrections Office of Professional Standards Canine Operations Unit is to enhance public safety throughout the state of Georgia by providing prompt, effective canine support for the Department of Corrections, public schools, and local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. Mr. Johnson explained that facilities use K-9's in daily operations for institutional shakedowns, detail site checks, back gate checks, visitation / staff checks, GCI, food service, and other deliveries. In addition, Mr. Johnson discussed narcotics training, tracking training, explosives, types of handlers, and future enhancements such as trainers and kennels.

To conclude, Assistant Commissioners Timothy C. Ward and L.C. "Buster" Evans presented Mr. Robert Shuman, Lieutenant at Rogers State Prison, and Ms. Lisa Haughey, Transitional Services Coordinator, with Employee Recognition plaques on behalf of the Board of Corrections and Commissioner Homer Bryson for "*Going Above and Beyond the Call of Duty.*" A photo was taken of the plaque presentations.

This concluded the Commissioner's Report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Rose Williams began the Chairman's report by asking the Board if they would like to cancel the July and August board meetings for the summer months. After some discussion, Board Attorney Joseph Drolet clarified that if the Board agreed to cancel the July and August meetings there would not be a meeting for those months unless there is official business that must be voted upon. Chairman Williams asked for a motion to approve canceling both meetings. Mr. Wayne Dasher made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Mr. Alton Russell, and canceling the July and August board meetings was voted approved by the Board. Therefore, the next board meeting will be September 1st in Forsyth, Georgia.

Next, Chairman Williams proceeded to move into Regular Session to approve the appointments of Mr. Steven Scroggins - Warden of Screven County, Mr. Michael Long - Warden of Floyd County, Mr. James Scott Pickens - Deputy Warden of Gwinnett County and Mr. Gordon Screen - Warden of Decatur County. Chairman Williams called upon Mr. Duke Blackburn, Chairman of the Facilities Committee, to give the Board the Committee's recommendation on the appointments of all four candidates.

Mr. Blackburn stated that the Facilities Committee received the board packets for all four candidates, reviewed each candidate's file and is unanimous on recommending appointment approvals for Mr. Steven Scroggins, Mr. Michael Long, Mr. James Scott Pickens, and Mr. Gordon Screen to their perspective positions at their specific county facility.

Mr. Jerry Willis made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Alton Russell, and was then voted approved by the Board. Chairman Williams congratulated Mr. Scroggins, Mr. Long, Mr. Pickens and Mr. Screen and then each candidate thanked the Board for the opportunity.

To follow, Chairman Williams continued with Old or New Business by asking Ms. Jennifer Ammons, General Counsel of Legal Services, to present a property resolution for Beasley Timber Management, LLC - Smith State Prison Revocable Lease Agreement.

Ms. Ammons gave a brief description of the property and stated that Beasley Timber Management, LLC., has a need for a temporary access road and easement for timber cutting operations on the I.T.T. Rayonier tract adjacent to Smith State Prison and Highway 301 for

timber cutting operations. The Georgia Department of Corrections has determined that it can accommodate the Revocable Lease Agreement request without causing harm to the operations of the Smith State Prison; therefore, we are asking for the Board's approval.

Chairman Williams asked for a motion to approve the property resolution. Sheriff Roger Garrison made the motion to approve, which was then seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher and the property resolution was voted approved by the Board as presented.

Chairman Williams reminded the members that the next meeting will be held on September 1st, at State Offices South at Tift College in Forsyth. In addition, the board members will conduct their annual board training following that board meeting. Plus, the Board will need to review a few County Wardens' appointments.

To close, Chairman Williams reminded the Board that each Board Committee will need to finish their presentations before the end of the year. She thanked Sheriff Stacy Jarrard for the great hospitality shown at last months' meeting in Lumpkin County and she thanked Mr. W.D. Strickland for donating an additional one hundred dollars to the Board of Corrections Scholarship Fund which goes to the Georgia Prison Warden's Association Scholarship Fund. This donation brings the total Scholarship Fund donation to fifteen hundred dollars.

Chairman Williams gave an update on the Board of Corrections' Flower Fund balance standing at \$565.15. Lastly, Chairman Williams closed the meeting by wishing Vice Chairman Jerry Willis an early Happy Birthday and she advised everyone to have a safe summer!

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rose Williams, Chairman

Alton Russell, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison