

**OKLAHOMA BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING**  
Oklahoma State Penitentiary  
Corner of West and Stonewall  
McAlester, OK

**1. Opening and Roll Call**

**Matthew McBee, Chair**

Chair McBee called the regular meeting of the Oklahoma Board of Corrections (BOC) to order at 1:05 p.m. at Oklahoma State Penitentiary (OSP) on Friday, July 27, 2012. Chair McBee asked the clerk to call the roll:

Steve Burrage, Member	Present	Michael Roach, Member	Present
Kevin Gross, Member	Present	Earnest Ware, Member	Present
Matthew McBee, Chair	Present	Gerald Wright, Secretary	Absent
Linda Neal, Vice Chair	Present		

Although one member was absent, a quorum was present so the meeting continued. Chair McBee recognized guests in the audience by introducing and welcoming Mr. Cody Inman and Mr. Travis Brauer, Governor Fallin's office, to the meeting.

**2. Welcome/Remarks**

**Randy Workman, Warden  
Oklahoma State Penitentiary**

Chair McBee recognized and opened the floor to OSP Warden Workman. Warden Workman stated the facility is celebrating 104 years in operation and the current population of the facility is 875 maximum-security offenders with 59 on death row. An execution date is set for offender Michael Hooper on August 14, 2012. The facility has 92 support staff members, 259 correctional officers, and 300 active volunteers. Approximately 400 offenders are involved in various programs, including religious, behavioral, mental health, and educational. Warden Workman stated the motto of the facility is daily, meaningful interaction, communication and observation. He also stated they have a monthly impact on the McAlester area economy of approximately \$1 million. He thanked Warden Emma Watts, Jackie Brannon Correctional Center (JBCC), for her assistance and utilization of the JBCC Visiting Room for the luncheon and once again welcomed the Board to OSP.

**3. Old Business**

**Matthew McBee, Chair**

There was no old business brought before the Board and the item was closed.

**4. Approval of June 29, 2012, Board Meeting Minutes**

**Matthew McBee, Chair**

Chair McBee opened the floor for approval of the minutes from the June 29, 2012, meeting of the Oklahoma Board of Corrections. No comments or questions were raised by the Board regarding the minutes.

**Motion:** Ms. Neal made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Ware seconded the motion. The results of the roll call were: Mr. Burrage – yes; Mr. Gross – yes; Mr. McBee – yes; Ms. Neal – yes; Mr. Roach – yes; Mr. Ware – yes; Mr. Wright – absent.

The meeting minutes were approved; no other comments or questions were made and the item was closed.

**5. Director's Comments**

**Justin Jones, Director**

Chair McBee opened the floor to Director Jones who provided the following updates to the Board:

- Several months ago, Bryan County had requested and received the Attorney General's (AG) opinion on per diem rates paid by ODOC for back-up offenders in county jails waiting to be transported to the Assessment and Reception Centers. The AG ruled ODOC must pay counties housing ODOC offenders for any documented expenses over \$27. Bryan County has now filed a lawsuit against ODOC to enforce this ruling. A hearing date has not been set at this time, but the Board will be informed upon notification.

- ODOC's current hiring rate for correctional officers is \$11.83 per hour. ODOC will be seeking legislation and leadership support to increase the hiring rate to \$14.00 per hour. In addition, a 5% pay level increase would also be needed for all classified employees for equitable treatment. To fund the hiring rate and pay raise, ODOC would need \$12.2 million approved by the legislature. If the pay level increase was reduced to 4%, but keeping the entry level hiring rate at \$14 per hour, ODOC would need \$11 million to fund the pay increase. ODOC conducted a study of three facilities that have traditionally had difficulties with hiring correctional officers. The unemployment rate for Fort Supply, where William S. Key Correctional Center (WSKCC) is located, is currently at 2.6% in that county and in adjacent counties. Oklahoma State Reformatory, located in Granite, has an unemployment rate of 3.7% with a declining population in the county. R. B. 'Dick' Conner Correctional Center (DCCC), in Hominy, is even higher in the unemployment rate – 5.2 % for the vicinity – and struggles to employ correctional officers. With a hiring rate of \$11.83 per hour, coupled with a very poor economy, ODOC must be competitive to get the best applicants from which to choose. At our current pay rate, a one-income family with two children, or 28% of our employees, qualifies for food stamps and 81% have children that would qualify for the school lunch program.
- As required by Title 74 Section 85.7, Director advised the Board of an emergency purchase during July. On July 20, 2012, the ceiling of the walk-in freezer collapsed at the JBCC meat plant, causing the freezer full of meat to lose electricity. JBCC is leasing 3-4 freezer trucks at an approximate cost of \$9,000 to keep from losing the meat. Once the meat is removed, they will know more about what product and/or services they need to fix the electricity and freezer.
- On June 24, 2012, public information officers from SandRidge Energy Corporation met with Director Jones, Warden Janice Melton, Bill Johnson Correctional Center, and Clint Castleberry, Programs, to discuss expansion of oilfield training for offenders. Several offenders have already been employed after discharging from the facility.
- Although the drought has affected the Agri-Services crop production, 76,120 pounds of assorted vegetables were processed, frozen, and stored for future use at the JCCC food processing plant.
- Five members of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections Honor Guard attended Project 2000 XXIII, in Washington D.C., June 7-10, 2012, at the invitation of the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation. Project 2000 featured the annual national memorial ceremony for fallen correctional officers killed in the line of duty in 2011.
- Lexington Assessment and Reception Center hosted a facility speak out on June 21, 2012, and 15 students with the University of Central Oklahoma, all from Swansea, Wales, toured the facility.
- On July 2, 2012, Mack Alford Correctional Center's maintenance department began construction of the interior fences around all medium-security housing units. These fences will separate all the housing units allowing segregated recreation time throughout the day and enhancing the quality of life for offenders while keeping a secure environment on the compound.
- DCCC security doors and locks are still in the process of being replaced and there was a mandatory pre-bid meeting on July 17, 2012.
- With the drought, permission was granted for WSKCC/OCI irrigation wells to be drilled starting the week of July 16, 2012, to assist with farming operations at the facility.
- Multiple graduations were held throughout July. Twenty-seven (27) offenders at John Lilley Correctional Center graduated from GED and four offenders from college with associate degrees, two of whom graduated with honors. Forty-three (43) offenders at Jim E. Hamilton Correctional Center graduated from GED and college in the last six months. James Crabtree Correctional Center had a graduation at both the minimum and medium-security yard with a total of nineteen (19) GED completions and William S. Key Correctional graduated a combined seventy-two (72) offenders from GED and college.
- One hundred fifty-five (155) male and female offenders complete the HIV Peer Education process. In addition, forty-nine (49) women completed the Office of Women's Health Program, known as Woman to Woman, which is a comprehensive health education curriculum. Thirty-nine (39) women at EWCC and MBCC completed and pilot-tested a new intervention known as Beyond Violence developed by Dr. Stephanie Covington.
- On June 21, 2012, ODOC staff met with the manager at Academic Technology OU Health Sciences Center Audio Video Design & Integration Services to discuss expanding telemedicine interface between ODOC and OU.
- A multi-disciplinary, interagency Suicide Prevention Advisory Group (SPAG) has been formed and had its first meeting the second week of this month. The purpose/goal of this workgroup will be a final report on a review of

and recommended improvements in the ODOC suicide prevention program, policies, and procedures. SPAG will meet on a monthly basis until their report is finalized.

- Bob Mann and Tony Kirksey, Veteran's Administration (VA) Social Worker, met with the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board (PPB) to discuss the wide range of services that the VA has in place to aid in the successful reentry of incarcerated veterans. There was discussion about the possibility of having a Veteran's Docket. PPB staff has agreed to talk to other states that have such dockets to gain information on how the process works and any potential legal ramifications of having a specialized docket.
- ODOC was notified by the Council of State Governments (CSG) that the Oklahoma Collaborative Mental Health Reentry Program was chosen as a Regional Finalist in the 2012 CSG Innovation Awards Program. Mr. Mann will present to the selection panel in West Virginia on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012.
- Internal Affairs (IA) Fugitive Apprehension Agents assisted the US Marshal's Violent Crime Task force with 4 arrests. In addition, for the first 6 months of 2012, the Fugitive Unit apprehended 81 ODOC fugitives from the ODOC fugitive site which is an increase of 7 from CY 2011. The unit also assisted Probation and Parole with 55 arrests which is an increase of 26. The IA Intelligence Unit has validated 2,075 offenders as Security Threat Group members.

Director Jones closed his comments. No further comments were made and the item was closed.

## 6. Budget Report

**Greg Sawyer, Chief  
Departmental Services**

Chair McBee opened the floor to Mr. Sawyer for the ODOC Budget Report as of June 30, 2012. Mr. Sawyer provided the following information:

- Expenditure summary – Based on twelve months of expenditure data, a surplus of \$3.6 million currently exists for fiscal year 2012. This surplus is \$900,000 less than reported the previous. The report does not take into account changes in staffing or offender population that may occur through the course of the fiscal year.
- Payroll – The overall funded payroll is 69.7%. This totals 4,110.1 out of 5,894.6 authorized FTE. At the end of June 2012, there were 4,009.0 positions filled for a rate of 68.0% with 101.1 FTE under the funded rate. A surplus of \$2.1 million currently exists.
- Contract Beds – Expenditure trends are based on current offender levels as of the end of June 2012. A \$1.3 million surplus exists at this time. Any offender growth during the course of the fiscal year that would require additional contract bed space will increase this deficit.
- Medical and Mental Health Services – Medical and mental health expenditures for June 2012 reflect a surplus of \$218,993 exists should current expenditure trends continue.

Mr. Sawyer then opened the floor for questions or comments. Director Jones queried about the trending surplus that he stated typically goes down at the end of June. Mr. Sawyer stated he feels ODOC may end up in the same place as current trends indicate. No further comments or questions were noted and the item was closed.

## 7. Population Report

**Laura Pitman, Ph.D., Deputy Director  
Institutions, Division I**

Chair McBee opened the floor to Dr. Pitman for the ODOC Population Update as of July 5, 2012. Dr. Pitman provided the following information:

Total System Offender Population = 25,853	GPS = 660 (478 males, 182 females)
DOC Facilities = 18,126	EMP = 7 (6 males, 1 female)
Private Prisons = 4,773	Probation Supervision = 20,815
County Jails with Contracts = 496	Parole Supervision Offenders = 3,073
Halfway Houses = 1,123	Total System Population = 49,741
Out Count (jails, hospitals, etc.) = 668	County Jail Backup = 1,582

Dr. Pitman then opened the floor for questions and comments. Chair McBee queried about the reasoning for the large drop from the previous year in the numbers of offenders under probation and parole supervision. Dr. Pitman stated there are not as many offenders being placed on ODOC probation supervision and the parole rate is fairly lower than it

has been in other years. Director Jones requested Mr. Reginald Hines, Deputy Director of Community Corrections, to add his input to the response. Mr. Hines stated ODOC is beginning to see the effects of District Attorney (DA) offender supervision resulting in lower numbers for ODOC probation supervision. No other comments or questions were noted and the item was closed.

## 8. Female Offender Update

**Laura Pitman, Ph.D., Deputy Director  
Institutions, Division I**

Chair McBee opened the floor to Dr. Pitman for an update on the female offender population. Dr. Pitman stated the female offender receptions for FY 2012 were 1,198 compared to 1,172 for FY 2011, but was a decrease of 200 offenders from FY 2010. This decrease is mainly attributed to decreases in female offenders sent to ODOC from Tulsa and Oklahoma counties. In Tulsa County, the George Kaiser Family Foundation diversion program, Women In Recovery, and in Oklahoma County, ReMerge, have been successful in diverting females to their programs as an alternative to incarceration. ODOC was recently awarded its fourth female diversion grant from Justice Assistance to assist with diversion programs.

Dr. Pitman also stated the top three counties – Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Comanche – remain the same for numbers of female offenders sentenced to incarceration; however, Comanche County has decreased significantly as well. Last year, Comanche County sent 53 females to ODOC incarceration and this year, only 38 females were received into the system. Ms. Neal stated she believes ODOC is also seeing the effects of educating the District Attorney offices of the diversion programs available to the female offenders. Dr. Pitman stated there has also been a decrease in the number of female offenders released from the ODOC system. Last year, ODOC released 1,318 females while this year there was only 1,162 females released from the system. Although there has not been an opportunity to determine why the numbers have decreased, Dr. Pitman stated that she feels the decrease in receptions may be impacting the number of releases. In addition, recidivism rates for females are only 14%, which is considered extremely low when compared to other states. Ms. Neal asked Dr. Pitman to provide the national rate, to which Dr. Pitman responded it is between 25-50% nationally. Among Oklahoma's contiguous states, Texas has the lowest recidivism rate (20-30%) and Kansas has the highest (approximately 50%).

No other questions or comments were raised and the item was closed. However, Chair McBee redirected back to Agenda item #7, Population Report. Chair McBee requested, if possible, that the population update include the breakdown of female offenders in the ODOC system. Dr. Pitman stated it would be added and provided an example for Chair McBee of the county jail inmate backup. She stated that currently, out of the 1,582 offenders waiting in county jails to be transferred to the assessment and reception centers, only 30 of them are females.

## 9. Approval of Private Prison Contract Renewal

**Mike Oakley, General Counsel**

- **The GEO Group, Inc.**

Chair McBee opened the floor to Mr. Oakley to discuss approval of the contract renewal with The GEO Group, Inc. Mr. Oakley stated the changes made to the contract were approved by the Population/Private Prisons Committee and Ms. Neal noted that the committee was in agreement with the contract renewal.

**Motion:** Ms. Neal made a motion to approve the contract renewal. Mr. Burrage seconded the motion. The results of the roll call were: Mr. Burrage – yes; Mr. Gross – yes; Mr. McBee – yes; Ms. Neal – yes; Mr. Roach – yes; Mr. Ware – yes; Mr. Wright – absent.

The contract renewal was approved; no other comments or questions were made and the item was closed.

## 10. Approval of Resolution for Agency Probation and Parole Officer of the Year

**Reginald Hines, Deputy Director  
Community Corrections**

- **Shantal Jackson-Keith, Probation and Parole Officer III, Southeast District**

Chair McBee opened the floor to Mr. Hines for approval of the Probation and Parole Officer the Year. Mr. Hines read the following resolution:

*WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Department of Corrections is privileged to have a group of men and women who are trained professionals and who serve valiantly to ensure supervision and accountability of probation and parole offenders in communities across the state of Oklahoma; and*

*WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Department of Corrections is fortunate to have nearly 300 probation and parole officers who are dedicated and committed to carrying out the agency's mission in a professional manner; and*

*WHEREAS, each year one probation and parole officer is selected as the outstanding officer for his or her district; and*

*WHEREAS, the district officers are interviewed and the Oklahoma Department of Corrections selects an Agency Probation and Parole Officer of the Year who exemplifies the highest standards of professionalism in "Protecting the Public, the Employee, and the Offender":*

*BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Oklahoma Board of Corrections does hereby announce and proclaim to all its recognition of SHANTAL JACKSON-KEITH, Probation and Parole Officer III, Southeast District Community Corrections, as the 2011 Agency Probation and Parole Officer of the Year.*

*ADOPTED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July 2012.*

Mr. Hines stated he was proud to say that Oklahoma has some of the best Probation and Parole Officers (PPO) in the nation. He also stated that other states come to Oklahoma to observe and learn from Oklahoma's PPOs about their diversion programs and supervision standards. Director Jones stated the Oklahoma PPO of the Year has twice been awarded the National PPO of the Year for consecutive years.

**Motion:** Mr. Gross made a motion to approve Ms. Jackson-Keith as the PPO of the Year. Mr. Ware seconded the motion. The results of the roll call were: Mr. Burrage – yes; Mr. Gross – yes; Mr. McBee – yes; Ms. Neal – yes; Mr. Roach – yes; Mr. Ware – yes; Mr. Wright – absent.

Ms. Jackson-Keith was then invited to address the Board. She began by thanking her Savior, Jesus Christ, stating that the award would not be possible without Him. She also thanked her mother, Deputy Warden Sharon McCoy, for her support during Ms. Jackson-Keith's career with the ODOC. She recognized District Supervisor Michael Dunkle and Deputy Director Hines for their support and nomination. She then thanked Director Jones for selecting her and finally, she thanked the Board for their approval of the nomination. No other comments or questions were made and the item was closed.

#### **11. Approval/Confirmation of Appointment**

**Justin Jones, Director**

▪ ***Eric Franklin, Deputy Director, Treatment & Rehabilitative Services***

Chair McBee opened the floor to Director Jones for presentation and approval of Eric Franklin to the position of Deputy Director of Treatment and Rehabilitative Services (T&RS). He stated Mr. Franklin has served ODOC extremely well and in a professional manner throughout his career. He also encouraged Mr. Franklin to continue down the path left by Mr. Kenny Holloway, but to forge his own trail as well. Director Jones asked the Board to confirm the appointment.

**Motion:** Ms. Neal made a motion to approve the appointment. Mr. Ware seconded the motion. The results of the roll call were: Mr. Burrage – yes; Mr. Gross – yes; Mr. McBee – yes; Ms. Neal – yes; Mr. Roach – yes; Mr. Ware – yes; Mr. Wright – absent.

Mr. Franklin expressed his appreciation to Director Jones and the Board for their approval. He stated that any successes he has had in his career are a result of the dedicated staff with whom he has worked. He further stated that Mr. Holloway had left T&RS in good order and he is looking forward to working with the staff and achieving further successes. No other comments or questions were made and the item was closed.

#### **12. Approval of Resolution**

**Gerald W. Wright, Secretary**

▪ ***Retirement of Kenny Holloway, Deputy Director, Treatment & Rehabilitative Services***

Chair McBee opened the floor to Ms. Neal for presentation of the resolution for Mr. Kenny Holloway as Mr. Wright was absent from the meeting. Ms. Neal read the following resolution:

*WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Board of Corrections received with deep regret the news of the well-deserved retirement of Kenny W. Holloway; and*

*WHEREAS, Kenny W. Holloway began his employment with the Oklahoma Department of Corrections in 1987, as a case manager; promoting to many leadership positions during his 25 years in the agency including probation parole officer, case manager supervisor, assistant district supervisor, district supervisor, assistant deputy director of Community Corrections, administrator of Probation and Parole, and deputy director of Treatment and Rehabilitative Services; and*

*WHEREAS, throughout the career of Kenny W. Holloway, he has been consistently recognized as an exceptional public servant for his compassion toward others, loyalty, initiative, hard work, dependability, competence, professionalism, and commitment to excellence and to the department's mission; and*

*WHEREAS, Kenny W. Holloway was a dedicated correctional professional and an effective member of Executive Staff, who exemplified team work and unsurpassed energy; contributing immensely to the development and the enhancement of departmental policies, procedures, programs, and the overall operations of the Department of Corrections:*

*BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Oklahoma Board of Corrections does hereby acknowledge the outstanding service of Kenny W. Holloway to the Oklahoma Department of Corrections and state of Oklahoma and extends to him sincere congratulations and best wishes for a satisfying retirement.*

*ADOPTED this 27th day of July, 2012.*

**Motion:** Mr. Ware made a motion to approve the resolution. Ms. Neal seconded the motion. The results of the roll call were: Mr. Burrage – yes; Mr. Gross – yes; Mr. McBee – yes; Ms. Neal – yes; Mr. Roach – yes; Mr. Ware – yes; Mr. Wright – absent.

Chair McBee opened the floor to Mr. Holloway for his comments. Mr. Holloway began by thanking the Board for recognizing him with the resolution. He stated he was very grateful for the opportunities he has had within the agency and he is proud of his service to the ODOC. Mr. Holloway congratulated Deputy Director Franklin, stating he hoped that Mr. Franklin finds great satisfaction in his role. He also stated that he felt his staff were the best within the agency and expressed their excitement for the change in leadership. Mr. Holloway then expressed his appreciation to Director Jones for the support, opportunities, and confidence in his abilities throughout the years. He stated he had been fortunate to have staff working with him who were committed to the mission and were dedicated to service. The medical staff working in ODOC is unsurpassed and, with great demand, work on a daily basis to ensure offenders have access to and are provided excellent medical care. The doctors and nurses are called to serve a very unique population and Mr. Holloway stated they do so with great compassion. He stated mental health staff work with some of the most difficult offenders in the system and the number of offenders with mental health issues has increased significantly over the last few years.

Mr. Holloway stated the economy has affected all areas of ODOC, including the Programs unit, which was hit very hard with loss of educational staff and alcohol treatment programs. During this time, ODOC teachers met the challenge by serving the same number of offenders but stretching out the amount of time they could spend with the offenders to meet their educational needs. Mr. Holloway stated that even with the cuts to the education unit, Oklahoma offenders still had one of the highest “pass” rates for GED in the state. In addition, a psych-clinician at Joseph Harp Correctional Center began facilitating the drug and alcohol treatment program after the loss of funding for programs. Mr. Holloway stated the challenges have been many as have the rewards. He once again expressed his appreciation to the Board and to Director Jones for the opportunities afforded him within ODOC.

### 13. OSP Update

**David Parker, Deputy Director  
Institutions, Division III**

Chair McBee opened the floor to Mr. Parker for the OSP update. Mr. Parker provided an overview of the facility to the Board and began by thanking the Board and other guests for attending the meeting at OSP. He expressed his excitement for the transition and changes occurring at the facility. He stated he feels these changes will benefit ODOC and the facility by making OSP a safer place, not only for the staff, but also for the offenders. This, in turn, will help OSP meet the mission of ODOC.

Mr. Parker directed the Board's attention to the diagram he provided the Board which illustrated the proposed fencing boundary for OSP. He stated the new fencing would be electric stun, allowing them to eliminate tower positions while providing better management of the facility. Initial planning stages include site placement for a new administration building and reviewing the architectural drawings from Southeast District Probation and Parole offices for adaptation into OSP's administrative offices. Mr. Parker then noted the highlighted areas on the diagram which were outside the proposed boundary fence: the current and old administration buildings, Unit F, the law library/clothing building, gymnasium, Unit G and the employee recreation/CERT room. These areas will be incorporated into a newer, more efficient administration building. He stated contact with electric fencing vendors has been initiated as one of the first steps of implementing the changes at OSP.

With the closing of several areas of OSP's facility structures, they have had a discovery survey to determine needs for rerouting utilities and camera systems within the facility. He stated within thirty days, an architectural grounds study will be completed for possible location sites of the new administration building. Once the grounds study is completed, ODOC can begin to move forward with these plans. Mr. Parker then opened the floor for questions or comments.

Mr. Gross queried the timeframe for implementation of the new fencing and administration building. Mr. Parker stated these plans are only preliminary but they hope to have the bid closures on the fence no later than April 1, 2013. Standard construction time, once the bid is awarded, is usually 425 days from the date of bid closure. Ms. Neal queried about the long range plans for moving everything behind the new fencing and which buildings would be closed first. Mr. Parker stated the gymnasium was closed several years ago and the others highlighted in the diagram would also be closed. She asked if the buildings would then be destroyed upon closing. Mr. Parker stated the intention is to leave them intact, but shut off most electric and utility services to the buildings.

Mr. Burrage queried how ODOC would fund the costs of these recommended changes. Mr. Parker stated their plans of shutting down the highlighted buildings would be cost-neutral to the state. Also, SB 1988 provided \$2.9 million to aid in the changes to OSP. Mr. Parker stated he believes these changes will make OSP a much safer place to work and live and also ensures continued employment for all staff. Mr. McBee then inquired of the plans for the OSP rodeo arena and whether McAlester had other rodeo arenas. Director Jones invited OSP Warden Randy Workman to the podium to respond to the inquiry. Warden Workman stated McAlester currently has two rodeo arenas; one located near the Indian Nation Turnpike and another adjacent to the sheriff's office that is very active. In studying the cost impact of the OSP arena in 2009, it was approximately \$70,000 for renovations to the arena to make it usable. The bleachers have shifted and the bullpens have deteriorated. Since 2009, the arena has continued to deteriorate and costs to repair it would most certainly be above the original estimate. Director Jones then queried the date Unit G was closed, to which Mr. Parker replied it was closed on May 1, 2012. Mr. Parker further stated from the efforts of Warden Workman and his staff, Dr. Laura Pitman and staff at Population Management, Unit F-2, 3, and 4 Cell Blocks are vacated as of July 26, 2012, and only 81 offenders are left in Unit F-1 Cell Block.

Chair McBee then asked Warden Workman of the cost estimate to destroy the rodeo arena. Warden Workman stated the McAlester Chamber of Commerce had, at one time, been interested in providing the supplies needed through area merchants to help repair the rodeo grounds. He stated a dollar amount was never estimated but the McAlester community has a vested interest in maintaining the OSP arena. Ms. Neal queried if ODOC had plans to use the rodeo arena, to which Director Jones stated with the recent budget cuts and staffing issues at the facility, it is not a priority at this time. He also stated it would take a huge commitment from McAlester to assist with repairing the arena for future rodeos. Without funding from the state, ODOC does not have the resources to continue maintaining the older buildings or arena and the areas must be made safer for staff which is ODOC's priority. Director Jones then stated with no foreseeable future of receiving funding for repairs, the choice was made to decommission the older portions of OSP. Mr. Parker then thanked Warden Workman, OSP staff, and Mr. Parker for embracing the vision and changes made at the facility.

No further questions or comments were raised and the item was closed.

#### **14. Program Update**

- *Little Dixie Community Action*

**Jay Weatherford, Associate Director  
Little Dixie Community Action Agency**

Chair McBee opened the floor to Mr. Weatherford; however, Ms. Linda Byrd approached the podium to provide initial information on the Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc. Ms. Byrd stated she is the program director for Second Chance Mentoring at Little Dixie. Ms. Byrd began by stating Little Dixie began its first reentry program in October 2010. The program was something never before thought to be a part of the scope of Little Dixie's mission. However, she stated, after years of a successful mentoring children prisoner's program, the great need for a program like this in the area was obvious. Ms. Byrd stated the Second Chance Mentoring Program is a grant project through the Department of Justice and a part of the Second Chance Act. The grant was a 24-month project with a goal of reducing recidivism rates by matching incarcerated participants with a mentor and providing training to foster a successful reentry.

Ms. Byrd stated one of the most challenging issues with proving reduction of recidivism with a 24-month grant is the brief amount of time to show justifiable evidence. There were initially twenty-three offenders to sign up for the program and eleven have now been released. As of July 26, 2012, those eleven were still in the community and have not reoffended. Although the results sound phenomenal, Mr. Byrd stated a longer timeframe is needed to accurately judge

whether the program is truly effective. She stated it is the goal of the program to have a matched mentor with each individual participant to give them the opportunity to face obstacles that arise upon release from incarceration.

Little Dixie, while wanting to stay on the focus of the grant, also saw an opportunity to pull together wrap-around services that their agency already offers. Little Dixie began their program by making introductions with the ODOC regional staff, which was a new partnership for Little Dixie. Ms. Byrd stated a partnership with ODOC was essential to their program and many meetings were held at regional and state levels to understand the other's roles in the program. Through these meetings, Little Dixie was able to find ways the program could assist the Idabel Community Work Center (CWC) at a local level, such as implementing AA meetings, Thinking for a Change, Victims Impact, Anger Management and parenting classes. All of these curriculums are currently provided through their program.

The next step, after the initial meetings with ODOC, was to hire a program coordinator to engage participants and help them to see the program and its assets. According to Ms. Byrd, Jason Citty provided a new, creative approach to the program. Mr. Citty was an ex-offender who had been incarcerated at the Idabel CWC and was in a stable relationship, working odd jobs and volunteering his time to help others. Ms. Byrd stated he impressed Little Dixie staff with his passion to help other offenders. After getting approval from the Little Dixie 27-member board to hire Mr. Citty, he was then approved by ODOC to work with the participants at the work center.

Ms. Byrd stated Little Dixie feels it has accomplished many things through the grant including developing a close working relationship with ODOC; developing a volunteer infrastructure; established a trained volunteer and mentor base; developed local assets and resource space; and they have established community confidence and support. Ms. Byrd finished by stating they feel twenty-four months has not been enough time for them to create, develop, and sustain what they have attempted to accomplish but they have learned a great deal from this experience. Other funding prospects available would give Little Dixie the opportunity to work with ODOC again and they hope to continue their efforts.

Mr. Weatherford then approached the podium and greeted the Board, Director Jones and other staff in attendance. Mr. Weatherford expressed his gratitude, on behalf of Little Dixie, to ODOC for the opportunity to partner in providing a successful re-entry program. Mr. Weatherford stated there are many resources available in communities across the state; however, these various resources are not organized to rally the community to support them. Many resources are untapped because of this unorganized approach to assistance. Mr. Weatherford also stated the many barriers they must overcome – fear, lack of interest, funding, volunteers – pose a significant challenge; however they are working towards a continued partnership with ODOC to have a successful re-entry program.

Chair McBee thanked Mr. Weatherford for the information and opened the floor for questions or comments. No further questions or comments were raised and the item was closed.

## 15. Committee Reports

### Committee Chairs

Chair McBee then opened the floor for comments from the Committee Chairs.

- **Budget – Chair Gerald Wright, Members Steve Burrage and Matthew McBee**  
As Mr. Wright was absent, Chair McBee stated the committee had not met during the past month and there was nothing to report.
- **Female Offender – Chair Linda Neal, Members Michael Roach and Earnest Ware**  
Ms. Neal stated the committee had met, but there was nothing else to report for the Board.
- **Public Policy – Chair Gerald Wright, Members Kevin Gross and Earnest Ware**  
As Mr. Wright was absent, Mr. Ware stated there was nothing to report.
- **Population/Private Prisons – Chair Linda Neal, Members Steve Burrage and Michael Roach**  
Ms. Neal stated the committee had no further report for the Board at this time.
- **Public Affairs/State Boards Interface – Chair Earnest Ware, Members Kevin Gross and Michael Roach**  
Mr. Ware stated the committee had no report for the Board at this time.
- **Executive – Chair Matthew McBee, Members Linda Neal and Gerald Wright**

Chair McBee stated the committee had met and minutes were provided to the Board members in their packets. There was nothing further to report for the Board at this time.

**16. New Business (Any matter not known about or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of posting." 25 O.S. § 311)** **Matthew McBee, Chair**

Chair McBee opened the floor for any new business. Director Jones advised the Board of the Corrections Today article, the national American Correctional Association magazine, included in their packets about Ms. Faye Tucker. Ms. Tucker was identified as the Best in the Business in the area of transition program coordinator. Although Ms. Tucker was not present at the meeting, Director Jones stated he wanted to ensure the Board was aware of the recognition for an ODOC employee.

Chair McBee congratulated Ms. Tucker and expressed recognition and appreciation for all the ODOC employees. No further comments or announcements were made and the item was closed.

**17. Announcements** **Matthew McBee, Chair**

Chair McBee opened the floor for announcements but none were raised and the item was closed.

**18. Adjournment** **Matthew McBee, Chair**

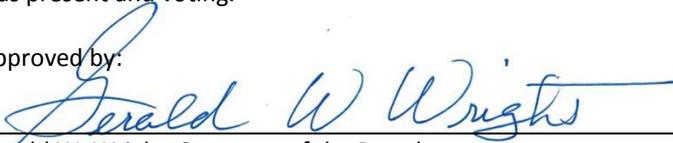
There being no further business to come before the meeting, Chair McBee requested to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion:** Ms. Neal made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Burrage seconded the motion. The results of the roll call were: Mr. Burrage – yes; Mr. Gross – yes; Mr. McBee – yes; Ms. Neal – yes; Mr. Roach – yes; Mr. Ware – yes; Mr. Wright – absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

I hereby certify that these minutes were duly approved by the Board on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2012, in which a quorum was present and voting.

Approved by:



Gerald W. Wright, Secretary of the Board

September 21, 2012

Submitted by:



Kimberley Owen, Minutes Clerk