

Texas Board of Criminal Justice
166th Meeting



Minutes

April 5, 2013
Austin, Texas

TEXAS BOARD OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

**Crowne Plaza Austin – Salons D and E
6121 North IH-35
Austin, Texas 78752**

**April 5, 2013
1:45 – 2:45 PM**

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order

Reconvene Texas Board of Criminal Justice (TBCJ)

I. Regular Session

A. Recognitions

B. Consideration of Approval of Consent Items

1. Hazardous Duty Pay Authorization Requests
2. Personal Property Donations
3. Sale or Disposal of Surplus Agricultural Goods and Agricultural Personal Property
4. 164th TBCJ Meeting Minutes
5. Excused Absences

C. Report from the Executive Director, Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)

D. Report from the Chairman, TBCJ

E. Internal Audit Status Report for Fiscal Years 2012 – 2013

F. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding Purchases and Contracts Over \$1 Million

G. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding Adoption of Amendments to Board Rules Title 37 Texas Administrative Code

1. 151.8, Advisory Committees
2. 152.51, Authorized Witnesses to the Execution of an Offender Sentenced to Death
3. 152.61, Emergency Response to Law Enforcement Agencies or Departments and Non-Agent Private Prisons or Jails
4. 163.33, Community Supervision Officers
5. 163.35, Supervision
6. 163.38, Sex Offender Supervision

- H. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding Proposed Amendments to Board Rule Title 37 Texas Administrative Code Section 159.1 – Substance Abuse Felony Punishment Facilities Eligibility Criteria (*pages 40-41*)
- I. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding a Proposed Land Transaction for a Pipeline Easement at the Stiles Unit in Jefferson County, Beaumont, Texas (*pages 42-43*)
- J. Public Comments

Adjourn TBCJ

The TBCJ may discuss and/or take action on any of the items posted on this meeting agenda. The TBCJ may also convene into Executive Session on any of these matters when attorney-client privilege is warranted.

MINUTES OF THE TEXAS BOARD OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Meeting No. 166

The Texas Board of Criminal Justice (TBCJ or board) convened in regular session on Friday, April 5, 2013, at 9:34 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza Austin, Austin, Texas, and then recessed into executive session. Following executive session, at 10:02 a.m., the board recessed until 11:07 a.m., when it reconvened in regular session. The board recessed at 12:16 p.m., reconvened in regular session at 1:45 p.m., and adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Mechler, Vice Chairman
Leopoldo (Leo) Vasquez, III, Secretary
Eric Gambrell
Judge Larry Gist
Janice Harris Lord
J. David Nelson
Terrell McCombs
Carmen Villanueva-Hiles

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Oliver Bell, Chairman

TDCJ STAFF PRESENT: Brad Livingston, Executive Director
Bryan Collier, Deputy Executive Director
Mike Bell Jerry McGinty
Rudolph Brothers Susan McHenry
Matt Demny Oscar Mendoza
C.F. Hazlewood Madeline Ortiz
Scott Hornung Ron Steffa
Sharon Felfe Howell Rick Thaler
John Hurt Bruce Toney
Frank Inmon Carey Welebob
Stuart Jenkins April Zamora
Angie McCown

OTHERS PRESENT: The Honorable Don Willett, Texas Supreme Court Justice; Carol Vance, former TBCJ chairman; Veronica Casanova, Interim Superintendent of Windham School District; and members of the media.

Convene Texas Board of Criminal Justice

Vice Chairman Tom Mechler convened the 166th meeting of the TBCJ on Friday, April 5, 2013, at 9:34 a.m. He noted that a quorum was present and declared the meeting open in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, the *Open Meetings Act*. He recessed the board into executive session which is closed to the public in accordance with Texas Government Code, Section 551.076.

Reconvene Texas Board of Criminal Justice

Mr. Mechler reconvened the 166th meeting of the TBCJ on Friday, April 5, 2013, at 11:07 a.m. He noted that a quorum was present and declared the meeting open in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, the *Open Meetings Act*. He stated that during the regular session, the board would conduct business from the agenda posted in the Texas Register.

18th Annual Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Awards Ceremony

Mr. Mechler welcomed all honored guests for joining the TBCJ for the 18th Annual Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Awards Ceremony. He recognized the importance of the criminal justice volunteers and their positive impact on the criminal justice system, and explained that due to the demand of the legislative session and other commitments, the Honorable Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, was unable to attend the ceremony. The recipients viewed a video from Governor Rick Perry, who thanked them for their service.

Mr. Mechler yielded the floor to Brad Livingston, Executive Director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ or agency). Mr. Livingston welcomed the honored guests, thanked the volunteers for their partnership with TDCJ, and said the honorees represent the 21,000 volunteers who are every day heroes. Mr. Livingston acknowledged that the TDCJ volunteers receive the agency's highest respect and admiration for their efforts.

Mr. Mechler introduced the Honorable Don R. Willett, Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas, as the keynote speaker.

Justice Willett thanked the board for their invitation to speak at the award ceremony. He noted that the volunteers of the faith based ministries teach and demonstrate unconditional compassion, tough love, morality, charity, and hope to those people in need of divine grace. He said their ministries bring about a transformation in offenders into individuals, and praised programs such as INNERCHANGE and the Sycamore Tree Project, which depend on volunteer efforts, for being invaluable to the successful reentry of offenders into their communities. Justice Willett expressed his gratitude for the faithful and devoted service of each of the honorees.

Mr. Mechler thanked Justice Willett for his remarks and presented him with a key chain as a token of the board's appreciation for his support.

Mr. Mechler yielded the floor to Carmen Villanueva-Hiles, Master of Ceremonies. Ms. Hiles stated that the individuals being recognized represent the high caliber of volunteers who make a difference in the lives of those individuals who are in the custody of or supervised by the TDCJ. Volunteers give offenders hope, strength, and the desire to become a better person; they also help reinforce offenders' relationships with their families. Ms. Hiles also acknowledged the Rehabilitation Programs Division staff and the TBCJ office staff who worked collectively on this ceremony. Ms. Hiles stated that it was her honor to read the names of the award recipients. The following individuals and organizations were recognized:

Barry Wilmore, *Chaplaincy Department*
JB and Bethel Walker, *Correctional Institutions Division*
Emmett Gagnard, *Private Facilities Contract Monitoring/Oversight Division*
Donna Haggard, *"Nancy Hees" Award-Parole Division*
Brenda Harris, *Religious Service*
Keith Norman, *Religious Service*
Terry McGhee, *Substance Abuse Treatment Program*
Mark Ross, *"Pathfinder" Award-Victim Services Division*
Judith Dullnig, *"Judy Burd" Award-Windham School District*
FEXO Program of Goodwill, *Reentry and Integration Division*
Connie Hilton, *Restorative Justice*
Overcomers Recovery Support Program, *"Susan Cranford" Award-Female Offender Program*
Bible Basics Administrative Segregation Program, *Most Innovative Program*
Program Path Finder, *Community Service*
Day with Mom, *Best Family Program*
Patrick McGee, *Leonard Davis Award for Most Hours Served*
James Bank, *Extensive Travel*
Carl C. Spencer, *TDCJ Employee Volunteer*
Charles Bell, *Criminal Justice Administrator*

Ms. Hiles yielded the floor to Carol Vance who presented James Reed with the "*Carol S. Vance" Volunteer of the Year Award for 2013.*

Ms. Hiles closed the awards ceremony by honoring the award recipients and the thousands of volunteers who help enrich lives with their service. Applause followed.

Mr. Mechler noted that National Volunteer's Week is April 21-27, 2013, and this year's theme is "Celebrating People in Action."

There being no further business at this time, Mr. Mechler recessed the 166th meeting of the TBCJ. He advised the board would reconvene in committee meetings and continue with regular business beginning at 1:30 p.m. The time was 12:16 p.m.

(Attachment A – Program for 18th Annual Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Awards)

MINUTES OF THE TEXAS BOARD OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Meeting No. 166

The Texas Board of Criminal Justice (TBCJ or board) reconvened in regular session at 1:45 p.m., at the Crowne Plaza Austin, Austin, Texas, and adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Mechler, Vice Chairman
Leopoldo (Leo) Vasquez, III, Secretary
Eric Gambrell
Judge Larry Gist
Janice Harris Lord
J. David Nelson
Terrell McCombs
Carmen Villanueva-Hiles

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Oliver Bell, Chairman

STAFF PRESENT:

Brad Livingston, Executive Director	
Bryan Collier, Deputy Executive Director	
Jeff Baldwin	Angie McCown
Mike Bell	Jerry McGinty
Rudolph Brothers	Susan McHenry
Matt Demny	Oscar Mendoza
C.F. Hazlewood	Madeline Ortiz
Scott Hornung	Ron Steffa
Sharon Felfe Howell	Rick Thaler
John Hurt	Bruce Toney
Frank Inmon	Carey Welebob
Stuart Jenkins	April Zamora

OTHERS PRESENT: The Honorable Dale Spurgin, Jones County Judge; Veronica Casanova, Interim Superintendent of Windham School District; and members of the media.

Reconvene Texas Board of Criminal Justice

Vice Chairman Mechler reconvened the regular session of the 166th meeting of the TBCJ on Friday April 5, 2013, at 1:45 p.m., noted that a quorum was present, and declared the meeting open in accordance with Texas Government Code Chapter 551, the *Open Meetings Act*. He stated the board would be conducting business from the agenda posted in the Texas Register.

Mr. Mechler recognized the Honorable Dale Spurgin, Jones County Judge, thanking him for his interest in the agency.

Mr. Mechler stated that the TBCJ is committed to providing the opportunity for public comment and public presentations on topics posted on the meeting agenda in accordance with Board Rule 151.4, "Public Presentations and Comments to the Texas Board of Criminal Justice." He stated that registration cards had been received for public comment. The review of the rules for comments to the board would take place before the public comment portion of the meeting.

Recognitions

Marvin Dunbar, Manager of Support Services, Rehabilitation Programs Division, recognized Chaplain Vance Drum as the president of the American Correctional Chaplains Association, which is an affiliate of the American Corrections Association. Mr. Dunbar also recognized Chaplain Michael Rutledge as the assistant director of the Chaplaincy Department.

Rick Thaler, Director of the Correctional Institutions Division (CID), recognized Michael Upshaw as the deputy director of the CID Management Operations. Mr. Upshaw thanked the board, Mr. Livingston, and Mr. Thaler for the opportunity to work in this new capacity.

Sharon Felfe Howell, General Counsel, recognized Carla Willis as the director of Legal Affairs.

Mr. Mechler recognized the TDCJ employees who have achieved 25, 30, and 35 plus years of service with the state of Texas during the months of January, February, and March, 2013. The TBCJ, along with Mr. Livingston, expressed their deepest gratitude for the continued service of these employees.

(Attachment B – Employee Names)

Consideration of Approval of Consent Items

- 1. Hazardous Duty Pay Authorization Requests**
- 2. Personal Property Donations**
- 3. Sale or Disposal of Surplus Agricultural Goods and Agricultural Personal Property**
- 4. 164th and 165th TBCJ Meeting Minutes**
- 5. Excused Absences**

Mr. Mechler presented the consent items which included excused absences for Judge Larry Gist and Terrell McCombs both of whom were unable to attend the November 2012 meeting due to personal business. Mr. Mechler asked if there were any amendments or objections to the proposed consent items. Eric Gambrell stated that as his firm represents Wal-Mart and San Antonio Food Bank on a pro bono basis, and there are personal property donations from both entities before the board, he would abstain from any action taken on the consent items. Mr. Mechler asked if there were any other objections. Seeing none, the consent items stand approved as presented.

Report from the Executive Director, Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) – Update on the 83rd Legislative Session

Brad Livingston, TDCJ Executive Director, reported that the full senate passed Senate Bill 213 known as the Sunset Bill. House Bill 2289, the House of Representatives' version of the Sunset Bill will soon be heard in the House Corrections Committee. The Senate and House have both approved their version of the General Appropriations Bill. In both bills, the TDCJ's major operations have been funded, in addition to a five percent pay raise for correctional officers. The differences in the two versions will be reconciled over the upcoming weeks.

Report from the Chairman, TBCJ

- 1. Support of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children "Take 25" Program**
- 2. Crime Victims' Rights Week – April 21-27, 2013**
- 3. Chairman's Fitness Challenge**

Mr. Mechler noted that in honor of May 25th, National Missing Children's Day, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children created the Take 25 program. Take 25 is a child safety campaign that encourages parents and guardians to talk to their children about safety issues. He stated that the board and the TDCJ actively support the center's Take 25 campaign, and encouraged everyone to take 25 minutes out of their day to discuss child safety practices.

Mr. Mechler recognized National Crime Victims' Rights Week will be held April 21-27, 2013, in communities throughout the nation. Texas Victim Services organizations will open the week in Austin with a memorial tree planting at the state capitol in honor of Suzanne McDaniel, a crime victims' rights advocate pioneer. More information on Crime Victims' Rights Week events can be obtained through the TDCJ's Victim Services Division or the agency website www.tdcj.state.tx.us.

Mr. Mechler announced the third quarter results for the 2013 Chairman's Fitness Challenge. Participating employees earned almost 15.9 million points during the quarter. The divisional top three placements for the quarter are as follows:

Division 1: Internal Audit-first place, the board and Austin Executive Administration-second place, and Management Operations (CID)-third place.

Division 2: Office of the General Counsel-first place, Victim Services Division-second place, and Business and Finance Division-third place.

Division 3: Houston 7 Parole Office-first place, Administrative Review and Risk Management Division-second place, Board of Pardons and Paroles-third place.

Division 4: Glossbrenner Unit-first place, Sayle Unit-second place, Information Technology Division-third place.

Division 5: Boyd Unit-first place, Hobby Unit-second place, and Travis County State Jail-third place.

Division 6: Jester IV Unit-first place, Huntsville Unit-second place, and Manufacturing and Logistic Division-third place.

Division 7: Windham School District: West Texas Region-first place.

Internal Audit Status Report for Fiscal Years 2012 – 2013

Scott Hornung, Director for Internal Audit, provided the following revisions to the handout of the Internal Audit Status Report for the Fiscal Years (FY) 2012 - 2013:

- **1208 - Parole Division, District Parole Officer Training Academy:** The final report will be released on April 8, 2013.

Mr. Mechler asked if there were any questions. There were none.

(Attachment C – Internal Audit Status Report, Fiscal Years 2012-2013)

Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding Purchases and Contracts Over \$1 Million

Jerry McGinty, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the purchases and contracts over \$1 million. He noted that most items are either renewals to existing contracts for materials used by the Texas Correctional Industries (TCI) or FY 2014 contracts for materials for use by TCI. Mr. McGinty noted that the item on the handout is an increase to a FY 2013 contract for medical services by the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB).

David Nelson asked if the medical contract was based on the same rates that have been paid for the last nine months. Mr. McGinty responded affirmatively.

Mr. Mechler asked if there were any further comments or questions. Seeing none, he called for motion and a second.

Mr. Gambrell noted he would abstain from voting on this item as his firm represents 3M Corporation.

Terrell McCombs moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve the purchases and contracts over \$1 million, as presented.

Judge Larry Gist seconded the motion which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote (Mr. Gambrell abstained.)

(Attachment D – Purchases and Contracts Over \$1 Million Handout)

Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding Adoption of Amendments to Board Rules Title 37 Texas Administrative Code

1. 151.8, Advisory Committees

Ms. Howell reported the proposed adoption of amendments to 151.8, Advisory Committees, was necessary to extend the abolishment dates for the advisory committees. The rule was published in the December 14, 2012, issue of the Texas Register for public comment. The 30 day comment period has passed with no comments received. Ms. Howell recommended that the board move forward with the final adoption.

Mr. Mechler asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none he called for a motion and a second.

Mr. Nelson moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice adopt Title 37 Texas Administrative Code section 151.8, regarding advisory committees, as published in the Texas Register, and that the chairman sign the order to this effect.

Mr. McCombs seconded the motion which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.

2. 152.51, Authorized Witnesses to the Execution of an Offender Sentenced to Death

Ms. Howell stated that the proposed amendments to 152.51, Authorized Witnesses to the Execution of an Offender Sentenced to Death, establish that a witness must be 18 years of age or older, increase the number of victim witnesses, and allow the surviving victim to witness under certain circumstances. The rule was published in the December 21, 2012, issue of the Texas Register for public comment. The 30 day comment period has passed with no comments received. Ms. Howell recommended that the board move forward with the final adoption.

Mr. Mechler asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none he called for a motion and a second.

Leo Vasquez moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice adopt Title 37 Texas Administrative Code section 152.51, regarding authorized witnesses to the execution of an offender sentenced to death, as published in the Texas Register, and that the chairman sign the order to this effect.

Carmen Villanueva-Hiles seconded the motion which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.

3. 152.61, Emergency Response to Law Enforcement Agencies or Departments and Non-Agent Private Prisons or Jails

Ms. Howell noted that the proposed amendments to 152.61, Emergency Response to Law Enforcement Agencies or Departments and Non-Agent Private Prisons, are necessary to include university, campus, and school district police departments in the group of law enforcement agencies to which the TDCJ may provide emergency response assistance. The rule was published in the December 21, 2012, issue of the Texas Register for public comment. The 30 day comment period has passed with no comments received. Ms. Howell recommended that the board move forward with the final adoption.

Mr. Mechler asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none he called for a motion and a second.

Ms. Hiles moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice adopt Title 37 Texas Administrative Code section 152.61, regarding emergency response to law enforcement agencies or departments and non-agent private prisons/jails, as published in the Texas Register, and that the chairman sign the order to this effect.

Mr. Nelson seconded the motion which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.

4. 163.33, Community Supervision Officers

Ms. Howell explained that the proposed amendments to 163.33, Community Supervision Officers, were necessary to update the requirements for and training of community supervision officers. The rule was published in the December 21, 2012, issue of the Texas Register for public comment. The 30 day comment period has passed with no comments received. Ms. Howell recommended that the board move forward with the final adoption.

Mr. Mechler asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none he called for a motion and a second.

Janice Lord moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice adopt Title 37 Texas Administrative Code section 163.33, regarding community supervision officers, as published in the Texas Register, and that the chairman sign the order to this effect.

Judge Gist seconded the motion which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.

5. 163.35, Supervision

Ms. Howell stated that the proposed amendments to 163.35, Supervision, are necessary to revise the intrastate transfer process and to provide a specific definition of absconder. The rule was published in the December 21, 2012, issue of the Texas Register for public comment. The 30 day comment period has passed with no comments received. Ms. Howell recommended that the board move forward with the final adoption.

Mr. Mechler asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none he called for a motion and a second.

Judge Gist moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice adopt Title 37 Texas Administrative Code section 163.35, regarding the supervision of probationers, as published in the Texas Register, and that the chairman sign the order to this effect.

Ms. Hiles seconded the motion which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.

6. 163.38, Sex Offender Supervision

Ms. Howell explained that the proposed amendments to 163.38, Sex Offender Supervision, are necessary to add clarity and to conform to state law. The rule was published in the December 21, 2012, issue of the Texas Register for public comment. The 30 day comment period has passed with no comments received. Ms. Howell recommended that the board move forward with the final adoption.

Mr. Mechler asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none he called for a motion and a second.

Mr. Gambrell moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice adopt Title 37 Texas Administrative Code section 163.38, regarding sex offender supervision, as published in the Texas Register, and that the chairman sign the order to this effect.

Mr. Nelson seconded the motion which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.

**Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding Proposed
Amendments to Board Rule Title 37 Texas Administrative Code
Section 159.1 – Substance Abuse Felony Punishment
Facilities Eligibility Criteria**

Ms. Howell reviewed the proposed amendments to 159.1, Substance Abuse Felony Punishment Facilities Eligibility Criteria. The rule has been updated pursuant to standards imposed by the federal prison rape elimination act. These amendments are necessary to ensure that probationers and parolees under the age of 18 are not eligible to participate in a substance abuse felony punishment facility.

Mr. Mechler asked if there were any questions or comments. Ms. Lord inquired if there were any programs for offenders under age 18. Ms. Howell responded that usually these youthful offenders were not assigned to TDCJ and were placed in programs by the presiding judge as part of an offender's probation. Mr. Mechler inquired if the proposed amendment was to comply with federal law. Ms. Howell responded affirmatively. Mr. Nelson asked if a youthful offender could get these services in TDCJ. Ms. Howell responded that through the Youthful Offender Program these same services were available.

Mr. Mechler asked if there were any further questions or comments. Seeing none he called for a motion and a second.

Mr. Vasquez moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve for publication in the Texas Register, the proposed amendments to Title 37 Texas Administrative Code section 159.1, regarding substance abuse felony punishment facilities eligibility criteria, to receive public comment, as presented.

Ms. Hiles seconded the motion which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.

(Attachment E - 159.1, Substance Abuse Felony Punishment Facilities Eligibility Criteria)

**Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding
a Proposed Land Transaction for a Pipeline Easement
at the Stiles Unit in Jefferson County, Beaumont, Texas**

Noting that the Business and Financial Operations Committee had received a briefing on the transaction earlier in the day, Matt Demny, Director of the Agribusiness, Land and Minerals Department briefly reviewed the request by Seaway Crude Pipeline Company LLC for an easement to install a petroleum pipeline at the Stiles Unit. Seaway Crude Pipeline Company LCC has agreed to pay \$137,078 for this easement for a ten-year term. A most favored nation's clause is included in the agreement to ensure the state receives the best contract negotiations possible.

Mr. Mechler asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none he called for a motion and a second.

Mr. McCombs moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve the request for pipeline easement at the Stiles Unit in Jefferson County, Beaumont, Texas, as presented.

Mr. Vasquez seconded the motion which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.

Public Comments

Mr. Mechler stated that the TBCJ is committed to providing the opportunity for public comments in accordance with Board Rule 151.4, "Public Presentations and Comments to the Texas Board of Criminal Justice." He reviewed the requirements for speaker registration in accordance with the *Open Meetings Act*. Each speaker was allowed three minutes for remarks.

Madelyan Johnson, spoke on behalf of her daughter Erica Sheppard, an offender. Ms. Johnson requested the board's assistance on four issues. (1) On the women's death row, there are small storage units but the women offenders are only allowed to use the front part of the storage area. (2) By policy, death row offenders may call family members every three months, but she has not received a phone call from her daughter in over three months. (3) Ms. Johnson addressed her daughter's health concerns which involve paralysis in her legs. She requested the board consider her daughter's request to be moved to another unit. (4) Ms. Johnson advised that during a medical run her daughter was unable to exit the vehicle that transported her to a medical examination, which resulted in a use of force. Ms. Johnson requested a copy of the video of the use of force.

Petra De Yong addressed the conditions on death row. She spoke about the effects of isolation and the size of the cells being too small. Ms. De Yong asked the board to reconsider the policies regarding the treatment of death row offenders.

Gloria Rubac requested that the board investigate the cost and conditions of every death row prisoner and based on the findings, issue a report. She encouraged all the board members to visit death row, reinstate piddling, allow some socializing among the death row offenders.

Angie Agapatus spoke about trauma caused by solitary confinement. She said solitary confinement damages brains, causes depression and anger issues, and other serious problems such as self mutilation, and cited some Supreme Court findings on solitary confinement.

Joanne Gavin read a letter from an anonymous offender who is serving a life sentence. He wrote that he is a victim of a corrupt judicial and penal system and was placed in administrative segregation without harming another human being. The offender enumerates the conditions of isolation in a small cage.

Mr. Mechler thanked all speakers for their comments. To obtain written response, he asked they leave their contact information with staff at the reception table outside of the meeting room.

Mr. Mechler announced that the next meeting of the TBCJ will be June 20-21, 2013, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Austin, Texas.

Adjournment

There being no further business for the regular session, Mr. Mechler adjourned the 166th meeting of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice at 2:42 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary

*Signature on File

Note: Attachments to the minutes are available upon written request from the Office of Record, Executive Services.