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Chairman Oliver Bell convened the 142nd Meeting of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice (TBCJ or Board) on Friday, April 3, 2009, at 11:05 a.m.

14th Annual Governor’s Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Awards Ceremony

Chairman Bell welcomed all honored guests for joining the Board on this important occasion. He quoted the late Leo Buscaglia, renowned lecturer and author, “Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” He acknowledged that the individuals recognized at this event represent the dedication and commitment of thousands of volunteers who are, on a daily basis, turning a life around. These volunteers make a difference in the lives of many Texans by unselfishly giving of themselves to help offenders, and their families, have a chance for a better life.

Chairman Bell yielded the floor to Brad Livingston, the Executive Director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ or Agency). Mr. Livingston welcomed the Honorable Greg Abbott, Attorney General of Texas and honored guests to the 14th Annual Governor’s Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Awards. He expressed his gratitude to the volunteers for their service to the Agency. He personally thanked the volunteers for entering in a partnership with TDCJ to the benefit of the offender population. Without the help of the 15,000 volunteers, a significant number of the offender population would not be reached. The TDCJ volunteers gave more than 400,000 hours to support the offender population, whose greatest challenge is reentering society. Mr. Livingston noted that he could not over emphasize how much the volunteer workforce has become an integral part of the Agency’s reentry efforts. He expressed his gratitude to each volunteer for filling the critical need in this area. The outstanding men and women of the TDCJ front line correctional staff and the volunteers make a partnership that the Agency is fortunate to have. Mr. Livingston stated that the Agency owes the volunteers a debt of gratitude and thanked them for their public service throughout Texas. He expressed his hope that the respect and admiration of the Agency employees are in some ways a reward for the volunteers, who demonstrate enthusiasm and selflessness on a daily basis. In closing, Mr. Livingston thanked the volunteers for their contributions that affectively change the lives of Texans throughout the state.

Chairman Bell introduced the Honorable Greg Abbott, the 50th Attorney General of Texas, as the keynote speaker, noting that Mr. Abbott’s hallmark of his office has been protecting Texans. He provided highlights of Mr. Abbott’s tenure as Attorney General. Chairman Bell extended a warm welcome to Mr. Abbott and thanked him for attending the ceremony for the criminal justice volunteers.

Mr. Abbott stated that his office recognizes excellence and public service, especially individuals who achieve great things by going beyond what is expected. These individuals are worthy of emulation and recognition by showing others the way to great achievements. He noted that after acquainting himself with the deeds and accomplishments of the criminal justice volunteers, it was with great pride and humbleness to speak before them on this auspicious occasion. Mr. Abbott acknowledged that the State of Texas through the efforts of these volunteers is a better and safer place.

Mr. Abbott told of his own experience as a person whose life was pieced together physically and spiritually through the many efforts of his family, colleagues and friends. He noted that volunteers help victims and offenders piece their lives back together and in doing so help Texas become a better state. The volunteers help repair the foundation of a person’s life. Mr. Abbott spoke to the public safety areas in which the volunteers affect changes in offenders who are reentering society, such as building character, strengthening focus and building work skills. These efforts provide offenders the tools and the base-level support to survive and succeed in the community.

Mr. Abbott praised the volunteers for their indelible fingerprints on the programs and lives that they have changed by giving the best of themselves to make Texas a safer place to live. He thanked the volunteers for their service to Texas and offered them the richest possible blessings.

Chairman Bell thanked Mr. Abbott for his remarks, commenting that as usual he had capsulated the volunteer efforts in the highest manner.

Chairman Bell yielded the floor to Janice Harris Lord, Master of Ceremonies. Ms. Lord thanked Attorney General Abbott as the champion of crime victims and their advocates. She acknowledged the Rehabilitation and Reentry Programs Division.
staff for their efforts for this ceremony honoring the volunteers. The individuals recognized by the ceremony are the epitome of volunteerism, whose service is unselfish and exceeds all expectations. Ms. Lord emphasized that many citizens do not know of the amount of effort expended on TDCJ’s offenders, spiritually or introducing spirituality in the other programs that address the offenders’ emotional, physical and educational needs. She noted that many of the award recipients are faith based individuals who have brought volunteer faith based programs to offenders. While most of the volunteers are Christian, the Agency affords every offender the First Amendment right to freedom of worship. Ms. Lord stated that it was her honor to read the names of the award recipients and then advised them of the award procedures. The following individuals and organizations were recognized:

Stephen Wiest, Chaplaincy Department
Casey Miner, Correctional Institutions Division
Robert and Audrey Dubois, Private Facilities Contract Monitoring and Oversight Division
Mark Warren, “Nancy Hees” Award-Parole Division
Mark Hollis, Religious Service
KAIROS of Texas, Religious Service
Bob K., Substance Abuse Treatment Program
Cheryl Miller, “Pathfinder” Award-Victim Services Division
John Meriwether, “Judy Burd” Award-Windham School District
Terrie Reagan, Restorative Justice
Sisters of St. Mary Magdalene, “Susan Cranford” Award-Female Offender Program
Men United, Most Innovative Program
Winners Circle Peer Support Network of Texas, Community Service
Forgiven Ministry, Inc., Best Family Program
Leonard Davis, Greatest Number of Hours
George (Gum Song) Banks, Extensive Travel
Travis G. Morris, TDCJ Employee Volunteer
Andrenett Hayes, Criminal Justice Administrator

Ms. Lord yielded the floor to Carol Vance, former Chairman of the TBCJ, who during his tenure from 1992 to 1999 was vital in the development of the volunteer program within TDCJ. Mr. Vance formed a task force on recidivism, initiated the Life CHANGES course for offenders and laid the path for a partnership between TDCJ and Prison Faith Ministries. Mr. Vance thanked Mr. Abbott for his inspiring remarks. He recognized the commitment of the volunteers, the Board, TDCJ executive staff and employees to the volunteer program, which continues to grow and move forward. Mr. Vance presented Donna Haggard with the “Carol S. Vance” Volunteer of the Year Award for 2008.

Ms. Lord closed the award ceremony by recognizing and honoring the families of award recipients. Chairman Bell thanked Ms. Lord, Mr. Vance, award recipients and all other volunteers who were able to attend the awards ceremony, adding that the Board appreciated all the efforts of every volunteer. He also recognized the Board, who are volunteers appointed by the Governor, and thanked them for their service. Chairman Bell expressed his support and belief in the faith based programs offered throughout the Texas criminal justice system.

At 12:17 p.m., Chairman Bell adjourned the 142nd Meeting of the Board until 2:30 p.m. Chairman Bell reconvened the meeting into regular session at 2:44 p.m.

Chairman Bell recognized Mr. Kyle Mitchell, Office of the Governor and thanked him for attending the Board meeting.

Chairman Bell stated that the Board is committed to providing the opportunity for public presentations on topics posted on the meeting agenda as well as public comments on topics within its jurisdiction 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. For this meeting no speaker registration cards were received by Board staff prior to the required deadline. However, one advanced registration card had been received for the Public Comment section on the agenda.

**Recognitions**

Mr. Livingston recognized Robert Bray, Director of Information Technology, for serving 25 years with the State of Texas and presented Mr. Bray with the 25 Year Service Award.

Stuart Jenkins, Director of the Parole Division, recognized Ivey Anderson York as the Regional Director in the Tyler area.
Chairman Bell recognized the TDCJ employees who have achieved 25, 30 and 35 or more years of service with the State of Texas during the months of February and March 2009. The Board, along with Mr. Livingston, expressed their deepest gratitude for the continued service of these employees who represent the commitment of the Agency’s staff. To each of these employees, the Board offered congratulations and thanks for their unwavering loyalty and dedication to the citizens of Texas. As a symbol of appreciation, these individuals will receive a board certificate along with a personal letter of gratitude.

Chairman Bell introduced a special guest, Carmen Villanueva-Hiles, who has been appointed to the Board by Governor Perry. Chairman Bell welcomed Ms. Hiles, who will be replacing Greg Coleman following the Senate confirmation process.

**Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Consent Items**

Chairman Bell stated that the proposed Consent Items were printed in the agenda packet. He inquired if there were any questions or amendments to these items as presented. Seeing none, the Consent Items posted for this meeting stand approved.

1. **Hazardous Duty Pay Authorization Requests**
2. **Personal Property Donations**
3. **Sale or Disposal of Surplus Agricultural Goods and Agricultural Personal Property**
4. **141st TBCJ Meeting Minutes**
5. **Excused Absences**

**Report from the Presiding Officer, Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles (BPP)**

Rissie Owens, Presiding Officer of the BPP, had no report.

**Report from the Chairman, Judicial Advisory Council (JAC)**

Judge Larry Gist, Chairman of the JAC, had no report.

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

Mr. Livingston provided an update on the 81st Legislative Session. He advised the Board that the full Senate had acted on the Appropriations Bill earlier in the week. The House Appropriations Committee had finished its markup work and its budgetary decisions. Staff anticipated that the House would act the week following the Board meeting. Later in April and early May, the House and Senate will have a conference committee to resolve the differences between the House and Senate versions of the budget.

Mr. Livingston noted, with respect to other legislation, it was too early to project the outcome. In terms of the 20% pay package for the front line correctional staff and parole staff, the Senate approved a 10% pay increase while the House approved a 5% pay increase. Mr. Livingston has been engaged in an ongoing dialogue with all key players with respect to this proposal. He noted that the legislators and their staff have been working diligently on this issue. Mr. Livingston assured the Board that he and his staff would continue to work with the legislators for the best possible pay package particularly when the conferees meet to make a final decision.

The House and Senate only funded $80 million of the $100 million requested for repair funding for TDCJ facilities. Mr. Livingston was optimistic that this item could be reconsidered for a higher amount. In December, the Agency received ownership of the Marlin Veterans Administration facility; both the House and the Senate have approved the funds to renovate the facility for the delivery of health care within the TDCJ system.

The security equipment funding request was approximately $66 million; the House Appropriations Committee and Senate Finance Committee requested that TDCJ provide a targeted version of that package, which amounted to roughly $15.5 million. The Senate Finance Committee did not provide funding for this request. Mr. Livingston stated it was his understanding that the Senate Finance Committee intends to provide funding for the security equipment in a supplemental appropriations bill. He advised that there seems to be a significant amount of support for the $15.5 million version of security equipment. The House did approve the $15.5 million request in its appropriations mark-up decisions.

Mr. Livingston stated that the Senate approved the continued funding of the Substance Abuse Felony Prison/Intermediate Sanction Facilities (SAFP/ISF) diversion programs; the House placed the item in Article XI, which is a prioritization list of...
Mr. Livingston stated that many of the other items were partially funded or in Article XI. With respect to fleet vehicles, the Senate Finance Committee funded $10 million of the request above the base bill; the House Appropriations Committee funded $20 million. He noted that the infusion of vehicle capital was above what is typical. Due to the stimulus money, the House focused on one-time capital purchase items.

Mr. Livingston advised that the Agency’s biggest piece of unfinished business in budget matters is the continued funding and supplemental increases requested by the Correctional Managed Health Care Committee (CMHCC). TDCJ and CMHCC staff are working with various House and Senate Committees. The Senate Finance Committee funded roughly $87 million; the House Appropriations Committee approved the capital funding of $6 million and placed the rest of the funding in Article XI. Mr. Livingston assured the Board that at this point in the session, it was a common occurrence that unfunded items be brought forward for funding later in the session. He noted that relative to the state’s economy and the big picture budget decisions, it has been a tight session. Mr. Livingston expressed his confidence that the Agency will receive the necessary funding for the biennium.

Report from the Executive Director, Correctional Managed Health Care Committee (CMHCC)

Mr. Allen Hightower, Executive Director of CMHCC, conveyed Dr. Griffins’ appreciation for the Board’s attendance at the CMHCC meetings. He praised Dr. Lanette Linthicum for her expert testimony before the legislative committees, in addition to being the foremost leader in the field of correctional managed health care.

Mr. Hightower noted that there was a slight decrease in the number of offenders served by the correctional health care program. While the overall growth was slightly lower, the number of offenders age 55+ has continued to increase. This population is having a significant impact on the economic resources of the program. The HIV+ population, which is 1.6% of the population served, has remained stable over the past two years and remained so through January 2009. However, the medications for the HIV+ population are 48% of the total pharmacy budget. The two mental health caseload measures have also remained stable. Mr. Hightower noted that the inpatient caseload is limited by the number of available inpatients beds in the system. Through January 2009, the average number of mental health outpatients was 12.4% of the service population.

Mr. Hightower reviewed the health care costs. The health care partners reported expenditure shortfalls. Overall health costs through January 2009 totaled $201.7 million. This amount was above overall revenues earned by the university providers by $1,616,661 or 0.8%. Mr. Hightower explained the following breakdown of $201.7 million in expenses: onsite services represents 50%, pharmacy services represents 10.3%, offsite services accounts for 27.2% and mental health services represents 9.5% of the total costs. The total cost per offender per day for all health care services statewide through January of FY 2009 was $8.74. The average cost per offender per day for the prior four fiscal years was $7.86.

Mr. Hightower stated that CMHCC’s administrative staff monitor and test detailed transaction level data from both providers on a daily basis to verify reasonableness, accuracy and compliance with policies, procedures and contractual requirements.

Chairman Bell thanked Mr. Hightower for his report and requested that he convey the Board’s best wishes to Dr. Griffin and the CMHCC members. Chairman Bell asked why a four-year average was used to compute the cost per day per offender. Mr. Hightower responded that a baseline was needed and two bienniums or four years seemed reasonable.

Leo Vasquez inquired about the status of the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) John Sealy Hospital since Hurricane Ike has affected the Agency’s health care delivery system. Mr. Hightower responded that the Agency depends on the services of John Sealy Hospital, which supports the prison hospital in many ways such as food services, imaging, dialysis and record keeping. He noted that 70-72 patient beds are back online at Hospital Galveston. The 108 acute beds are contracted throughout the state as needed. Mr. Hightower explained that while TDCJ and CMHCC are funded under Article VII, UTMB funds would probably be channeled through Article V of the Appropriations Bill. Mr. Vasquez asked if Hospital Galveston’s 208 or so prison beds could be used as an argument to help revamp John Sealy Hospital. Mr. Hightower explained that the Agency is one of UTMB’s largest and best paying clients. He further explained that most legislators recognize UTMB’s Medical School’s numerous benefits beyond the financial ones from the partnership with TDCJ.

Mr. Hightower reported that communication among TDCJ staff and the CMHCC staff occurs on a daily basis culminating in a weekly conference call with representation from the various departments. Chairman Bell noted that at the request of Mr.
Nelson, Dr. Linthicum now prepares a monthly report concerning this area. This report will be distributed to the Health Care Committee members for informational purposes.

Terrell McCombs noted with respect to the cost per day per offender statistics being below the national average for increasing health costs, the CMHCC average is only one or two percent lower. He expressed concern that the escalating health care costs would become unsustainable in the near future. Chairman Bell voiced his concurrence with Mr. McCombs and stated that with the Board’s vigilance combined with the astute abilities of executive staff, costs would be managed. Chairman Bell noted that he did not want to see Texas end up in the same situation as California, which cannot provide health care for 55,000 offenders, who subsequently will be released. Chairman Bell stated that with the help of CMHCC and Agency staff, Texas could remain a step ahead. He thanked the CMHCC and its staff for their diligence and hard work. He also tendered the Board’s appreciation and gratitude to the executive staff and their leadership in monitoring the budget.

**Report from the Chairman, Advisory Committee on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (ACOOMMI)**

John Bradley, Chairman of ACOOMMI, had no report.

**Report from the Chairman, TBCJ**

1. **Recognition of May as Mental Health Month and Related Activities**

Chairman Bell recognized May as Mental Health Month. He stated that Agency employees would receive more information on mental well being, for example stress reduction, health habits for physical and mental well being, etc. Additionally, more mental health information will be included in pre-service and in-service training for Agency staff. With regard to offenders, the Agency will continue its focus on mental health issues. Staff need to remain aware that 18-20% of the offender population are former or current clients of the public mental health system. Chairman Bell has tasked the Director of the Texas Correctional Office for Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI) to work with Agency divisions to develop additional specialized supervision and treatment programs for the offenders identified by TCOOMMI as needing treatment. He attributed the lower three year recidivism rate of 15.4% to staff involvement with the offenders’ treatment in this area. Chairman Bell stated that TCOOMMI also would be working on an annual award to recognize employees who play a significant role in the mental health area.

2. **Acknowledgement of Outstanding Performance**

Chairman Bell verbally recognized Investigator Louis Fawcett, Office of the Inspector General, for his assistance to the Federal Bureau of Investigations – Dallas Division on the Dallas Scarecrow Bandits investigation; and Correctional Officer Robert Collins, Stiles Unit, for his willingness to do the right thing after witnessing and reporting that a fellow officer brought contraband on to the unit. He also recognized the Beto Unit dog tracking team for successfully aiding law enforcement in pursuit of an individual who was in violation of felony probation warrants. Chairman Bell noted that these individuals represent the mission and goals of the Agency. Agency staff are meeting the challenges of working in a criminal justice system and having the courage to do the right thing. Chairman Bell also spoke of the ability to learn from others outside the Agency.

3. **Texas Round-Up**

Chairman Bell stated that this year the Agency had 11,462 employees participate in Texas Round-Up with 10,120 employees completing the full six-week program. Last year, 8,935 employees participated with 8,100 completing the program. He congratulated those employees as well as the Board members who participated in the program.

4. **Board Member Tour Initiative**

Chairman Bell thanked the Board for their work over the past ten months. The Board has visited initially 73 correctional institutions with 21 multiple visits. The Board has toured ten community supervision and corrections departments (CSCDs) and six parole offices. Chairman Bell noted that the remaining facilities would be visited by the Board in the future.
Raymond Pyeatt, Director for the Internal Audit Division, provided a status update for FY 2008 and FY 2009. The following are highlights of Mr. Pyeatt’s report:

**FY 2008**

- **0804 – Rehabilitation and Reentry Programs Division, Rehabilitation Tier Tracking and Placement, Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative:** The final report was forwarded to the Chief of Staff on March 24th.
- **0806 – Correctional Institutions Division, Warehouse/Armory:** The final report was released on March 16th.
- **0807 – Business and Finance Division, Parole Division, Supervision and Restitution Fees:** The audit remains in fieldwork. The draft report will begin within a week.

**FY 2009**

- **0901 – Correctional Institutions Division, Unit Entry Procedures:** The draft report was released on March 20, 2009. Staff responses are pending.
- **0903 – Facilities Division, Maintenance:** The audit is in fieldwork.
- **0904 – Victim Services Division, Victim Notification System / Victim Information and Notification Everyday:** The draft report was released on April 1st. An exit conference is scheduled for April 9th.
- **0906 – Human Resources Division, Application Processing:** The draft report should be released in the following week.
- **0907 – Business and Finance Division, Contracts and Procurement Department:** The draft report should be released April 15th. The issues brought forward by the State Auditor’s Office are resolved.
- **0908 – Health Services Division, Office of Mental Health Monitoring and Liaison:** The audit is in fieldwork and has been combined with Audit 0909. An exit conference is scheduled for April 9th.
- **0909 – Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments, Continuity of Care:** This audit has been combined with Audit 0909.
- **0910 – Parole Division, Case Tracking and Analysis:** The audit is in control assessment and continues on schedule.
- **0912 – Administrative Review and Risk Management Division, Operational Review:** The audit was assigned March 9th and is in the background phase.
- **0913 – Manufacturing and Logistics Division, Texas Correctional Industries, Graphics Division:** The assignment of the audit has been delayed until the completion of Audit 0807.
- **0915 – Correctional Institutions Division, Offender Transportation:** The audit is more complex than originally planned and will require about a month’s extension to the schedule.
- **0916 – Business and Finance Division, Facility Based Budget Program:** The audit was assigned on March 9th and is in the background phase.
- **0919 – Parole Division, Client Supervision:** The draft report is being prepared.
- **0920 – Correctional Institutions Division (CID), State Ready Section:** The proposed final report was issued on March 5th. The Director of CID received the final report on April 1st.
- **0922 – Manufacturing and Logistics Division, Freight Transportation:** The audit was assigned on March 9 and is in the background phase.
- **0924 – Correctional Institutions Division, Correctional Officer Retention:** A final exit conference is scheduled with the Executive Director for April 8th.

**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. The following four items were increases to the current year purchases already in place. Item one is a commissary item in the category of chips with 10% price variance; item two is metal aluminum coils for use in the TCI industries; item three is modular panel systems for use by the Agency as furniture and may be sold in modular systems to other governmental entities; and item four is cloth blend Greige sheeting for use by TCI in the production of sheets, pillows and so forth.

Mr. Mechler asked what was driving the escalating costs of the last three items. Mr. McGinty responded that items two and three were due to increased sales. In the case of item four, the production of items using the sheeting has increased. Ms. Lord inquired how much the Agency was making by selling $10 million of potato chips each year. Mr. McGinty responded that commissary items have a mark-up of approximately 30%, noting that the idea is not to overburden the offenders for profits, which are used to operate the commissary system. Mr. Mechler requested that Mr. McGinty explain how the profits also
benefit the offenders. Mr. McGinty responded that as an example, Windham School District (WSD) uses some of the profits for the offender education component, such as the radio/television program and libraries. Chairman Bell thanked Mr. McGinty for his vigilance in receiving the Board’s approval concerning previously approved purchases and contracts. Mr. McCombs inquired about the increase to item four. Mr. McGinty responded the contract’s increase is based on the demand for the products made from this item and not on an increase in offender population.

Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Proposed Land Transactions

1. Water Line and Injection Site Easement on the Smith Unit in Dawson County, Lamesa, Texas

C.F. Hazlewood, Director of Agribusiness, Land and Minerals, stated that Fasken Oil and Ranch has a surface easement on the Smith Unit in Dawson County.

2. Ground Lease of 25± Acres on the Clemens Unit in Brazoria County, Brazoria, Texas

Mr. Hazlewood stated that the ground lease of 25 acres, more or less, on the Clemens Unit in Brazoria, Texas was reviewed and discussed earlier in the day during the meeting of the Business and Financial Operations Committee. The surface lease was requested by the Williams Brothers Construction Company for three years at a cost of $31,795 per year.

Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding a Facilities Division Construction Project to Repair and Replace Roofs on Multiple Buildings on the Mountain View Unit in Coryell County, Gatesville, Texas

Frank Inmon, Director of Facilities, stated that earlier in the day at the meeting of the Business and Financial Operations Committee, the project to repair and replace roofs on multiple buildings on the Mountain View Unit was reviewed and discussed. He noted that the total project amount was $1,015,200.

Public Comments

Chairman Bell noted that for public comments regarding issues within the jurisdiction of the Board but not posted on the agenda, there was one advance registration. Chairman Bell reviewed the criteria for individuals providing public comment. Presenters were advised each speaker had three minutes for comments.

Chairman Bell called upon Lynn Furay. Neither hearing nor seeing a response, he asked if Ms. Furay was present. Chairman Bell waited a period of time before announcing that the comment period was closed.

Chairman Bell thanked everyone who attended the meeting and reminded them that the next meeting of the Board would be June 18-19, 2009, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Austin.

There being no further business after the conclusion of the executive session, Chairman Bell adjourned the 142nd meeting of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice at 4:30 p.m.