

**Corrections Foundation**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
Friday, October 26, 2007  
10:00 a.m.

**Attendees:**

Mr. Louie L. Wainwright, President  
Mr. Tom Rush, Vice President  
Ms. Betty Bennett, Development Committee Chair  
Mr. Dave Mecusker, Treasurer  
Mr. Jim Williams, Finance and Membership Committees Chair  
Ms. Rosa McNaughton  
Col. Butch Redding  
Mr. Jason Clinger  
Mr. Dick Pearce

**Absent:**

Mr. Robert Woody

**Staff:**

Mr. Chris Akins  
Corrections  
Ms. Sheri Logue  
Mr. Nick Dawkins

**Guests:**

Dr. Laura Bedard, Deputy Secretary FL Dept.of  
Corrections  
Ms. Regina Blackstock, Historic Preservation Committee

President Louie Wainwright called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Jim Williams gave the invocation. Mr. Wainwright welcomed everyone and introduced our newest board members, Dick Pearce, Orlando Probation and Parole and Jason Clinger, Central Florida Reception Center both from Orlando and Col. Butch Redding from Starke, FL. Col. Redding is retired from the National Guard, has been Base Commander at Camp Blanding and has served in Afghanistan in service to our country. Mr. Wainwright thanked our newest members for their service to the Foundation as we look forward to the impact they will make as board members. Vice President, Tom Rush took attendance and a quorum was established.

Mr. Wainwright welcomed Dr. Laura Bedard, Deputy Secretary for the Florida Department of Corrections and Ms. Regina Blackstock, Historic Preservation Committee Member to discuss the Department's Historic Preservation Project. The project began a year ago with a goal of preserving the great history of Corrections. Their project has involved a timeline on the DC website spanning from 1821 to today and the design of wallpaper panels that will be sold to line the hallways of Central Office showing the history of Corrections in Florida. Each panel will be available for a donation of \$135 to the Corrections Foundation. Cross City Correctional Institution is preparing wooden display frames that will house the wallpaper timelines.

Another project of the Historic Preservation Team is the creation of posters highlighting career criminal cases and other interesting facts and trends in corrections.

Dr. Bedard asked the Board to consider waiving our 10% administrative fee on this project. The board complimented DC staff on a very professional presentation and project. Mr. Wainwright asked the Board to consider waiving the administrative fee for one year. Mr. Williams made a motion to waive our administrative fee for this time period, seconded by Mr. Rush and passed unanimously.

The board was asked to vote upon the 6/25/07 board minutes that were previously provided for review. Motion made by Mr. Rush and seconded by Mr. Mecusker to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mecusker gave the financial report and noted while we are in sound financial shape, increasing operating funds are of importance. We are depending on the sale of specialty tags to be a big success to help support our operations. Other avenues must be explored to secure the longevity of the Foundation.

Mr. Mecusker reviewed the current budget, July 07 to date and noted that though we have spent more money than has been raised this year there is no cause for concern because funds will be coming in. The Farm-worker Housing project has been renewed and will bring in approximately \$15,000 for administration and the specialty license plates will begin selling soon. Mr. Mecusker also reviewed the balances for restricted, program related funds and unrestricted, operating funds noting that our reserve in our money market, \$200,000 and CD account, \$100,000, is money from membership for the Employee Assistance Program. These accounts earn between 4.5 and 5% interest each year.

Mr. Mecusker presented the 2006 Audit Report – Financial Statements for board approval. The report had been provided to the board members for prior review. Discussion ensued about the thoroughness of this year's audit and the findings and recommendations of the audit. Tighter internal controls have been put in place based on the recommendations of the auditors and a policy is now in place to divide administrative duties among the staff to ensure the proper checks and balances. While the auditor's letter made some recommendations it also acknowledged that Foundation staff is doing a fine job for the number of employees we have and acknowledged that internal control is often difficult to delegate when an organization is as small as we are. Mr. Williams noted that the letter from the auditors was positive. It was asked whether we pay for the audit or whether it was a donated service. We pay \$6,000 for the independent audit by James Moore and Co. Last year we requested bids from other companies to see if we could bring our costs down and the lowest bid we received was for \$5,500 so we decided not to change auditors to save such a small amount. Mr. Wainwright made a motion to accept the audit report, seconded by Mr. Williams. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jim Williams led the finance committee discussion regarding operating fund shortfalls for this fiscal year. He noted that the organization has done excellent with limited resources but we must look for new opportunities. The part-time staff has done an amazing job running the Foundation and balancing our budget but as we grow we must think long-term.

He recommended soliciting the top 100 corporations in America of which Sheri has a list and has established a database. He suggested that we send them a DVD about the Foundation and a letter from Mr. Wainwright asking them to support us as we support those that serve their communities.

The License plate will be a large fundraiser after the initial loan of \$75,000 is paid back. DC employees are very anxious to begin purchasing the tag. We can't rely on the tag alone to support operations but it is a great first step. Mr. Wainwright's leadership has brought us to where we are but we must plan for the future. With sufficient fundraising and successful tag sales the part-time staff could become permanent.

Dr. Valentine, Grants Director with the Florida Department of Corrections and Chris Akins recently made a trip to Washington, D.C. to talk with Federal lawmakers about funding available to us. There is money out there and we haven't had the resources to write proposals in the past but now the Dept. has a Grants section that can be a great resource to us.

Mr. Akins reported on his recent trip to Washington, DC. He described the welcome they received as cautiously receptive. The federal contacts seemed to wonder why a state entity was in DC asking for federal earmarks when their state government did not fund the programs. However the inclusion of the Foundation in the presentation was a good one and it was recommended that funding flow through the Foundation instead of a direct earmark to the Department. Mr. Akins and Dr. Valentine presented the statistics on faith based and programs that decrease recidivism among offenders. Wakulla CI and Lawtey CI results, though the programs are in their youth, are very impressive. The presentation included a Washington State report, which is similar to Florida's OPAGGA report that linked a positive cost benefit to providing offender programs. The evidence is on our side that if funds were spent on programs recidivism would decrease. The Department of Corrections is taking proactive steps but state funding has been cut by \$69 million. This cut has specifically impacted substance abuse programs.

During their trip they requested a \$1.5 million earmark to initiate the National Homebuilders Training program within DC. In this program offenders would receive formal training prior to release so that they will have marketable skills to work in the homebuilding industry upon release. Mr. Akins suggested that it would be helpful if more people with influence, such as Mr. Williams and Mr. Wainwright would contact our federal lawmakers to request support for this earmark.

Mr. Williams noted that when he served on the Governor's Task Force for Offender reentry they determined that there is a 65% recidivism rate. There is now a federal requirement that offenders have a GED and get a job when they are released. He described an effort with the Pinellas Sheriff's Department has a very successful program with female offenders that could be modeled.

Mr. Williams noted that this area is an untapped resource. More than 20,000 under the age of 24 get out of the institution system annually and they need jobs. Apprenticeship program with the homebuilders association would be a great partnership as they are the largest organization in the world. He recently met with the Sheriff in Jacksonville and they are contemplating an apprenticeship program there. So there are programs that work and programs that can be modeled it is important to bring all the efforts together so that they have a large impact. We could be the catalyst that makes the partnership with the Homebuilders Association work.

Mr. Williams noted that Mr. Wainwright is a leader in getting inmates to work. Ms. McNaughton mentioned that AWI can find workers for employers and that there could be a partnership between DC and AWI for ex offenders. We could seek grants for ex-offenders and build a partnership that benefits both agencies and the Foundation.

Mr. Pearce mentioned a DC contract with a substance abuse company, Phoenix House, that has been successful in training men and women in construction skills through their 18-month drug treatment program. They build for Habitat for Humanity sites and are given tools at graduation so that they may begin a career in homebuilding upon release. Interesting data on how this impacted recidivism. There is 3 years worth of data we can access. This could be a good model for us.

Ms. Bennett asked if employers still get a tax credit for hiring offenders. This incentive was present in the 90's but now it's nonexistent.

Civil rights being restored will be a big boost and provide opportunity for ex-offenders. Institutions have good programs but they need to be coupled with the Homebuilders Association so that the skills being taught are useful upon release. We can be the catalyst to combine their efforts with the Florida Homebuilders Association.

Ms. Bennett asked if there is a list of programs that the Department offers offenders by site. Mr. Akins noted that he has this information and will forward a list to the Board.

Mr. Akins noted that Sherree Keiler works with Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI), and that a group from the Dept. of Corrections, and Dept. of Juvenile Justice had been pulled together to talk about grant projects. Ms. McNaughton mentioned that Wyatt Pope is a contact at AWI who may be involved on this committee too.

Mr. Rush noted that the timing is good with employment of illegal immigrants being an issue for the country. Ex-offenders could fill this demand for labor. Mr. Williams mentioned that the 1<sup>st</sup> non-union apprenticeship program teaching 6 crafts was started in Jacksonville in 1971. The Florida Homebuilders key to success is training youth out of high school in these crafts. The employers pay for them to go to school. The Department could teach the basics of this apprenticeship program including math, safety and tools with minimum resources. Mr. Mecusker mentioned that Lawtey CI used to have a program that provided offenders tools upon completion of the program at release. The grant funding ended and the program has closed down but it could serve as a good template or example of success.

It was noted to let Dr. Valentine know about these projects that were successful in the past so that perhaps funding could be located so that they could be resurrected in the future.

Mr. Williams mentioned that we could speak to Senator Wise, Chairman of the Budget Committee, about funding programs. We could harness our efforts through the Homebuilders Association to get certification for offenders that they can use upon release. Ms. McNaughton mentioned that Senator Wise serves on the AWI workforce board.

Mr. John Hattery was one of the people Mr. Akins and Dr. Valentine spoke to in Washington, D.C. and he seemed sold on the idea of offering programs to reduce recidivism but it is believed he will need to hear from others with influence for the request for an earmark to gain importance. Mr. Akins noted that we would not be locked into fiscal year constraints if we receive Federal funding as would a government entity. However as a recipient of Federal funds we would be subject to an independent audit and quarterly reports. This administrative function would be where the Foundation would earn its 10% administrative fee. We have an opportunity because some resources and grants can only flow through a non-profit organization.

Ms. Bennett inquired as to whether or not DC was interested in pursuing a partnership with the Homebuilders Association and Ms. McNaughton mentioned that DC has been reaching out for years to make this partnership with the Homebuilders Association happen.

Mr. Mecusker confirmed that there is an under utilization of offenders for labor. Ms. Bennett echoed his thoughts that we need to find a way to get them to work so that they may lead productive lives upon release. She suggested that we solicit corporations such as tool manufacturers and construction companies to help fund these programs. They may be open to assisting us in training future employees. Mr. Williams mentioned that everyone is doing their own thing but that the efforts need to be combined to have the greatest impact. We need to make the marriage between the requirements of builders and the training offenders receive from DC. Certification from DC needs to be useful in the real world. The potential of success with the Homebuilders Association is unlimited and we need to harness the opportunities out there. The next step will be for us to contact the Homebuilders Association to make a marriage of DC programs and their needs. Ms. Logue mentioned that the Homebuilders Association sponsored

our golf tournament last year and that she would check to see if we have a high level contact that we could ask about what our next steps should be.

Mr. Akins noted that the Bureau of program has new leadership. Mr. Blake Heidelberg is the new Bureau Chief of Program and Chris will schedule a time to speak to him about opportunities. In the early 2000's the Foundation and DC partnership was thriving; the Program department was involved and interested in securing grants to benefit DC through CF. Now we are struggling to re-establish this partnership and move forward to secure funding to enhance programming and ultimately reduce recidivism.

Our relationship with the Grants Department is very good and 3 grants have been submitted. We are looking at many funding sources and are hopeful we will have success soon. Chris will continue working with Dr. Valentine to prioritize the Department's needs. Currently the areas of interest they have noted include domestic violence, substance abuse, program training, education and vocational programs.

### **Membership**

Mr. Wainwright suggested that we compile materials including the Helping Hands brochure, statistics of how DC assists in every community in Florida and ask each county to become a Platinum member of the Foundation. Mr. Williams noted that the Department has a lot of data they can blow their horn about in order to get the economic impact in communities noticed. Mr. Redding suggested that the data on payroll and employee benefits for each county be included in our letter too to show the huge impact DC makes in local communities across Florida.

Mr. Wainwright noted that he would talk to the Secretary to ensure that he has no objections then we will meet with each County manager to ask them to become platinum members of the Foundation. He will also ask if DC staff in each county could assist us in establishing these meetings.

Mr. Rush noted that cities and counties do not have the best of relationship right now due to limited tax dollars and that he would ask the Florida Association of Counties where the best person to ask for funding would be in the current political climate.

Mr. Williams made a motion to proceed with this membership project, seconded by Mr. Mecusker. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Specialty License Plate**

Mr. Wainwright offered the history of the license plate project noting that it began more than a year ago and required a lot of work and coordination with the Dept. of Highway and Motor vehicles and the completion of a 17 page application and an independent survey of the citizens of Florida to determine if there was enough interest in the tag to proceed.

Mr. Wainwright described the details of the process and cost associated with the project. Through the efforts of the board we secured a \$75,000 loan from the bank, to date \$60,000 has been expended for the application fee to DMV and \$12,000 was expended for the independent survey. Marketing the proposal was donated by retired DC employees, Andres Santana, Mike and Jennifer Traugott and Jerry Vaughn of Wainwright Judicial Services were instrumental in seeing this project to fruition. The Department of Motor Vehicles was very helpful throughout the process as well.

Mr. Wainwright noted that we had not paid any of the parties who assisted us with securing the tag and that expenses had been less than we originally expected. He asked if the board would consider paying each of these two parties, Mike and Jennifer Traugott and Andres Santana \$5,000 as appreciation for their services. The work they did for us was projected to have cost us \$14,000.

Mr. Williams made a motion to wait until we collect funding from tag sales to recognize these individuals. Seconded by .... Approved by the board. Ms. Logue will contact our accountant to ensure it is acceptable to give a gratuity of this size to a volunteer. We may need an invoice for their services.

Ms. Bennett asked how the funds from the license plate sales will be used and if any funds would be available for operating expenses? Mr. Akins presented our goals of how funds may be utilized once the initial \$75,000 loan has been satisfied. Possibilities include but are not limited to the following:

1. Administrative Fee –	15%
2. Disaster Relief –	10%
3. Scholarship for children/dependents of DC officers/employees killed or injured in the line of duty –	5%
4. <u>Employee Assistance Program –</u>	<u>70%</u>
Total	100%

Mr. Akins mentioning that the plate will be available for purchase on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Pearce asked if we had planned a big kick off to promote the license plate. The board members discussed ideas for promotion including a full-page newspaper ad in the Bradford County Telegraph targeting an 8 county region of Florida. One idea is for the article will focus on an officer and message that “He protects you, this is how you can support him”. Many of our officers live in this area and they are very supportive of the Foundation in this area of the state as well. Other ideas include placing an insert “statement stuffer” in the DMV’s reminder notices that go out to Florida residents a few months before their tag renewal is due. We would like to focus on areas where we have a consolidation of DC employees. We will also promote the tag statewide through the Correctional Compass. The tag information is on the DC homepage and we have asked that it be included on the DC internal website as well.

We will issue a statewide press release with assistance of DC public relations department and connect our site with FCCD and promote tag through FCCD functions and chapter meetings. Mr. Rush asked if the leadership within DC understands the importance of promoting the tags. Mr. Wainwright confirmed that DC leadership is on board with the Corrections Foundation. Our priority is to make it widely know that the tag is available and make it easy to obtain.

It was recommended that we recognize our legislative sponsors of the tag bill by giving them a sample tag on a plaque to thank them for their service. Our sponsors included Representative Alan Hays and Senator Carey Baker.

Other ideas for promotion included having trinkets made by Union CI such as a tag on a key chain as promotional item. We will also place posters in the control room at institutions so that all staff may see that the tag is available. It was mentioned that the Secretary or Mr. Wainwright should be the first to buy a tag on the 9<sup>th</sup> and that we should do a large press release about the first tag to sell in each county.

Mr. Wainwright noted that the tag has a more important purpose than to raise money for the Foundation. Its purpose is to raise the level of recognition of Corrections to that of others in the criminal justice system. Two years from now when we've sold 20,000 tags it will be a great testimony to the support of DC and have a great impact on the community and legislative recognition of what Corrections does for Florida. It is our duty to build the image of the corrections field as a noble and honorable profession. We want Floridians to visualize our staff and the services they do, not just the institutions in which they work. DC staff are first responders in every community in addition to maintaining control of our Department responsibilities.

## **Program Report**

### **Employee Assistance Program**

To date in FY 07-08 the Corrections Foundation has assisted 115 DC employees and disbursed more than \$142,500 in financial assistance. We are experiencing an increase in requests for assistance when compared to last year when we assisted 290 employees with \$346,340.

We currently assist employees who are also members with an amount of \$1,500 for critical illness, death preceded by illness, and accidents with injuries. We provide \$500 to members to travel out of state for a family emergency, or a house fire, flood, etc.

For non-members assistance is available in the amount of \$250 for the above situations.

Since the program inception in 1999, more than two million dollars has been distributed to assist DC employees in need.

### **Farmworker Housing Project**

We are involved in another project with Everglades Community Association to provide 130 beds and 28 tables for their Florida City Project. The vocational shop at Hardee CI is producing 8 beds and tables each day which puts us ahead of schedule for completion of this project. Everglades Community Association has been very pleased and we are hopeful this will build a lasting partnership with them and DC for years to come.

This project will net \$15,000 in revenue for the Corrections Foundation after expenses. Projected completion date of this project is June 2008.

### **Troop Recognition Project**

Currently 85 DC employees are actively deployed defending freedom in Iraq and around the world.

### **Foundation Video and DC Apparel**

DC employees Les Dumas and Charles Lockwood are working on our new video that includes testimony from our members and a clip from Mr. Wainwright. We should have the new video by the end of the year. DC apparel is selling well and we have raised \$1,625 to date. We currently offer DC polo shirts, padfolios, CF shirts, hats and bags.

### **Golf Tournament**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament was held yesterday at SouthWood Golf Club in Tallahassee. The event was a huge success with many commenting on the quality of the tournament being the "best they had ever attended." The revenue after expenses for the tournament was approximately \$6,700 and ProTech Monitoring was our event sponsor.

Mr. Clinger and Mr. Pearce will serve as our Golf Committee to plan and execute the Spring tournament scheduled for the Orlando area. They plan to focus on sponsors from region 3 and 4 and ask the Orlando vendors to take a very active role in sponsoring the tournament. They will seek a course and let the board know of the choices available to us.

### **Flags for Freedom Project**

Sheri asked the board to authorize our sending Wal-Mart cards to the families of DC employees who are deployed instead of sending Visa cards as we did last year. Many of the Visa cards were difficult to use and there are numerous places that do not take gift cards. Mr. Mecusker made a motion to send Wal-Mart cards, seconded by Mr. Rush and unanimously passed.

It was recommended that we place an article in the Compass to encourage participation in the Flags for Freedom fundraiser.

With there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

- Respectfully submitted by Sheri Logue