

Corrections Foundation
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, April 22, 2008
Tallahassee, FL – Hilton Garden Inn
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
Ms. Mary Ellen Dayan
Col. Butch Redding
Mr. Jason Clinger
Mr. Dick Pearce
Mr. Robert Woody

Staff:

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

President Louie Wainwright called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Jim Williams gave the invocation. Vice President, Tom Rush took attendance and a quorum was established. Mr. Wainwright noted that Secretary McNeil had planned on attending our meeting today however he was called to the Legislature. With the proposed budget cuts we understand the importance of his presence at the Capital and hope to have him join us at a future meeting.

Mr. Williams was asked to report on a recent weekend at Gainesville Correctional Institution during which ESPN News and the Director of Sports of the University of Florida participated in preparation for a documentary to be aired on ESPN. Heisman trophy winner Tim Tebow was present and has become quite an evangelist for Christ. He spoke to the inmates at Gainesville CI and stayed for hours to greet Gainesville CI staff. There were 81 professions of faith this day and a lot was accomplished. Mr. Williams and Tim Tebow have a visit planned for Lawtey CI in May. As a special contribution to the Corrections Foundation, Tim donated a signed Heisman trophy ball. The ball is a limited edition, #957 of 1000 balls made and comes in a nice display case. Similar balls are worth \$1,000 or more and this ball has been donated for our upcoming golf tournament and silent auction.

The board was asked to vote upon the 2-9-08 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 that the budget is on track for the year. Membership funds are above average this year. These funds support our Employee Assistance Program and we are fortunate that funding for this program is solid. Word is getting out about the Foundation and the amount of assistance given to employees in need and employees are choosing to join at higher rates. It is good to see the Foundation supported by staff and that DC is putting emphasis on supporting us.

Specialty License Plate

Mr. Akins noted that we have sold 121 license plates to date with revenue totaling \$3,125. We need to sell 1,000 tags each year in order to keep the tag. Mr. Williams noted that we also need to sell 3,000 tags in order to pay off the loan secured for the administration fee charged by the state. Mr. Akins discussed the progress made on our marketing plan, which included a billboard in Starke. Crystal Summerlin of Crawfordville P&P and Waylon Hastons of Lawtey CI were generous enough to allow us to use their photos on the billboard. The billboard will be installed on April 24th. There is a large population of DC employees in the 3 county area surrounding Starke and this area should give us good exposure. The billboard will be displayed for 3 months. We are also seeking a location on I-10 in Region I for another billboard, possibly near Quincy so that travelers to and from Tallahassee will be able to view the tag. Mr. Williams made a motion to proceed with plans for a billboard in this area seconded by Col. Redding and approved by the Board.

Mr. Akins will contact Mr. Hicks at Union CI to have more sample tags made so that we can send a tag to each tax collectors office. Many of the tax offices do not have a sample on display. One concern shown by some field staff is that if they put a Corrections Foundation tag on their car that someone may possibly target them for vandalism. Though this could be a valid concern it hasn't stopped the Police Benevolent Association and other law enforcement entities from selling a record number of tags throughout the state. Also, it will take some time to educate the public to associate our tag with the Corrections profession.

Ms. Bennett reported that the Ford dealership in Starke, FL is excited to partner with us and has offered to give a discount to DC employees who purchase a vehicle from them and also make a donation to the Foundation for each purchase. She is awaiting a letter from the general manager to the board of directors so that we can consider this partnership. Ms. McNaughton noted that from a legal perspective this would be fine for Ford would be making a donation to the Corrections Foundation and not requiring anything from us in return.

Community Bank in Starke has been approached to consider sponsoring the billboard. Other businesses would be interested in sponsoring a local event in the Starke area. Ms. Bennett suggested that we consider a sporting clays tournament. She knows Pat and Patsy Welch who own

a shooting facility and they may be willing to allow us to host an event there. There is also a pistol range there so we could consider a clay shoot or a pistol match. Recently there was a 2008 Florida State Sporting Clay's Championship hosted by Bradford Sportsmen's Farm where the Kiwanis Club was a vendor and made money by selling breakfast and lunch to the participants. The community came out in full support with more than 300 in attendance. The Corrections Foundation could host a similar event. We would ensure it does not conflict with other local fundraising events.

We could notify staff of the event through the institutions and circuits and Buster Rahn would be willing to write an article in support. We could limit participation to a certain number of teams and offer door prizes and silent auction items from gun companies.

Mr. Mecusker recommended that Ms. Bennett pursue this opportunity and determine the specifics and report back to the board of directors at our next meeting. Ms. Logue agreed to check into insurance coverage for an event such as this.

Golf Tournament – May 9, 2008

Mr. Clinger reported that the Central Florida Golf tournament is coming along well. We have 2 ½ weeks left before the tournament in Winter Garden. Door prizes have been donated and raffle tickets are selling well. The banquet room is very large and the course is incredible at Orange County National Golf Center and we are looking forward to having a full field of golfers. The wardens and circuit administrators in Region III have been invited and Regional Director Abdul-Wasi will be in attendance. There is a hotel on the golf course grounds and has been secured for \$99 a night for any board member needing accommodations.

The board was thanked for each selling 20 raffle tickets and for securing door prizes and silent auction items. Mr. Akins noted that the raffle tickets ask for a birth month along with name and address so that we can incorporate purchasers of the tickets into our marketing for the specialty license plate. We can thank GraybaR Electric for sponsoring the raffle tickets with a donation of \$500.

Mr. Williams suggested that the Tim Tebow ball starting bid be no lower than \$150 and that the reserve price be \$500. It should be a great fundraiser for the Foundation and could be worth \$1,500. Ms. Dayan-Varnum suggested promoting the ball by word of mouth within the Department.

Computers for Florida's Kids Update

Mr. Williams reported on a recent meeting between him, Mr. Wainwright, Mr. Hatcher, Chief of OIT and Mr. Higginbotham, Vocational Teacher at Cross City CI. During this meeting it was agreed that Computers for Florida's Kids was a great asset to the community as well as offering many benefits to DC and the students who learn computer technology through the program. The program was closed in October 2006 due to unfounded security concerns. Mr. Hatcher was open to considering reestablishing the program yet he wanted to investigate why his predecessor canceled

the program. He had contacted Texas Department of Corrections who has operated a similar program for 10 years without any security issues. The Foundation's program had been in operation for 7 years, refurbished 7,000 computers and returned them to community programs throughout Florida and never experienced a breach in security. However, there were worries about what could happen so the program was ended despite our documentation of procedure to secure the program. It is hopeful that after the Legislative session we will be able to approach the Secretary about the program resuming after the Bureau Chief of Information Technology has time to investigate the security of the program.

Membership

Mr. Williams has presented at 10 of the institutions in Regions I and II to promote membership and the sale of license plates. Col. Redding and Betty Bennett have called each warden in Region II to encourage their support of the license plate sales and the current membership campaign. Their calls and visits have been well received and we have seen a large increase in membership from these regions.

Mr. Wainwright noted that the letter of support for our membership campaign from Secretary McNeil was strong and came at the right time for the officers in the field who welcome the involvement of our new Secretary. The license plate is being encouraged through the membership campaign as well.

A question was raised to whether retired employees could become members of the Foundation and receive benefits as current employees do such as through the Employee Assistance Program. Currently anyone can become a member but if they are not a current DC employee their membership is a supportive membership and does not come with benefits. It was mentioned that Martha Humphries, Warden at RMC coordinates the retirees in the Starke area about 3-4 times a year and that they would likely be very open to supporting the Foundation through continued membership. This would also be a good avenue to promote the specialty license plate. It was suggested that we create a retired employee membership form and look into whether or not the employee assistance program could be extended to retired DC employees.

The newest DVD for membership recruitment has been completed and mailed to every warden and circuit administrator in the state. Les Dumas and Charles Lockwood from Central Office Staff Development did an excellent job in creating a great recruitment tool for us. The video includes live testimony from two Hardee Correctional Institution employees who have received assistance from us in the last year. One suggestion from the field is that we remove the information about inmate programs from the video because this information does not encourage membership and leads to the need to explain that no membership dues are ever used for inmate programs.

Recently Mr. Wainwright, Mr. Rush and Sheri Logue had the pleasure of speaking to all Region I wardens in Vernon, FL. All of the wardens and Region I Regional Director Wendel Whitehurst were very receptive to our presentation although the concern about inmate programs being presented to frontline staff was a concern.

Ms. Dayan-Varnum announced that Mr. Whitehurst asked all wardens to accept the challenge from Region II institutions, who have raised their membership dramatically in the first month of the campaign. Region I, especially Madison CI, has been so successful due to taking the time to fill out a form for each employee and speak to each one to explain the Foundation and its impact on Corrections staff. They have done an excellent job promoting that the Foundation exists to serve Florida DC employees.

It was suggested that we consider changing the membership campaign to a later time in the year. Currently it runs at the same time as the Special Olympics Torch Run and the Relay for Life, both worthy endeavors that the Department is highly involved in. If we moved the campaign to May and June it would allow staff more time to focus on promoting the Corrections Foundation.

Mr. Williams asked if the Corrections Foundation could be added to the annual fundraiser for the United Way FSECC campaign. We were involved for a short time in 1999 and it has been suggested that we become involved again. Mr. Akins mentioned that the FSECC is operated through the Dept. of Management Services and not the United Way, although the two are sometimes confused. January is the time to apply to be a recipient and the only drawback he knew of was that we could not be a state affiliated agency and that DMS rules would apply to our becoming a recipient. Ms. McNaughton didn't foresee any reason we could not be a designee of FSECC funds but agreed to look into DMS rules to determine if we were far enough away from a state entity to qualify and report back to Mr. Akins.

Sheila Logue mentioned that another hurdle would be that we could not fundraise during the FSECC campaign that runs from Sept – October and wondered if this would conflict with our annual golf tournament.

Mr. Woody noted that 14% of funds raised would go back to the United Way as an administrative fee and that the high rate is one complaint state employees have expressed in the past. It was suggested that we mark the calendar for December to look into being included in the 2009 campaign.

Sheri Logue gave the program report which included the following updates on the Employee Assistance Program, Farmworker Housing Project, Ford Motor Company Project, Troop Recognition Project and DC Apparel Sales.

Employee Assistance Program

To date in FY 07-08 the Corrections Foundation has assisted 298 DC employees and disbursed more than \$325,000 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 \$2.5 million dollars has been distributed to assist DC employees in need.

Farmworker Housing Project

The project with Everglades Community Association (ECA) to provide 130 beds and 28 tables for their Florida City Project has concluded. The vocational shop at Hardee CI, under the direction of Vocational Teacher, Jonathan Winters, produced 8 beds and tables each day which put 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 generated \$14,000 in revenue for the Corrections Foundation after expenses.

Troop Recognition Project

Currently 85 DC employees are actively deployed defending freedom in Iraq and around the world. In recognition of their service the Foundation we plan on providing care packages in the summer and extending an honorary membership in the Corrections Foundation to each service member while they are deployed. We also plan to participate in a program to fly a flag in honor of each soldier over the state capital and mail a flag to each service member.

The Troop Project account currently has \$7,700 available.

Ford Motor Company

Ford Motor Company has recently conducted a review of the program at Homestead Correctional Institution and found that the program is operating below their expectations. They have made recommendations to DC about increasing student placement and graduation. We have recently received a donation of \$5,000 from FORD for the program. The Ford account currently has \$21,090.16 available.

DC Apparel Sales

To date we have sold 71 men's polo shirts, 55 women's polo shirts, 60 Flags for Freedom pins, 6 bags, 10 portfolios and 6 hats. These sales have generated \$3,600 in revenue.

Homebuilders Association Project

Mr. Williams asked for an update on the \$700,000 earmark Dr. Valentine, DC's Director of Grants and Mr. Akins had recently taken a trip to Washington, D.C. to pursue. Mr. Akins presented that a

request had been submitted by Alan Boyd on the Senate side and that \$2 million had been asked for and plans were to run these funds through the Corrections Foundation. However, whether or not this funding will be earmarked in the House of Representatives is yet to be seen. Mr. Williams noted that this is just the program that young people need and it is the key to the inmates successful reentry into society. The first year of training would include safety, tools and math.

Mr. Wainwright noted that he had provided the latest board minutes in which we discussed this topic to DC's Chief of Staff, Mr. Prudom and has met with him about the apprenticeship program. The one problem is that everyone is trying to do something but nothing is coordinated. We are going to let the Department take the lead and let us know if the Corrections Foundation is needed. This initiative has been placed under Ms. Tina Hayes and we will meet with her to brief her on the work that has been done to date. Ms. McNaughton mentioned that for the program to be successful the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of Institutions will need to support it. Rosa noted that the issue has to make it before the Secretary and Deputy Secretary and the message would need to come from the top down and to have institutional buy in to doing things differently. There was an attempt to refocus and put emphasis on programs under McDonough. A procedure to incorporate more programs was under development when Ms. McNaughton was DC's General Counsel.

Mr. Williams offered to speak to anyone who is in a position to make a decision. Mr. Wainwright suggested that it would be alright for 2-3 Corrections Foundation board members to be on a committee to make suggestions but we would let DC run the program.

Air Conditioning at Lawtey CI

Mr. Mecusker gave an update on the Lawtey CI Air Conditioning Project. The Foundation received funding in the amount of \$17,800 on 8/11/06 from the Diocese of St. Augustine in order to order and install the ac unit in the multi purpose building of the institution and even though all the materials have been ordered and all of the funds have been expended the ac units have not yet been installed. Mr. Mecusker asked for the board's help in finding out why there is a hold up and coordinating needed items with Central Office. Apparently the institution is awaiting blue prints from Central Office for the duct work and platform. Randy Brown, Bobby Thompson, Steve Grizzard and Roy Phelps from Facility Services in Central Office are involved. There is also a steel platform that needs to be picked up from Tomoka CI. Mr. Williams mentioned that there is a 6 month expiration on permits and suggested that Mr. Mecusker verify the permits are still valid before proceeding.

Sheila Logue will follow up with all parties and find out how we can help move this project along. We accepted and spent the money provided by the Diocese of St. Augustine and it should not take 2 years to have an ac unit installed. The volunteers from the church are in the institution providing services each week and they are well aware that the ac unit is not operational and it looks bad upon us as the fiduciary of funds for this not to be completed.

Ford Program

Chris Akins reported on the status of the Ford Program and the level of non cooperation the Foundation has received from Central Office's Program Office staff since our last board meeting. In February the Board discussed the status report from Ford and the reality that the program has been red flagged for deficiencies in several areas, one being student placement. Following the last board meeting Chris sent an email to Mac Crockett, II, Program Administrator in the Office of Programs and asked if he could meet with Mac and Eric Gaines, Bureau Chief of Programs, to discuss the Ford Program and how we might be able to help.

Just yesterday Mac Crockett responded with an email that demanded that the Foundation not discuss or be involved in the Ford program. They were then invited to attend our board meeting today and present upon the Ford program. They declined and we were once again told not to discuss Ford with the Board.

Ford Motor Company's representative is coming to Homestead CI in May to meet with Mac Crockett and the programs instructor, Bob Shane. We are concerned and a little taken back by the Program Office's recent responses and wonder why all of a sudden we are the "bad guy." The Ford Motor Company Program at Homestead could be great PR for the Department but it could easily be bad PR for them if it is canceled by Ford. We are trying to help but we are seen as a threat because we are bringing to light a program that has been failing and we want to see it succeed.

Mr. Wainwright attempted to contact Fran Barber before the meeting but she was unavailable. It was suggested by the board that we find the original contract and determine if our role is solely that of the fiduciary and/or if we have a role in making sure the program is successful. We all want the program to succeed; however, if we do not play a program role it will be the Department's responsibility to carry out and implement the program even though our Board is willing to help in any way we can. We also need to ask Ford Motor Company what they expect our role to be. Mr. Mecusker noted that even if we are only the fiduciary and seen as the "bank" we care about our reputation and want to be associated with a successful program. The Foundation and the vocational teacher are the only stable factors in this program due to staff turnover in Central Office's Office of Programs. Mr. Williams noted that we have the right to ask the questions about why the program has not placed more than one student in 6 years and we consider ourselves to be more than a "bank."

Ms. Dayan-Varnum agreed that we care about how we look and asked if we have the right to disassociate ourselves if the program does not show results. Mr. Akins commented that we could disassociate and send the funds back to Ford if the board agreed. Mr. Redding noted that it would be best to first try and work this out and let the Secretary know of this potential for embarrassment to the Department if Ford decides to close the program.

It was further recommended that we speak to the Secretary and let him know of our mission and vision and find out whether this is how he wants us to continue supporting the Department of

Corrections. The direction to cooperate with us will need to come from the top down in order for the Program Office to be cooperative and for the program to be operated correctly. It was noted that the vocational teacher for the Ford Program, Bob Shane, has done an excellent job with limited resources and that the lack of placement has not been due to his lack of effort. It was suggested that the program could be moved from Programs to Reentry in order to accomplish a more successful placement rating. Since 2002 to date only one student has been placed in the automotive field upon release.

It was suggested that the original contract be provided to Ms. McNaughton for review to make sure what we are assuming is correct. We are assuming that Ford Motor Company expects us to manage their money wisely. Ms. McNaughton, Mr. Mecusker and Mr. Akins were placed on a committee to discuss the Ford Program and report back to the Board.

Mr. Pearce made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Bennett. Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sheri Logue, June 28, 2008.