In Attendance:

- Judge John Ott, Judiciary Branch
- Rep. Alan Powell, Legislative Branch
- Steven Hatfield, Victims’ Representative
- Jenna James, Parole Representative (member)
- Mark Morris, Dept. of Corrections (member), attended via phone conference
- Chris Moore, Dept of Corrections, Commissioner
- Joe Kuebler, Parole (visitor)
- Miriam Dyson, Dept. of Corrections (visitor)

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by Chris Moore. A motion to approve minutes from the last meeting and the current agenda was made by Judge Ott and seconded by Rep. Powell. The motion passed without opposition. Steven Hatfield, Deputy Director, CJCC was introduced and welcomed as the newest member of the Council.

Chris Moore updated the Council on the 2013 ICAOS Annual Business Meeting held in Boston, MA August 27-28, 2013. This year the Commission voted on rule proposals. Chris Moore and Jenna James highlighted some of the newly adopted proposals and there was discussion.

Regarding the proposal that makes the transfer of veterans for medical or MH services a mandatory transfer, Judge Ott asked if the Commission will track the number of crimes committed by veterans who are allowed to transfer. It was pointed out that the Commission does collect data on cases that are transferred across state lines. Thomas Worthy asked for an approximation of how many additional offenders will come to GA because of this rule. Jenna James and Chris Moore pointed out that there will probably not be a significant increase in the number of offenders coming to GA because of this change. Discretionary transfer requests for veterans are rarely denied at this time.

Jenna James highlighted the rule change that will require the receiving state to grant reporting instructions to offenders who were extradited to the receiving state and subsequently released from custody. The receiving state would be required to assist
with obtaining signatures for the transfer application. This rule change affects parolees who are released to another state on a detainer.

Chris Moore and Jenna James discussed the adopted proposal that will delete the rule related to mandatory retaking for violent offenders and violent crimes. This rule currently requires the sending state to retake a violent offender after one (1) significant violation. This change will have a positive impact on the problems GA and other states have with retaking. This rule change will also delete “violent offender” from the list of definitions in the ICOTS rules and better supports the use of ‘best practices’. The proposal passed with significant support from a majority of the member states. GA played an instrumental role in the development of this rule proposal.

Chris Moore pointed out that at the end of FY 2013, GA ranked 7th behind FL, TX, CA, IL, TN, and NC in the total number of incoming offenders with 4663 offenders from other states in GA. GA ranked 2nd behind TX in the total number of outgoing offenders with 14,783 GA offenders located in other states. TX had 17,223 offenders in other states and FL had 13,725. PA was 4th with 8,164. GA’s outgoing to incoming ratio is slightly greater than 3:1.

GA is now in good standing with the Commission. The Corrective Action Plan that GA submitted last year is being used as a model by the Commission. GA received numerous compliments from other states for a job well done in rectifying many of the issues that had become problematic.

Chris Moore and Jenna James relayed to the Council that a National Standardized Automated Victim Notification System has been approved for implementation in ICOTS. Registered victims will have the option to receive email or phone voice messages. Some events that will trigger victim notification were offender transfers, violations and case closures, to name a few. Steven Hatfield asked how victims register. Chris Moore will find out and provide that information to the Council.

There was a brief period of open discussion. The primary topic discussed was retaking. The Council’s next meeting will be devoted to developing the means to resolve the problems GA experiences in the area of retaking. Chris Moore gave an example of how IN resolved the problem legislatively. Judge Ott suggested increasing the Interstate Compact application fee from $25 to $50 or $100 and request those funds be earmarked to defray extradition costs. Thomas Worthy suggested that we find out how much funding the $25 application for transfer fee generates and how much was spent by DOC and Parole on extradition costs over the past 10 years. He also mentioned having Joe Hood of OPB possibly listen in during the next State Council meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 13, 2013 at 10:00 am. This will be a call in meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:15.