



An employee publication of the
Texas Department of Criminal Justice

July/August 2016

Volume 23 Issue 6

Agency News

Bryan Collier named TDCJ executive director

Bryan Collier, who had served as the agency's deputy executive director for the past nine years, became the new executive director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice effective August 1. Collier was appointed to the position by the Texas Board of Criminal Justice during their June meeting.

At the age of 20, Bryan Collier began his career with what was then the Texas Department of Corrections by working as a switchboard operator in the basement of the agency's administrative headquarters. He worked the night shift while attending Sam Houston State University during the day. Upon earning his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminology and Corrections in 1986 he became a correctional officer at the Eastham Unit near Lovelady. In 1987 he accepted a position as institutional parole officer at the Darrington Unit near Rosharon.

Collier promoted to unit supervisor in 1993 and one year later was promoted to a program administrator position within the Programs and Services Division, now known as the Rehabilitation Programs Division. In



Bryan Collier

1995 Collier returned to the Parole Division as a section director for Review and Release Processing. After advancing to deputy director for support services, Collier was promoted to division director in January 2002.

He served in the capacity of Parole Division director for 5 ½ years where he provided leadership to more than 2,500 men and women who performed vital public safety functions, to include supervising offenders in the community, implementing special

conditions, responding to violations and assisting in release processing. His outstanding performance was recognized by both the American Correctional Association, who named him one of the Best of the Business, and then Executive Director Brad Livingston, who promoted him to deputy executive director in 2007.

As deputy executive director, Collier was heavily involved in all aspects of TDCJ operations, often leading intra-agency work groups addressing complicated operational challenges that spanned multiple divisions and departments. His reputation as a problem-solver was widely known, leading many senior staff members to seek his guidance on a wide range of issues. He represented the agency in numerous proceedings involving other state and federal agencies, local governments and professional associations, and frequently testified before legislative committees, where his experience, expertise and professionalism were widely recognized by state policymakers.

Collier is a former president of the Texas Correctional Association (TCA) and received

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the Dr. George J. Beto Hall of Honor award from the TCA in 2013. He is currently the Chair of the American Correctional Association's Adult Corrections Committee.

Texas Board of Criminal Justice Chairman Dale Wainwright, who described Collier as a "proven leader" while announcing his selection, spoke about the first few weeks of Collier's tenure as executive director during the board's August meeting.

"Bryan hit the ground running," said Wainwright. "He was ready from day one. With his leadership, and that of his management team, this agency remains in very capable hands." ●