

COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONS

Deputy Commissioners

Emmitt L. Sparkman, Deputy Commissioner – Institutions

Lora H. Cole, Deputy Commissioner – Community Corrections

Richard D. McCarty, Deputy Commissioner – Administration & Finance

Emmitt L. Sparkman, a native of Alto, Texas, received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Sam Houston State University and Masters Degree from Eastern Kentucky University. He began his career as a Correctional Officer with the Texas Department of Corrections. During his career, Deputy Commissioner Sparkman has worked in both the public and private sector of community and institution corrections and held positions in Texas, Kentucky and Mississippi. His employment experience includes: Correctional Officer, Education Director, Adult Probation Officer, Juvenile Intake Supervisor/Detention Superintendent, Director of Security, Warden and Superintendent. Prior to his appointment as Deputy Commissioner of Institutions, he was the Superintendent of the Mississippi State Penitentiary. Mr. Sparkman has been involved in the American Correctional Association Accreditation process since 1992 and has served as a national auditor for the Association since 1995.

Lora H. Cole is a graduate of Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi, with a BA in Criminal Justice and a M.Ed. in Guidance and Counseling. She has served as board and advisory board member for several community organizations and has held adjunct instructor positions at Jackson State University and Hinds Community College. Prior to this assignment she served in the following capacities for MDOC: CMCF -- Correctional Warden, Associate Superintendent for Central Satellite Facilities and Programs, Deputy Warden for Programs and Classification; MSP – Unit 30 Correctional Superintendent of Security, Unit 29 Programs Coordinator, Classification Case Manager Supervisor, and Correctional Officer/Correctional Counselor.

Richard D. McCarty has served as the Deputy Commissioner of Administration & Finance since January 1999. Prior to his appointment to Deputy Commissioner, Mr. McCarty was the Fiscal Comptroller for the agency. Mr. McCarty has worked for the Mississippi Department of Corrections since June 1989. He received a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Belhaven College in 1983. After graduation, he worked in the field of public accounting. He received his CPA License in 1986 and is a member of the Mississippi Society of Public Accountants.