

Commissioner



Commissioner Christopher B. Epps has been with the Mississippi Department of Correction since 1982. He is the longest serving MDOC commissioner. He was first appointed by then-Democratic Gov. Ronnie Musgrove on Aug. 30, 2002. He was reappointed on Jan. 13, 2004, by then-Republican Gov. Haley Barbour, who served two terms, and current Republican Gov. Phil Bryant on Jan. 11, 2012.

Commissioner Epps served in numerous positions with the department before being named its leader, starting as a corrections officer at the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman. His other positions include chief of staff, deputy commissioner of institutions, deputy commissioner of Community Corrections, director of Offender Services, deputy superintendent, chief of security, corrections case management supervisor, director of treatment services, corrections case manager, disciplinary hearing officer/investigator and director of records.

Commissioner Epps has held numerous leadership positions in corrections and in the military. Before being elected president of the American Correctional Association in May 2010, he served as auditor with the Commission on Accreditation and as treasurer in 2008, a position that placed him on the ACA Executive Committee. In addition to his leadership with ACA, he is vice president of the Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) and becomes president in August 2014. He also has been ASCA treasurer.

A native of Tchula, Mississippi, Commissioner Epps earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Mississippi Valley State University and a master's degree in guidance counseling from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va.



Deputy Commissioners



Rick McCarty has served as the Deputy Commissioner of Administration & Finance since January 1999. Prior to his appointment, he was the fiscal comptroller for the agency. McCarty has worked for MDOC since June 1989. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from Belhaven College in 1983. After graduation, he worked in public accounting. He received his CPA License in 1986 and is a member of the Mississippi Society of Public Accountants. Some of his accomplishments at MDOC include:

- Implementation of a fully automated perpetual inventory system for all agency ware houses.
- Coordination of the Statewide Automated Accounting System.
- Implementation of the Statewide Inmate Banking and Commissary System, for which the agency won the 2000 Award for Creative Excellence from the National Association of Governmental Administrators.



Jerry Williams has been Deputy Commissioner of Community Corrections since July 2011. He assumed his current assignment after serving in several positions with MDOC both in Community Corrections and Institutions, including Region III Community Corrections director; MDOC liaison for a transitional facility; branch director II-American Correctional Association manager for Community Corrections; Central Office, operation management analyst principle; Central Mississippi Correctional Facility commander, correctional supervisor/MDOC liaison for Offender Health Care Services, sergeant and corrections officer at Central Mississippi. In 2008, the American Correctional Association elected him as one of the Best of the Best Professionals in Corrections. Williams is a graduate of Jackson State University, with a BA in sociology and MA in sociology, with an emphasis in criminal justice. He has served on advisory boards for several community organizations and is an Executive Gold Member with the ACA.



Archie Longley has served as the Deputy Commissioner of Institutions since April 2013. Longley has 25 years of experience in federal correctional institutions throughout the United States. His past most immediate job was chief executive officer for the Federal Correctional Complex in Yazoo City, where he oversaw three facilities and directed a \$57 million budget while being responsible for 560 employees. Longley also was CEO at federal facilities in Pennsylvania and South Dakota. He began his career as a corrections officer at the former Boron Federal Prison Camp in Boron, Calif., and since has worked in five other states. A member of the American Correctional Association, he has received multiple awards for outstanding performance.