

Minutes

**Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, August 22, 2002**

**Gainesville RYDC
450 Crescent Dr.
Gainesville, GA**

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Major General Peter Boylan; Emmett Bryant, Jr.; Mary Linda Duncan; Susan F. Dunwody; David C. Evans; Lois Frank; Edwin A. Risler Ph.D.; John E. Wiggins; Mary Wilhite

Advisory Board Members Present: The Honorable Judge Gregory Adams

DJJ Staff Present: Laura Cardinal; David Clark; Thomas L. Coleman Ed.D.; Ericka Davis; Gordon Fisher; Cheryl Frazier; Chad Hoffecker; Anderson Jones; Ronnie Lane; Lemuel LaRoch; Orlando L. Martinez; Greg Maxey; Doug Morgan; Camille Murray; Tom O'Rourke Ed.D.; Justine Sher; Sally Sheppard; Gwendolyn Skinner; Micki Smith; Mike Sorrells; Jamilah Stephens; Jimmy Taylor; Melinda Thomas; Jaci Vickers

Other: Mark Cicero, Attorney, Georgia Department of Law

Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order by Chairman David Evans. He welcomed all in attendance to the August 2002 Board meeting.

Chairman Evans thanked Anderson Jones, Melinda Thomas, and Micki Smith for their work in putting together a successful dedication and commented on the exemplary pride shown by the Gainesville RYDC staff. Chairman Evans stated that, due to the absence of a quorum, the meeting would proceed to the Commissioner's Comments.

Commissioner's Comments
Orlando L. Martinez

Introduction

Commissioner Martinez began by greeting and thanking everyone for attending the August 22, 2002 Dedication Ceremony and meeting.

He recognized the hard work of Anderson Jones for his dedication and professionalism in dealing with the difficulties of opening a facility. Also, for the efforts put forth in the post-operative phase of the facility, Commissioner Martinez recognized Gwen Skinner and Greg Maxey.

The opening, he stated, begins a new chapter in detention for our agency. The design, the improved conditions of confinement, and the detention reform initiative are tools which elude an appropriate use of detention. The new Gainesville RYDC, he stated, is tough enough to hold kids who have committed serious offenses.

Commissioner Martinez relayed that the Gainesville RYDC is the first of four replacement centers throughout the state. By late spring of next year, centers in Augusta, Rome, and Macon will be ready to open. The planning for those facilities has already begun, he explained.

Additionally, the agency will be bringing the Crisp County facility on-line. The Crisp County facility, stated Commissioner Martinez, is a new facility unlike the others which are replacement facilities.

Commissioner Martinez gave an overview of the agency's operations during the previous month.

Operational Activities

Facilities and Classification

- Commissioner Martinez indicated that Macon YDC employees were guest speakers at the 6th Annual Crime Prevention Conference held on July 17th at the Macon Centreplex. Participants included Melissa Aaron, Director; Ronnie Richardson, Assistant Director of Security; and Debbie Blasingame, Assistant Director of Treatment.

The conference, he explained, was coordinated by the Macon Police Department to provide information and assistance to children who deal with the stress of

everyday life. Additionally, the plan was to motivate and educate these children in life skills. Approximately 300 juveniles attended the conference.

- Representatives from the NBC television network visited Macon YDC on July 19th. Commissioner reported that interviews were held with several students and Director Melissa Aaron.

A documentary is being prepared by NBC on juveniles who, due to peer pressure, have committed offenses against society. This documentary will be featured on Tom Brokaw's newscast. The date that the documentary will be aired, he stated, has not yet been set.

- An art design was recently created with red, white and blue cups on the fence of the Pelham YDC, stated Commissioner.

The design reads "Pelham YDC, The Past Is Not Our Potential", along with a huge smiling face. A picture of the design was recently printed in the local newspaper.

- Commissioner indicated that the Bill E. Ireland YDC will soon house and train guide dogs for the visually impaired. It will be the first time in the nation that a juvenile facility has participated in the program.

Students on the campus will train and care for guide dogs for 12-16 months. The facility will provide obedience training, teach manners, and safely socialize dogs with varied situations and everyday experience. Guide dogs will follow a daily regimen, which includes attending class with students. Commissioner stated that he looks forward to seeing the impact this program leaves on the students.

- Forty-eight (48) students will graduate from Bill Ireland on August 23rd, Commissioner reported.

Twenty-five (25) students will receive their GED certificates. Twenty-two (22) students will receive certificates for completion of two or more courses at Central Georgia Technical College. One (1) student will receive his high school diploma. Commissioner stated that the accomplishments that these student have made are impeccable.

- "The Help a Child Smile" Program at the Savannah River Challenge Program was completed. Commissioner explained that in this privately operated facility, a mobile dentist office from the Atlanta area provides a full range of dental care to residents who are covered under Medicaid.

The Program, he stated, has served over 100 residents who receive a full cleaning and any other services that are needed.

- A Teen Father Group was implemented at the Augusta YDC. A survey identified that 11 residents on the Augusta campus were fathers and had no concept of what it was to be a parent. Commissioner believes the number is actually higher.

Commissioner indicated that the agency detains several fathers and he feels a program such as this one would be affective system-wide.

- On July 31st, Sumter YDC began its annual Olympic games. Opening ceremonies began with the Olympic theme song as spectators and participants witnessed the official 1996 Olympic torch make its tour around the campus.

Commissioner reported that youth represented six countries during the Parade of Athletes. Students displayed banners representing their country and each team was dressed in their country's colors.

Senator George Hooks opened the games with a presentation and Americus Mayor Bill McGowan assisted with delivering the Oath of Athletes to participating students. Spectators from Americus, Atlanta, Dawson, La Grange and Marietta attended the event.

Bronze, silver and gold medals were presented to the winners. Students from the winning country were given a barbecue dinner. Commissioner spoke of the importance of having activities like these within the campuses.

Community Corrections

- Integrated classification has been working for approximately six (6) weeks. All staff have been trained and are knowledgeable of the new process. Commissioner stated that youth are being classified everyday with the new instruments and process and, on the whole, is working very well. Soon the agency will be able to analyze the initial data in order to see how the classification process now impacts youth placements.
- Commissioner reported that graduated sanctions have been added to policy and have been in use by agency staff for approximately one month. Tremendous training efforts took place to provide clarity and understanding to staff on the philosophy of "how and why to use graduated sanctions".
- Finally, he stated, statewide RYDC capacity has again come under capacity.

Program Services

- On August 1, 2002, a group of staff from the Departments of Labor & Juvenile Justice staff attended a agency meeting in Macon.

The meeting, Commissioner reported, was a daylong event. It was planned by Dr. Coleman and staff in order to share information about the pilot efforts in 3 community sites (Athens, Albany & DeKalb) and also 2 YDC sites (Augusta & Macon). The agencies have developed a positive working relationship.

He indicated that two years ago, he met with Commissioner Thurmond, having the intention of finding employment for DJJ youth.

Also, Commissioner reported, in 2 of the sites – Athens and Augusta - the agency has been fortunate to obtain funding from grant applications through the federal Workforce Investment Act. Each of these sites has obtained grants amounting to about \$139,000 each, to support work related programs for kids in these areas.

- Commissioner indicated that Georgia was the recipient of a MacArthur Foundation Grant directed at enhancing approaches for addressing needs of youth with mental health problems. The plan is to unite juvenile justice, mental health, and related agencies in collaborative system-wide efforts.

The Governor’s Office of Planning & Budget is spearheading this yearlong work effort that is appropriately called the “Comprehensive System Change Initiative” (CSCI). This effort will be guided and resourced by the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice, he reported.

Judge Gregory Adams, and staff from DHR, DFACS, and Mental Health, he reported, will be in attendance.

The first meeting was held on August 12th at the Timber Ridge Conference Center.

- Commissioner indicated that the Office of Behavioral Health Service is working on a number of proposed projects that will increase the number of beds for youths with mental health issues. There is a shortage of beds for these youth, he explained, and they are starting to create a challenge for the agency as they back-up in the RYDC beds. They are awaiting a placement that can address their particular needs.
- The Office of Behavioral Health Services conducted its monthly suicide meetings on July 11th and August 8th.

The purpose of the meetings, he stated, was to review and analyze the data presented regarding suicide attempts, gestures, self-destructive behavior, trends and issues. Additionally, the meetings are designed to use the information for training by passing it along to all Behavior Health Coordinators.

As a result of the meeting, he reported, there has been a change in the Peer Review Format, because the agency now has the MAYSI, and there is now a System-Wide Data Audit through OTIS and Planning and Evaluation.

Human Resources

- Commissioner reported that he met with Mike Sorrells on Video Based Testing. This video, he believes, will capture the elements needed for the agency's work with kids.

The majority of the scenes were filmed in Georgia and the remainder of the filming will be conducted in Washington State by the end of the month. When editing and final validation efforts are completed, approximately 75% - 80% of all test questions will have been filmed here involving agency employees and based on actual scenarios faced by DJJ staff everyday.

The test should be implemented in the spring of next year at the latest. It will represent the most advanced selection instrument ever devised for staff working with juveniles in a facility-based setting. Its application extends beyond that of juvenile correctional officers.

The test will be used as a screening device for other jobs in such areas as food service, nursing/medical, counseling and education.

- The revision of the agency's Performance Appraisal System was recently completed, Commissioner stated. Forms are available in the following categories: Administrative; Professional/Technical; Managerial/Supervisory; Food Service/Maintenance and Operations.

In addition, a separate form was created for the Juvenile Correctional Officer job given the number of incumbents and its importance to this organization.

Conducted in late May, was a Train-the-Trainer Program involving 40 staff who are now certified to teach the 2-day program. Training is now underway and the agency is anticipating that all Department managers and supervisors will be trained by the end of September.

Meetings

Commissioner reported his participation in the following major meetings since the June 27th meeting:

- Attended the Southern States Correctional Association meeting in Biloxi to discuss various correctional issues. He reported, that it was the first time a juvenile representative was invited to discuss issues with this association.

- Met with Karen Lasher
- Met with Jim Austin about the MOA and the agency.
- Attended the ACA Conference in Anaheim, California. He reported that Dr. Tom O'Rourke and Ronnie Lane presented a workshop on education. The workshop, he stated, was well received, with positive feedback.

Policy

Commissioner Martinez presented the highlights of policies implemented since the last meeting, which are available via Intranet or hard copy.

<u>Policy No.</u>	<u>Title</u>
13.6	Community Schools
14.10	Probation Services
14.15	Intensive Supervision Program

Commissioner concluded his comments and opened the floor for questions. Asking for and hearing no questions Commissioner turned the floor over to Gwen Skinner.

District and Regional Planning Update
Gwen Skinner, Deputy Commissioner
Division of Community Corrections

Gwen Skinner explained that increasing the capacity of community-based programs is an effort in the right direction. Anticipating the future, she stated, is difficult.

Community Corrections was faced with the task of comparing one region to another, so that a proper perspective could be obtained. The task was completed by using the following data:

- ❑ Statewide statistics
- ❑ Regional statistics
- ❑ District statistics

This information was previously provided to the Board in document FY'03 Management Reference Manual. That document was used as a statistical foundation for district/regional planning. A draft version of the Region I planning document was circulated among attendees.

Commissioner Martinez stated that Regional Administrators addressed issues in their respective areas such as intake. In one particular case, it was determined that one region needed to double the number of intake staff.

Commissioner also indicated that the agency is looking to community placements so that youth have an alternative to the detention centers, unless their crime warrants placement there. He also pointed out the numerous endorsers of the district and regional plans. Commissioner added that data collection and its process is vital to the progress of the agency.

Judge Gregory Adams questioned the term 'arrested' versus 'detained' being used in referring to youth. Ms. Skinner acknowledged the use of this terminology and explained that the planning document was still in the beginning stages of its development.

Jimmy Taylor stated that only some counties were in compliance with reporting juvenile detention/arrests. Dr. Ed Risler added that the document only captured the number of youth who were detained not who actually committed crimes.

Judge Adams asked that when the document is completed, that a notation is made that the data only reflects counties that are in compliance.

Mr. Evans noted that a quorum was now present at the August 22, 2002 meeting. He called for a motion to approve the June 27, 2002 minutes. The motion was made by Emmett Bryant, Jr., seconded by John Wiggins, and unanimously approved.

FY'03 Proposed Amended Budget Request
Greg Maxey, Deputy Commissioner
Division of Financial Management & Administrative Support

Greg Maxey indicated that a letter from the Governor's Office was received requesting a 3% reduction to the budget. The current budget was originally approved for \$279,841,168.00, but had the exemptions totaling \$68,581,773. With the exemptions the portion to be reduced was \$211,259,395.00. A 3% decrease of the amended portion totals \$6,337,782.00.

Major General Boylan questioned the procedure for arriving at the above stated numbers. Greg Maxey explained that the cost, per bed, was \$58,000.00 for emergency shelters.

The proposed delay of the Crisp County facility is the biggest change to the budget, Maxey explained. The Crisp County facility will be used as a short-term program.

Mr. Evans called for a motion to approve the FY'03 Amended Budget Request. The motion was made by Major General Peter Boylan, seconded by Lois Frank and unanimously approved.

FY'04 Proposed Budget Request
Greg Maxey, Deputy Commissioner
Division of Financial Management & Administrative Support

Greg Maxey explained that the FY'04 Budget is similar to the previous budget. The only differences are that there is an 8 month delay for 2 years, he stated. Also, he stated, 9 months of additional funding will go to enhancements on 3 new institutions for a partial year.

Any extra funds for the facilities, Maxey indicated, would be funded by the agency.

Mr. Evans called for a motion to approve the FY'04 Budget Request. The motion was made by Major General Peter Boylan, seconded by Ed Risler, and unanimously approved.

FY'04 Proposed Capital Outlay Budget Request
Greg Maxey, Deputy Commissioner
Division of Financial Management & Administrative Support

Greg Maxey explained that due to the length of the construction and repairs information that he would not speak on each item, but would highlight the most important ones. He discussed statewide, RYDC, and YDC adjustments on repairs, construction, replacements, and expansions.

Major General Boylan questioned how the agency came about its decision to build at particular sites. Greg Maxey explained that some of the RYDC's in question are at least 30 years old and needed extensive renovations or a new start.

Major General Boylan wanted to know how building more beds was solving the problem of stopping the youth from coming into and coming back into the system. He felt that the better the programs offered to the youth a smaller number of beds would be needed. Greg Maxey answered by explaining that the agency is not trying to overbuild, but that the expansion was needed so that agency employees could better service the youth.

Major General Boylan inquired on having a spreadsheet formatted along with the future budgets that indicates the reasons for expansions and delays.

Commissioner Martinez agreed that time should be set aside to further explain and answer questions of the Board.

Mr. Evans called for a motion to approve the Construction and Repairs Budget. The motion was made by Ed Risler, seconded by Emmett Bryant, Jr., and unanimously approved.

Resolution
Greg Maxey, Deputy Commissioner
Division of Financial Management & Administrative Support

Greg Maxey explained that the old Gainesville RYDC facility has to be turned back over to Hall County, upon moving to the new Gainesville RYDC.

Mr. Evans called for a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was made by Susan Dunwody, seconded by Lois Frank, and unanimously approved.

Board of Education
Thursday, August 22, 2002

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Other: Mark Cicero, Attorney, Georgia Department of Law

Opening Remarks

Chairman Evans called the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education to order.

Board Minutes – August 22, 2002
Gainesville RYDC

Education Update

Dr. Tom O'Rourke thanked Anderson Jones for his efforts in the dedication of the new building. He pointed out that the atmosphere of the facility was conducive to learning.

Dr. O'Rourke indicated that, within a year, the tracking system at the Sumter YDC should be functioning with trained staff.

Also, he reported, the Office of Education received 23 MOA citations and is close to coming from underneath the MOA umbrella.

Dr. O'Rourke reported a discouraging, yet reoccurring problem with the teachers. The agency, he stated, is training teachers and having them certified. However, because the agency does not have a contract with the teachers, they are leaving and going to the regular system. This problem is most challenging in the metro areas, Dr. O'Rourke reported.

Commissioner Martinez added that state employees aren't under contracts. It is an issue when we provide adequate training and certifications, yet are unable to retain staff.

Dr. O'Rourke stated that Cobb County offers bonuses for special education teachers and the agency loses teacher for that reason. Public school teachers receive breaks, whereas DJJ teachers teach year round and the pay rate, he stated, is also a factor.

Chairman Evans requested that the Office of Education look for a way to put agency teachers into contracts.

Dr. O'Rourke stated that a challenge was ahead, because a school is only as good as its teachers.

Chairman Evans adjourned the Board of Education meeting and reconvened the DJJ Board meeting.

Adjournment

Chairman Evans reported that the September meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, October 3rd in Macon. The meeting, he stated, will be held in tandem with the GJSA Community Corrections Annual Training Conference. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. so that members of the Board can take advantage of the workshops offered.

Chairman Evans indicated that Jaci Mays Vickers will provide a contact for overnight arrangements.

The October meeting, Chairman Evans stated, is now scheduled for October 31st and will center on our annual Board training. As school board members this training is a requirement, he reported.

Judge Gregory Adams inquired as to the location of the training. It was relayed that the location had not yet been set.

Chairman Evans concluded the August 2002 meeting.

APPROVED:

David C. Evans, Chairman
Board of Juvenile Justice

Orlando L. Martinez
Commissioner & Superintendent
DJJ Board of Education

Emmett Bryant, Jr., Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice

