

# Minutes

**Board of Juvenile Justice  
Thursday, February 28, 2002**

**DHR Board Room, 29<sup>th</sup> Floor  
2 Peachtree Street, N.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303**

## Roll Call

**Board Members Present:** Steve Adams; Major General Peter Boylan; David C. Evans; Lois Frank; Dr. Eleanor C. Main; Edwin A. Risler; Major John E. Wiggins; Mary E. Wilhite

**Advisory Board Members Present:** Judge Quintress J. Gilbert, Judge Gregory Adams

**DJJ Staff Present:** Steve Herndon; Doug Jackson; Ronnie Lane; Linda Layton; Orlando L. Martinez; Greg Maxey; Sheila Mitchell; Camille Murray; Coy Satterfield; Jimmy Taylor; Jaci Vickers

**Other:** Judy Fitzgerald

## Opening Remarks

Chairman Evans called to order the meeting for Thursday, February 28, 2002. He thanked the Board members for coming and for attending the First Annual Juvenile Justice Day at the Capitol. He stated that Juvenile Justice Day was a day well deserved and well planned. Chairman Evans thanked Commissioner Martinez and Jaci Vickers for their efforts in setting aside a day to honor our staff.

**Integrated Classification Project**  
**Ronnie Lane, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Facilities & Classification**  
**Linda Layton, Director, Office of Classification**

Ronnie Lane gave opening remarks about the Integrated Classification Project, indicating that his Division has worked closely with Community Corrections to develop this initiative. Additionally, a survey was formatted and sent to twelve states as part of a comparison study. The states responded positively to the survey with some of them also working towards an integrated system.

Linda Layton gave a presentation on the above topic. Layton feels the agency needs to first develop a comprehensive risk and needs assessment instrument based on the current research on crime and delinquency predictors for juveniles.

The predictors are divided into four classification groups:

First Generation

- Subjective, professional judgment, “gut feeling”, the issue comes from doing what you’ve learned in the past.

Second Generation

- Objective, standard, static predictor variables, the issue is needing standardized objectives

Third Generation

- Adding professional judgment is always positive, it allows staff to override aspects in certain situations. The generations listed above were initially developed for adult offenders and adapted for juveniles.

Fourth Generation

- Specifically based on juvenile research, it incorporates strength-based data to assist in success prediction and automating the data in the gathering process. It also considers the predictive power of instruments for various sub-populations.

Major General Boylan needed clarification on the Fourth Generation. Ms. Layton stated that the process is to collect data at various levels to determine significance, such as to separate girls from boys. Ms. Layton reports that the purpose of the project is to predict future behavior from past experiences. Many factors are collected such as family life, criminal associations, etc.

Commissioner Martinez added that the best way to predict the future is to look at the past and indicated that juvenile justice agencies must look at a number of factors surrounding the youth to classify them and find what are the risks and needs of the child. The project gives a way to manage kids. However, it is not a medical model.

Discussion ensued about recidivism. The agency is considering using recommitment, not re-arrest as the measure.

Ms. Layton reported that there are 30 scales, which are used to measure kids, each including several pieces to make up the assessment. Risk and need variables range from measuring responsivity of the youth to delinquency and violent history.

Judge Gregory Adams' request for examples of how kids are measured was supported by a response from Dr. Ed Risler. The youth are measured by their community, teachers, and interaction with family and friends.

Over the next four months this project will be implemented. In May and June, training will occur in intervals for new and existing staff to become accustomed to the project.

Lois Frank indicated her interest in the activation of the project for the youths and inquired as to how the agency would know if the placement was proper. Linda Layton stated that classification would begin immediately after the youth's commitment, during the normal period of gathering data.

**Commissioner's Comments**  
**Orlando L. Martinez, Commissioner**

***Introduction***

Commissioner began by greeting and thanking everyone for attending the activities for the first annual Juvenile Justice Day and also the February 28, 2002 meeting. Commissioner Martinez proceeded to thank Jaci Vickers for her work on the Juvenile Justice Day.

***The Bridge***

- Since the last meeting there has been start up problems reported at one of the newer facilities, The Bridge Institute.
- The Bridge was considered to be a short-term program for male students and opened its doors on December 12, 2001 with the placement of 15 youths. Since then, the Department has placed up to 45 youth in the facility.
- The Institute has dealt with a variety of issues that prohibit them from adequately serving the students in their care. These issues include staffing, physical plant, medical services, admission processes and corporate support issues. This privatized facility, based out of Virginia, ABS, has been around for a long time.

- DJJ gave a letter to First Corrections Corporation notifying them that they have until March 4<sup>th</sup> to submit a corrective plan of action. The Department will decide the parameters on what the changes should be. Upon correction, DJJ will accept, reject, or help modify those parameters. If the contractor fails to make the corrections deemed necessary, DJJ will execute the termination clause in the contract. Youths currently housed there would most likely be sent to long-term, secure institutions.

### ***Detention Reform (GDAI)***

- Commissioner stated that the agency will sign a new contract with the Anne E. Casey Foundation. DJJ will use \$200,000 to help implement a model structure of detention initiatives.

### ***Facilities and Classification***

- Staff met with Lee Design and Management Engineering, the private maintenance contractor. With some fine-tuning, the maintenance contract has been implemented and facility maintenance needs are being met. The meeting was scheduled to discuss inspections and standards.
- The Agenda Specific Initiative at the Macon YDC is underway. A new training curriculum is being developed. Also, the agency will begin to issue new girls uniforms and review local operating procedures to make sure they are gender specific. Lastly, DJJ is modifying the housing units with a better design for girls. After the legislative session, DJJ and the Legislative Women's Caucus are holding a symposium for gender specific issues.

### ***Community Corrections***

- The Department has had 2 conferences on regionalization – one at Timber Ridge where the focus was on establishing a community based system and the other at the Training Academy where staff met to present templates.
- The Gainesville RYDC is progressing on schedule with an anticipated opening date of May 2002.
- DJJ is looking at providing hand held computers to each Assessment and Classification Specialist. Use of this advanced technology will allow DJJ staff to enter data while in the field. Significant improvements will result, most notably in automated social histories. Commissioner and staff have worked diligently towards the implementation date of July 1, 2002. Commissioner stated that he will not delay the implementation date and if necessary, on July 1, 2002 the paper system will be utilized.

- The catchment area serving youth detained from Houston County will change. These students will be rerouted from the Macon to the Eastman RYDC. Commissioner stated that the change will become effective within the next 2 weeks. DJJ will attempt to balance detention population by focusing on those RYDCs routinely or chronically overcrowded. Commissioner reported that some overcrowding is at times unexpected such as the considerable increase in population in Gwinnett county.
- The Social Security Administration has assigned a staff member to troubleshoot problems for the Department. This addition will allow the agency to maximize the benefits provided to the children we serve. Commissioner relayed that the work the agency has been doing with Medicaid and Title 4E has progressed well.

### ***Program Services***

- The Office of Behavioral Health Services will sponsor a Suicide Prevention Task Force on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Martinez recognized the following persons as members of the Task Force:
  - Judy Fitzgerald, Executive Director of the National Mental Health Association of Georgia
  - Dr. Gregory Fricchone, MD, Director of Carter Center
  - James Mallory, Executive Director GRN Regional MHMRSA Board
  - Dr. David Shaffer, MD Director, Department of Child Psychiatry, Columbia University
  - Dr. Gail Wasserman, PhD., Director of the Center for the Promotion of Mental Health & Juvenile Justice.
- Commissioner recognized Judy Fitzgerald as being in attendance at the Board meeting. The initial mission of this Task Force will be to review all DJJ suicide prevention related policies. Along with associated reporting procedures this review will result in an adequate ongoing assessment of the DJJ system and efforts to reduce the risk of suicide. The Task Force will review and recommend enhancements to current training programs for all levels of staff. Commissioner stated that the agency needs to be current on dealing with issues pertaining to suicide, pointing out the 2 suicides the Department had in December and January.
- Commissioner introduced Frank Berry, Director of The Office of Behavioral Health Services, as serving on the planning committee for the Annual Carter Center Mental Health Symposium to be held May 21, 2002. The topic for this year's symposium will be suicide. Commissioner Martinez welcomed any Board Members who would like to attend the April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> symposium or the conference on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

*Quality Assurance*

- The Office of Quality Assurance has made continuous efforts on issues pertaining to gender specific programming. Sheila Mitchell has inherited the responsibility of the gender specific issues and so far, a workshop was held on female specific issues. On February 15, 2002, Dr. Sheila and Sharon Peters of Nashville met with a planning group to discuss topics including:
  - Initial planning for this year’s girls summit which will be co-sponsored by the Legislative Women’s Caucus.
  - The development of a video on gender issues that may be used by staff and by judges for training purposes.
- Commissioner reported that on yesterday, the Office of Quality Assurance began scheduled comprehensive audits for all facilities. OQA does audit each facility. Since the agency started conducting audits in 2000 there has been marked improvements in performance in all service areas that the Office of Quality Assurance monitors.
- Statistical reports are also available which indicate that special incidents are down drastically. Commissioner Martinez reported that although reports of special incidents have increased, the reports that are substantiated are below 10%.
- Commissioner Martinez stated that various policies were released in February, including:

<u>Policy No.</u>	<u>Topic</u>
3.33	Discipline Without Punishment
4.1	Training Requirements
17.2	Custody and Housing Assessment
18.4	Religious Programming
19.1	Youth Visitation
19.1	Viewing, Listening, and Reading Materials
19.3	Access to Telephone

- Also, Commissioner Martinez wanted to commend Sheila Mitchell, Deputy Commissioner, Office of Quality Assurance, for her selection to serve as an Examiner for the prestigious Georgia Oglethorpe Quality Award.

## **Meetings**

Commissioner Martinez participated in the following major meetings since the January 31<sup>st</sup> meeting:

- Attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Annie E. Casey Foundation Forum with 11 people from the agency. Among the topics discussed were detention alternatives. At the Forum, Commissioner gave a review of GDAI and found that Georgia was one of three states utilizing a statewide initiative.
- Met with the Monitor, Dr. Jim Austin, and DOJ Attorney Judy Preston in a conference focusing on the next six month report.
- Met with Terence Walsh.
- Met with Fred Allen, Director of the Georgia Forestry Commission, to explore ways of partnering.
- Attended a lunch with Judge Connie Blaylock of Dalton.
- Attended planning meetings in the Macon area.

## ***Other***

Last month, Major General Boylan noted an error in the population report. Commissioner Martinez apologized profusely for any confusion that may have resulted.

Commissioner concluded his report. Chairman Evans opened the floor for questions.

### **April Training Conference Marilyn Reeves, Director Office of Training**

Marilyn Reeves thanked the Board members and attendees for their presence. She explained why an Annual Training Conference was being held. The Office of Training currently has 39 positions, 24 of them are responsible for providing all DJJ training. These members seldom are allowed the chance to get together as a group.

The purpose of the conference is to pull the office together, so that staff may get some face time with each other. On the first day, the Commissioner and the management team will interact with trainers and discuss issues pertaining to the agency as a whole. Marilyn Reeves invited each of the Board members to attend.

Chair Evans added that this is a great opportunity to learn.

**DJJ Board of Education Meeting  
Thursday, February 28, 2002**

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**Education Update  
Coy Satterfield, Director  
Student Support Services**

Coy Satterfield gave greetings from Dr. O'Rourke. He reported that Dr. O'Rourke is doing well and actively involved in every aspect of education. Currently, the Department is revising the existing curriculum and also writing new curriculum. The Office of Education is working with the Commissioner to put together a strategic plan. Currently, the history books are being retracted and the Department will use newer history books which reflect the September 11<sup>th</sup> tragedy.

At the March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> conference, Mayor C. Jack Ellis of Macon will be in attendance and will welcome guests. Ronnie Lane will also address the attendees. The theme for the conference is "Students in Transition, Moving in New Directions". Coy Satterfield extended an invitation to all Board Members.

Judge Adams expressed concern on the progress of recruiting special education teachers. Coy Satterfield reported that they are doing excellent, with the exception of The Bridge and Savannah River Challenge. Coy Satterfield stated that The Bridge has several special education teachers in place, many of the teachers have proper certification specific to special education, and the remainder will have the same certification by the end of the week.

Chairman Evans opened the floor for questions.

Dr. Eleanor C. Main expressed concern about The Bridge, inquiring if young inexperienced teachers are hired because they may be paid less. As far as the pay, a survey was done in the Athens area to determine the amount of pay that would be offered to staff at The Bridge. Mr. Satterfield stated that of 11 teachers, 7 are fully certified and the remainder 4 will be certified by March 1, 2002.

Coy Satterfield indicated that an auditing system is in place for this specific reason. The auditing system works, we realized the problems with The Bridge and currently have staff who have been at the facility for 6 days. Denise Williams additionally audits the Program.

Mr. Satterfield relayed that an additional obligation of the Board of Education is to make sure that teachers receive the proper certification. It is the responsibility of the facility to make sure that teachers know how to deal with the youth in detainment.

Major General Peter Boylan inquired about the 11 kids in the Chatham Jail and why are they only there and not spread out. Commissioner Martinez responded that the agency has an expiring contract, which permits placement of Superior Court youth in this particular facility.

Major General Boylan stated that it costs \$55,000.00 a year to provide non-secure detention for our youth. He was concerned that this number is extremely high. Commissioner stated that the national daily average is \$145 per day for a child, not including indirect expenses. Commissioner relays that it is expensive to lock up a child.

### **Adjournment**

The DJJ Board of Education meeting was adjourned. The next Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, March 28, 2002, in the DHR Board Room at 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Asking for and hearing no remaining questions, Chairman Evans adjourned the meeting.