

Minutes

**Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, May 23, 2002**

**Hyatt Regency Atlanta
Piedmont Room
265 Peachtree St. N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303**

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Steve Adams; Violet Bennett; Emmett Bryant Jr.; Mary Linda Duncan; Susan Dunwody; Lois Frank; Dr. Eleanor C. Main; Dr. Edwin A. Risler; John E. Wiggins; Mary Wilhite

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

DJJ Staff Present: Kimberly Bennett; Pete Colbenson; Dr. Thomas Coleman; Charlotte Curren; Neil Kaltenecker; Ronnie Lane; Orlando L. Martinez; Camille Murray; Dr. Tom O'Rourke; Jimmy Taylor; Jaci Vickers

Others: Kirsten Wallace; Dr. Randy Nelson, President, 21st Century; Mr. Rod Love, Asst. Secretary, Florida Dept. of Juvenile Justice

Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Susan Dunwody. She welcomed all in attendance at the May 2002 Board meeting. Ms. Dunwody indicated that in Dave Evans' absence, she as Vice Chair, she would preside over today's meeting.

Ms. Dunwody called for a motion to approve the April 25, 2002 minutes. The motion was made by Emmett Bryant, seconded by Violet Bennett and unanimously approved.

Re-Entry Project
Pete Colbensen, Ph.D., Executive Director
Children and Youth Coordinating Council

Dr. Colbensen reported on the Re-entry Grant Project. He stated that there will be two separate proposals, one for adults and one for the juvenile offenders. The idea is to have intensive services for serious offenders within the Atlanta/Fulton County area.

Dr. Colbensen relayed the purpose of the Project was to prevent recidivism, give the youth a better return back into the community, and to get the youth on the right track. He stated that priority will be given to violent offenders and then serious offenders; the requirement is for males, ages 12-18.

Dr. Colbensen stated that the therapy sessions are geared towards youth with normal IQ's but who are high risk. Judge Gregory Adams questioned the normal IQ level. Pete Colbensen responded that the normal IQ would be in the 80's.

Judge Quintress Gilbert pointed out that the majority of the youth in the system have an IQ lower than 80. Pete Colbensen explained that MST would be more effective to youth with an above average IQ. MST, he stated, is not geared towards youth with mental health issues or a below 80 IQ. Without the minimum requirements, those youth would not properly benefit from the program.

Dr. Colbensen also discussed Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST), which is a program designed to rehabilitate youth in a home based setting. The rehabilitation process takes approximately 105 days. It is present-focused and seeks to identify and extinguish behaviors that are of concern not only to referring agencies but to the family itself.

Dr. Eleanor Main inquired on the length of time spent with each youth. Pete Colbensen explained that 105 days of therapy does not mean that the youth has a therapy session every day. The therapy, he stated, is more of a transition. The initial sessions may occur daily but as the youth improves, the sessions lessen.

Commissioner Martinez added that this program was developed around kids with substance abuse issues, not mental health issues.

Judge Adams inquired about the working definition of recidivism. Dr. Colbensen replied that definition used is the return or reconviction to the Department of Juvenile Justice or commitment to Department of Corrections.

Pete Colbensen also stated that 20 to 25 kids per year will utilize the MST program.

Commissioner's Comments
Orlando L. Martinez, Commissioner

Introduction

Commissioner Martinez began by greeting and thanking everyone for attending the May 23, 2002 meeting. He then gave an overview of the agency's operations during the last month.

Augusta YDC

- Commissioner Martinez indicated that a meeting was held in Augusta to give staff a chance to voice concerns about the facility and the circumstances surrounding the negative press being received.

He explained that the negative press resulted from staff at the YDC going to the press about racial discrimination and about issues they were having with the Director, at that time.

He relayed that the staff expressed concern about becoming a privatized facility or on having the facility closed.

Commissioner Martinez stated that the reasons for the problems within the facility were due to an inconsistency of leadership and stability. The agency agreed to develop a Unit Management System for the YDC.

He added that he felt the overall outcome of the meeting was productive. Out of 350 + staff, only a handful made the original complaints.

Facilities and Classification

- Commissioner Martinez spoke on the participation at the Orientation Training Sessions for the Integrated Classification. At the Orientation, he stated, Tim Brennan introduced the CRN and provided an abbreviated version of the information which was presented at the Trainers Workshop.

With the history of assessment and classification, Commissioner felt that this new system shows great promise.

- He reported that Mr. Ronnie Richardson, was newly promoted to Assistant Director of the Macon YDC.

- On April 30th, Macon YDC students attended the first annual Law Conference sponsored by the Treatment Services Unit. Commissioner Martinez expressed warm feelings about the positive impact the conference had on the youth and the importance of youth in the DJJ system being made aware of their rights.
- On April 26th, Sumter YDC youth volunteered their time and efforts to raise money for the American Cancer Society by washing cars. The youth, Commissioner reported, raised a total of \$120. Commissioner Martinez relayed how proud the agency was that our youth were giving something back to the community.

Program Services

- Commissioner Martinez reported that the Office of Behavioral Health Services held its Suicide Prevention Committee meeting on May 9th. The meeting focused on critical incident review and reporting procedures, data reporting, and JTS usage.
- The Office of Medical Services celebrated National Nurses Week May 6-12 by combining quarterly training and the recognition of Nurses Week into a single function.

Community Corrections

- Commissioner Martinez reported that Pete Colbenson, Chad Hoffecker, and Gwen Skinner attended the Council of Juvenile Court Judges Conference on April 29th. The meeting's focal point was on the filing of juvenile petitions.
- He stated that on May 1st, Gwen Skinner spoke before Families First on the topic of "Working with Families of Incarcerated Persons".

Quality Assurance

- Commissioner Martinez stated that since the departure of Sheila Mitchell, Shirley Turner was named to head up the initiative to develop Continuous Improvement Teams. Ms Turner, he stated, is a long-term employee of the Department and previously served as Director of the Evaluations Unit of the Office of Quality Assurance.

Human Resources

- Commissioner Martinez reported that over the past week, over 100 persons attended auditions at the Metro RYDC for parts as staff and students in a video to be used for JCO testing. He indicated that the auditions went very well and filming is slated for mid-June. He indicated that other states are following Georgia's lead in this area.

Financial Services and Administration

- Commissioner Martinez explained that the agency would soon release an RFP for institutional telephone service. The objective will be to acquire the best service, from one vendor, with the lowest price for collect calls for the families of students.

A new total of 332 juvenile collect pay phones will be available department-wide.

- On May 3rd, upper management team participated in a one-day session on strategic planning.

Meetings

Commissioner reported his participation in the following major meetings since the last April 25th meeting:

- He stated that he met with the MOA Monitor and the U.S. Department of Justice Attorney on April 24, 2002.
- Also, Commissioner Martinez met with consultant, Sally Rosser, to discuss the preliminary results of our Capital Improvement Master Plan.
- The training for the Integrated Classification System was kicked off, stated Commissioner Martinez.
- He also traveled to Louisville, KY to participate in discussions on disproportionate minority confinement.
- Lastly, Commissioner Martinez participated in the Annual Carter Center Mental Health Symposium.

Other

Judge Gregory Adams inquired as to how the Department compares with other states on suicides. Commissioner Martinez explained that each state classifies suicides differently, so it would not be accurate to compare Georgia with any other state.

Dr. Eleanor Main questioned if the suicide rate was increasing more rapidly or staying at the same rate. Commissioner Martinez reported that youth in confinement are four times more likely to commit suicide than non-DJJ youth. He also stated that the more kids are detained in the system, the greater the risk of suicide.

Judge Gregory Adams wanted specifics about, within facilities, the number of youth as it relates to the number of beds. Commissioner Martinez replied that more than rooms, staffing needs to increase. Staffing, he stated, is at a ratio of 1 to 10.

John Wiggins inquired if anything was being done to address the new Acting Director for the Augusta YDC. Commissioner Martinez explained that the previous Director had to be replaced. He was the facility's Director for approximately 6 months. The blame falls on the person in charge, he stated. Unfortunately for the previous Director, he incurred the negative environment. A new Director, he stated, will not be assigned to the Augusta YDC until the negative press decreases.

Mary Linda Duncan requested information about the kind of training the agency was offering for the staff at Augusta. Commissioner Martinez replied that training will be done to develop a unit based system and on how to work as a team.

Mary Linda Duncan also questioned which procedures were in place for responses to suicides. Commissioner Martinez stated that screening, policies and procedures, and on-call professionals aid staff in quick responses and ways to handle suicides.

Commissioner Martinez went on to say that there have been 7 suicides since 1995, and that the agency is working hard to make better provisions for youth with mental health needs. He stated that rooms are checked every 30 minutes for every youth. For at risk youth, rooms are either checked every 15 minutes or they are placed under permanent watch.

He explained that although the agency's response to suicide has improved, there is still a lot of work to be done.

**Board of Education Meeting
Thursday, May 23, 2002**

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Others: Kirsten Wallace; Dr. Randy Nelson, President, 21st Century; Mr. Rod Love, Asst. Secretary, Florida Dept. of Juvenile Justice

Dr. Tom O'Rourke, Associate Superintendent, gave an update on the latest developments of the Office of Education.

Over the last 12 months, effects have been made to place educational information on the Intranet, including the curriculum. Additional student progress, as far as grades, schedule

and vocational activities have been added . The Office of Technology Services has been instrumental in this progress.

Charlotte Curren discussed the Educational Tracking System. The Juvenile Justice Online Tracking System, she explained, provides a simple way to process juvenile records and is an online interactive , menu driven system that permits the user to either add, update or view juvenile records or to gather juvenile data.

Curren relayed that the information entered on a juvenile via JTS 2000 immediately creates or updates a record. It facilitates the mechanized generation of juvenile records without manual intervention from the end user. The System, she stated, contains eleven areas:

- Juvenile Search
- Case Notes
- Assessment
- Screening
- Demographics
- Admission
- Placement and Services
- Legal
- Release

Curren relayed that the Academic Information Management System (AIMS), provides the user with a means to add, update, delete or view educational information for juveniles within the system. Curren discussed the five functional areas:

- Academic Records
- Academic Reports
- Attendance
- Enrollment (enrollment information, records checklist, school history)
- Scheduling (daily activities, maintenance)

Also, Charlotte Curren stated that Juvenile Tracking Sheets will be implemented, these will provide access to exactly what each youth is working on in a specific subject, time, or location. The Educational Tracking System will be universal throughout all school programs.

Emmett Bryant questioned who will have access to these records. Charlotte Curren replied that management will have access to the records, and even then they will need to use a user ID and password.

Judge Gregory Adams inquired as to how the Office of Education was doing with the hiring of special education teachers. Dr. O'Rourke responded that the agency was doing better.

Adjournment

The Department of Juvenile Justice Board of Education meeting was adjourned and the regular Board meeting reconvened.

Ms. Dunwody stated that the next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, June 27, 2002.

Ms. Dunwody reminded members that the Georgia Juvenile Services Association Conference would be held June 5-7 in Savannah.

Ms. Dunwody also offered condolences to Eleanor C. Main in the passing of her mother on May 21, 2002.

Ms. Dunwody called for a motion to adjourn the May 23, 2002 minutes. The motion was made by Emmett Bryant, seconded by Violet Bennett and unanimously approved.

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

