

Minutes

**Board of Education
Thursday, October 31, 2002**

**2 Peachtree St. N.W.
7th Floor
Classroom #3 A&B
Atlanta, Georgia 30303**

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Steve Adams; Mary Linda Duncan; Susan Dunwody; Lois Frank; William Shellem; John Wiggins; Mary Wilhite

DJJ Staff Present: Frances Abercrombie; Frank Berry; Jack Catrett; Tom Coleman, Ed.D.; Christine Doyle; Mary Esposito; Bob Gordon; Chad Hoffecker; Steve Herndon; Muriel Horne; Rufus Johnson; Paul L. Jones; Ronnie Lane; Orlando L. Martinez; Greg Maxey; Ginny Mickish; Barbara Mincey; Camille Murray; Tom O'Rourke, Ed.D.; John P. Rickicki; Gwen Skinner; Radford Talley; Jimmy Taylor; Rush Utley; Jaci Vickers; Lena Wilson

Susan Dunwody, Acting Chair, indicated that she would preside over today's meeting. She then called for Dr. Tom O'Rourke to provide an overview of this year's annual educational training.

Dr. O'Rourke welcomed all in attendance to the 2002 Board of Education training. He stated that a lot of work had gone into making this year's training a success. An overview of the training process was given.

Muriel Horne trained all in attendance on the following items:

- Intake Process
- Screening Process

- Education Screening
- Reading Exercises
- Facility Orientation Process
- Responsibilities
- Education

Rufus Johnson discussed academic modules for school programs, followed by Paul Jones' description of the DJJ curriculum. Also, Bob Gordon discussed the Alternative Education Placement Model (AEPM), which is an adaptation of the Intensive Supervision Program conceptualized at the Wallace Village for Children in Broomfield, Colorado. It was later refined at the Hawthorne Psychoeducational Program in Cobb County and the Ash Street Psychoeducational Center, Clayton County, Georgia.

It was explained that in order to increase the collaborative effort required between teachers and students, as they engage in educational programming, these models have been adapted. The primary focus of AEPM is to reinforce the formal classroom setting, cooperative behaviors, and to provide immediate known and understood consequences for disruptive students.

The Juvenile Tracking System (JTS) was reviewed for the Board. Frances Abercrombie explained that the JTS tracks a student's courses, teachers, and schedule. A lot of dedication and effort went into the development of the JTS and Ms. Abercrombie expressed great pride and joy in the outcome of the project.

Barbara Mincey, Radford Talley, and Frances Abercrombie discussed topics ranging from Student Service Plans, Vocational Programming, and GED Curriculum. Frances Abercrombie reported on the success of the GED program. She stated that 63% of DJJ youth pass the GED program, whereas only 58% of the State Department of Education youth pass the GED program.

Ginny Mickish focused on student accountability and student evaluations. Board members were trained on State Department of Education Testing and End Course Tests. Board members were allowed to view the blank test forms and were made aware of the scoring process.

Rush Utley completed the Board of Education training by giving a program evaluation. Mr. Utley focused on evaluations such as:

- Curriculum assessment
- Performance Planning and Review
- Monthly Reviews by Regional Principals
- MOA Audit
- Georgia Department of Education Exceptional Students Reviews

Dr. O'Rourke thanked all in attendance for their participation and concluded the Board of Education training.

**Board of Juvenile Justice
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Roll Call

Board Members Present: Steve Adams; Mary Linda Duncan; Susan Dunwody; Lois Frank; William Shellem; John Wiggins; Mary Wilhite

Advisory Board Members Present: The Honorable Judge Quintress Gilbert

DJJ Staff Present: Frances Abercrombie; Frank Berry; Jack Catrett; Tom Coleman, Ed.D.; Christine Doyle; Mary Esposito; Bob Gordon; Chad Hoffecker; Steve Herndon; Muriel Horne; Rufus Johnson; Paul L. Jones; Ronnie Lane; Orlando L. Martinez; Greg Maxey; Ginny Mickish; Barbara Mincey; Camille Murray; Tom O'Rourke, Ed.D.; John P. Rickicki; Gwen Skinner; Radford Talley; Jimmy Taylor; Rush Utley; Jaci Vickers; Lena Wilson

Opening Remarks

Acting Chair Susan Dunwody announced that she would preside over today's meeting. As the meeting was called to order, Ms. Dunwody acknowledged that a quorum of the Board was not present. Therefore, the minutes from the October 31, 2002 meeting could not be approved.

Ms. Dunwody called for visitors, and recognizing none, Ms. Dunwody asked Commissioner Martinez to proceed with his comments.

Commissioner's Comments
Orlando L. Martinez, Commissioner

Introduction

Commissioner Martinez began by greeting and thanking everyone for attending the October 31, 2002 Board of Education training and welcomed all in attendance to the Board of Juvenile Justice meeting.

He reiterated that everyone's participation was appreciated and explained that this learning experience, which he hoped was enjoyable, is a critical aspect of agency affairs.

Commissioner Martinez asked Chad Hoffecker, Legal Services Director, to speak to an ante litem notice received by DJJ Board members. Mr. Hoffecker indicated that what was received was a statutory notification of intent to file a lawsuit. Mr. Hoffecker explained that Board members would not be named as defendants. This is a pressure tactic being used by the prosecutor to instill panic, he explained.

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

Facilities and Classification

- Commissioner Martinez announced that the high-risk serious offender program at Bill Ireland YDC started on October 1, 2002 and it is approaching the maximum capacity of 32 youth.

The building that the youth are being housed in is being modified to present a more home environment for the youth and staff assigned to the unit, Commissioner Martinez stated.

The agency has secured a federal grant that includes after care staff that will work mainly with this population. Commissioner Martinez stated that the grant funds will be used to target youth from the Fulton County area.

- In 2001, the Department of Juvenile Justice, in collaboration with the Department of Justice, started a major national initiative on aftercare.

Participating with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), the Department of Corrections (DOC), and the Parole Board, a proposal was developed that resulted in the Department of Juvenile Justice receiving \$400,000.00 out of \$1 billion targeted towards aftercare in the juvenile justice system.

The intent of the grant was to channel funds to MST. Commissioner Martinez stated that because of the language in the proposal, DJJ was unable to use the funds intended. The Department is currently in the process of transitioning funds that can be used for staff placement.

Over the next couple, of years, it is anticipated that the funds will be used on programs and services better suited to the needs of the Department.

- On December 3rd, the agency will exchange females and male currently being housed at the Emanuel and Pelham YDCs by the private provider Bobby Ross Group. Pelham YDC will now house female residents and Emanuel will house males. Commissioner Martinez reported that this change is due to the decrease in the number of female clients being sent to the short term YDC programs.

Emanuel has been operating at about 60%. It has a bed capacity of 168 youth and has been averaging 80 girls for the last several months. At the same time, Pelham has been operating at 110%. It has a 120 bed capacity and has been averaging 130 youth for the last several months.

Due to the over-utilization of Pelham and the under-utilization of Emanuel, this move will increase the agency's ability to manage male offenders by 48 beds, Commissioner Martinez reported.

- Commissioner Martinez expressed relief when stating that the agency is transitioning from the old correctional model of having a Director and two assistants, to having a Facility Director, a Director of Programs, and a Director of Security. This change is termed "Unit Management Model" and is designed to allow for management of youth in smaller groups, and to make it more responsive to the needs of staff and youth assigned to these groups.

The agency is also developing an administrative system which supports smaller units. Commissioner Martinez commended Ronnie Lane on his diligent work in developing the unit management concept within the YDCs, whether it be institutional or community units.

- As a result of the Governor's recommended budget cuts, funds for the McIntosh program were cut but re-added after some negotiation. McIntosh was changed from a 168-bed facility to an 80-bed facility and is being operated by Ramsay Corporation.

A Re-dedication Ceremony was held October 15th and the Honorable René D. Kemp acted as Master of Ceremony for the event. Due to downsizing, a change in services is expected. The goal of the agency is to provide more specialized services for kids, Commissioner Martinez stated.

Community Corrections

- The GJSA conference was held on October 2-4, 2002 in Macon. Approximately 1,000 persons attended, which was the largest conference the Department has had, Commissioner Martinez reported. That number represents about 20% of the agency's employees that received training on balanced and restorative justice.

Balanced and Restorative Justice states that the agency has 3 customers. The first customer would be the victim, Commissioner Martinez stated. The agency needs a type of restoration process for the victim. The concept is restoration rather than retribution. The second customer would be the community and it is a critical part of the agency to restore order and safety to the community. The third customer would be the youth themselves.

Commissioner Martinez indicated that Ronnie Lane is having a conference for the YDCs on December 9-11 at the Crowne Plaza in Macon, Georgia. The theme for this conference is also Balanced and Restorative Justice.

Adam Kennedy, District 9 Director, won the Vanguard Award for outstanding district. Commissioner Martinez commended Mr. Kennedy for his hard work and efforts towards making his district the best.

Commissioner Martinez acknowledged Susan Dunwody, Ed Risler, and John Wiggins for attending most of the conference, and urged others to attend next year.

- Commissioner Martinez reported that the agency had issued a directive on taking control of the detention population. Commissioner Martinez stated there will be resistance, but he, Gwen Skinner, and Chad Hoffecker will attend a meeting with judges on Monday.

Questions that will be raised are as follows:

- Who will be released, not those awaiting adjudication
- Impact of judicial discretion

Essentially, the agency has set operational capacities at each RYDC to ensure the safe housing of clients and safe working conditions for agency staff.

Commissioner Martinez explained the agency's position. Hypothetically, the agency is funded for 100 kids and has the funds to provide safety for 100 kids. In order to provide continued safety for the 100 kids, the agency will cap off at 120. At 120, the kids will not be sent to the YDCs because of the long-term nature of the facility. At this point, youth will be routed to other RYDCs.

- Carl Sanitti, Director, Metro RYDC, has submitted his resignation effective October 31, 2002. Commissioner Martinez reported that Carl will be missed and expressed thanks to him for the dedication and devotion he has shown the agency.
- Commissioner Martinez reported that he and Gwen Skinner attended the Carroll County Family Connection Legislative Breakfast on October 15, 2002. He stated that it was interesting to watch what was happening in communities and he recognized their support in reducing the reliance on detention.

Office of Behavioral Health Services

- Starting on October 17th, the Office of Behavioral Health Services staff began conducting five training sessions on polices which particularly relate to the outstanding MOA issues in the area of mental health.

These daylong training sessions have included reviews of the following policies:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Title</u>
12.12	Treatment Planning
12.13	YDC Behavioral Health Needs Assessment
12.14	Mental Health Alternate Placement Review
12.15	Suicide Prevention
12.23	Behavioral Health Quality Assurance

A current status report of Department of Justice monitoring was given to staff in attendance at each of these training sessions.

Policy

The following policy has been added:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Title</u>
3.37	Dress Code for Non-Uniformed Staff

The dress code has been restructured and staff must be professionally dressed, Commissioner Martinez reported.

Meetings

Commissioner indicated that he had participated in the following major meetings since the October 3rd meeting:

- Attended a meeting with Judge Adams, Judge Teske, Judge Hickson, Judge

Walters, and Norm Zimlick. Norm Zimlick, he stated, works with the Department on Medicaid funding. He has discussed with independent courts a way to get Medicaid dollars for the agency.

- Spoke at the Georgia Association of Community Services Conference on Juvenile Justice/Mental Health Issues and Emerging Responses. SB 498 changed roles of Regional Boards and the roles of the Community Service Boards.
- Went to Augusta to show support for the new Director, D.P. Lyons. Judging from his first few weeks on the job, D.P. Lyons seems to be a very solid man and leader.
- Attended a meeting with the MacArthur Foundation.

Lois Frank questioned who provides medical coverage for the residents and if they are eligible for Medicaid. Commissioner Martinez stated that the state funds medical care for committed kids through the Office of Health Services in Dr. Coleman's Division. On the other hand, he stated, non-committed kids are funded through the counties. Medicaid has income requirements and most of the committed kids meet or exceed the requirements.

Lois Frank questioned if the agency is attempting to draft a proposal stating that kids in the YDCs and RYDCs should be eligible for Medicaid. Commissioner Martinez further stated that the agency is under an agreement. A waiver was given so that the agency can earn the money. Last year, he reported, \$9 million was earned and this year to date, approximately \$20 million has been earned.

Commissioner Martinez concluded his comments.

Chair's Comments

Ms. Dunwody proceeded with her Chair's Comments

- Ms. Dunwody announced the resignation of Dave Evans from the Board of Juvenile Justice. Dave has the primary responsibility of caring for an elderly and sickly mother and believes that, as this being his first priority, he is unable to fulfill the responsibilities of serving on this Board.

There are a number of vacancies on our Board as well as some expired terms. Over the next few weeks, the Commissioner and his staff will work with the Board and the Governor's staff to establish a fully functioning Board of 15 attending members.

- Ms. Dunwody reminded Board members of the upcoming 2nd Summit on Girls to be held November 13-15 at Pineisle Resort at Lake Lanier. She stated that the conference was well anticipated.

- In conclusion, Ms. Dunwody stated that the November-December meetings of the Board are usually held the first week of December and asked if there was any concern for doing the same this year. Hearing none, she stated that the first Thursday in December is the 5th. Vi Bennett has offered to host a meeting in Jesup. Jaci Vickers stated that a meeting place has not yet been determined.

Asking for and hearing no questions, Ms. Dunwody adjourned the October 31, 2002 Board meeting.

APPROVED:

Susan F. Dunwody, Acting Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Orlando L. Martinez
Commissioner & Superintendent
DJJ Board of Education

Emmett Bryant, Jr., Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice

