

Minutes

Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education

**Thursday, March 27, 2003
1:00 p.m.**

**DHR Boardroom
29th Floor
2 Peachtree St. N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303**

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Steve Adams; Major General Peter Boylan; Mary Linda Duncan; Susan F. Dunwody; Lois Frank; Dr. Edwin A. Risler; John E. Wiggins; Mary E. Wilhite

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

DJJ Staff Present: Commissioner Orlando L. Martinez; Dr. Thomas L. Coleman; Mary Esposito; Chad Hoffecker; Greg Maxey; Camille Murray; Dr. Tom O'Rourke; Cindy Pittman; Gwendolyn Skinner; Dominick Robinson; Mike Sorrells; Jimmy Taylor; Jaci Mays Vickers; Lena Wilson

Others: Mark Cicero, Georgia Department of Law; Bobby Carrell, Stephanie Celna

Opening Remarks

Susan Dunwody, Acting Chair

Acting Chair Susan Dunwody called to order the March 27, 2003 meeting. Roll call was taken by Jaci Mays Vickers.

Without the presence of a quorum, Chair Dunwody announced that the February 27, 2003 minutes would be called for approval at a later time.

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Commissioner's Comments
Orlando L. Martinez, Commissioner

Introduction

Commissioner Martinez greeted the assembly and thanked them for attending the March 27, 2003 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. He briefly highlighted activities of the agency over the last few weeks, as follows:

Operational Activities

Facilities

- Ireland YDC
 - Jane Wilson, long-term Director of the Bill Ireland YDC, was reassigned to Community Corrections.
 - Melissa Aaron is the Acting Director of the Ireland YDC. Ms. Aaron recently served as the Director of the Macon YDC.
 - Ronnie Richardson, former Assistant Director of the Macon YDC is moving to Ireland YDC as Acting Assistant Director.
 - Russell Bromell, a former Regional Trainer, is moving to the Ireland YDC as Acting Assistant Director.
 - J.C. Hitchcock, current Assistant Director, is retiring effective May 1, 2003.
 - Jack Cawley is temporarily working at the Bill Ireland Regional Office assisting Robert Manville with the administrative duties related to Special Projects.
- Macon YDC
 - Debbie Blasingame will serve as Acting Director

Community Corrections

- Neil Kaltenecker was selected as the new Director for District 3B. Ms. Kaltenecker is from Florida and has a background with the Georgia Children and Youth Coordinating Council. She previously served as Coordinator of the Alternatives to Detention Initiative and as Director of Detention Alternatives in the Community Corrections Division. Her wide range of experience in juvenile

justice makes her well qualified for the position. Neil is also involved in Gender Specific Programming.

- Gwen Skinner met with representatives of the Cobb County Rotary Club. The Club is charged with developing a community project to celebrate their 100 year anniversary. For their project, they chose to equip the new library at the Marietta RYDC.

The project is scheduled for completion in February 2005.

- The RYDC population is below capacity and is hitting the 1,000 mark. The RYDCs remain at a safe capacity.
- An assessment of the juvenile detention system was completed. The agency remains committed to fully implementing detention reform in Georgia. To promote the consistent use of the Detention Assessment Instrument (DAI), activities such as the following will have to be accomplished:
 1. further data analysis to determine detention practices and trends in individual judicial circuits;
 2. engage in on-going positive dialogue with the Council of Juvenile Court Judges and individual judges to build consensus for detention reform;
 3. review policies and practices regarding DAI usage and data entry;
 4. comprehensively analyze the utilization of exiting detention alternatives;
 5. develop local collaboratives which support detention reform in selected sites; and
 6. establish a state level oversight and coordination collaborative.
- A committee has been formed by Gwen Skinner to reduce the populations at the Augusta and Bill Ireland YDCs and further develop regionalization.
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation sponsored an Inter-site East meeting in Baltimore to discuss detention reform with several sites.

The Georgia group consisted of DJJ staff - Frank Berry and Lorr Elias; CYCC staff – Pete Colbenson and Susane Luker; Gay Smith, Family Connections; Judy Fitzgerald, Georgia Mental Health Association; Tricia Hernandez, Georgia Parent Support Network; Susan Tester, Georgia Indigent Defense Council; Terry Walsh, Defense Attorney, Alston & Bird; The Honorable Gregory Adams, Chief Judge, DeKalb Juvenile Court; The Honorable Steve Teske, Judge, Clayton County Juvenile Court.

- The agency feels that there is a direct correlation between institutional abuse and the size of the facility. The Augusta YDC had a population of 244, it is now

operating at 162. The goal of DJJ is to operate Augusta at 150 and Bill Ireland at 300, with two separate units of 150 residents each.

- Community Corrections is in the process of developing an e-mail system similar to those operated by many public schools where parents can e-mail case managers in the community, RYDCs and YDCs. Commissioner Martinez reported that this is a very progressive move that should move the agency further down the road of making the agency family friendly and opening up agency programs and facilities with enhanced communication.

Human Resources

- It was reported that efforts were underway to validate the video-based examination for use in the selection of Juvenile Correctional Officers that was developed in conjunction with the Ergometrics and Applied Personnel Research, Inc..

Members of the Board of Juvenile Justice then viewed a portion of the video.

Commissioner further indicated that depending upon the results of the validation efforts, the potential application of the examination may well extend to other Department jobs in a facility and community-based setting. Over the next month, a three-phase validation effort will involve the participation of several hundred Department employees.

Commissioner Martinez reported that:

- In Phase One, 225 current employees with three to five years of work experience in the following job series will take the examination: Juvenile Correctional Officer, Juvenile Probation/Parole Specialist, Counseling/Social Services, Food Service and Administrative Support workers, as well as Nurses and Teachers.
- In Phase Two, these same employees will complete a job analysis questionnaire that asks the employee how much time they feel they spend performing certain tasks associated with the delivery of services/activities to youth. Employees will also be asked to select those behaviors they believe may be needed to do their job proficiently. Lastly, he stated, employees will be asked to rate the level of importance of each designated behavior to success on-the-job.
- In Phase Three, the supervisor of each employee participating in the first two activities will be asked to complete a questionnaire listing the behaviors that they believe are important in working with youth and will

be asked to place a check mark beside the answer that best describes their employee's performance in relation to the behaviors.

Commissioner Martinez explained that all materials associated with the validation effort were confidential in nature and were to be forwarded to Ergometrics for review and analysis. Individual results will not be shared with the employee nor Department, he reported.

It is projected that the video-based examination will be ready for use in July of this year. The character traits that are looked for in JCO's are honesty, empathy, and a genuine spirit. The Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice will be the first agency to have a video-based exam. The exam will be nationally marketed by Ergometrics.

Program Services

Office of Behavioral Health Services

- Commissioner Martinez reported that based on a recent study, there is a high amount of psychiatric disorders in the juvenile detention population.
- Two-thirds of boys and seventy-five percent of girls have at least 1 psychiatric disorder. The Office of Behavioral Health Services, along with the National Mental Health Association of Georgia, hosted a "Suicide Prevention Retreat on March 13-14, 2003.

Commissioner Martinez explained that a meeting was held after the suicide at the Augusta YDC. The meeting, he stated, expanded beyond the clinical approach to suicide but also touched on a structural approach to suicide.

Participants included staff from DJJ, local experts and staff of the National Mental Health Association of Georgia. The focus was on ways of addressing the issue of suicide from the aspect of counseling, facility design, parental involvement, staff training, etc.

- The Behavioral Health Placement Review Panel meeting was held on March 4, 2003. The issues covered were the approval for youth to be placed in the Mental Health Unit at the Augusta YDC, the approval for youth to be placed in the Macon Behavioral Health Unit pending a review and for those awaiting community placement. Other issues covered were legal diversion and the option for a child advocate.

- The Lighthouse in Augusta (a corporation that purchased the old Charter House) opened to DJJ in February for the placement of youth with mental health needs. DJJ has assigned ten youth to the facility.
- The Residential Substance Abuse Program at the Augusta YDC will be closed due to poor performance. The three staff members affected by the closing of the facility have been notified of the change. Dr. Coleman and staff will redesign the program.

Office of Medical Services

- Dr. Staples-Horne has done an extensive amount of work on Hepatitis B protocols for all DJJ facilities. The Executive Team received an update. The main challenge is to ensure that all youth in need of the vaccine is provided with it.
- The most recent Pharmacy & Therapeutic (P&T) Committee Meeting was held at the DJJ Training Academy on March 6, 2003. The major issue covered was HIPAA compliance.
- DJJ has received notification from the Department of Education of a successful application from the 21st Century Grant. This grant will allow the establishment of an after school educational/technical program to assist the youth in their transition back to the community.

Policy

Commissioner Martinez reported the following additions to policies, available via the Intranet.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Title</u>
2.10	Youth Medical Expenses
2.12	Behavioral Health Treatment Plan (updated)
2.14	Personal Property Management
2.23	Behavioral Health Peer Review Form
8.4	Control Center

Meetings

Commissioner Martinez reported his participation in the following major meetings since our February 27th meeting:

- Presented at the Casey Journalism Center, which is associated with the University of Maryland. Thirty-two journalists from across the nation participated in this forum. Covered were all of the major juvenile justice issues.
- Attended a meeting at the Gainesville RYDC. Along with RYDC Directors, Regional Managers, District Directors and others, a presentation was made on the new prototype institution. Soon the agency will be opening the new Rome, Augusta and Macon RYDCs. One of the difficulties, Commissioner Martinez reported, is moving into the facility with new operations. There will be 3 meetings held in the next couple of months to determine move-in tactics.

Conclusion

- Commissioner Martinez concluded his remarks and opened the floor for questions.
- Major General Boylan questioned the changes being made at the Bill Ireland YDC. Commissioner Martinez explained that it is difficult to manage a large facility. The larger facilities are having their populations decreased due to a high level of concern. Audits were done in both facilities (Bill Ireland and Macon YDCs). It was found that changes should be made. By breaking up the population, the facility staff will be able to better manage the youth housed there.
- Regarding the Augusta YDC, Commissioner Martinez explained that there has been a lot of press on the facility and that the institution is not operating correctly and that the programs are not effectively implemented. Due to the ongoing investigation, Commissioner Martinez explained that he was limited in what he could discuss about the YDC.

Approval of Minutes

Susan Dunwody, Acting Chair

Chair Dunwody announced the presence of a quorum and called for the approval of the February 27, 2003 minutes. The motion was made by John Wiggins, seconded by Mary Linda Duncan, and unanimously approved.

Approval of Resolutions

Greg Maxey, Deputy Commissioner
Financial Management & Administrative Support

- Greg Maxey asked for approval of the resolution to effectuate sewer easements and licensing agreement at the new Muscogee County facility. The motion was made by Steve Adams, seconded by John Wiggins, and unanimously approved

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- Greg Maxey asked for approval of the resolution to effectuate the road improvement easement requests at the Griffin Regional Youth Detention Center. The motion was made by John Wiggins, seconded by Mary Wilhite and unanimously approved.

Interstate Compact

Cindy Pittman, Deputy Administrator
Interstate Compact on Juveniles

Overview

Cindy Pittman, Deputy Administrator, Interstate Compact on Juveniles, gave an overview and referred the Board to a description of the topic. Interstate Compact was founded in 1955. It began with 15 basic articles and ended with 3 amendments. The amendments were optional and they varied from state to state. In 1990 the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention contacted the Interstate Compact with issues ranging from delays of transfer, parole, and escapes. The first concerns trace back to funding issues.

Different states across the United States formed a covenant. The purpose was to be updated on how each state was handling out-of-state youth. The OJJDP shared the results with the association. Because of the poor results, the association began a plan of action to redesign Interstate compact for the 21st century.

OJJDP provided funding and reviewed the 1955 version of the Interstate Compact. It was found that the original version could not be revised, therefore, a rewrite committee was formed out of state administrators.

In the Spring of 2002 a document was drafted. The document consisted of specific details and mandates and adequate funding for providing public protection and victims' rights.

A new compact has been proposed. Dues for the compact are assessed based on a state's population. For the state of Georgia, the dues amount is \$27,000 a year. She added that the costs ranged from \$12,000 to \$37,000. The aforementioned amount allots for a headquarters and an Executive Director. To date, twenty-one states have introduced the new compact.

Judge Gregory Adams inquired if Georgia had introduced the new compact and if so, who would receive the \$27,000. Cindy Pittman responded that the new Compact had not yet been introduced by Georgia but that Representative Georganna Sinkfield had made a commitment to do so. The monies for the Interstate Compact will be facilitated by the Interstate Compact for Juveniles National Commission.

Major General Boylan questioned if the association was like a Board of Directors and if it had any authority. Cindy Pittman explained that the association included a national

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headquarters and by agreeing to participate, the states subject themselves to a collective agreement.

Major General Boylan pointed out that the enforcement comes from legislation, not association. The association, he stated, will only be a group and that the commission enforces the rules.

Commissioner Martinez added that there will be a vote held on the rules and regulations.

Dr. Ed Risler, asked for the number of kids that go through the Interstate Compact and inquired on the payoff for the agency. The example was given that if a Georgia kid was sent to California and DJJ calls for a home evaluation, 3 weeks can pass without receiving any information. With the new Interstate Compact, Georgia's kids are placed as a priority.

Commissioner Martinez added that DJJ sends out 380 kids a year and in return, the agency gets 360. With the new Interstate Compact, the agency can ensure that Georgia's kids get the services that they need. States should have a mandate to treat Georgia's kids as their own. Commissioner Martinez continued by stating that he himself asked the question, "Why pay \$27,000?" It is because states need someone to manage the compact.

Judge Quintress Gilbert questioned how the compact would be enforced. Commissioner Martinez answered that it is a desire for all states to comply and that the Governor of each state appoints a Compact Commissioner which is always the Juvenile Justice Commissioner.

Judge Gregory Adams inquired on the amount for the current Interstate Compact. Cindy Pittman responded that the current amount was \$400 a year and that the \$27,000 would not be paid until the 35th state joins the Interstate Compact, around the year 2006.

Judge Gilbert questioned if the new organization would absorb the old organization or if there would be 2 existing associations. It was explained that once the new association was in existence that there would be no need for the old one.

Cindy Pittman closed by stating that the agency was doing its best with what it has and that sponsors and legislation will be introduced to offset the costs.

Budget Update

Greg Maxey, Deputy Commissioner
Financial Management & Administrative Support

Greg Maxey, Deputy Commissioner, Financial Management and Administrative Support, gave an update on the budget. He stated that the Amended budget passed last week. He then outlined the FY03 Amended Budget Request. Proposed reductions include:

- To eliminate 13 new slots/beds planned for the Intermediate Intervention Program
- To delay the opening of the Crisp RYDC
- To cancel the addition of 13 new beds to the Non-secure detention program
- To reduce funding for the Emanuel YDC
- To cancel the addition of 13 slots in the Multi-Systemic Therapy Program.
- To reduce funding on contracts that were either one-time, no longer required, covered by other means, delayed implementation, or lower than expected utilization.
- To reduce funding in travel, equipments, per diem (administration, mental health, YDC-care and custody)
- Austerity adjustment

Total reduction is \$12,062,970.

Enhancements for the amended budget include:

- Provide start-up and operation funds for three new RYDCs (Augusta, Macon, and Rome)
- Eliminate hiring delays for Juvenile Correctional Officers
- Transfer \$41,300 from contracts to real estate rentals to fund a standard GBA rental rate of \$10.37 per square footage.
- Realign object classes for privatized maintenance contract
- Realign object classes for Macon YDC mental health contract
- Realign object classes for the expansion of the privatization of vocation education programs at the YDCs

Total enhancements are \$3,939,179.

He also outlined the FY04 Amended Budget Request by stating that the appropriation sub-committees made the recommendation to restore Wholistic Stress Control, the Augusta Mini-Theatre, and the Athens RYDC.

Legislative Update

Jaci Mays Vickers, Director
Office of Public Affairs

Jaci Mays Vickers, Director of Public Affairs gave an overview of the legislative session to date. She explained that March 27, 2003 was the 30th day of the 40 day session. It is hoped that the Session will end no later than April 18th, with a recess next week. The timeframe to transfer senate bills to the House has passed on the 29th day. The House has until the 33rd day to transfer bills to the Senate.

To-date, she reported, only 10 bills had passed by both chambers.

The most important bills to this agency, she stated, and which are still pending include:

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- House Bill 470 – Sponsored by Rep. Stephanie Stuckey Benefield, which raises the age to 18 for status offenders.. It has passed in the House and is on first reader in the Senate. The fiscal impact is projected at \$2 million annually for pure status offenders.
- House Bill 670 – Sponsored by Rep. Alisha Thomas attempts to change the manner in which children are tried as adults. It was tabled in House Judiciary Committee this week which means that it can be picked up at any time. The motion was made by Rep. Larry Walker and was offered to give the author time to work out some of the concerns. The initial cost is \$15 million

The legislation will give Juvenile Court Judges the decision to keep their cases or transfer to superior court. Currently, children tried as adults under SB 440 receive a minimum of 10 years without probation. The author is proposing an amendment that after 5 years a review is made; a threshold for indictment be set at 90 days and for prosecution at 120 days. Also, it will require that a detention report be provided to the Chief Judge.

The main discussion on HB 670 is that District Attorneys like having the decision on who can be tried as adults. Unfortunately, Ms. Vickers reported, on the costs alone, the bill might die.

Lois Frank questioned whether the agency has taken a position on the issue. Commissioner Martinez explained that the agency believes that juvenile court is the best place to decide on kids. It gives the Juvenile Judge the option to transfer up or down. As a juvenile correctional system, he added, the agency should be able to deal with all kids.

Judge Gregory Adams added that he did not see a problem with raising the age to 18. Jaci Vickers added that Judge Nina Hickson testified on behalf of the legislation. Her position was a personal one and not on behalf of the Council of Juvenile Court judges.

Lois Frank stated that she was impressed with the efforts that the agency is making.

Other

- Commissioner reported that he was pleased to announce the move to the new Headquarters for the Department of Juvenile Justice. The move, he stated, is scheduled for the weekend of April 26, 2003.
- Our new address will be 3408 Covington Highway in Decatur. Directions have been placed at each station and will be included in future meeting announcements.

- The phone numbers will change and have not yet been determined
- Commissioner Martinez briefly went over the specifications of the building:
 - 98,220 SF, 4-story office building located across the street from the Kensington MARTA station and is a better work environment
 - Building includes offices and workstations, file rooms and storage space, climate controlled file server room, a Board Room, 5 conference rooms, 8 team rooms, a dining room and 3 break rooms
 - 240 staff from 4 locations will be consolidating into one location
 - Current construction status:
 - All exterior finishes are in place
 - Parking lot is being paved and striped this week; 198 parking spaces
 - Landscaping is being finished
 - Interior finishes are complete on 3 floors with carpet and wall coverings being installed on the 4th floor this week
 - Workstations are being delivered and erected over the next 3 weeks with work currently in progress on the 1st floor.

Commissioner Martinez relayed his excitement about the move.

Adjournment

Ms. Dunwody called for the adjournment of the March 27, 2003 meeting to convene the March 27, 2003 Board of Education meeting. The motion was made by Peter Boylan, seconded by John Wiggins, and unanimously approved.

DJJ Board of Education

Tom O'Rourke, Ed.D., Associate Superintendent
Office of Education

- Dr. O'Rourke announced that on March 28th the state school superintendent would visit the Metro RYDC.
- Dr. O'Rourke gave the great news that on April 3, 2003, a DJJ youth would receive his diploma from Augusta Technical College with a degree in Business Applications. Dr. O'Rourke explained that he would be the first to graduate from a technical college while in detention.
- Construction at the Sumter YDC is complete. Youth at the facility will have access to Automotive Technology, Computer Information Systems, Construction Labs, and the Computer Repair Program.

- Dr. O'Rourke discussed the Education Teacher Conference where over 500 people attended. Stephanie Lewis of the Rome RYDC was selected as Teacher of the Year.
- Ryan Rainey visited the Marietta RYDC and was pleased with the progress of that site. Dr. O'Rourke reported that the Education Department was nearing an end of the MOA.
- Commissioner Martinez added that the U.S. Department of Justice was extremely pleased with the Office of Education.

Chair's Comments
Susan Dunwody, Acting Chair

Ms. Dunwody suggested that due to the move into the new headquarters that no April meeting be held.

Ms. Dunwody reported that the Georgia Juvenile Services Association has scheduled their annual spring training conference in Atlanta. The host hotel will be the Atlanta Marriott Marquis. The National Conference on Preventing Crime in the Black Community will also be held that week. She added that these 2 conferences were taking place around the 4th week in May. She suggested that the next Board meeting be held on May 15th at 10:00am at which time the Board would receive a tour of the new facility. The Board of Juvenile Justice concurred with the change.

Before the adjournment, Lois Frank inquired on the Board appointments by the Governor and inquired if staff were receiving the Hepatitis B vaccination. Commissioner Martinez explained that there has been no activity on Board appointments by the Governor. Dr. Coleman reported that all the kids are receiving the vaccination. The disease, he explained, is airborne and highly contagious. It is especially a priority because of the different lifestyles and the closed environment. Due to the expensive nature of vaccinations, staff are responsible, he stated, for receiving their own vaccinations.

Judge Gregory Adams questioned if the new headquarters was a Decatur or an Avondale Estates address. Commissioner Martinez responded that it was a Decatur address due to how the lines were drawn.

Adjournment
Susan Dunwody, Acting Chair

Ms. Dunwody called for the adjournment of the March 27, 2003 meeting. The motion was made by Peter Boylan, seconded by Mary Wilhite, and unanimously 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