

Minutes

Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education

**Thursday, May 15, 2003
10:00 a.m.**

**DJJ Boardroom
2nd Floor
3408 Covington Highway
Decatur, Georgia 30032**

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Violet Bennett; Mary Linda Duncan; Susan F. Dunwody; Dr. Edwin A. Risler; Mary E. Wilhite

Advisory Board Members Present: Judge Gregory Adams

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

Others: Bobby Carrell, Eckerd Youth Alternatives; Mark Cicero, Georgia Department of Law; Aaron Estis, Bearing Point; Ellyn Evans, Eckerd Youth Alternatives; Bill Joy, Georgia Department of Law; Dwight Lord, Eckerd Youth Alternatives; Cathy Myers, Eckerd Youth Alternatives; Robert Weaver, UGA Social Work; Stephanie Willum, Eckerd Youth Alternatives

Opening Remarks

Susan Dunwody, Acting Chair

Acting Chair Susan Dunwody called to order the May 15, 2003 meeting. Roll call was taken by Jaci Mays Vickers.

Board Minutes – Thursday, May 15, 2003
DJJ Board Room - Decatur, Georgia

Without the presence of a quorum, Chair Dunwody announced that the March 27, 2003 minutes would be called for approval at the June 26th meeting.

Commissioner's Comments
Orlando L. Martinez, Commissioner

Introduction

Commissioner Martinez welcomed the assembly and thanked them for attending the May 15, 2003 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. Held at the new headquarters, Commissioner Martinez expressed his excitement over the improvements over the previous working conditions.

Commissioner Martinez recognized that the new Headquarters was closer to Judge Gregory Adams and told Judge Adams that he expected more visits on his part. He then shared with the Board the statistics from 2 Peachtree. Preceding the move, the agency occupied a total of 62,972 square feet, spreadout over 3 buildings. The new Central Office is equipped to hold agency staff from all 3 locations and is 98,220 square feet. The average cost of the old headquarters was \$13.76 per square foot, at the new Headquarters, that cost has increased to \$17.45 per square foot. The new Headquarters has a 15-year lease.

Recognition was given to Greg Maxey, Beverly Wade, Doug Engle and their staff.

Commissioner Martinez then briefly highlighted activities of the agency over the last several weeks, as follows:

Operational Activities

Memorandum of Agreement

- Commissioner Martinez recognized Bill Joy and Mark Cicero for their hard work and struggles while working with the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). He reported that the U.S. Department of Justice brought in an Independent Monitor. Bill Castro from Illinois was brought in to review the education program. He announced that at a later date, The Department of Juvenile Justice would receive a letter from the U.S. Department of Justice stating that the education program was in full compliance with the MOA.

After congratulating Dr. Tom O'Rourke, Director, Office of Education, the Board of Juvenile Justice applauded Dr. O'Rourke for his efforts and hard work.

Commissioner Martinez added that in the area of mental health, the agency is still having problems with placement, transfers, and staffing. He explained the difficulties

in recruiting and maintaining teachers due to payment issues. In the area of behavioral health, the agency is at 91% compliance.

He also referred to a study done on April 21, 2003, completed by the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law entitled *Parents Give Up Custody of Children for Mental Health Care Because of Unavailable Funding*. The following news, he stated, added complications and a different way of looking at mental health. He explained that information on the new study would be distributed to the Board of Juvenile Justice by mail.

The MOA, Commissioner Martinez reiterated, required that an Office of Quality Assurance (OQA) be established and that it follow specific guidelines to remain at 100% compliance. Requiring that an OQA office be formed, he stated, was more of a policing method than a teaching method. The agency devised a different method of quality assurance, therefore it could not remain at 100% compliance. The area is currently under review.

Community Corrections

- Commissioner Martinez reported that Doug Engle has successfully navigated the agency through HIPAA implementation. As a result of his hard work and dedication, he stated, the agency is now in compliance with HIPAA. Greg Maxey served as the Project Manager and Gwen Skinner served as the agency representative.
- The Commissioner indicated that a different method is being used for the population projection. The method was devised by Geoffrey Butts, Researcher, with Policy Practice Influence. Dr. James Austin will receive a copy of the population projection before the agency publishes it. Over the next few years, there will be a 6 – 8 percent increase in at risk kids ages 10 – 13.
- Commissioner Martinez added that, based on new methodology developed by Dr. Geoffrey Butts for the projection of future populations, if we continue with current policies and procedures, projections over the next five years would indicate a 17.8 % decrease in RYDC beds and a 4.5 % increase in the YDCs. The changes have resulted in a decrease of 181 beds. Therefore, almost \$12 million in redirected funds will go to Community Corrections. He explained that the agency was not financing correctly.

Comparing fiscal year 1999 to 2004, there was a 60% overall increase of funds being redirected to the community which only covered administration, office space, etc. Now, he stated, there will be a 95% increase in actual services. The focus will be promoting community programs that best serve kids.

- Commissioner Martinez discussed the agency's plans for a new building set up for facilities. He explained that Pat Sullivan was the architect that developed a new split-level design. Community Corrections is presently involved in conducting training for the staff of the new Macon, Rome and Augusta RYDCs, utilizing consultants John Stettler and Pat Sullivan.

The training will emphasize the effects of the new facility design on programming and staff interactions with youth. The RYDCs will be operational by July.

Program Services

Office of Behavioral Health Services

- Commissioner Martinez stated that 3 people have responded to the Request for Proposal (RFP) for providing mental health services at the Macon YDC and that the agency is in the process of making a selection.
- Commissioner Martinez stated that Behavioral Health Services is working on an agreement with the Community Service Board (CSB) to provide services at the DeKalb RYDC. Agreements and vendor services such as these will result in a more efficient and flexible delivery of services in DJJ facilities.

Facilities

- Commissioner explained that for some time the agency has wondered whether the facilities should be educational based, with schooling 8 hours a day and 5 days a week. With the resignation of D.P. Lyons, the agency had the opportunity to make Principal Audrey Armistad of the Augusta YDC the Acting Director of the facility. This is a new concept that the agency is looking at.
- There was a change in leadership at the Emanuel YDC which is privately owned. Choice Nelson is currently Acting Director. Mr. Nelson has served for a number of years as Director of Pelham.

Policy

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

<u>No.</u>	<u>Title</u>
2.10	Youth Medical Expenses

Meetings

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

- Met with Kathy Cox, State School Superintendent, at the Metro RYDC, to highlight DJJ's status as the 181st school district and to focus on the agency's achievement in educational services. Kathy Cox was very supportive of the Department's initiatives.

Bearing Point

Aaron Estis, Project Manager

Aaron Estis, Project Manager of Bearing Point, began by referring to his handout. He gave background information on the Strategic Planning Process by referencing the previous, present, and future fiscal years. By doing this, he explained the progression through the FY'01 Internal Guidelines to the FY'04 Service Delivery Plan, Regional Plans, Service Population Forecast and Management Reference Plan. He explained that with regionalization, we need to rethink whether or not our current objectives are valid, need to be restructured or new ones formulated.

The objective, he stated, is to create a first class document that the agency can use. There is a task plan in place to achieve this objective which includes overall goals, technology and workplace planning. Mr. Estis referred the Board to the schedule of activities for the general process of developing a document. He explained that he worked closely with Doug Engle on the dates and specifics of the document.

Lastly, Mr. Estis explained that DJJ has played, and will continue to play, a major role in making the strategic plan work by handling meetings, etc. The main goal is communicating in a clear and concise fashion. Mr. Estis added that more Board interaction is needed and appreciated. He explained that a one-on-one interview is being offered to each of the Board members to obtain their ideas, thoughts, and feedback on the process. Mr. Estis is the key contact person.

Judge Gregory Adams questioned if the current stakeholders were the original stakeholders, and if so, why hadn't they been changed. Mr. Estis explained that they were the same stakeholders and that he was open to any suggestions Judge Adams may have. Judge Adams recommended that discussions be held with families. Commissioner Martinez commented to Judge Adams that there was a parent that voiced concern on a particular facility at the last Directors' meeting and that speaking with more families is a direction worth following.

Board Minutes – Thursday, May 15, 2003
DJJ Board Room - Decatur, Georgia

Legislative Update: Budget

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 session ended on April 25, 2003 and that there is an expectation to revisit the FY'04 Budget. The major changes to the budget proposal include:

- The Athens RYDC will not close.

Total reduction is \$10,371,122.

Enhancements for the amended budget include:

- Funding was received for 3 new RYDCs (Augusta, Macon, and Rome) and to hire JCO's in a timelier manner.
- \$ 1 million dollars in next year's budget, which will put McIntosh at a capacity of 80.

Total enhancements are \$14,716,630.

Mr. Maxey concluded his update.

Susan Dunwody expressed her appreciation for the efforts put forth by Greg Maxey and his staff.

Judge Gregory Adams questioned the amount of funds required to convert to a Level of Care Placement System. Mr. Maxey explained that the agency had no information on the amount that it would cost to provide a Level of Care Placement System. Therefore, it used the amount that the Department of Human Resources uses being that the two agencies offer similar services. He further explained that the recommendation was made by the Governor's Office.

Judge Adams questioned who these funds would cover. Mr. Maxey iterated that it covers all children. Judge Adams further questioned if Project Destiny and Project Impact funds were being zeroed out. Mr. Maxey explained that each of these contracts were for 1 year and were terminated at the end of that year.

Judge Gregory Adams remarked there seems to be a funding shortage. Mr. Maxey replied that there is always a challenge in the area of funding.

Legislative Update: Legislation

Jaci Mays Vickers, Director
Office of Public Affairs

Jaci Mays Vickers, Director of Public Affairs, greeted the Board and remarked on the length of the session. She noted that the Legislature would probably go into a special session. She then gave a synopsis of legislation by stating that the Governor has 40 days to sign or veto legislation. If he does neither, that legislation automatically becomes law.

The most important bills to this agency, she stated, include:

Awaiting Signature:

- Senate Bill 116 – Sponsored by Rep. Stephanie Stuckey Benefield, which provides for discovery, inspection, and disclosure of evidence and reciprocal discovery in juvenile proceedings.
- House Bill 470 – Sponsored by Rep. Stephanie Stuckey Benefield, which raises the age to 18 for status offenders. Based on statistics for 16 year olds, the fiscal impact is projected at \$2 million annually for pure status offenders.

Carried Over:

- House Bill 955 – Sponsored by Rep. Georganna Sinkfield, which implements a new Interstate Compact for Juveniles.

Tabled:

- House Bill 670 – Sponsored by Rep. Alisha Thomas attempted to change the manner in which children are tried as adults. The offending portions dealt with treatment stipulations such as education, anger management, etc. The bill wasn't aggressively debated on the floor and meetings will be held during the summer.

Jaci Vickers added that the Indigent Defense bill was passed and that a version of the ethics bill was also passed.

Judge Gregory Adams questioned how the agency arrived at its prediction of \$2 million dollars. Ms. Vickers responded that since 17 year olds are not currently affected, the prediction was based on the number of 16 year olds currently in the juvenile justice system. Commissioner Martinez added that he would be attending a meeting on raising the age to 18 and that national data suggests that there would be more referrals to the court.

Board Minutes – Thursday, May 15, 2003
DJJ Board Room - Decatur, Georgia

Judge Gregory Adams asked for an update at a later date on how many 17 year olds come into the system as status offenders. He also questioned the juvenile discovery bill and how it would be implemented. Ms. Vickers indicated that those specifics had yet to be worked out.

Judge Gregory Adams continued by asking if the case worker would supply the information to the courts to indicate compliance. Chad Hoffecker responded that the agency is sure there is an enforcement mechanism. At this moment, he stated, the language in the bill does not specify what penalties would incur for non-compliance.

Adjournment

Ms. Dunwody called for the adjournment of the May 15, 2003 meeting to convene the May 15, 2003 Board of Education meeting. The motion was made by Vi Bennett, seconded by Judge Gregory Adams, and unanimously approved.

DJJ Board of Education

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

- Dr. O'Rourke announced full compliance status of educational requirements and thanked the Board for their support and, in particular, Judge Gregory Adams for his inquisitiveness. Dr. O'Rourke thanked Steve Herndon for helping him to understand DJJ and he thanked Greg Maxey for his supportiveness. He also thanked Gwen Skinner, Mike Sorrells and staff.
- Dr. O'Rourke spoke of the support that the agency has given him in making Principal Audrey Armistad the Acting Director of the Augusta YDC. He expressed his faith in her and his feelings that she would do an excellent job.
- He added that the Office of Education does not plan on getting lazy now that it is out of the MOA. He feels this is the time to refine what is already in place, such as performance tasks. The Office of Education, he stated, wants to bring education alive in the classrooms. A new look will be taken at the Curriculum Activity Packets (CAPs) so that they will better meet the needs of the students.
- Dr. O'Rourke also referred to the APEM model of the Behavioral Management System which focuses on youth with discipline problems. And lastly, he commented on the development of the video which will train corrections officers before they interact with the youth.
- Dr. O'Rourke commented that most incidents occurring in the facilities happen after schooling has concluded. For that reason, the Office of Education is putting \$3.4

million dollars into its after-school programming. After school, the youth will be provided with vocal arts and music classes and at some institutions, GED tutoring. Females, for the first time, will have access to horticulture in after-school programming. Due to the academic requirements, females were not offered horticulture as an after school program.

Dr. O'Rourke thanked Mary Esposito for providing a wonderful tutoring program 3 days a week and on Saturday in which parents may also be involved. The tutoring program allows students and parents to study for the GED.

- Dr. O'Rourke added that the Title I Director visited the Macon site. Upon talking with her, he stated, that there was \$1.1 million in Title I monies that the agency will receive. Those monies, he explained, will go towards having the library at a ratio of 10 to 1 books per student, obtaining more encyclopedias and dictionaries, and increasing the speed of JTS in the necessary areas.
- Dr. O'Rourke re-emphasized that the agency is moving forward at Eastman YDC and has a new vocational building at Sumter YDC.

On behalf of the Board and the youth, Susan Dunwody thanked Dr. O'Rourke for his hard work and dedication.

Chair's Comments
Susan Dunwody, Acting Chair

Ms. Dunwody reported that the Governor's Office has yet to advise on their plans for the Board. The Commissioner's Office, she stated, has provided information to them since the last meeting and awaits their feedback on the direction the Governor proposes.

She apologized for the low turnout, but stated that a number of Board members had personal and business appointments which conflicted with the changed date and time. She also expressed her joy over being out of 2 Peachtree.

Ms. Dunwody reminded the Board of two upcoming conferences:

- The Annual Conference sponsored by the Department and the Georgia Juvenile Services Association begins May 21st and will run through Friday. She pointed out that there was a preliminary agenda at each seat and that registration could be completed on-site at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis.
- The 18th National Conference on Preventing Crime in the Black Community also begins on May 21st, she stated. It, however, will run through Saturday. The conference is being held at the Atlanta Regency Hyatt.

Both conferences, Ms. Dunwody added, will be attended by a significant number of DJJ employees and will give the Board a chance to meet and interact with them. She encouraged each member to participate.

Before the adjournment, Susan Dunwody reported that the next meeting would be held on June 26th at 1:00 p.m. She announced that anyone wanting to take a tour of the new Headquarters should meet in the back of the room.

Adjournment
Susan Dunwody, Acting Chair

Ms. Dunwody reconvened the Board of Juvenile Justice meeting and called for the adjournment of the May 15, 2003 meeting. The motion was made by Vi Bennett, seconded by Mary Linda Duncan, 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