

Minutes

**Board of Juvenile Justice
Wednesday, December 8, 2004
1:00 p.m.**

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

OPENING REMARKS

Mary E. Wilhite, Acting Vice Chair

Mary E. Wilhite, Acting Vice Chair, called to order the December 8, 2004 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. She then asked for Roll Call.

Roll Call

Lena Wilson took Roll Call and announced that a quorum was present.

Board Members Present: Mary Linda Duncan; Lois Frank; Donnie Haralson; Elizabeth Lindsey; Judy Mecum; Daniel Menefee; Edwin A. Risler; J. Daniel Shuman; Sandra H. Taylor; Mary E. Wilhite

Advisory Board Members Present: Judge Quintress Gilbert.

DJJ Staff Present: Albert Murray, Commissioner; Spiro Amburn; Ira Caslin; Dr. Thomas L. Coleman; Ericka Davis; Nina Edidin; Doug Engle; Gordon Fisher; Devadas Lynton; Jeff Minor; Jermaine Moorer; Thomas O'Rourke; Bill Reilly; Rob Rosenbloom; Lena Wilson

Others: Mark Cicero, Department of Law; Matthew H. Gambill, Bobby Carrell & Associates; Jill Young Miller, Atlanta Journal/Constitution

After Roll Call, Ms. Wilhite asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 28, 2004 Meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. Judy Mecum motioned to approve the

minutes, Daniel Menefee seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

Commissioner's Comments

Albert Murray, Commissioner

Commissioner Murray greeted everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting and expressed his hope that each had an enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday. Commissioner also thanked those who were able to attend the reopening of the Augusta YDC facility and the Board meeting held at the Augusta RYDC. He continued that there was a good turnout for both events. Commissioner reflected that it has been a good year for DJJ and he recognized that the Board and DJJ have done some good things in 2004 and have come a long way in efforts to make the system work better for all. He expressed his appreciation for the support he has received from the Board and that a good working relationship has been formed.

Continuing, Commissioner recognized the service of the former Acting Chair of the Board, Major General Peter J. Boylan whose term has expired. He stated that Mr. Boylan has been a mainstay on the Board and that he and Mr. Boylan established a working relationship that was based on mutual respect, even though they had philosophical differences on some issues. He stated that it is clear that Mr. Boylan cares about the Department and the children it serves and that it showed in his commitment to his leadership of the Board. He added that Mr. Boylan will continue to serve on the local advisory board of the Bill Ireland YDC. Commissioner stated that he will invite Mr. Boylan to the January 2005 meeting of the Board and hope that he is able to attend. He stated that it would be appropriate to present Mr. Boylan with a commemorative plaque or certificate in recognition of his service to the Board.

Commissioner Murray then recognized the attendance of Judge Quintress Gilbert and Sheriff Donnie Haralson who were participating by teleconference.

At this point, Commissioner acknowledged the newest member of the Board, Sandra Heath Taylor. He informed Board members that Ms. Taylor hails from LaGrange, Georgia and represents Congressional District #8, which was formerly represented by Major General Peter J. Boylan. He shared some of Ms. Taylor's background with the group and welcomed her to the Board.

He then presented his comments as follows:

Organizational Changes

Effective November 1, 2004, DJJ has had a new Director of Legislative Services. As I mentioned at last month's meeting, I appointed Spiro Amburn to take on that role and he will serve as the department's primary contact on all legislative issues and will work closely with the General Assembly, DJJ staff, Governor's office, and other individuals connected with the department on public policy issues.

Mr. Amburn earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science from Kennesaw State University. Additionally, Mr. Amburn has extensive experience working in the governmental affairs and public policy arenas. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Amburn served as the Public Policy and Advocacy Manager for the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses.

Commissioner stated that this is a golden opportunity for the Department to work with legislators and to be stronger in advocating for departmental issues. He added that we want to make sure that our issues are well known and that we have a good plan in place and that we have a strong presence at the Capitol at all times.

Operations Division

- Rob Rosenbloom made a presentation on the Probation Sanctions Program as a dispositional option for judges at the juvenile court judges' conference held earlier this month and to the Governor's staff. The program provides an opportunity for judges to give graduated sanctions to young people who come before their court in increments of 7 days, 14, days, 45 days, etc. up to 180 days, depending on the nature of their offense and progress under supervision. Commissioner stated that the Department will continue to advocate for this program as we continue to work with judges throughout 2005. He indicated that the presentation was well received.
- Dee Bell, an expert in Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ), came on board with DJJ, effective 11/15. The concept of this program originated out of Florida Atlantic University in the early 1980s and addresses the needs of the victim, the offender, the community and the juvenile justice process, in an effort to repair the harm caused by the offender. The program has been implemented in a number of states and is working very well. She will coordinate with DJJ staff to increase restorative justice practices throughout the state.
- The Annual Child Placement Conference, hosted by the Georgia Association of Homes and Services, was held on November 19th in Augusta. Two DJJ employees received awards—Cathy Rowan—received the outstanding case manager of the year. You will remember that Cathy was just honored as Employee of the Year for DJJ at the Excellence in Corrections Conference. She works in the Bartow Court Services Office. Micki Smith, who is now serving as Acting Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Operations at Central Office, was nominated and selected as outstanding supervisor. Victoria H. Evans, a DJJ volunteer in Augusta received the award for outstanding volunteer of the year.
- Region 3 has three new initiatives:

- Re-entry Grant - Grant from CJCC to provide transitional services to committed youth from Fulton and DeKalb Counties returning home from YDC. Commissioner stated that the Department has a strong interest in strengthening reentry.
- Safe Neighborhoods - Grant to work within identified zip codes in Fulton County with high-risk youth.
- Youthful Offender Re-entry Program - Grant written by the Office of Behavioral Health to provide substance abuse treatment and services to Region 3 youth.
- Two District Directors, Larry Anderson in District 12 and Mable Wheeler, District 7 will be retiring on 12/31. Commissioner stated that these individuals leave a legacy behind and their leadership and experience will be missed.

Program Services Division

Campus Operations

- Campus Operations staff is looking at ways that a population stratification of youth in the YDCs can successfully be implemented. The first look will include the Bill Ireland and Eastman Campuses. We are seeking to move the older more seasoned youth to the Eastman campus and staffing the Ireland campus with younger and STP type youths. Commissioner stated that by separating the youth by age, we can reduce the number of incidents and influences that an older youth can have on a younger offenders.

Office of Behavioral Health

- Dr. Shawn Allen, OBHS administrative psychiatrist, participated in the State Policy Academy on Co-occurring Disorders on November 22nd and 23rd. The Academy brings a group of state professionals together in an effort to establish a statewide initiative that will improve the quality of services provided to individuals that are dealing with both mental illness and addictive diseases.
- Work is underway to implement the Young Offender Re-entry Program through the grant that was awarded to DJJ last month. An implementation planning meeting was held October 27th with staff from the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse and the project evaluator. Adam Gelb has been selected to serve as the YORP program coordinator and began work on November 22. A project partners meeting to include the Georgia Departments of Labor, Education and Human Resources along with private vendors will be held on November 30th at DJJ Central Office.

- OBHS administrative staff met with DHR, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Diseases on November 15th to begin to explore how we might improve communication and coordination between the two agencies when a psychiatric hospitalization occurs. The group is currently reviewing utilization data and will continue to meet to develop a protocol that addresses efficiency and care.

Office of Health Care Services

- Digital cameras have been purchased and are being delivered to each facility as of November 19, 2004. Medical staff will photograph all youth injuries involving a Special Incidents Report. The photos will be downloaded into a computer protected file. This new procedure is in response to a suggestion presented during a recent MOA and OCI visit to the field units.
- The Quarterly Nursing Conference was held in November and provided specialized training to nurses and mid-level staff.
- Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne attended the fall NCCHC Conference held in New Orleans, La. Dr. Staples-Horne is a member of the Commission's Juvenile Health Committee that wrote the new 2004 Juvenile Health Care Standards. She presented a topic on Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevalence. She also presented a program with DHR outlining the Rome Pilot Project Program, a joint community collaboration with follow up care for discharged youth at the Department of Corrections Excellence in Corrections Program. She spearheaded this popular and successful project in Georgia.

MOA Update

- In order to assure that the Department has made every effort to be in full compliance with all areas of the MOA by the end of the calendar year, Commissioner Murray formed a working group which meets weekly to evaluate our MOA progress and to take action on areas requiring further attention and/or resources. One of the initiatives developed by this group has been the assignment of 5 Protection from Harm Specialists who are operating under the supervision of Ms. Terri Kight, the Department's Policy Coordinator. These specialists have been working on site three days a week at those facilities deemed by the former federal monitor to be most problematic in reaching compliance in protection from harm citations. The 5 facilities are Bill Ireland, Eastman, and Sumter YDCs and Clayton and Savannah RYDCs. These specialists work very closely with the directors at their assigned facility and are responsible for not only finding procedures and practices needing attention, but also helping the director in correcting what has been found. The specialists have indicated the greatest strides toward compliance have been made by Ireland, Sumter, and Clayton with further effort required at Eastman and Savannah. As a matter of fact, the progress made

at Sumter has enabled us to temporarily reassign their specialist to assist Metro RYDC.

Announcements

- On Nov 12th I attended a graduation ceremony at the Augusta YDC to honor all the staff that just completed the 4 weeks of training that was equal to the mandated training for JCOs in Forsyth. The membership included new staff from the JCC, TPS, Teacher and Nursing categories plus one JCO. All of them received the necessary training to include physical control, restraints, etc. The only difference between them and the JCO group in Forsyth is that the Forsyth group was post certified. Training was done here due to space restrictions at the Academy. Both Chief of Staff Bill Reilly and Commissioner Murray addressed the graduates with Bill giving the keynote address. The approx. 20 residents at the YDC also attended and the audience was treated to a song by a resident who is blessed with abundant musical talent. All staff, guests and residents were treated to dinner with all the trimmings in the dining room immediately after the graduation.

- On November 19, 2004, I was presented the key to the city of Macon by Mayor C. Jack Ellis. I was invited there for a “meet and greet” reception held at the City Club of Macon. DJJ Advisory Board member Judge Quintress Gilbert, as well as, former DJJ Board member, Susan Dunwody were present at the event. State Representative David Lucas was also in attendance. Much like the meet and greet that was held in Columbus back in August, there were also school officials, law enforcement officials, local businessmen, concerned citizens, parents and several DJJ employees. It was a very nice affair.

- On December 2nd I swore in seven Apprehension Investigators as Georgia Peace Officers here at central offices. I was assisted by Director of the Office of Investigations and Apprehensions, Jimmy Taylor; Director of Apprehensions, Ronnie Lane; and Director of Investigations, Dallis Davis. The officers that were sworn in were: Brian Acree, Daniel Henry, Clinton Pace, Sabriya Rainey, Gloria Ramsey, Jim Pearson, and Dirk Whittemore. The Apprehensions Unit Investigators will investigate and apprehend youth who have escaped from the Department’s custody or its facilities and programs. This unit was returned to DJJ from the Georgia Bureau of Investigations in April 2004. The unit has not been authorized to actively pick up juveniles. Once protective equipment/gear has been obtained for their safety, they will be fully authorized to do their work. At present in their role as officers, they have been able to round up sixty (60) or more juveniles who were on escape status by making phone calls.

Special Recognition

Commissioner stated that before closing, he would like to take this time to commend a staff member, Jermaine Moorner, JPPS II in the Butts County Court Service Office. He continued that it is not often that we are provided the opportunity to step up to the plate to become heroes. During a regular court session Jermaine Moorner used his CPR training to save an infant that was choking on a cracker and without disruption was able to continue with court. He was given a special commendation by Paul Henmann the Assistant District Attorney for Butts County. Ira Caslin, his Juvenile Program Manager is also here to see him honored. Commissioner asked Mr. Moorner to come forward.

Presenting the plaque, Commissioner read the inscription as follows: *“This certificate is awarded to Jermaine Moorner in recognition of heroism in the line of duty. Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice.”* The certificate is signed by Acting Vice Chair Mary E. Wilhite and Albert Murray, Commissioner. Commissioner thanked Jermaine for his good work and for being a fine example of public service for the Department of Juvenile Justice. The presentation was met with enthusiastic applause.

Commissioner concluded his remarks.

Ms. Wilhite asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 28, 2004 Meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. Judy Mecum motioned to approve the minutes, Daniel Menefee seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

Budget Overview & Approval

Jeff Minor, Director

Fiscal and Administrative Management

Mr. Minor stated that at the last meeting he presented the budget to the Board and hoped that they were able to review it. He indicated that he received individual questions from members of the group and hoped that he has sufficiently answered the questions that they posed. He stated that he will talk about the process that the Department has gone through and will go through until the Governor’s formal budget is actually released.

Referencing items on the handout, Mr. Minor pointed out that there were three choices for the Department to consider: a ninety-seven percent (97%) Budget that represents a three percent (3%) reduction in state funds; a one hundred percent (100%) Budget that represents the redirect to cover a payroll shift; and a one hundred five percent (105%) Budget that also covers a payroll shift and additional funding of thirteen million dollars (\$13 million).

Mr. Minor stated that the redirect of \$6.7 million dollars is money that has already been cut from the current fiscal budget and will not be implemented by the Governor. He stated that the Governor has asked that the Department make the payroll shift within the

current budget which will require massive layoff of staff or something dramatic. He added that what the Department has decided to do was to make cuts in other areas so that we can maintain appropriate staff. He stated that each of these items was very carefully weighed and considered and very difficult decisions had to be made.

On December 1, 2004, Commissioner Murray and a team from DJJ met with the Governor and his staff to present the budget for the Department to show the reasons for the decisions we made, the hopes that we had as to our savings, the main points being that we could not afford to lose bed capacity in any way and that we needed a consideration in our staffing to be in full compliance with the MOA and to maintain that compliance.

Mr. Minor indicated that the meeting went well and that the Governor and his staff received the pertinent messages from the Department and he expressed his belief that a good strong recommendation will come from the Governor. At present, he stated, there is no final recommendation from the Governor's Office. Mr. Minor stated that, hopefully, the Governor will heed the concerns of DJJ and move forward with a positive budget. He concluded his remarks and opened the floor for questions/comments.

Ms. Lois Frank asked Mr. Minor if 'positive' meant 105% budget. Mr. Minor responded that it appeared that the Governor's Office wasn't taking one of the budgets versus the other, rather put all the potential cuts and all the potential add-ons and reviewed them item by item which represent a melding of all three budgets. He added that he believes that we will take cuts in some of the areas that were laid out and hopefully those cuts will not be in areas that will affect bed capacity, but also receive some of the enhancements we requested.

Commissioner Murray reminded the Board that these budget concerns were discussed more fully in the October meeting but a vote was not taken on the proposal. He stated that by statute, the Board must vote on the budget and hopefully approve it. He added that the purpose of the abbreviated version of the budget was to provide an opportunity for the Board to take a vote on the budget to be within the statute.

Lois Frank injected a question. She asked if the budget was reviewed line by line and gives some and takes some, is the Board bound by the decision made by the Governor's Office in how the funding is utilized. Mr. Minor responded that the Governor's recommendation will carry some weight but it must be passed by the General Assembly. He continued that the Governor's recommendation is the starting point for the actual process and the final budget is actually approved by the General Assembly, if not vetoed, and signed off by the Governor. He stated that there is opportunity for advocacy on behalf of the budget. Ms. Frank stated that what she was asking is could the approved funds be used for other pressing needs, if identified. Mr. Minor responded that approval will have to be sought to use the funds for items not identified in the proposal.

Ms. Elizabeth Lindsey asked if the elimination of the IIP include the STPs. Mr. Minor responded that the STPs are tied in to the Departments request to close McIntosh YDC

and eliminate the IIP. All remaining beds are requested as add-ons to be transitioned to long term programming to relieve pressure or beds at Savannah River Challenge will be turned into beds used for the Probation Revocation Program for the 45-day. The request for \$10M add-on is the amount required to fund local grant programs through the judicial circuits that will buy early intervention and prevention type programs.

Mr. Minor concluded his remarks and Ms. Wilhite entertained a motion for approval of the budget as presented.

Ed Risler motioned for the approval of the budget and Daniel Menefee seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Update: Legislative Agenda

Spiro Amburn, Director
Office of Legislative Services

Mr. Amburn began by reintroducing himself and providing the Board with information on his background. He stated that he looks forward to using his experience for DJJ and added that since coming on with the agency, he has had an opportunity to meet with the Management Team to learn about the functions of the agency and review the strategic plan and priority issues; had a chance to visit the Metro RYDC for a first-hand look at one of the facilities; sat in on a budget hearing; and had the opportunity to participate in several events at the Capitol.

Mr. Amburn informed the Board that he will be attending the Biennial Institute at the University of Georgia in Athens. This, he stated, is a training seminar provided for legislators and staff every two years after the General Election to help prepare freshmen legislators for the upcoming session. He added that he is looking forward to a busy session and, hopefully, a productive one.

Mr. Amburn stated that in terms of our legislative proposals, they have been submitted to the Governor's Office and all the Department's initiatives seek to address population issues. He indicated that the Governor's Office wants the agency to focus our efforts on two key issues: 1) eliminating the STPs; and, 2) the adoption of the latest version of the Interstate Compact which governs transporting youth across state lines.

Mr. Amburn cautioned the Board to keep in mind that next year, probably after the legislative session, there is going to be a comprehensive rewrite of the juvenile code, which is being spearheaded by the *Young Lawyers' Association* [sic]. He stated that there will be an opportunity for the Department to participate and hopes that many of our concerns and the changes that we believe need to be made in the code will be addressed through the rewrite. He added that this will likely be a two year process and would require the legislature to enact any changes in the code.

Mr. Amburn offered to provide clarification and answers to questions from the Board, if needed.

Update: Bill Ireland YDC/Augusta YDC

Gordon Fisher, Assistant Deputy Commissioner
Division of Programs

Bill Ireland YDC

Mr. Fisher reminded the Board that earlier this year Bill Ireland was identified as being one of DJJ's more problematic facilities. He stated that the Department has instituted a series of changes there and wanted to talk about what those changes have been and the impact that the Department believes those changes have made. One of the first things, he stated, was to place Mr. Robert Manville in the position of Director of the Campus. Mr. Manville has been acting in this capacity and as a result, created and implemented a unit management program that has total responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the unit. Also the position of Associate Director was established and Mr. Ronnie Richardson was selected to fill that role to coordinate unit management activities. Mr. Richardson's previous position has been posted to be filled with an anticipated hire date of January 1, 2005.

Mr. Fisher stated that Bill Ireland is operating a 'phase' program with a 20-bed unit that has been identified as a special management unit. In order for a youth to be assigned to this unit, the youth must have a behavior risk plan. The program has been in operation for six (6) weeks and fourteen youth have completed the program with only three (3) having to be returned for misbehavior. Mr. Fisher indicated that the program is working and getting the attention of the youth.

Continuing, Mr. Fisher stated that a major problem was the movement of youth on the campus and a lot of action was taken to correct the problem. He stated that transportation routes were established to prevent groups of youth from crisscrossing and providing an opportunity for incidents to occur; 'line of sight' supervision has been stopped and youth are being escorted wherever movement takes place. Staff vacancies have been reduced to eighteen (18) JCO positions, with sixteen (16) pending background checks. He stated that having additional staff will certainly help with the problem.

Mr. Fisher stated that incident reports for the month of November 2004 totaled sixty-one (61) and compared to August 2004, it is down from 110. Mr. Fisher stated that the Department feels very strongly that we're moving in the right direction.

Referencing Commissioner Murray's mention of population stratification, the population redistribution at Ireland YDC is almost complete. Primarily, the younger youth, ages 12-15, are residents of the campus. It is anticipated that this will be completed by the end of January 2005. He added that they are waiting for the end of the semester break during

Christmas to move kids to more appropriate settings in order to not disrupt programming. He stated that the kids now go to school by unit and the education program has been restructured to fit this concept. Mr. Fisher indicated that he feels very sanguine about the prospects for this facility and expect to report further progress to the Board.

Augusta YDC

Mr. Fisher reported that since the last meeting the Department has succeeded in opening three (3) of the six (6) units that the campus is scheduled to have which includes one Mental Health Unit, a Shelter Care Unit, and a General Population Unit. He stated that the plan is to take the three units that are in existence and bring them up to capacity in January 2005 which will give us 60 beds at that time.

Continuing, he stated that this campus is also supposed to house IIP kids which represents a fourth unit. It is hoped that this unit will open by the middle of January and that it will be a cost-saving measure for the Department. The second Mental Health Unit is anticipated to open by August 2005. This unit is under reconstruction and it is expected that the contractor will have it delivered for operation at that time. Mr. Fisher stated that the final unit will be the Transition Unit. This unit will be comprised of youth who had been in the mental health unit or the shelter care unit and the professional staff of these units feel these kids have made sufficient progress so that they can be transitioned back into the general population. This is a stepping stone to that transition and it will also provide for those kids who are nearing release from general population to be housed in this unit. The opening of this unit, he stated, is contingent upon our success in filling the JCC (Juvenile Corrections Counselor) positions that are currently vacant.

Hearing no questions or comments, Mr. Fisher concluded his presentation.

At this point, Ms. Wilhite adjourned the regular meeting of the Board and convened the meeting of the Board of Education.

Update: Board of Education

Dr. Thomas O'Rourke, Associate Superintendent
Office of Education

Dr. O'Rourke began his presentation by informing the Board that the Department is required to submit, on December 1st, a special education count to the Department of Education. He stated that the Department receives additional resources for our special education population based on this count. At last count 873 youth were identified as needing and receiving special education services. He stated that this represents about thirty percent (30%) of our population. In addition to this, he stated, about ten percent (10%) of our population receives Section 504 services as well as student support team

services. This amounts to forty percent (40%) of our population that receives special education, Section 504, or student support team services.

Regarding population redistribution, Dr. O'Rourke stated that shifting will mostly be from Eastman YDC to Bill Ireland YDC. The older youth will go to Eastman and the younger youth will be housed at Ireland. He indicated that no additional costs are anticipated because of the shift.

Dr. O'Rourke stated that he met with Board members Mary Wilhite and Mary Linda Duncan, of the Education Committee, to discuss staff training. He stated that they were given a copy of a CD on behavior management that was part of seven (7) CDs that have been completed to be used in statewide training. These CDs will be used as a 'Train-the-Trainer' model for staff from Clerks to Behavior Management staff. Staff will benefit by not having to travel from site-to-site for training needs.

Dr. O'Rourke concluded his remarks and asked for questions or comments.

Lois Frank asked if faculty teaches middle school and high school or do they have to be moved around. Dr. O'Rourke responded that they try to get a balance in faculty and try to get teachers who are certified for middle grades. He stated that YDC teachers are certified on the high school level. He stated that it is a balancing act that creates a challenge for DJJ. He added that in the smaller RYDCs the Department of Education has allowed teachers to fulfill both areas because of teacher shortages. Ms. Frank asked if teachers at Eastman and Ireland YDCs have to change. Dr. O'Rourke responded that they have a good balance at these facilities and do not anticipate any problems.

Hearing no further questions or comments, Dr. O'Rourke concluded his presentation.

Ms. Wilhite adjourned the DJJ Board of Education meeting and reconvened the regular meeting of the DJJ Board.

At this point Judge Gilbert, participating by teleconference, announced her departure from the meeting due to scheduling. She stated that her assistant will remain on the line for the nomination of Acting Board Chair and report the proceedings to her.

Recidivism Report

Doug Engle, Director

Office of Technology & Information Services

Mr. Engle greeted the Board and informed them that the handouts he provided to them are the Baseline Recidivism Rates for FY1998 through FY2002 and Recidivism Update for FY1998 through FY2003 Cohorts. He stated that with the FY2004 data being complete, the Department is now able to provide yearly updates on the release cohorts.

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DJJ Central Office

3408 Covington Highway

Decatur, Georgia 30032

He indicated that his notes which were also provided, reflects changes in the reports. He stated that the analyses are provided 1-year, 2-years, and 3-years after release.

Mr. Engle pointed out that the Baseline Recidivism Report he provided to them is the same report distributed last year and is a more detailed report than the summary (FY1998 – FY2003 Cohorts) that was also provided.

Mr. Engle stated that the major area of concern about this data is that there are fifteen (15) Independent Courts in Georgia that offer probation and intake services that are provided by the county. Each of these counties has unique databases for their court system, including their own probation case management system, which makes it difficult for the state to collect data from those Independent Court counties. He emphasized that it is only probation data that is impacted by these courts. Mr. Engle added that the DJJ state database, by policy, includes prior probations from independent court counties when the child is committed or gets an STP order with DJJ to help assess risk needs of the youth by prior convictions on probation. He indicated that the data was included in the report last year but it was incorrect in that it was not representative of the Independent Court counties. What the data reflects is that every one was re-adjudicated because they got a commitment on an STP order and does not reflect those kids who did well on probation and did not get reconvicted.

Mr. Engle stated that under another initiative, Commissioner Murray, Bill Reilly and he have been collaborating with the Independent Courts to obtain useful data. He indicated that this effort has not gone well and added that Fulton, Clayton, Gwinnett, and Coweta counties have already provided the data sought, but they will continue to pursue obtaining the information from the remaining counties. He reiterated that these are only probation numbers.

The information provided in the notes Mr. Engle distributed summarized the changes to the report. He stated that the strategic plan will include implementation strategies and initiatives that the DJJ Team has put together to address improving programs and services to provide better outcomes and reduce recidivism.

Mr. Engle concluded his remarks and asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, he concluded his presentation.

Election of Officers

Mary E. Wilhite
Acting Vice-Chair

Ms. Wilhite announced that with the expiration of the term of office for Major General Peter J. Boylan, and replacement by Sandra Heath Taylor, another Acting Chairman of the Board will need to be elected. At the request of Governor Perdue, the Acting Chair will serve until the formal election cycle, as written in the By-Laws, with the nomination

process occurring in May 2005. She then opened the floor for nominations for Acting Board Chair.

Dr. Edwin A. Risler presented a nomination for Mr. J. Daniel Shuman as Acting Chair of the Board of Juvenile Justice. He stated that he has known Mr. Shuman for many years and that he has his support. He added that Mr. Shuman previously worked for the Department and knows it very well and believes he will provide excellent leadership for the Department. Member Daniel A. Menefee seconded the motion. There were no dissenting votes and the motion was carried.

Announcements and Adjournment

Ms. Wilhite announced the Swearing-In Ceremony of the Board's newest members, Sheriff Donnie Haralson, Elizabeth Green Lindsey, Judy C. Mecum, and Sandra Heath Taylor. The ceremony will take place on Monday, January 10, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. at the State Capitol in the Governor's Office. Members who wish to support them must contact Laura Loftiss in the Governor's Office.

The next meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education is scheduled for Thursday, January 27, 2004 at 1:00 p.m. at Central Office.

The question was raised whether the Acting Vice-Chair and Acting Secretary of the Board need to be nominated. Ericka Davis, Director of the Office of Public Affairs responded that Mary E. Wilhite and Edwin A. Risler will continue to serve in the respective capacities until the new election cycle in May 2005, as they are still active members of the Board. Commissioner added for those who were not able to hear the response that the situation has already been addressed.

Mr. Shuman expressed his appreciation for the vote of confidence from the Board. Commissioner Murray stated that he welcomes the leadership that Mr. Shuman will provide and have no doubt that they will work well together. He stated that it will be a good year in 2005 for the Department. Ms. Wilhite added her congratulations to that of the Commissioner.

Dr. Risler asked Mr. Shuman if he wanted to propose a motion to change the start time of the meetings. Mr. Shuman responded that he has spoken with Commissioner Murray and some other Board members regarding the time of the meetings. He stated that because of the travel time to and from the meetings an earlier time would work better for him. He proposed 10:00 a.m. and asked for feedback from the Board. There was support for the time change although some members would have to rearrange or make some compromises to standing appointments on their calendar.

Asking for other questions or comments and hearing none, a motion was requested for adjournment.

Mr. Menefee motioned for adjournment and the motion was seconded by Elizabeth Lindsey and carried.

(Please note that after adjournment, board members Judy Mecum and Lois Frank approached Chairman Shuman about scheduling conflicts with the 10:00 time for the board meetings. It was then agreed by all board members to alter the new time to 11:00 a.m.)

J. Daniel Shuman, Acting Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Albert Murray
Commissioner

Dr. Ed Risler, Acting Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice