

Minutes

**Board of Juvenile Justice
Monday, January 26, 2004
1:00 p.m.**

**Board Room
2nd Floor
3408 Covington Highway
Decatur, Georgia 30032**

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Violet Bennett (teleconference); Rev. Tommy Burgess (teleconference); Maj. Gen. Peter Boylan; Mary Linda Duncan; Lois Frank; William McQueen; Daniel A. Menefee; Dr. Edwin A. Risler; J. Daniel Shuman; Mary E. Wilhite

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

DJJ Staff Present: Frank Berry; Jack Catrett; Dr. Thomas L. Coleman; Cheryl Dresser; Mary Esposito; Gordon Fisher; Steve Herndon; Paul Jones; Neil Kaltenecker; Linda Layton; Gregory S. Maxey; Natlyn McGhee; Albert Murray; Camille Murray; Marilyn Reaves; Mattie Robinson; Rob Rosenbloom; Coy Satterfield; Gwen Skinner; Pam Sloan; James Smith; Micki Smith; Mike Sorrells; Michelle Staples-Horne; Jimmy Taylor; Jaci Mays Vickers; Beverly Wade; Jane Wilson; Lena Wilson; Natilyne Young;

Others: Normer Adams, Georgia Association of Homes and Services; Brett Brannon, Unique Solutions; Mark Cicero, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Law; Terry Finnerty, Securicor New Century; Lula Gilliam, Youth Enhancement Services, Inc.; Linda Hardy, Unique Solutions; Amy Howell, Southern Juvenile Defender Center; Bobby Robbins, Gwinnett, Rockdale, and Newton Community Service Board; JoAnn Paxson, Department of Audits and Accounts;

Opening Remarks

Major General Peter Boylan, Acting Chair

Acting Chair Peter Boylan called to order the January 26, 2004 meeting. He welcomed all in attendance to the meeting. Roll call was then taken by Jaci Mays Vickers. Ms. Vickers announced that a quorum was present.

Major General Boylan then stated that the agenda had been revised and that an executive session would be held.

He announced that the next meeting of the Board was scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2004 at 1:00 p.m. at the Metro Regional Youth Detention Center. He added that a tour is desired and asked that Jaci Vickers help to coordinate tours both before the meeting and after.

Approval of Minutes

Major General Peter Boylan, Acting Chair

Major General Boylan called for the approval of the December 4, 2003 minutes. The motion was made by Vi Bennett, seconded by Mary Wilhite, and unanimously approved.

Opening

Commissioner Albert Murray welcomed all in attendance to the January 26, 2004 Board meeting. He thanked agency staff and all visitors for their attendance as well.

Commissioner Murray thanked the Board of Juvenile Justice for their vote of confidence in appointing him Commissioner.

Mr. Murray also thanked Deputy Commissioner Greg Maxey for his role during the interim period. He explained the difficulty being in an interim capacity as Acting Commissioner and thanked Mr. Maxey for the dedication he has given the agency.

He then began his comments by giving the Board a look into himself, his work experience, and his direction for the agency.

Commissioner's Comments

Introduction

Mr. Murray highlighted his career path of thirty-plus years. He explained that he came into juvenile corrections in his home state of Tennessee and developed a love for working with young people who've had difficulties. He iterated that he began his corrections career as a counselor case worker/security worker. This position, he stated, gave him the opportunity to look at juvenile justice from a line-level standpoint and provided good background in security and treatment. He explained that he considered one of his strengths to be having experience in both the security and treatment side of juvenile justice. In order to have a good system, he stated, there must be an adequate mix of both.

Mr. Murray stated that coming up through the ranks has allowed him the opportunity to serve as Assistant Superintendent, Superintendent, Director of Security, Assistant Commissioner, and more recently serving as Commissioner of Juvenile Justice in Kansas. He added that in Kansas, he was given the opportunity to start a new agency, institute programs and provide an overall direction. Also, he explained that he has traveled and viewed juvenile systems nationwide through the American Correctional Association. He iterated that he is not an expert, nor does he know any experts in the juvenile justice arena. What he has learned, he stated, is how much more there is to learn on offering the best possible services to juveniles.

Commissioner Murray also expressed that this is the first position he has held in which he has to report to a Board. He stated that he feels it is a great opportunity to work with a group of people who have a keen interest in youth services. He added that he views the Board as an asset to the agency. He continued by stating that he felt the need for the Board to be included and to be involved with the department. He advised the board that they would be called on to help plan and share ideas on how to build good programming, strengthen existing programs, and make the best use of resources available to the agency.

The most recent position held was as a Deputy Commissioner with the Alabama Department of Corrections, he stated. Although it was a valuable experience, he added, he was reminded of his passion for juvenile programs.

In terms of his leadership style, he stated that he leads by example. He plans on operating a professional office with high standards.

He explained that he will look at the programs so that he can personally evaluate where the agency is as a whole. He added that he wanted to take the time to get out and visit with the facilities and the youth. He continued by stating that he wanted to invest in programs that work and if the agency does not have outcomes that can indicate how well the programs are working, then he is unsure of how this agency can be measured. Without measurable outcomes, he stated, the department cannot be properly evaluated.

He iterated that he plans to invest in prevention programs. He stated that the first part of his career was spent building correctional facilities and he believes that good facilities and programming is needed. However, he continued, the best dollar that can be spent in juvenile justice is the prevention dollar. He explained that by the statistics he'd been provided with that ninety-five percent of the youth in Georgia would never come before a juvenile judge, be handcuffed, nor need the services of the agency. It is the five percent, of youth that make it necessary to have good programs in place. Although it is necessary to have good programs in place for the youth, he continued, it is just as necessary to have prevention programs in place that might less the five percent of incarcerated youth.

Commissioner Murray explained that he planned on visiting the facilities. He stated that a department cannot be run from the office.

He expressed his plans to be keenly involved with Greg Maxey on budget management.

He added that he wanted to get to know the board members. He wanted to connect with the board and with the judges so that their strengths may help the agency.

Commissioner Murray concluded his comments and called for questions.

Lois Frank questioned Mr. Murray's personal philosophy on the housing of youth, community programs, and if he was familiar with the Memorandum of Agreement. Commissioner Murray responded that he was familiar with the Memorandum of Agreement and that he planned to better familiarize himself with it as time progresses. He explained that he liked to serve youth in least restrictive environments. He added that it is necessary to operate large facilities throughout the system, but it is important to work with local leaders and communities so that they may be more empowered to work with young people. He concluded that he does not yet know what steps will be used to strengthen the communities. There are several resources locally, he stated, they must be looked at to make sure that they are not underutilized.

Bill McQueen inquired on how Commissioner Murray planned to get the Board more involved. Mr. Murray explained that he wanted to bring the agency's direction before the Board. He wants their input on key issues that have priority within the agency, he explained.

Major General Boylan pointed out discussions held with Commissioner Murray prior to the board meeting. He explained that he and the Commissioner had spoke about how the agency was going to be able to determine how well it was doing. Major General Boylan relayed that the new Commissioner believed in having measurable outcomes, and the Commissioner's sensitivity to the issue was very heartening.

Bylaw Change: Quorum

Jimmy Taylor, Board Parliamentarian

Mr. Taylor stated that last month he brought before the Board the issue of the bylaw change regarding the quorum. He reviewed it by explaining that the Board is currently composed of 10 members. Bylaws say that the agency must have 15 members. At this time, there is a vacancy of 5 members. Currently, to have a quorum, we must have 8 members. In order to not run into problems in having a quorum, there is a suggestion to amend the Bylaws. As many of the older Board members may be aware, he stated, voting problems occurred when Board members contemporaneously did not show and chose not to submit their resignation. By not submitting their resignations, the Governor could not fill their vacancy. Therefore, he continued, the suggestion is that the quorum number be amended from 8 to 6. He then passed out an amendment to the Bylaws. He stated that the amendment can be made with two-thirds of the vote.

Major General Boylan called for the approval of the bylaw change. The motion was made by Ed Risler, seconded by Mary Wilhite, and unanimously approved.

Chair's Report

Major General Peter Boylan, Acting Chair

Peter Boylan then spoke on the proposed committee structure submitted by Dr. Ed Risler and Judge Gregory Adams. He suggested that the committees be lessened due to the number of members currently serving on the Board of Juvenile Justice. He asked the Board to prepare judgments and discussions for which committees should stand and be ready to discuss them at the next meeting.

Major General Boylan suggested that it would be useful at the next meeting to have a good understanding of how the system works. He then asked the Commissioner to arrange a presentation on this.

In the area of subsequent meetings, he added, he would suggest that the judges prepare a brief presentation on what it is like to be a juvenile court judge and how the Board may assist them in their needs. Some judges, he stated, have a considerable amount of concern on how the system works. It would be informative to have views on how the system works from law enforcement, DFCS, and staff, he stated.

Tommy Burgess added that it would be difficult to get accurate views of the people who work in the field due to the disconnect between field staff and central office. He suggested establishing guidelines for how the views were presented. His suggestion was noted.

Augusta YDC Update
Gregory S. Maxey, Deputy Commissioner
Financial Management and Administrative Services

Greg Maxey stated that there was an appeal to the decision regarding the award of the RFP for the ongoing operation of the Augusta YDC. The appeal came from the current provider, Unique Solutions he stated. The appeal is directly to the Department of Administrative Services (DOAS), which is the entity for the state of Georgia that actually awards contracts and RFP's to service providers. The appeal is for the awarding to YSI regarding the Augusta YDC. He reminded the Board that they had received a letter outlining the dispute and stated that it is the responsibility of DOAS to respond to the letter and decide whether or not to make changes to the determination.

He stated that the scheduling has not changed. It is expected that YSI will take control of the Augusta YDC effective February 16, 2004. Written termination of the current contract has been given to Unique Solutions, he concluded.

Executive Session was then announced by Major General Peter Boylan.

Conclusion
Major General Peter Boylan, Acting Chair

Major General Boylan polled the board for their recommendation on which group of constituents to hear from at the upcoming board meeting. Mary Linda Duncan requested to hear from the judges first. It was recommended to hear from the following judges:

- Judge Hughes
- Judge Spivey
- Judge Gilbert
- Judge Adams

Lois Frank questioned if the judges would be inhibited about addressing concerns before the agency. Major General Peter Boylan advised that he has met with several judges and that they would not be inhibited. He asked that Commissioner Murray have his staff arrange the meeting.

Adjournment
Major General Peter Boylan, Acting Chair

Major General Boylan then called for a motion to adjourn the January 26, 2004 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. The motion was made by Daniel Menefee, seconded by Mary Wilhite, and unanimously approved.

Major General Peter Boylan, Acting Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Albert Murray
Commissioner

Dr. Ed Risler, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice