

# **DRAFT**

## **Minutes**

**Board of Juvenile Justice  
Thursday, September 23, 2004  
12:00 p.m.**

**3408 Covington Highway  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Boardroom  
Decatur, Georgia 30032**

### **OPENING REMARKS**

Peter J. Boylan, Acting Chair

Major General Peter J. Boylan, Acting Chair, called to order the September 23, 2004 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. He then asked for Roll Call.

### **Roll Call**

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

**Board Members Present:** Peter J. Boylan; Mary Linda Duncan; Lois Frank; Donnie Haralson; Elizabeth Lindsey; William McQueen; Judy Mecum; Daniel Menefee; Edwin A. Risler; J. Daniel Shuman; Mary E. Wilhite

**Advisory Board Members Present:** Judge Quintress Gilbert.

**DJJ Staff Present:** Albert Murray, Commissioner; RaShaunda Allen; Jack Catrett; Dr. Thomas L. Coleman; Charlotte Curran; Ericka Davis; Nina Edidin; Gordon Fisher; Paul Jones; Devadas Lynton; Thomas O'Rourke; Bill Reilly; Rob Rosenbloom; Coy Satterfield; Lena Wilson

**Others:** Marlene Caplan, SACS-CASI; Mark Cicero, Department of Law; Pete Colbenson, Children and Youth Coordinating Council; Matthew H. Gambill, Bobby Carrell & Associates; Jill Young Miller, Atlanta Journal/Constitution; Ann Mintz, GCAPP; Eric Robinson, Senate Research Office

# DRAFT

At this point Roll Call Chairman Boylan asked each member of the audience to stand and give their names and the organization that they represent. After introductions, Mr. Boylan asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 26, 2004 meeting. The motion was made by Judy Mecum, seconded by William McQueen and unanimously approved.

## Commissioner's Comments

Albert Murray, Commissioner

Commissioner Murray greeted everyone and thanked them for their participation in the goal setting session earlier in the day. He then presented his comments as follows:

### *Organizational Changes*

- Derek Glisson has been appointed Director of the Sumter YDC. Mr. Glisson previously served as Director of the Athens RYDC and Irwin and Emanuel YDCS. Commissioner stated that Mr. Glisson is very capable and that he will serve the Department well.
- Melissa Aaron was formerly the Director of the Bill Ireland YDC, and prior to that, Director of the Macon YDC. Commissioner stated that Ms. Aaron has been appointed Director of the Macon RYDC and, with her credentials, could better serve the Department in this role. This would also enable her to work closer to home.
- Robert Manville was appointed as Director of the Bill Ireland YDC. Prior to this appointment, he was Acting Director of the Macon RYDC after serving as District Director for the Department. This will also be an added bonus as Mr. Manville lives in Milledgeville.
- Rob Rosenbloom was appointed Deputy Commissioner of Operations on September 13, 2004. Mr. Rosenbloom has held other leadership roles with the Department, including Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Operations. In his new role, he will be responsible for all of the functions which are presently under the operations Division except the Youth Development Campuses and the Office of Classification.
- Also on September 13, 2004, responsibility for the Youth Development Campuses and Office of Classification was moved under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Thomas Coleman. Appointed to assist Dr. Coleman with this new responsibility was Gordon Fisher, who assumed the duties of Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Programs. Mr. Fisher will maintain his responsibilities with 'Special Projects' as they relate to the MOA with the U.S. Department of Justice for the time remaining.

# DRAFT

## *Meeting with the Governor*

Commissioner Murray, along with his direct-line staff met with Governor Sonny Perdue, Jim Leintz and Joy Hawkins on September 7, 2004 for a personal briefing on the State of the Agency. Commissioner stated that Governor Perdue is interested in getting to know direct report staff of state agencies and what their roles and responsibilities are in the day-to-day operations of the agencies. He stated that it was a great opportunity to spend time with the Governor to discuss agency issues and its mission and goals; and for the Governor to speak with staff about their roles and responsibilities. Other items focused on were:

- Commissioner's leadership and vision for the agency
- Comparison of current leadership with previous leadership
- Collaboration with other state agencies who share our population
- MOA
- Challenges for the agency
- Disconnect between DJJ and other child serving agencies, legislature, etc.

Commissioner Murray stated that this was also an opportunity for staff to get closer to Governor Perdue and share with him some major issues/challenges of DJJ. He indicated that he hope to have additional opportunities to share with the Governor other challenges and the accomplishments of DJJ.

## *Site Visits*

Commissioner stated that he is prepared for this second round of site visits. He indicated that, at previous meetings, he informed the Board that this was a priority for him and of this intent to conduct these visits. Once again, he encouraged the Board to join him on these visits to speak with staff and residents to hear their concerns.

Commissioner added that, also on these visits, he was able to meet with local legislators, juvenile judges and the clergy. He indicated that he hope to have more of this type of connection as the visits resume.

Continuing, Commissioner Murray stated that he is excited about his visit to Columbus to attend the dedication ceremony of the new Aaron Cohn Youth Development Center. He stated that it was one of the better days he has spent on the road, traveling the state, discussing juvenile justice issues. He thanked Board member Daniel Menefee and others responsible for pulling together to make this event possible. He stated that he was able to meet with significant and active citizens of Columbus, including the mayor who presented him with a key to the city.

# DRAFT

## *MOA*

The Department continues to work diligently to resolve the remaining issues of the MOA which were put into place in 1998 when the Department was placed under the oversight of the U.S. Department of Justice. Commissioner stated that we are nearing the end of this long- standing venture, but to do so there are some things that the Department needs to put in place.

Commissioner Murray continued that there remain 10 citations whose central theme is 'protection from harm'. He stated that the Department needs to demonstrate that there is a system in place that assures that young people in our custody is protected from harm from themselves and others.

## *Operations and Program Services Divisions*

Commissioner Murray reminded everyone of the Protection from Harm Training Conference that was held on September 20-21, 2004 for DJJ staff. He stated that it was a good conference indicated that he believes the agency's goal of effectively moving our Protection from Harm policy from paper to action is attainable if every member of our staff embraces it and stays focused each and everyday on this outcome.

Commissioner stated that DJJ staff was used as trainers to place the type of emphasis on Protection from Harm that was needed. Some of the items discussed at the Conference were:

- Adhere to policies and procedures and maintain appropriate documentation;
- Establish the practice for Protection from Harm Specialists to report directly to the Deputy Commissioner and assigning them strategically to assist directors over the next 90-120 days;
- Continue to conduct reviews by the Office of Continuous Improvement and the necessary follow-up;
- Facility Directors holding weekly MOA compliance meetings for the remainder of the year to stay on top of the issues;
- District Directors and Regional Administrators participating at least monthly in these meetings; and,
- How population management impacts directly the protection from harm citation.

Commissioner continued that the agency continues to work with the Governor's Office on a list of potential budge enhancements that can have an immediate impact. He stated that we are not depending on, nor are we expecting or waiting on new/additional resources. He indicated that we must make good fiscal and program decisions and that we will not let lack of adequate resources serve as a barrier or an excuse to not being able to fully resolve the MOA. He stated that we are making good progress and have a lot of work to do by the end of the year.

# DRAFT

## *Augusta YDC Restart Update*

Commissioner iterated his comments made to the Board at a previous meeting of the initiative undertaken to reopen the Augusta Youth Development Campus. He reminded the Board of the appointment of John Brady to the position of Director of the facility and stated that additional progress made since that time includes:

- Filling several key positions, including Principal, Administrative Assistant, Personnel Manager, Business Manager, Maintenance, Physician's Assistant, Captain, 4 Lieutenants, Nurse Manager, and Food Service Director.
- Eleven teacher positions have been filled; five began on September 16<sup>th</sup> and six will begin at a later date. Two positions remain vacant.
- Seven new JCO positions were hired and arrived at the Training Academy on September 12<sup>th</sup>. One of the seven failed the IMPACT test and will be used in another capacity until they are able to retake and pass the test.
- Four JCC IIIs have been hired to begin on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Two are pending acceptance. Two JCC IIs will also begin on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

The JCC (Juvenile Correctional Counselor) is a new job title that was adopted to meet the higher standards set by the Department to attain and retain highly skilled and highly trained staff. The most positive aspect of these efforts are that in addition to related work experience, all JCC III hires will possess a Master's Degree and all JCC II hires will possess at least a Bachelor's Degree.

- Five applicants were interviewed for the Assistant Director of Operations on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. There were no acceptable applicants for the Assistant Director of Programs. Arrangements are being made to fill in the gap on an interim basis.
- Other positions to be filled include property and supply positions. Applications for these positions are being screened and interviews will be held on September 23<sup>rd</sup> for the Tool and Key Control position.

Commissioner thanked Mike Sorrells and his staff for the hard work they have done to accomplish this task. He stated that the target date to reopen the facility is November 1<sup>st</sup>.

## *Announcements*

Commissioner Murray informed the Board that the annual "Excellence in Corrections" conference is being held on October 18-20, 2004 at the Centreplex in Macon, Georgia. The theme for this year's conference is 'Partnering for a Safer Georgia' and the focus will be successful offender re-entry. The forum will provide an opportunity for

# DRAFT

individuals in both juvenile and adult corrections from all levels to exchange and generate ideas, develop and discuss experiences and lessons learned, and to receive training.

Commissioner stated that this conference will augment Governor Perdue's vision to create a safer, healthier, and better educated Georgia and it is his understanding that Governor Perdue has committed to attending the conference and to serve as one of the opening speakers. He continued that this initiative is being spearheaded by the Department of Corrections but, as a partner to the DOC, DJJ will be heavily involved. Our Department is contributing a keynote luncheon speaker, staff to conduct workshops on juvenile justice related issues and will have staff to attend the conference itself. He invited those that could make it to participate in the activities as he believes it would be beneficial and worthwhile

Commissioner stated that this was an abbreviated report but that it contains the information he wanted to share with them. He concluded his remarks and asked for questions or comments.

## *Conclusion*

Hearing no questions or comments, Chairman Boylan asked if there was anyone interested in participating in the conference and, if so, to give their names to Ericka Davis, Director of the Office of Public Affairs. Ms. Davis noted that each member had been provided conference and registration information and, if needed, for them to complete the form and turn in to her for processing.

## **Update: Board of Education**

Thomas O'Rourke, Ph.D., Associate Superintendent  
DJJ Office of Education

Dr. Thomas O'Rourke greeted the assembly and announced that there were three areas he wanted to address in his presentation to the Board:

- The Fall Training Conference
- Website Update
- SACS Accreditation

Dr. O'Rourke stated that the theme for the Fall Training Conference is 'The Road to SACSess' and will be held in Macon Georgia on October 4-5, 2004 at the Macon Centreplex. He also stated that the website has been updated on the Intranet and Dr. Jones will give brief summary of the update later in the presentation. He stated that the education program is now fully compliant with the requirements of the MOA and has been released from oversight of the U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ). He continued

# DRAFT

that we want to continue to improve the education program and move from compliance to excellence. He indicated that the best way to do that is to attain SACS Accreditation.

Dr. O'Rourke introduced Dr. Paul Jones, Director of Instruction; Coy Satterfield, Director of Support Services; and, Jack Catrett, Director of Special Education. He stated that he wanted to mention these gentlemen to the Board because they played a vital role in getting the program to where it is today.

Dr. O'Rourke then stated that he wanted to introduce the former State Director of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and now member of the committee of all the southern states, Dr. Marlene Caplain. Dr. Caplain was greeted with enthusiastic applause.

In opening, Dr Caplain stated that we don't always see dreams come true, but being here today, she said, is the fulfillment of her dream. She informed the Board that about ten years ago, Dr. Roosevelt Daniels, an Education Principal with the Department, invited her to speak with various DJJ units about developing curriculum. She learned very quickly that there was no curriculum, there were no books, and there were no materials. Continuing, she added that it was fortuitous that the American Association of University Women (AAUW) was closing out their annual book sale. She arranged for a truck to pick up all of the books that remained and had them delivered to some of the DJJ units because it is her belief that every child needs and deserves a good solid education. Dr. Caplain stated that she has visited a number of DJJ facilities and encouraged Board members to do the same and added that they would be very pleased with the education program that is in place.

Dr. Caplain then shared her reason for being in attendance at this meeting of the Board. She announced that all of DJJ's schools are now accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). This announcement was greeted with a round of thunderous applause. Dr. Caplain continued that SACS accreditation means that the schools have met certain standards and have demonstrated a commitment to providing quality education to all of its students. She added that the organization's name has changed to SACS-CASI, Council on Accreditation and School Improvement, and that school improvement is what SACS-CASI is all about.

Dr. Caplain explained further that to attain accreditation, a school district/system has to implement a school improvement plan in each of its units that focuses on improving a student's performance. The school must also be evaluated on a regular basis, usually every five years, by a visiting team of professional educators trained in the evaluation process. Accreditation provides schools at all levels, K-12, a proven process for increasing student achievement.

She stated that the benefits of accreditation to school boards is that it provides independent, non governmental validation that the schools they oversee is effectively using public funds to deliver quality education to their students. It is also a cost-effective

# DRAFT

way for all schools in the district to engage in a meaningful school improvement process and to pull together to align state, local and federal requirements.

At this point, Dr. Caplain presented a plaque to the Department that reflects its achievement of attaining SACS-CASI Accreditation.

After the presentation of the plaque, Dr. Paul Jones resumed the education update with information on the redesigned website.

Dr. Jones informed the Board that now, with the changes made to the DJJ website persons outside of DJJ can now access information not previously available to them. Prior to this change information on the programs and staff involved was only available from the DJJ Intranet. The changes allow them to now access the information from the Internet through a link located on the DJJ Web Page. He briefly summarized the steps needed in order to obtain the information they required.

Following Dr. Jones' summary, Dr. O'Rourke stated that unfortunately, some kids are not as excited about the educational program as we are, but more kids are taking advantage of the program so that, hopefully, they can become productive citizens and not recidivate back into the system. He stated that this concluded his remarks on the education update and indicated that he and his staff is available for technical assistance, if needed.

Dr. Ed Risler stated that he applauds the efforts and work done by Dr. O'Rourke and his staff. He stated that in the past one of the issues that the Department faced was that none of the kids in our system were eligible for the HOPE scholarship, even if the child graduated or received their GED. He asked if having SACS accreditation could be used as a tool to obtain eligibility for them. Dr. O'Rourke responded that now that we are contracting with the Department of Technical and Adult Education, the kids are getting dual credits and are able to get funding for vocational and technical courses but not for college courses. Mr. Boylan, Acting Chair, injected that this issue could be reviewed by the Education Committee.

## Chair's Comments

Major General Peter J. Boylan  
Acting Chair

Mr. Boylan asked all members that did not have identification badges to meet in the lobby at 2:00 p.m. for picture taking. He indicated that other members' badges would be update electronically. He asked Ericka Davis, Director of Public Affairs, to provide all members with name tags to be used when visiting other sites and when representing the agency as a Board member.

Mr. Boylan stated that the By Laws of the Board of Juvenile Justice requires the chairman to appoint an executive committee. He indicated that the committee is made up of himself, Mary Wilhite as Acting Vice-Chair and Dr. Ed Risler as Secretary. To

# DRAFT

complete the committee he has asked Mary Linda Duncan, Lois Frank and Daniel Menefee to take part in the committee and asked that they meet after adjournment.

Mr. Boylan indicated that each member had been provided a copy of the strategic plan which they need to study as it will be an agenda item at the next meeting and a vote will need to be taken on it. He also asked that they study the Legislative Agenda provided by Nina Edidin. He announced that the next meeting of the Board will be held on October 28, 2004 in Augusta. The Office of Public Affairs will provide more detail at a later date.

Mr. Boylan stated that, as noted by Ericka Davis, a standing committee meeting has to be consistent with the Open Meetings Act and therefore has to be announced. He asked that anyone interested in attending the Excellence in Corrections Conference to provide their information to Ericka Davis or Lena Wilson.

At this point, Mary Linda Duncan asked if there was an updated list of Board members. Lena Wilson responded that there was a new list that included all of the new members and she would provide each member with a copy.

Dr. Risler suggested that each committee entertain the idea of identifying things in the strategic plan that is relevant to their individual committees and report on it at the next meeting. He stated that this would be a good place to start.

Hearing no other questions or comments, Mr. Boylan asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Mary Linda Duncan, seconded by Elizabeth Lindsey and carried.

**Note:** Items to be placed on the agenda for the October meeting are as follows:

- Board Committee Reports
- Strategic Plan Update
- Open Meetings Act
- Vision and Mission Statement
- Legislative Agenda
- Bill Ireland Update

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Major General Peter Boylan, Acting Chair  
Board of Juvenile Justice

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Albert Murray  
Commissioner

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Dr. Ed Risler, Acting Secretary  
Board of Juvenile Justice