

**Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, August 25, 2005
11:30 a.m.**

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

Opening Remarks

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair

Mr. Shuman called to order the August 2005 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education. He asked that all visitors introduce themselves and state their organization affiliation. At this point the Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a Moment of Silence was observed. He asked everyone to remember Board Member Donnie Haralson and our troops fighting in Iraq in the Moment of Silence. Afterwards, he asked for Roll Call.

Roll Call

Lena Wilson took Roll Call.

Board Members Present: Michael L. Baugh; Elizabeth G. Lindsey; William B. McQueen; Judy C. Mecum; Daniel A. Menefee; Dr. Edwin A. Risler; J. Daniel Shuman; Sandra H. Taylor; Mary E. Wilhite

Advisory Board Members Present: Judge Quintress Gilbert; Judge Ellen McElyea

DJJ Staff Present:

Albert Murray, Commissioner; Spiro Amburn; Edward Cook; Ericka Davis; Steve Herndon; Jeff Minor; Dr. Thomas O'Rourke; Marilyn Reaves; Rob Rosenbloom; Jimmy Taylor; Sher're Walton; Lena Wilson

Others: Michelle Townes, Assistant Attorney General; Ted Beck, Office of Planning and Budget; J.A. Wassell, Georgia Association of Homes and Services for Children; Juvenile Justice Interns: Robert Chandler, Kate Pansoldt, Adam Marian, and Chris Mayo; Deanna Jordan, Clayton County

After Roll Call, Ms. Wilson announced that a quorum of the Board was present.

At the completion of Roll Call, Mr. Shuman informed the Board that an Executive Session had been anticipated and was placed on the agenda but has since become unnecessary. He asked for a motion to amend the agenda to reflect the change. William McQueen made a motion to amend the agenda as requested, Daniel Menefee seconded the motion and the motion was carried. He then asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 27-28 Board Training Session. He asked if everyone had received a copy. Member Michael Baugh asked to amend the minutes to reflect his presence at Roll Call. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Mary Wilhite, seconded by Michael Baugh and, hearing no discussion, the motion was carried.

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Murray greeted Chairman Shuman, other members of the Board and visitors and staff. He expressed his hope that the training session that was coordinated for the Board last month was informative and helpful. He stated that the training provided was beneficial to him as Commissioner and that Ericka Davis has submitted participants' names to Tony Arasi, Director of Professional Development so that they can receive their certificates and training credit for the year. Commissioner added that for those members who were unable to attend, and are not Judiciary advisory board members, they will need to set up training with Ericka so that they will be in compliance with the law in terms of annual training credit hours needed.

Operations Division

Continuing with his report, Commissioner Murray stated that he will begin with the Operations Division. He stated that an unfortunate incident took place on August 14, 2005 when an escape was made from the Savannah RYDC. He stated that at approximately 10:00 a.m. on August 14, 2005, a 17 year old youth detained at the Savannah RYDC awaiting a superior court trial for aggravated assault escaped from that facility.

Preliminary reports indicate that the youth escaped over the fence but the actual events leading up to the escape are currently under investigation to determine the exact method of escape. He stated that the youth somehow managed to distract the officers on duty and used a basketball goal to go over the fence.

He stated that the youth was out of our custody for some time before being captured. He stated that he is now in jail and because of the escape and the seriousness of the charges, he will not be returning to DJJ.

He stated that the escape has caused us to take a closer look at security, both internal and external, to make sure that our facilities are secure. He added that the matter is under investigation by our investigators and also by the GBI. Once a report is issued he, Rob Rosenbloom, Bill Reilly and other staff responsible for that facility will review the report and will do whatever is necessary to clear up any security issues that may be there.

Commissioner stated that the escape generated a great deal of media coverage.

Other items discussed were:

- The Operations Division worked on their budget submission. Input was solicited from field staff and several management team work sessions to establish goals, gaps in service and needed resources were held.
- The Metro RYDC completed a successful MOA Protection from Harm verification tour during the week of August 10, 2005.
- The Division has applied for a federal grant to establish an office for Victim Services.
- Several new staff members have joined the Operations Division Team:
 - Linda Cofer was appointed as a new District Director. She was formerly the Director at DeKalb RYDC
 - Annette Rainer was appointed as a new District Director. She was formerly an Assistant District Director
 - Rodney Dinkins was recently appointed as the new Director of Claxton RYDC. He was formerly the Assistant Director
 - Martha Dalesio, Phyllis Hall, and Diana Aspinwall have been promoted to positions in the Operations Division Office to fill vacancies. They each come with excellent experience and skills. Martha and Diana will support RYDC operations and Phyllis will support Youth Placements and Program Audits.
- Deputy Commissioner Rob Rosenbloom has been representing the Department in the juvenile code rewrite committee process along with the assistance of key DJJ staff. He also has been involved in implementing Senate Bill 134 and graduated sanctions. This effort should result in DJJ compliance as it relates to supervision of probated youth.
- The detention population has cycled down as expected during the summer but we remain vigilant as school reopens and more referrals are expected.

Program Services Division

- Augusta YDC- The youth population at Augusta continues to increase and has reached 100 with 91 youth currently being housed. On July 1st Augusta's security staff was augmented by the addition of 11 new JCO positions. These positions are to be utilized to open a detention unit. Operating this unit will allow the facility to isolate youth without mixing populations and enable staff to deal with problematic youth without transferring them to another facility.

- Crisp YDC- The former director, Monica Willis, has transferred to another position with YSI. Her replacement is Mable Wheeler, who has a long history with DJJ having recently retired after 34 years of service. She was formerly an RYDC Director, YDC Director, and District Director.
- Eastman YDC- This facility continues to make programmatic adjustments to more ably manage its older population. A program entitled GAP (Graduate Advisement Program) has been implemented for youth who have received their GED or High School diploma. GAP provides two vocational classes, life skill class, and 3 hours of work experience per day.
- Office of Behavioral Health - The Office of Behavioral Health is partnering with the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse to sponsor a fall conference titled “*New Directions to Healthier Communities*”. The Office of Behavioral Health will hold DJJ specific sessions for our staff and will also present several training sessions to the full conference including:
 - Assessment and Treatment of youth that have experienced significant trauma
 - Ethical Practice
 - Effective treatment modalities in working with juvenile substance abusers
- The OBHS would be honored to have any member of the board attend the conference. Interested members should contact Rick Harrison, Tom Coleman or other staff in the Program Services Division. Members may also contact the Commissioner’s Office or Ericka Davis, Director of Public Affairs.
- Office of Medical Services - Medical Director Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne and Office of Behavioral Health Services Director Rick Harrison provided orientation briefings regarding DJJ medical and mental health services for the new DOJ monitors during their visit to Sumter YDC on Tuesday August 23. The purpose of the briefings was to orient the new DOJ monitors to DJJ health and mental health services and systems before they begin their monitoring. The visit to Sumter is the first monitoring of medical and mental health services on this round of monitoring conducted by these DOJ monitors.
- MOA Update - The U.S. Department of Justice is continuing its verification tours of DJJ facilities. To date DOJ has conducted Protection from Harm Verification tours at Dekalb RYDC, Marietta, RYDC, Clayton RYDC, Macon YDC, Bill Ireland YDC, and Metro RYDC. All tours have been successful.

Beginning with this week’s tour at Sumter YDC, DOJ is simultaneously conducting medical and mental health verification tours as well as protection from harm tours. Following Sumter, DOJ has scheduled three other full verification tours to include Augusta YDC September 13-16th, a yet to be announced facility September 27-30th and Eastman YDC October 4-7th. In addition to these tours

DOJ also expects to conduct more medical and mental health tours at DeKalb RYDC, Bill Ireland YDC and Macon YDC.

Legislative Update

A full meeting of the Juvenile Law Commission was held in Savannah on August 24. This was the first full meeting of the Commission since the sub-committees began their work two months ago. Each Sub-Committee chair presented a progress report containing code revisions on which consensus had been agreed. A public hearing was also conducted where citizens could express their concerns and suggestions for changes to the juvenile code. Legislation in some form is expected to be introduced in 2006 Legislative Session.

We are in the process of finalizing DJJ legislative proposals for 2006. These proposals are due to the Governor's office on September 1. Many of our issues are carryover issues from 2005 and some could be included as part of the juvenile code rewrite. Staff will be working with the Governor's office as we approach the session to determine what issues will get the highest priority based on departmental needs and budget considerations. Commissioner stated that once these issues have been reviewed by the Governor's Office, the Board will be briefed on what we consider to be our official legislative package for 2006.

Other Announcements

- Lorenzo Benn Community Forum - On August 13, 2005, the agency held a community forum at the Lorenzo Benn Facility. It was a meeting that was requested by Representative Roger Bruce on behalf of the constituents in that area. Also present was Senator Horacena Tate and Atlanta City Councilman C.T. Martin and approximately 30-40 citizens from that community. He indicated that he felt that, overall, the tone of the meeting was positive. There were members of the community present who were under the impression that we were in the process of reopening the facility. Commissioner indicated that he would like to reopen the facility but that there were no funds budgeted for it and steps would need to be taken to obtain funding. He stated that he believes it was a good idea to have this forum because it would help to dispel rumors and hearsay. Commissioner Murray, along with Tom Coleman, Gordon Fisher and Ed Cook, Director of Construction and Engineering provided a status update of the Lorenzo Benn site including the history of the facility, possible funding and use of the grounds and engineering plans. Also present were Jeff Minor, Bill Riley, Spiro Amburn, Ericka Davis and Sher're Walton for additional support. Citizens welcomed DJJ officials and were pleased that their concerns were being heard. Mostly senior citizens were present who were reflective of the community at large. Community safety was the key issue as many expressed concern that reopening the facility would create traffic and possible escape situations. Citizens expressed a desire to not be surprised by any plans for reopening the facility and to have assurances that there would be public input for future use. Lorenzo Benn

represented all that the Department had in terms a to long term secure facility in central to north Georgia. We have no long term YDCs for juveniles in metro or north of the metro Atlanta area. All juveniles requiring that level of care have to be sent to far South Georgia at facilities located there. This presents problems for parents who need to maintain contact and visit their kids while in our custody. Based on our projections, we need more beds in our system to prepare for those offenders who we know will be coming to us over the next several years.

- Georgia on the Move - Governor Perdue has asked state agency heads to explore the possibility of moving state government outside Atlanta for a few days. The idea is to provide a unique opportunity for Georgians and communities to access top state agency leaders and key staffs. The Governor hopes this access will benefit our citizens in many ways: clearer understandings of state services; opportunities to provide input directly to state officials; and opportunities to ask questions about various programs. Since citizens and communities often feel removed from decision makers, Governor Perdue and his staff are envisioning that this process will help bridge the gap between Atlanta and "the rest of the state".

The Governor's office is making arrangements to go to Middle Georgia on September 13th and other areas later in the year. Activities are not limited to but may include agency heads leading teams that provide services and address backlogs, conducting public forums, and meeting with local officials.

- 2006 State Charitable Contributions Program Kickoff Luncheon – Commissioner has been charged with providing leadership, encouragement and support to the State Charitable Contributions Program as the General Campaign Chair. This year's theme is to, "Say Yes This Year—Picture the Results." His responsibility as the chair is to be effective by guiding and assisting the people who work with us toward accomplishing this year's goal of making 100% contact with each state agency and university system employee. This project is given high priority.

On August 17, 2005, the state charitable contributions kick off luncheon was held and present was Jim Lientz on behalf of the Governor along with state agency heads. Commissioner Murray has accepted the challenge of being chair and indicated his intent to show his support for the program by setting examples that demonstrate his cooperation and buy in. He expressed his hope to lead by example first by personally making a significant contribution. He is also asking each employee within the Department of Juvenile Justice to make a donation as well and wants to assure them that no amount is too small. Commissioner stated that he has also challenged all of his fellow department heads to do the same.

Charity Fests will be conducted in the coming months around the state and Commissioner Murray stated that he wants to encourage state employees to contribute. The Department will have its Charity Fest here at Central Office on September 20th from 10:00- 2:00. The board is invited.

At this point, Commissioner Murray concluded his remarks and opened the floor for questions or comments.

Mary Wilhite inquired about future funding for the Lorenzo Benn project. Commissioner responded that his best estimate for future funding would be a three to four year cycle. He stated that the facility has sat vacant for more than six years and there are a number of buildings on the grounds that, in his estimation, probably could never be used again, and others that would require substantial maintenance before being occupied. To use that site would require some construction and construction dollars that would need to be requested over a period of time. If we are successful in our requests, it would be at a minimum of three years before we are close to opening the facility.

Ms. Wilhite then inquired about the request made by Representative Roger Bruce. Commissioner stated that Representative Bruce wanted the Department's assistance in addressing the hearsay and rumor in the community that the facility was about to reopen, so we met with them to let them know who we are and to give them information on where we are on the possible reopening of the facility.

Addressing Chairman Shuman, Dr. Risler injected that he would like to make a comment and offer a suggestion to Commissioner Murray. He stated that with all due respect to his colleagues, Judge Ellen McElyea and Elizabeth Lindsey who serve on the Juvenile Code Rewrite Committee (JCRC), he wanted to commend Commissioner Murray for his leadership and all the hard work that the Department has done to position themselves with respect to the changes that are going to be made. He added that recognition should also be extended to Rob Rosenbloom who has represented the Department well and articulated our positions, as well as Bill Reilly, Steve Herndon and everyone else who served on the Department's committees. He stated that during his tenure serving on the Board, there has been two pivotal moments that he felt has truly impacted what goes on in treating troubled youth. One has been the MOA and the other has been JCRC. He indicated that the Board should be briefed on the progress of the committee as it will have a profound effect on how we conduct business. He added that the Board will probably get calls in the future about the code and they should educate themselves on the process. Dr. Risler stated that what has been particularly humbling about the process is that it has crystallized the tension between protecting the community and trying to provide services for children. He iterated his appreciation for the hard work the Commissioner does. Commissioner Murray responded that he agreed with Dr. Risler about the relevance of the JCRC. He indicated that it was to his benefit to have Rob Rosenbloom and Bill Reilly, both of whom are attorneys, serving on the committee as it is a very legal process. He stated that it was good to have staff which can bring these skills to the plate.

Resolution for Approval: Bond Sales

Edward Cook, Director
Office of Engineering and Construction

Mr. Cook informed the Board that the purpose of the bond issue is for the Board to authorize the sale of \$8,840,000 in bonds for minor construction, maintenance and repair for the DJJ system. He stated that this would be the first of new bonds since 2003, and will cover facilities that have equipment that is wearing out, vandalism, repainting, replacing carpet, and minor construction. Examples would be cameras/CCPV systems for those facilities that don't already have them, generators/emergency power back-up systems, additional parking, roofing, etc. He asked if everyone had the opportunity to look over the bond information provided to them and if they had any questions about the details.

Dr. Risler asked Daniel Menefee, Chairman of the Finance Committee, if he had any recommendations on the bond issue. Mr. Menefee stated that a partial committee had reviewed the information and it appears that everything is in line with the direction in which they were headed and they felt comfortable with it. He then made a motion to accept the bond funding request [State of Georgia General Obligation Bonds], Judy Mecum seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Budget Proposal for Approval

Jeff Minor, Deputy Commissioner
Office of Fiscal and Administrative Services

Mr. Minor stated that the budget is expected to be submitted to the Governor's office by September 1st. The process used is very detailed and filters its way to line staff in the development of their priorities and needs, then trickles up to each Division. There it is worked on diligently to get a very large request down to the parameters that the Governor has asked for. He stated that the management team then take that information and further define it. It is typically prioritized within each division, but not departmentally. So the team prioritizes the information as a department then work on the numbers to get them down to the requirements of the Governor.

Budget Requirement - Mr. Minor stated that this year's requirement is a 2% reduction (\$5,691,289). He referenced the handout provided to them and pointed out that we are allowed to ask for up to 4% (\$11,382,579) for enhancements or additions. Continuing to reference the handout, Mr. Minor went over the listed items to help the Board get a better understanding of the requests. He indicated that this is the fourth consecutive year in which we have been in a cut situation that becomes more difficult each year. He stated that luckily we have good data and good support, and he believes we have a good mission that the Governor believes in. He stated that he feels good about the budget proposal and is hopeful that the Governor will perceive the budget to be as well done as last year's.

Enhancement/Addition Request - Mr. Minor stated that in past years the Department has been focused very heavily on the MOA and secure beds. He indicated that we have done a lot and have received funding and support from the Governor and the General Assembly to bring on staff, programs and services but, the Department serves about 24,000 kids per day in the system and only about 2,500 of those kids are in secure facilities. A vast majority of kids we come in contact with and who we are responsible for, we serve in the community. He added that now that we have cleared most of the hurdles with the MOA, this year's enhancement package is really an opportunity to pay attention to the community and strengthen our responsibilities there.

The second part of the enhancement package, he stated, primarily focuses on staffing levels and psychiatry hours and others but, basically the premise is that this budget is about community-based programs and supervision.

Mr. Minor pointed out that the remaining items listed represents the Department's budget request. He opened the floor for questions or comments about the budget. Elizabeth Lindsey asked if we were to reduce the part-time positions how will it effect compliance regarding staffing. Mr. Minor responded that they would look at those positions that have certain duties that need to be provided in support of the facility on an ongoing basis and which positions are substitute in nature.

Chairman Shuman stated that he had attended the meeting of the Budget Committee earlier, along with Daniel Menefee, and he thinks that it is a very well thought out budget. He then asked for a motion to approve the FY 2007 Budget Request. Mary Wilhite made a motion to approve the FY 2007 Budget Request, Daniel Menefee seconded the motion, and hearing no other questions or comments, the motion was carried.

At this point, Mr. Minor injected that the FY 2007 Bond Fund Request is for the out year. The one earlier voted on was for the current year bond sale. Mr. Shuman then clarified for the Board that they would be voting on the FY 2007 Bond Fund Request. Mr. Minor added that the budget represents the Department's priority in the near future and the Department needs the Board's support of the funding request when it is submitted to the Governor's Office on September 1st.

Mr. Shuman iterated his request for a motion and Ms. Lindsey asked if the numbered items on the list were represented in order of priority. Mr. Minor responded in the affirmative.

Mary Wilhite made a motion to approve the FY 2007 Bond Fund Request, the motion was seconded by Judy Mecum, and hearing no other questions or comments, the motion carried.

Dr. Risler then added that he is in favor of approving this and thinks they need to have some prudent and thoughtful discussion about Lorenzo Benn because it was closed for a reason.

Commissioner Murray stated that if there is an interest at the next meeting or prior to it, it can be arranged for those Board members to visit the site to see first hand. Ms. Lindsey wanted to know if the community was aware of the bond request issue and if it would come as some surprise to them. Mr. Minor responded that it has been a bond request for the past several years and it should not be a surprise to the community; and if there is going to be issues with Lorenzo Benn, then let there be issues, we can go somewhere else. He stated that this is a conversation we are open to having with the Governor and it is a very high priority for the Department. We need beds in north Georgia and at this point, Lorenzo Benn represents the fastest means to additional beds

Commissioner stated Representative Bruce and other officials present at the meeting understand that funding is not available for the site and their main concern was safety in the community. Years ago, before the facility was closed, there was an escape that caused a community uproar because they were concerned about security. He stated that many of the citizens in the community are senior citizens who have resided there for a long time and wanted to make sure they were safe if, in fact, the Department decides to reopen the facility. He added that it would take about \$20 million, if we are able to obtain that level of funding, to make the facility operational; but to construct a new facility anywhere in Georgia would probably take two to three times that amount. He stated that as much as we would like to do this, it is a big investment and not likely to be on the top of our priority list at the General Assembly.

Mr. Minor stated that it represents a large construction cost but it also represents a huge annual operating budget, around the neighborhood of \$10 million a year with 220 or so staff. He stated that it is definitely a [positive] economic development issue wherever it ends up.

Mr. Shuman asked if it would be more appropriate for number three on the list to be “propose YDC for north Georgia” instead of identifying Lorenzo Benn. Mr. Minor responded what they might revert to is a pre-design discussion somewhere else if this request takes place. Ms. Mecum wanted to know the difference between pre-design and design. Mr. Minor stated that it is the process by which they go through to finally get something built; The construction process in Georgia through GPSTC is very long and cumbersome. He added that the Governor is very concerned about that process and if he wants a guinea pig on how to do something differently, then we volunteer, because we need something fast. If there is another funding mechanism or a new construction idea, hopefully, the discussion about Lorenzo Benn will open up all other conversations.

To clarify the difference between pre-design and design, Edward Cook injected that pre-design is an in-depth, detailed estimate, given the fact you don’t have all the details worked out. Design is when you have an existing structure.

Elizabeth Lindsey inquired if the newer design of DJJ facilities would be used when rehabilitating older facilities. Mr. Minor responded in the affirmative, adding that there are new requirements regarding space and movement and other standards to adhere to. He added that what we need is more in line with a 150-160 single-bed facility.

Mr. Shuman iterated that there was a motion and a second on the floor and asked if there was more discussion. Hearing none the motion was carried.

Mr. Shuman then asked for a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice to convene the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education. Daniel Menefee made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and convene the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education. Elizabeth Lindsey seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Update: Board of Education

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

Dr. O'Rourke greeted the Board and stated that the comments he wanted to make will be brief.

He informed the Board that the semester started well, but with a few teacher vacancies that are currently being filled; however, we continue to have staff turnover problems with our contracted sites that presents teacher vacancies. He indicated that the problem is poor salaries.

In the area of curriculum, we have gone from Quality Core Curriculum (QCC) to Performance Standards.

Dr. O'Rourke stated that he met with the Quality Assurance Review Team with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). He stated that they gave us a preliminary report to say that we are SACS Accredited, the we meet all SACS standards. He indicated that he expects to have, within the next two months, someone from SACS to provide commendations and recommendations for our overall system.

Dr. O'Rourke concluded his report.

Hearing no questions or comments, Mr. Shuman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education and reconvene the regular meeting of the DJJ Board.

Mary Wilhite moved to adjourn the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education and reconvene the regular meeting of the DJJ Board. Sandra Taylor seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Chair's Comments

J. Daniel Shuman

Mr. Shuman informed the Board that the next meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice is scheduled for September 22, 2005 at 11:00 a.m. at DJJ Central Office. He asked if there was anything remaining to come before the Board prior to adjourning. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn.

William McQueen made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the DJJ Board, Mary Wilhite seconded the motion and the motion carried.

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Albert Murray
Commissioner

Dr. Ed Risler, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice