

**Board of Juvenile Justice  
Thursday, April 27, 2006  
11:00 a.m.**

**Metro Regional Youth Detention Center  
1300 Constitution Road, SE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30316**

**Opening Remarks**

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair

Mr. Shuman called to order the April 27, 2006 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education and noted the time as 11:00 a.m. Following his request for introductions from all guests and others present, Mr. Shuman invited everyone to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and then observe a Moment of Silence. Afterwards, he asked for the Roll Call.

**Roll Call**

Lena Wilson then called the roll.

**Board Members Present:** Michael L. Baugh; Elizabeth G. Lindsey; Judy C. Mecum; 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; Brian Acree; Jack Catrett; Ericka Davis; Gordon Fisher; Steve Herndon; Preben Heideman; Amy Howell; Cora Kilpatrick; Ronnie Lane; Douglas Lockett; Sonya Love; Jeff Minor; Dr. Thomas O'Rourke; Rob Rosenbloom; Michelle Staples-Horne; Jimmy Taylor; Sher're Walton; Lena Wilson

**Others:** Michelle Townes, Department of Community Health; Jason Naunas, Assistant Attorney General; Dr. Schanavia Smith, UGA Research Consultant; Eva Lou Shuman; Zohar Mor, Emory University

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

Citing the presence of a quorum, Mr. Shuman asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 30, 2006 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. The motion to approve the minutes for the March 30, 2006 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice was made by Michael Baugh and seconded by Judy Mecum. Hearing no discussion, the minutes were unanimously approved.

## **Commissioner's Comments**

Albert Murray, Commissioner

### **Introduction**

Commissioner greeted Chairman Shuman and members of the Board and other attendees of the meeting. He took the opportunity to thank Douglas Lockett and the staff of the Metro RYDC for hosting today's Board meeting and expressed the appreciation of the Board for the hard work put in to assist the Office of Public Affairs in organizing the meeting. He welcomed back Chairman Shuman who recently underwent surgery and spoke of his willingness to attend the last meeting via speakerphone. He thanked Mary Wilhite for her leadership role in conducting the last meeting. Although absent from the meeting, Commissioner also thanked Board member Daniel Menefee for serving as commencement speaker at the 108<sup>th</sup> JCO Graduation Ceremony. Mr. Menefee spoke before 41 JCO graduates and their families. He indicated that Mr. Menefee did an excellent job of motivating and encouraging JCO recruits.

Commissioner Murray introduced the new legal Counsel from the Attorney General's office, Jason Naunas. He stated that Mr. Naunas will serve as Assistant Attorney General representing both DJJ and DHR and that he replaces Michelle Townes who formerly represented the Department but who has now gone to work for the Department of Community Health. He thanked Ms. Townes for the services she provided for the agency. He then asked Amy Howell to provide some background information on Mr. Naunas to the Board. Ms. Howell stated that Mr. Naunas attended Purdue University as an undergraduate student and the University of Virginia for his law degree. He then clerked for a bankruptcy judge and, afterwards, he went into private practice and from there to the AG's Office. Mr. Naunas addressed the Board, stating that he is looking forward to working with them.

The Commissioner then continued his report as follows:

### **Operations Division**

As he reported at last month's meeting, the Operations Division has implemented new RYDC catchment areas as of April 3<sup>rd</sup> and transitioned the Crisp YDC to an RYDC. These events have been successful to date. Overall, while the detention population shows decreases in the number of youth waiting to go to YDC and STP, there has continued to be crowding in approximately 50% of the centers and we are approaching state wide capacity. Adding Crisp RYDC was necessary due to the overall population growth and our DJJ projections for the next few years. Crisp RYDC reached capacity on April 19, 2006. The change in catchment areas appears to be having the intended results. Centers that were chronically crowded were targeted for relief and we are beginning to see relief for those centers. One of those centers is Metro RYDC. In March the Metro RYDC was approaching 120% of capacity, meaning a 200-bed facility had 240 youth in custody.

Commissioner stated that the Department tries to avoid going to 120% capacity, but he noted that it's good to have that option, if needed. He stated that even though the population continues to fluctuate, the change with Crisp brings some stabilization, statewide, in the RYDCs. We have seen many days where capacity has been below 100% in some facilities. He commended Rob Rosenbloom and the Operations Division for doing a great job managing the transition of Crisp RYDC and implementing the catchment area changes. Good communication with judges, staff and local law enforcement made it happen with very few issues.

The Division has had several management meetings to include an RYDC Directors' meeting last week in Macon. At that time they received updates and training from Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne, Medical Director; Assistant Deputy Commissioner Steve Herndon for the Programs Division; Assistant Director Miguel Fernandez from Behavioral Health; and, Ed Cook, Director of Engineering, who were all on the agenda. Deputy Commissioner Rob Rosenbloom presented information on the Department's legislative initiatives, detention population issues and overall division issues. Commissioner encouraged each division to include agenda items from the other divisions to ensure good cross communication between all divisions and staff. He also recommended scheduling meetings in a manner that will allow greater participation from other divisions/offices.

In the formative stages of review is the major issue of the impact on how DJJ and DHR place youth in out of home placements under the level of care system and also access mental health services for youth in the community. The federal government has been reviewing Medicaid plans in a number of states and making new decisions regarding what is Medicaid reimbursable for services for Medicaid eligible youth. DJJ has been at the table with other state agencies and new plans will be submitted to change the process for placing youth. Level of Care as we know it today will change and may have an impact on our current practice and funding needs. Jeff Minor and Rob Rosenbloom have taken the lead for our agency and other staff is actively involved. As final decisions by the State are made, we will continue to update the Board. Overall, the Operations Division has managed the level of care systems very well this year and is well within budget to date.

Finally, Commissioner informed the Board that the Georgia Juvenile Services Association (GJSA) had a successful training conference in Athens earlier this month. Dr. Ed Risler was able to be present for part of the conference and Commissioner Murray and Deputy Commissioner Rob Rosenbloom made opening remarks for the conference that included a cross section of DJJ staff. He stated that he wants DJJ to continue to support and work with this conference because of the many good things they have done and continue to do.

## **Program Services Division**

### Office of Behavioral Health

The Office of Behavioral Health Services will conduct a one day clinical in-service training on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and again on May 4<sup>th</sup> for all DJJ facility Mental Health Staff. The training entitled “The Neurobiological Factors in Co-occurring Addiction and Mental Illness” will be presented by Dr. Merrill Norton, registered pharmacist. Dr. Norton, a well known authority in the field of co-occurring disorders, brings a high level of energy and humor to his presentations. OBHS will again offer continuing education credits for this training to support licensed staff’s continuing education requirements.

### Office of Medical Services

- The Memorandum of Understanding between DJJ, DHR and the Chatham County Independent Court for the Interagency Case Management Program is in its final stages of review. This project is a replication of the program with the Bob Richards RYDC, Floyd County Juvenile Court and DHR in the Northwest Health District. The program’s goal is to link youth that have medical and mental health problems that are identified at the RYDC to health providers in the community. DHR services such as public health clinics and the regional boards that provide mental health services would get referrals on youth from the RYDC if the parent and youth choose to participate in the program.
- The DJJ bid for pharmacy services has been awarded to United Pharmacy. They were our previous vendor and were the only bid received. The Department has received excellent services from them in the past and we expect the relationship and good service to continue.

### Office of Campus Operations

- Sumter YDC staff developed a partnership with the local Habitat for Humanity in Americus, GA that will allow youth to build framing for houses that will be delivered to other habitat sites to construct homes for families with special needs. Commissioner stated that he recently visited Sumter and the site where the youth will do the work and feels that it is appropriate for the youth to work off campus. Youth will work at a secure off-site location and must meet strict criteria before being selected for participation in this project. This is an excellent example of how balanced and restorative justice (BARJ) projects can be implemented in youth development campuses. Commissioner Murray thanked Derek Glisson and his staff for all their efforts on this project.
- Construction of the new Mental Health unit at the Augusta YDC is scheduled to be completed and opened in three to four months. This will be the last phase of construction for this campus. The campus currently houses 108 residents with the potential to increase to 120 at full capacity with youth in the Shelter Unit, IIP unit, mental health unit and the general population.

- Commissioner Murray stated that his office would like to recognize the action taken by the Sumter County Superior Court for rendering a 10 year sentence to a youth charged with assault on staff while he was detained at Sumter YDC, approximately two years ago. This youth brutally assaulted a female officer. He added that this will send a strong message to this youth and other youth that this type of behavior will not be tolerated.
- Special incidents at the Muscogee YDC were drastically reduced by having inappropriate youth removed from the program. The director reports that incidents dropped from 84 in January, to 56 in February and 12 in March of 2006. He stated that it is necessary sometimes to move youth around when it becomes clear and evident that they are not going to work out in the placement/program they are in.

### **Division of Fiscal & Administrative Services**

#### Office of Training

The final schedule for Board members and DJJ staff serving as commencement speakers for the BJCOT graduations is as follows:

May 26, 2006	Dr. Ed Risler
June 30, 2006	Ms. Mary Wilhite

- The Department will have a total of 8 staff attend the National Institute of Corrections sponsored training “Meeting the Needs of Juvenile Female Offenders.” This training is being held May 1-5, 2006 and is being hosted by the Juvenile Courts of DeKalb County. Yvonne Saunders-Brown, Training Program Manager for the Office of Training is responsible for our agency receiving the training slots.
- We are currently in the second iteration of the Wildly Important Goals Training (WIGS). The tentative deadline for the statewide training is the end of May. In the sessions completed thus far, all work units have embraced the new approach to executing goals with enthusiasm.

#### Final Legislative Update

Commissioner stated that the Department had a very successful legislative session. He announced that Governor Perdue has signed off on all DJJ legislation - Senate Bills 135, 136 and HB 1145. He added that this was a great session for DJJ and the children of Georgia. Commissioner thanked Spiro Amburn, Director of Legislative Services for his tireless efforts at the Capitol and all DJJ staff that pitched in to support the Department’s legislative agenda, including Amy Howell, Jeff Minor, Bill Reilly, and Rob Rosenbloom who worked as a team to ensure our legislative agenda got the attention it needed. He stated that he is encouraged by the support we get from staff, state legislators and the Governor’s Office advocating for legislation. Commissioner added that there is much that the Department wants to do but some things are contingent on new legislation; new

state law. These three bills will put the Department in an excellent position to move into the direction where we want to concentrate more time and attention.

## **Announcements**

Commissioner took the opportunity to acknowledge some well deserved DJJ staff at this time:

- Case Expeditor Lisa Casey has been selected as “The DJJ Public Servant of the Year” by the Juvenile Law Committee of the State Bar of Georgia. Lisa is being recognized for her tireless efforts in making a difference in the lives of Georgia’s children. This is a very prestigious honor and one that is well deserved! Hats off to Lisa for representing the DJJ family and for always advocating for Georgia’s youth.
- Amy Howell, Director of Legal Services, has been elected to serve as Secretary of the State Bar of Georgia’s Young Lawyers Division.
- Staff Sgt. Todd A. Sanford of Calhoun was named the Georgia Army National Guard’s Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) of the year for 2006. Sanford serves as a fire support instructor at the Guard’s Regional Training Institute in Macon. In his civilian job, he is a juvenile corrections officer at our Bob Richards Regional Youth Detention Center in Rome.

## **Conclusion**

Commissioner concluded his remarks and opened the floor for questions or comments.

Hearing none, Commissioner recognized the presence of Mr. Donald Lockett, Director of the Metro RYDC, and introduced him to the Board and noted the changes and improvements made at the facility by Mr. Lockett and his staff.

### **Apprehension Unit – Progress to Date**

Ronnie Lane, Director  
Juvenile Apprehension Unit

Mr. Lane addressed the Board, presenting an update of the progress of the Apprehensions Unit. He first introduced Investigator Brian Acree, who volunteered to attend training for P.O.S.T. certification and also to attend training for fire arms instructor, as the unit needed someone qualified for both.

Mr. Lane presented the Board with a chronological timetable of events from the time the Department transferred the unit to the Georgia Bureau of Investigations (GBI) in February 2001, until it was returned to the Department in April 2004. Included in his presentation was an explanation of the Georgia Code that gives Commissioner Murray the authority to set up the unit; the organization chart for the unit; monthly data collected for the month of March 2006; and, information about an escape of two youth from the Augusta YDC in December 2005.

Mr. Lane informed the Board that he was hired in June 2004 to lead and direct the unit. He stated that on July 1, 2004, he attended a 10-week, 400-hour basic law enforcement training to receive statewide arrest powers and graduated on September 10, 2004. He attended the chief of police academy in October 2004 to become a certified chief of police in Georgia. Mr. Lane then gave a brief description of the hiring of key staff to complete the unit statewide. The unit has staff located in offices in Columbus, Savannah, and Marietta, Georgia. The unit operates from 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and is closed on weekends and holidays. During their off times, everything is turned over to the GBI for assistance.

Mr. Lane briefed the Board on O.C.G.A. 49-4A-8, known as Warrant 4056 (juvenile arrest warrant), and the conditions of the warrant. Afterwards, he turned the presentation over to Brian Acree.

Mr. Acree addressed the Board, reintroduced himself and informed the Board that he previously worked for law enforcement in the city of Temple. Mr. Acree announced that he was sharing a presentation on the recent apprehension efforts of two youths who escaped from the Augusta YDC but are now back in custody.

After the presentation, Mr. Lane opened the floor for questions and comments.

Judge Quintress Gilbert asked what happens to these youth when their time has expired. Mr. Rosenbloom stated that they are likely to face additional charges of escape, to which Mr. Gordon Fisher added that they were, in fact, charged and one that turned 17 was charged as an adult.

Judge Ellen McElyea asked why this function of the agency originally transferred to the GBI and why it transferred back. Mr. Lane stated that it was transferred under the administration of former Commissioner Orlando Martinez. After the appointment of current Commissioner Albert Murray, the GBI asked to have the unit transferred back and Commissioner Murray acquiesced.

Ed Risler stated that as he understands it, there are nine investigators and roughly 220 open cases. He wanted to know if that meant each investigator had approximately 20 open cases at any one time. Mr. Lane stated that it is not unusual for them to have a total of 140 cases and they try to distribute them as evenly as possible. Dr. Risler then asked about the most common violation of supervision. Mr. Rosenbloom responded that it was probably failure to report; not cooperating, not participating in their plan.

At this point, Commissioner Murray injected a follow-up to Judge McElyea's inquiry. He stated that while the transfer of the unit to the GBI was done in an effort to make it more functional and self-serving, they realized that this was not the case. The GBI has many priorities and he stated that he was not certain that the GBI could give this unit the priority it needed to make it as functional as it needed to be. So, the decision was made to return it to DJJ. He stated that the Department has taken the steps we need to take to make this unit functional. He complemented Mr. Lane and his staff for the work they do.

Hearing no other comments, Mr. Shuman 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. Mary Wilhite moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice to convene the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education. The motion was seconded by Michael Baugh and carried.

### **Education Update**

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

Addressing the Board, Dr. O'Rourke informed them of the following information on the Office of Education. The Office of Education:

- Just completed the statewide testing program to meet standards that take place in every school system across the state.
- Has five vacancies at the Bill Ireland YDC. This is the biggest challenge for the education program.
- Approved Jack Catrett to undertake the challenge of ensuring there are qualified teachers at all DJJ sites, as required by NCLB legislation. The deadline to meet this requirement is August 1<sup>st</sup>. Dr. O'Rourke stated that he believes we are in better shape to meet this requirement than other systems around the state.
- Has piloted three reading programs at Bill Ireland to better meet the needs of the students. Will bring more information on this initiative as it becomes available.
- Is working closely with Dr. Schanavia Smith, Research Specialist at the University of Georgia, on the customer service initiative.
- Just audited the Title I Program.
- Is currently being audited by DOE in Special Education. Have not had a Special Education problem of significance in 7 ½ years, largely due to the work of Special Education Director, Jack Catrett.
- Is currently receiving site visits to evaluate programs by the Office of Continuous Improvement (OCI).

Dr. O'Rourke stated that auditing is ongoing and we're getting very good results on the education program. He then concluded his update and opened the floor for questions or comments. Hearing none, Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education and reconvene the regular meeting of the Board of

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

### **Chair's Comments**

J. Daniel Shuman, Board Chair

Chairman Shuman announced that all arrangements for the June Board Meeting in Savannah and the GSBA Training have been made. He informed members that a block of rooms have been reserved for them at the Savannah River Street Inn.

He also announced that the next scheduled board meeting will be held on May 25, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. at the Eastman YDC. Member Sandra Taylor injected that she and member Elizabeth Lindsey would not be able to physically attend the meeting but could participate by conference call if it were possible to change the meeting time to 1:00 p.m. With a consensus of the board, the meeting time was changed to 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Shuman informed the Board that Eastman YDC is looking for a Board member interested in being a commencement speaker for the youth there on May 24, 2006.

After the announcements, Chairman Shuman stated that he and Commissioner Murray met with the State Board of Corrections and noted that they conducted an opening prayer. He stated that if they were able to do it, why couldn't the Board of Juvenile Justice. He then polled the Board to see if there were objections to opening the meetings with prayer. The Board provided implied consent vocally.

Mr. Shuman noted that members should have before them an invitation to the renaming ceremony of the Clayton Regional Youth Detention Center. The center will be renamed the Martha K. Glaze Regional Youth Detention Center after a longtime juvenile court judge in Clayton County.

Mr. Shuman informed members that a correctional industries person was giving the board members of corrections nice license plates (they make all the license plates for all the cars in Georgia). He stated the plates said "Corrections Board Member." He stated that he asked if DJJ Board members could get one of the plates to which they answered in the affirmative. He stated that if any member would like a plate to let him know and he will take care of it.

Commissioner injected that the corrections board met in Tattnall County and Mr. Shuman invited him to attend. He stated that it was good experience watching that board operate. He noted things they do differently as well as things done similar to us. He added that it was an opportunity to learn some new things. He stated that he intends to invite Commissioner Donald and perhaps the Board Chair of Corrections to attend one of our meetings so that they can observe how we operate.

There were some questions about arrangements for the June meeting in Savannah. Ms. Wilson informed members that arrangements for lodging and training sessions have already been made.

Ms. Wilson then asked for clarification on the polling of members for opening prayer at the meetings. Mr. Shuman stated that there was a consensus vote of 'yes'.

Hearing no other questions or comments, the meeting was adjourned.

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J. Daniel Shuman, Chair  
Board of Juvenile Justice

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Albert Murray  
Commissioner

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Dr. Ed Risler, Secretary  
Board of Juvenile Justice

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