

**Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, December 14, 2006
11:00 a.m.**

**DJJ Central Office
3408 Covington Highway
2nd Floor – Board Room
Decatur, Georgia 30032**

Opening Remarks

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair

Mr. Shuman called to order the December 14, 2006 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education. He noted the time as 11:00 a.m. Following his request for introductions from all guests and others present, Mr. Shuman asked those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance. After the invocation given by Commissioner Murray, Mr. Shuman asked for the Roll Call.

Roll Call

Steve Hayes then called the roll.

Board Members Present: Michael Baugh; Judy Mecum; Daniel Menefee; Edwin Risler; J. Daniel Shuman; Sandra H. Taylor
(after roll call); Elizabeth Lindsey; Mary Wilhite; William McQueen

Advisory Board Members Present: Judge Quintress Gilbert

DJJ Staff Present: Albert Murray, Commissioner; Spiro Amburn; Dr. Thomas Coleman; Gordon Fisher; James Frazier; Steve Hayes; Amy Howell; Jeff Minor; Dr. Tom O'Rourke; Fabienne Tate; Jimmy Taylor; Rob Rosenbloom; Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne

Others: Dave Lemmerman, Eckerd Youth Alternatives Incorporated; Eva Lou Shuman, Wife of Board Chairman; Jason Naunas, Assistant Attorney General; Boris Blackwood, Colt Security.

After Mr. Hayes announced the presence of a quorum of the Board, Mr. Shuman asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 30, 2006 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education. The motion was made by Board Member Michael Baugh. The motion was seconded by Board Member Judy Mecum and was carried.

Chairman Shuman then called for the Commissioner's Report.

Commissioner's Comments

Albert Murray, Commissioner

Commissioner Murray welcomed everyone back to the DJJ Central Office for the December DJJ Board meeting. He began by thanking the Board for attending this meeting though it is only two weeks from the last meeting and out of the normal Board Meeting Schedule.

Commissioner Murray then recognized Boris Blackwood as the new security officer from Colt Security. His responsibilities will be to provide general security for the DJJ Central Office building and parking lot surveillance.

Continuing, Commissioner Murray stated that he is thankful Chairman Shuman and his wife missed being in a serious accident one stop light from DJJ while traveling to today's Board Meeting. He feels that was worthy of mentioning because things happen without our control and he is grateful that Daniel Shuman and his wife were able to make it without injury. Commissioner Murray then distributed DJJ Caps to Board Members that had Board Member engraved on them. He also thanked Dr. Coleman for getting the Board these caps.

Commissioner Murray then recognized DJJ's Customer Service Initiative by acknowledging Dr. Tom O'Rourke as the Customer Service Chairperson. As Dr. O'Rourke passed out the new Customer Service tri-fold brochure, Commissioner Murray informed the Board that they were the first to see this document which is part of DJJ's continued commitment to improve Customer Service in 2007. Commissioner Murray says the brochure will serve to inform the public that the agency is genuinely committed to customer service. He then thanked Dr. O'Rourke again for his work.

Commissioner Murray then recognized Judge Ellen McElyea in being appointed to the Superior Court for the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit. The selection process began with twelve nominees which were eventually narrowed to three finalists. Governor Perdue selected Judge McElyea for the newly created superior court judgeship. Commissioner Murray stated that as much as he hates to lose Judge McElyea as a Judicial Advisory Board Member, it is an honor and that he and the Board wishes her well. Commissioner Murray then requested that the Agency and the Board send her something reflecting the entire Board congratulating her on this appointment.

Commissioner Murray stated that despite having a Board Meeting two weeks earlier, there was a great deal of information that he wanted to touch on. Last week Commissioner Murray and Spiro Amburn, DJJ Legislative Director, met with Lieutenant Governor-Elect Casey Cagle. This meeting was at Mr. Cagle's request to receive an overview of DJJ initiatives, DJJ makeup and organizational directive. Commissioner Murray added that Mr. Cagle is very interested in the issues faced by DJJ. He is interested in Children's Services and offered his assistance in working with DJJ and the

Governor in promoting the agency's initiatives that will better serve at-risk youth of the state. Commissioner Murray said he is looking forward to working with Lieutenant Governor-Elect Casey Cagle and welcomed his support.

Legislative Services

The legislative session is less than one month away. It begins January 8th and DJJ is looking forward to a productive session, working with the state legislature. Commissioner Murray stated that we are collaborating with other agencies and stakeholders to advocate for legislation and budget proposals that will improve the Juvenile Justice System. DJJ has not yet received full clearance from the Governor's office on the legislative package; however there have been some discussions and it's expected that in the future the agency will get some ideas of topics and ideas to advocate for. Commissioner Murray stated that the Board's participation and support is welcomed. Every year since Commissioner Murray has been with the Department of Juvenile Justice, board members have attended sessions at the State Capital at times when DJJ needed them the most. Just by being in the audience makes a difference and being recognized as a DJJ Board Member; their presence sends a message that they support the agency and the agency's legislation. Commissioner Murray then added that he appreciates their support and he hopes that they can do the same this session.

Operations Division

The Operations Division is continuing to work with youth in the community which includes out of home placements and RYDC's. The current population report shows that we have 24,000 youth being supervised at home, 700 are in out of home placements and 1,200 youth are in RYDC's. That is approximately 26,000 youth out of a total of 28,000 youth under all forms of DJJ supervision. Juvenile case managers provide court services to over 90% of the juvenile courts in the state to include intake court, paper work preparation and coordination of services delivered to the court. Juvenile case managers have a multi-faceted job. This week Rob Rosenbloom and Regional Administrators had their management meeting to discuss topics and plans to increase services to victims, enhance youth service plans, transitional planning for youth returning from the YDC's and day to day population management at the RYDC's.

Commissioner Murray stated there are many interested parties in helping to reduce the number of youth served by DJJ.

Last week Amy Howell, Rob Rosenbloom and Commissioner Murray participated in the quarterly meeting of the First Lady's Children Cabinet. This group is chaired by First Lady Mary Perdue and attended by all agencies that serve children. The cabinet has set a goal to increase the Georgia high school graduation rate. Commissioner Murray said the Cabinet chose this goal because it impacts the many areas for youth to be successful. Commissioner Murray added that we have to find a way to get them out of school

(graduate) whether coming through DJJ, DHR or other child serving agencies. Improving the graduation rate will reduce the number of youth entering the Juvenile Justice System. If youth are positively engaged in school and on track to graduate, it's hoped they won't have to come to DJJ.

Division of Program Services

Commissioner Murray announced the appointment of Samantha Mezcua as the new Regional Treatment Services Specialist in Region V. Ms. Mezcua has a B.A. from Florida International University and M.S. in Marriage and Family Therapy from St. Thomas University. She is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Certified Criminal Justice Addiction Specialist, Sentence Mitigation Specialist, and a Forensic Addictions Examiner. Her experience includes working with Ramsay Youth Services, The Associated Marine Institute and Gateway Behavioral Specialist. Commissioner Murray also recognized the promotion of Ms. Toni Driskell as the Administrative Assistant to Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Thomas Coleman effective December 1st. Tony has been with the Office of Behavioral Services as a Secretary III since September 2000. She previously worked with the State Board of Pardons and Paroles and the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. Commissioner Murray stated Ms. Driskell will be a great asset to Dr. Coleman's office.

The Office of Medical Services and Behavioral Health Services are continuing to participate in the inter-agency pharmacy services planning with the DHR, DOC and with the A.T. Kearney Company acting as facilitators. These meetings are held every Tuesday for half a day and will continue through March 2007. He said he expects the meetings to keep the agency and Board informed on any new developments that may affect the agency's pharmacy program and pharmacy services.

The Office of Behavioral Health Services has sent out its annual holiday alert regarding staff awareness of signs of depression and anxiety among youth. This message was sent to all facility staff reminding them that the holidays can be a stressful time for incarcerated youth. Staffs were reminded of action to take and to refer any youth to mental health that may be experiencing emotional stress during the holiday season. Commissioner Murray added that we understand that a child's emotional stress is enhanced when he or she is separated from his/her family in a correctional facility.

Commissioner Murray next announced that the Office of Behavioral Health Services (OBHS) established a contract with the Medical College of Georgia and Emory University School of Medicine to develop Psychiatry Fellowships at the Augusta YDC and Metro RYDC. Psychiatry Fellows from these institutions will work very closely with DJJ psychiatric staff to provide evaluations and treatment to youth in these two secure facilities. These Fellowships allow DJJ the unique opportunity to work collaboratively with these medical schools in regard to current psychiatric best practices and allows DJJ to educate new practitioners concerning the needs of the DJJ system and to serve as a

potential avenue for the recruitment of new psychiatrists. Commissioner Murray stated this should serve the agency in many ways.

OBHS recently distributed an individualized sleep treatment program to all DJJ facilities. This program includes protocols and tools for assessing sleep problems of youth and a treatment manual that allows clinicians to individualize a course of treatment based on individualized assessment results. Sleep complaints are common among incarcerated youth and the effects of sleep deprivation are often overlooked as a factor impacting a youth's ability to cope with confinement. The implementation of this program should reduce the number of instances to which prescription medication is used to treat sleep problems.

Campus Operations

Campus Operations has filled the deputy position vacated by the medical retirement of Yolande Collins who served the agency well for many years. The position has been re-designated as an Office Director, Assistant position. The new incumbent is Ms. Martha Dalesio. Commissioner Murray stated that Ms. Dalesio's experience is broad, as she has previously served as the Director for Griffin RYDC, Program Coordinator in Operations and Interim Director of DeKalb RYDC. He stated that Ms. Dalesio is a good manager and he knows she will serve well in her new role. Commissioner Murray added that he is always glad to announce new appointments, especially when they come from within DJJ. He expressed his belief that DJJ is well served by internal promotions, and where appropriate, appointments from outside.

Upon the recommendation of Deputy Commissioner's Rob Rosenbloom and Dr. Tom Coleman, Commissioner Murray announced he had approved the Holiday Release Program for deserving committed youth with release dates that are approximate to the holidays. Thirteen youth were identified by OTIS of which five were recommended by YDC Directors and are under active consideration. This program allows some youth to be released somewhat earlier than planned so that they can spend the holidays with their families and again not have to return to DJJ physical custody.

On December 7th the Augusta YDC successfully completed an OCI comprehensive evaluation. Preliminary results found that this facility is the first DJJ facility to pass 24 out of 28 safety and security standards. He noted the facility had come a long way, and he complimented Director John Brady and his staff for the audit results. However, on December 8th the Muscogee YDC surpassed Augusta's record by passing 26 out of the 28 OCI safety and security standards. Commissioner Murray credited Muscogee Director William Samuel and the staffs of both facilities.

Commissioner Murray stated that at the Macon YDC the vocational program began a nationally recognized program called "Sew Much Comfort." This organization's mission is to provide adaptive clothing to seriously wounded or injured military personnel who as a result of medical devices and situations such as needing braces, fixators, casts,

prosthetics or suffering from burns; the injured would be left with a hospital gown as their only clothing option. Adaptive clothing accommodates their medical devices and situations, provides ease of use, personal independence and minimizes the visual impact of their medical condition. The goal is to provide each soldier with an individually designed and tailored wardrobe of adaptive clothing, in order to provide them comfort and maintain their dignity, thereby facilitating the healing process. Commissioner Murray called it a great program.

From the Office of Training and Development, DJJ was awarded a technical assistance grant to train administrators and trainers on PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) which was signed into law September 4, 2003 by President George Bush. The training session will be held on January 3rd and 4th at the DJJ academy and will be facilitated by the NIC (National Institute of Corrections), DJJ Office of Training and Development and the Moss Group. Andy Moss (Moss Senior Associate) was previously an employee of DJJ. This training session will start at 8:30 and is specific to PREA and its impact on the juvenile population. PREA training is designed to help correctional leaders understand their roles and responsibilities in implementing the PREA law and their accountability to employees in our agency in regard to compliance.

The Office of Training and Development will be piloting a specialized training program entitled, "Intervention Strategies for DJJ Facilities; Crisis Management Involving Non-Compliant Clients." This program will be conducted at the Macon YDC on January 23rd and 24th. This will be a cross training exercise with security and non-security staff to provide the circumstances in which physical control measures can be utilized. Commissioner Murray called it most important and relevant training for security and non-security staff.

Commissioner Murray stated the BJCOT graduation is scheduled for December 22nd at 10:30 in the usual auditorium. Region IV Administrator Natilyne Young will be the commencement speaker. If any board members can attend, DJJ welcomes their attendance.

In closing, Commissioner Murray informed the Board that 2006 has been a very good year for DJJ and the Board members. He stated nothing is taken for granted but credit should be given where it is due. DJJ has had its challenges in 2006 and they will be there in 2007. He listed the following accomplishments DJJ staff achieved in 2006 as the agency heads into 2007:

Management of the DJJ population has been excellent in 2006 and that's thanks to Rob Rosenbloom, Jim Frazier, Tom Coleman, Jeff Minor, Amy Howell and all staff who are involved in ensuring facilities maintain population requirements and those involved in that process. Many, many RA's (Regional Administrators) and directors have been a part of moving kids around the state, sometimes on short notice and sometimes in the late evening and weekends to ensure DJJ stays within its designated cap. Commissioner Murray noted it was no easy task, but that DJJ's leadership continues to make the right

decisions and program decisions to keep the population management in check. He stated 2007 again will be a challenge but that the DJJ track record is what it is and that is the positive that DJJ takes into 2007.

Commissioner Murray then acknowledged the Macon RYDC under Director Melissa Aaron and her staff for their prompt response to a recent medical emergency at her facility. A young man was given psychotropic medication for the first time and the youth had a major reaction and his heart stopped beating. Commissioner Murray stated that through the work of the facility's good staff, they were able to use their training and applied their CPR training, among other measures, and brought this child back to life and had they not responded swiftly, "we would've lost him." Commissioner Murray then added that it was a laundry worker that first observed that this child was having problems and alerted security. He stated that it is another illustration of our staff doing excellent work and deserving recognition.

Commissioner Murray continued with notable accomplishments for 2006. He stated the DJJ School Based Supervision program began this year. He stated DJJ decided to bring it to Georgia and tweak it and make it right for Georgia. Currently, there are more than 40 probation officers delivering services to youth in approximately 50 middle and high schools around the state of Georgia. Commissioner Murray said the program will be successful based on its early successes and that school administrators have embraced this program. He added that this program will continue to grow and expand in 2007. DJJ is already receiving positive results in reducing recidivism and stemming the flow of youth into our detention centers. In 2007 Commissioner Murray noted DJJ will report a more detailed account of the statistics from this program.

The DJJ Education Department under the leadership of Dr. Tom O'Rourke continues to be successful in increasing opportunities for the youth in facilities. Commissioner Murray referenced the last school board meeting report, in which it was noted that a high number of GED's and (High School) diplomas have been awarded.

Through successful legislation and budget processes, DJJ improved it's service delivery program to youth in communities by adding more community based staff and the hope is to continue to grow in that area through the next budget cycle. In 2006 DJJ added 67 JPPS staff positions in the community and again the agency is requesting a similar number of positions in the budget recently submitted. By adding these positions, the Commissioner noted the focus remains on reducing the case loads of JPPS's, to bring them closer to the appropriate ratios.

In 2006 the agency paid closer attention to our training needs. The Office of Training and Development improved and expanded overall training opportunities to ensure that the staff and personnel are capable and have the necessary training to do their jobs to the best of their abilities.

Commissioner Murray noted that DJJ filled a number of Director and Management positions in the field, facilities and central office in 2006 with capable and qualified individuals. That will continue as necessary in 2007.

DJJ's Customer Service initiative began in 2006 and our customer service policy will soon be in place and the customer service plan will be fully implemented in 2007. With this plan there will be an employee recognition component. This will enable us to recognize DJJ employees for excellent customer service at future board meetings.

Commissioner Murray concluded his remarks by stating that immediately following the board meeting DJJ will have its holiday festivities in the board room. Staff will be served lunch on the first floor and return for Christmas carols and to participate in fun activities. At 2:00 the DJJ central office staff will move to Georgia Perimeter College, Clarkston Campus for a Central Office Staff Meeting. Commissioner Murray noted that as a part of that meeting, a special speaker will participate.

Commissioner Murray concluded his report and opened the floor for questions and comments.

Board Member Michael Baugh commented that he's known Lt. Governor-elect Casey Cagle for over a year and he believes Mr. Cagle will be real good to work with.

Chairman Shuman asked that the Macon RYDC laundry worker and Director come to the DJJ Board Meeting in January or February to be recognized.

Commissioner Murray agreed with the suggestion and said he would make that happen in 2007 and added that he gave out certificates to the employees from the Director during a ceremony while he was at the facility recently.

Judge Quintress Gilbert mentioned that she, Judge Mathews and other judges around the state will continue to do, in keeping with the department, by allowing youth who exhibit good behavior prior to holidays to go home early. She says that's occurring in Bibb County and around the state.

Chairman Shuman responded that is a real positive rehabilitation tool.

Dr. Ed Risler stated that they passed more legislation this year regarding youth in this state than any other years combined. He credits that to Spiro (Amburn) and the other people involved in promoting DJJ legislation.

Commissioner Murray thanked him for his acknowledgement and agreed that has been one of DJJ's greatest successes and that he hopes to build on it in this year's session.

Board Member Daniel Menefee wanted to recognize Muscogee County and Augusta for their good works and to have those people come so they would know how much everyone appreciates their work.

Commissioner Murray then recognized the attendance of Jason Naunas, Assistant Attorney General.

Chairman Shuman called for a motion to close the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and to convene the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education. A motion to close the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and to convene the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education was made by Board Member William McQueen and seconded by Board Member Sandra Taylor. Hearing no discussion, Chairman Shuman called for the vote and it carried.

Education Update

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

Dr. O'Rourke opened by letting the board know that he only had a few comments to share.

The DJJ Education Department is moving forward with text book adoption in the area of mathematics, adopting grades 5 through 8. Several weeks ago a committee reviewed all of the text books, a significant amount were looked at, and the committee narrowed it down to a few selections. They will be making a choice soon and begin purchasing new text books.

Dr. O'Rourke stated the agency is also replacing text books that get worn out over a 7 year cycle. All regional principals met in Hawkinsville recently leaving with trucks and SUV's filled with new books to be placed in sites replacing worn out books.

All of the Education Policies have now been approved, signed and enacted. The Education Department has gone from 5 policies to about 13 or 14 policies. With these new policies there should be a marked improvement.

The Education Department just completed FTE counting and awaits the results of that count to determine how much additional special education funding will be received. FTE counts the number of special education youth in DJJ facilities. DJJ receives additional federal funding for special education through Title II B.

During the Muscogee and Augusta OCI visits, everything was compliant at Augusta and there was only a minor need that will be addressed at the Muscogee facility.

The school semester ends December 15th although mastery learning continues, where children who master it will receive credits for their courses. However, it is the end of the

semester and the education staff likes to tell them (students) so that they can begin to move forward and get their credits.

Dr. O'Rourke invited anyone who is available to attend the Eastman YDC graduation on December 19th. He anticipated having approximately 40 youth to receive a GED, high school diploma or certificate from the technical school. Dr. O'Rourke says his department is putting things in the kids' hands that they haven't had in the past, and that's a good thing, and hopefully it will pay benefits in the long run.

Dr. O'Rourke concluded his report and opened the floor for questions and comments.

Mr. Baugh stated that he spoke with Senator Johnny Isakson's office about drop-ins not being counted. According to the No Child Left Behind Act, they cannot (be counted). The No Child Left Behind Act is coming up for renewal in this Congressional Session. Mr. Baugh said we need to try to get together with the Senator and try to get that rectified so when we have someone to graduate or get a GED then it helps with the overall state graduation rate. As it stands right now, there is nothing that can be done about it. Dr. O'Rourke responded that it makes good sense and to let him know what he needs to do and he will make the phone calls and that it's good to at least share the information to let them know that these children have not been left behind.

Mr. Baugh said all of the information needs to be collected in order to get it to the proper person. Dr. O'Rourke asked Mr. Baugh to contact the proper person in the Senator's office and he would follow up with Mr. Baugh.

Ms. Taylor stated that since they are appointed by congressional districts they should have one liaison to each Congressman from this board. She added that they listen more if it is a district person making the call.

Mr. Baugh responded that if each board member can contact each one of their Congressional members, the more you talk to them the more can be done. He added that No Child Left Behind has its drawbacks but this is one that if you work hard enough can get taken care of.

Dr. O'Rourke responded that he would follow up with the Board and others.

Hearing no other questions or comments, 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.

A motion to adjourn the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education and reconvene the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice was made by Mr. Baugh, seconded by Board Member Elizabeth Lindsey and carried.

Chair's Comments

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair

Mr. Shuman announced that he will absent for the January meeting. He and his wife will be on a trip to the Holy Land and requested prayers for their safe return. He then added that he will be on a deer hunting trip in Mexico the Sunday before that trip. Chairman Shuman thanked the Board and Commissioner and the Commissioner's staff for their service over the past year. He wished them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He then recognized Dr. Ed Risler for serving on this board longer than anyone. He then added that Dr. Risler mentioned that previously there were times that they couldn't get a quorum. Mr. Shuman applauded the board's commitment and he knows they are going to do some good things for Georgia's children. Chairman Shuman stated that sometimes it might be so global you can't see it, but there is some good being done. He added that his heart still stirs when he thinks about that incident in Macon.

Chairman Shuman announced that Commissioner Murray would receive a pay increase on January 1st. He thanked the Commissioner for his service and the Commissioner responded in thanks to the Chairman and Board Members.

Mr. Shuman then informed the Board members that they should have already received the Inauguration Announcements. He hopes that every one will attend the Inauguration festivities. Mr. Shuman concluded his remarks and opened the floor for questions and comments.

Steve Hayes announced that Lena Wilson was previously in the hospital for a week and is currently home resting and on track to return to work next Monday. He noted she is sorely missed from the office.

Chairman Shuman called for a motion to adjourn the DJJ Board Meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by Board Member William (Bill) McQueen and was seconded by Board Member Daniel Menefee and carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Albert Murray
Commissioner

Dr. Ed Risler, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice

