

**Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, February 23, 2006
11:00 a.m.**

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

Opening Remarks

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair

Mr. Shuman called to order the February 23, 2006 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education. Following his request for introductions from all guests and others present, Mr. Shuman invited everyone to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and join him in a Moment of Silence. Afterwards, he asked for Roll Call.

Roll Call

Lena Wilson then took Roll Call.

Board Members Present: Van R. Herrin; Elizabeth G. Lindsey; Judy C. Mecum; Daniel A. Menefee; Edwin A. Risler; J. Daniel Shuman; Sandra H. Taylor; Mary E. Wilhite

Advisory Board Members Present: Judge Ellen McElyea

DJJ Staff Present: Albert Murray, Commissioner; Dr. Thomas Coleman; Edward Cook; Ericka Davis; Gordon Fisher; Steve Herndon; Jeff Minor; Dr. Thomas O'Rourke; Rob Rosenbloom; Jimmy Taylor; Sher're Walton; Lena Wilson

DJJ Region II Staff: Todd Bentley; Lisa Casey; Kim Conkle; Angela Cosby, Glenda Bullard; Vonnie Guy; Judy Heath; Annette Rainer

Others: Matthew Gambill, Dave Lemmerman – Eckerd Youth Alternative

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

Citing the presence of a quorum, Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 26, 2006 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. The motion to approve the minutes for the January 26, 2006 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice was made by Daniel Menefee and seconded by Mary Wilhite. Hearing no discussion, the minutes were approved.

Commissioner's Comments

Albert Murray, Commissioner

Introduction

Commissioner greeted Chairman Shuman and the members of the Board. He welcomed staff from DJJ Region II to Central Office attending and participating in the Board meeting.

He then notified members that Sheriff Donnie Haralson had officially resigned from the Board. He stated that we had received notice earlier in the week from the Governor's Office. He shared that Sheriff Haralson has been recuperating at home and it is his hope that he is doing well. Sheriff Haralson notified the Governor's Office that he was resigning for personal health reasons. Commissioner acknowledged the service Sheriff Haralson rendered while he was here and that he was a regular attendee until his illness; he also expressed that he felt Sheriff Haralson's heart remains with the Board. He stated that we certainly wish him well.

Chairman Shuman injected that he would like to make part of the record a request for Commissioner Murray to draft a letter to Sheriff Haralson expressing appreciation for Sheriff Haralson's service to the Board. Commissioner responded that he will ensure that a letter and something more be done on Sheriff Haralson's behalf. Mr. Shuman stated that he was not certain of the current status of Sheriff Haralson's health but he feels it left him no other choice but to resign.

Commissioner then took the opportunity to thank Judge Gilbert for serving as the commencement speaker for the JCO graduation on February 3rd. He stated that because of a scheduling conflict, he was not able to attend this graduation exercise, but he has received a great deal of feedback about the tremendous job done by Judge Gilbert.

He stated that Judge Gilbert spoke to the class about the Juvenile Justice System, as well as the procedures a child goes through when they are appearing in Juvenile Court. She addressed the class on the types of children that we may encounter in our system, which could range from those committing murder to youth charged with truancy. She defined the role of a JCO as a critical position and the impact that they could have on the children. She stated that JCOs should serve as mentors, role models and positive influences in our facilities. Judge Gilbert concluded her speech by telling them that they are not in it for the money, but in this line of business it should be because they care about children.

Sharing some information about the class, Commissioner Murray stated that there were a total of 54 graduates from this BJCOT Class. He stated that although it was not one of the largest classes we've had, it was one of significance that included a number of potential career state employees. He expressed his hope that a number of the graduates would be

with us for a long time. There was one honor graduate, however, there were 15 students who graduated with an A average. Three students received the leadership award which goes to students who went beyond the call of duty in assisting other students. This class also had 15 college graduates, as well as 13 more who are working on their degrees. Ten students had previous military experience and 32 had previous experience working with children.

Commissioner iterated that Judge Gilbert did an excellent job of motivating and encouraging our JCO candidates. He expressed his appreciation, once again, for her taking the time out of her busy schedule to participate in the graduation ceremony, and expressed his appreciation to all board members who have signed on to be commencement speakers.

Operations Division

- During last year's legislative session, SB 134 was passed reducing the 90 day program to 60 days. SB 134 has caused the department to reassess the use of secure beds used for STP since there has been a decrease in the total number of sentences. Particularly, we have seen a significant decrease in girls receiving this sentence. The decision has been made to change the mission of the Crisp Youth Development Campus (YDC) from serving STP girls to a serve as a new co-ed 64-bed Regional Youth Detention Center (RYDC). The long term analysis of population trends supports this decision. The Operations Division is in the process of planning the transition of the privatized facility operated by Youth Services International (YSI) to our 22nd detention center. This change will help relieve crowding in detention centers and better meet our population needs. Commissioner stated that he believes that this change will be cost neutral.
- Last week, Region 2 hosted a Judges conference in Athens for its staff and a large number of regional judges. The day and a half meeting was hosted by CYCC and was highlighted by presentations from a number of the judges. The Office of Training was also instrumental in assisting with the coordination of this event. Two of our board members, Judy Mecum and Dr. Ed Risler, also attended. This conference will be replicated in the other four regions since it was so well received.

Commissioner informed everyone that later on the agenda, we will have a presentation by the staff from Region Two on the prevention programs highlighted at the January 26, 2006 meeting in his remarks. We have asked them to come and share in more detail how these programs started and how they are addressing the mission of the department to be more involved in prevention programs. He deferred further comments for later in the agenda.

- Mr. Victor Roberts has been appointed the new District Director in District 3A. Mr. Roberts is not new to the DJJ family. He was previously the Deputy Director in the Office of Classification and Transportation Services. Mr. Roberts has held

numerous positions, which include serving as the Federal Programs Manager for the State's Revenue Maximization Project and the Juvenile Program Manager for District 3A. His other experiences include Community Specialist III, JCO Supervisor and Juvenile Correction Officer for the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice. In addition, he served as the Commissioned Officer for the South Carolina National Guard and retired with the Honorary Rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Mr. Roberts received his BA Degree in Criminal Justice at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC and a Masters in Military Education at the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Commissioner stated that he is excited about what Mr. Roberts will bring to the department.

Program Services Division

Office of Behavioral Health Services

OBHS Assistant Director Miguel Fernandez attended a conference during the month of January in Washington, DC. The conference was an annual mandatory meeting for Young Offender Reentry Program (YORP) grantees coordinated by the Substance Abuse, Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. DJJ and the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse were able to present first year information regarding the program's start up year. The agenda focused on issues relevant to grant operations and YORP programming.

Office of Medical Services

The Office of Medical Services continues to address the concerns outlined in the BROCC Report requiring greater delineation and documentation of DJJ medical expenditures. The statewide pharmacy RFP has been released with the bidders conference held on February 15th. Bids are due March 15th. We anticipate comparing the RFP bids to pharmaceutical costs included in the Multi-state Purchasing Agreement (MMCAP) available through DOAS. Two companies have been identified through MMCAP, McKesson and Physician Sales and Services that can provide medical supplies for the Department at more competitive rates. Both vendors will be presenting information at the Financial Users Conference in March. Currently all DJJ facilities are using Quest Diagnostics for all laboratory services utilizing the same pricing agreement as the Department of Corrections. The Department presented this information in a legislative hearing on February 21st.

Office of Campus Operations

During the first two months of this year Campus Operations has sustained the loss of two dedicated employees. In January we lost Lt. Jimmy Harper at Eastman YDC. Lt. Harper was a former starter on the UGA football team during the days of Herschel Walker. This month JCO Stephanie Stephens suffered a heart attack while on duty at Macon YDC and passed February 14th. Both employees were well thought of by staff and students and will be missed. He asked that the Board and other attendees join him in a Moment of Silence in honor of these dedicated employees.

Augusta YDC- Augusta has reached its programmed capacity of 120 beds with the opening of a sixth cottage which will house general population males. The first youth were received on the 16th of this month. The campus is now programmed to serve 60 general population youth, 20 mental health youth, 20 shelter unit youth, and 20 STP youth. Commissioner stated that it is our goal to get to and remain as near to the 120 capacity as we can.

McIntosh YDC- This facility has been reopened with Youth Services International as the vendor and began taking youth February 6th. The current population is 40 and we anticipate they will reach their capacity of 60 by the first week in March.

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:

March 3, 2006	Ms. Sandra H. Taylor
March 31, 2006	Dr. Edwin A. Risler
April 28, 2006	Mr. Bill Reilly
May 26, 2006	Mr. Daniel Menefee
June 30, 2006	Ms. Mary Wilhite

Commissioner stated that we look forward to their participation. He added that it is a good thing to have Board members serving as speakers at our graduations. It gives the graduates a perspective of DJJ that is perhaps different than staff and also lets new employees know the importance of the Board and how we work together.

Legislative Update

Commissioner reminded the Board that in last month's update, he and Amy Howell commented on SB 135 and SB 136 which are carryover bills from last session. One has to do with the right to a speedy trial for superior court cases; the other has to do with bail rights. The Department is also promoting and supporting HB 1145, which is a new bill. HB 1145, sponsored by Representative David Ralston, addresses the mental capacity of youngsters who are faced with entry into the juvenile system. With successful passage, it will assure that the child has the mental capacity to understand the court proceedings taking place around them, or if it is determined that they don't have the mental capacity, there are certain legal safeguards built in to protect their due process rights. Commissioner stated that he thinks this is an important piece of legislation that will help us, as a state, ensure that youth entering the juvenile justice system are afforded due

process rights. There has been no real opposition to this bill so far. Juvenile Court Judges appear to be supportive of this legislation, as well as others in the judicial process.

Announcements

On February 15, 2006, Commissioner Murray was asked to present before the Georgia Women's Legislative Caucus and on February 21, 2006, he presented before the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus. During both presentations, he discussed the status of the agency, our legislative agenda including SB 135, 136 and HB 1145, and the importance of the Department making the shift to a heavier investment in community programs. This is a part of our budget presentation and initiative for 2006. He added that 89% of youth being served by DJJ are located in the community. Commissioner stated that he has a personal desire, and believes that staff shares it, to strengthen the good programs that are in place and look for ways to bring on new programs that will serve the Department and better serve the DJJ population.

On February 20, 2006 at the State Capitol, Governor Sonny Perdue led the swearing-in ceremony of 32 Georgians recently appointed to the newly reconstituted Workforce Investment Board (WIB), a key part of the Governor's strategy to develop a better educated statewide workforce to compete for high-growth jobs. The Board's mission is to create an integrated statewide strategic plan for workforce development in Georgia. The board members include business leaders, local elected officials, and representatives from community services and labor unions. The WIB members will work with a steering council of high-ranking officials from 10 state agencies, chaired by Governor Perdue. The Commissioner of Labor is vice-chair. This 11 member council, which includes the Governor, comprises chief executives of the lead state agencies in the workforce development system. The Coordinating Council will serve as the steering committee of the WIB. Coordinating Council members serve ex officio. Commissioner Murray has been selected to serve on the coordinating council along with:

Sonny Perdue, Governor of Georgia **Chairman
Michael Thurmond, Commissioner of Labor **Vice Chairman
Craig Lesser, Commissioner of Economic Development
Mike Beatty, Commissioner of Community Affairs
Erroll Davis, Chancellor of the University System of Georgia
Mike Vollmer, Commissioner of Technical and Adult Education
Kathy Cox, State Superintendent of Schools
Marsha Moore, Director of Early Care and Learning
Tim Connell, Director of the Georgia Student Finance Commission
Shelley Nickel, Director of the Office of Planning and Budget

Commissioner informed the Board that they will be hearing more about the Workforce Investment Board. He expressed his belief that it is a good initiative that will serve the state of Georgia well and it is our goal to work very closely with this committee.

Conclusion

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

Chairman Shuman stated that he would like to make a couple of comments. He informed everyone that former Senator Rene Kemp was instrumental in getting the McIntosh YDC and that the Board may not be aware that Senator Kemp passed away not too long ago. Chairman Shuman shared memories of Senator Kemp.

Ed Risler stated that the Commissioner's words about investing in community programs are going to be well received by community personnel. After all the budget cuts we have had it's good to know that we're getting back to doing some things in the community. He also expressed his thanks, and on behalf of Daniel Menefee and Chairman Shuman, for the opportunity to attend the ACA Conference in Tennessee. He stated that he was able to sit in on the presentation given by Dr. O'Rourke and his colleagues and the presentation given by Commissioner Murray. He stated that both presentations were well received. Dr. Risler stated that around the country, Georgia has demonstrated that we are moving in the right direction dealing with our youth.

Commissioner thanked Dr. Risler for his comments and stated that he is delighted that the three of them were able to be participants at the conference.

Daniel Menefee concurred with the comments made by Dr. Risler. Chairman Shuman stated that it was a very worthwhile experience they enjoyed and that Commissioner Murray was very well known amongst the conference attendees.

Resolution: Bond Sales

Edward Cook, Director
Office of Construction and Engineering

Mr. Cook thanked the Board for the opportunity present the Bond Resolution, of which they have been given a copy. He stated that the resolution approves the sale of \$2.73 Million for the construction of the new Augusta YDC Medical and Intake Building.

He stated that this is a very important project; not only is it the first large project we have started up in the last few years, it will also represent the achievement of one of the three main goals we have for the revitalization and improvement of the Augusta YDC facility. The other two include the new academic building which is designed but not yet funded for construction; and the shrinkage of the campus perimeter down to a more manageable size. He stated that this project will more than double the size of the medical area of the facility and will provide, for the first time, an intake area.

Mr. Cook stated that this area will be located in such a way that when we are able to achieve the shrinkage of the campus, the youth will have all their activities during the day

confined to a small area; the school, medical and dining will all be locked next to each other.

He queried the Board for questions regarding the project or other aspects regarding the master plan.

Dr. Risler asked if the medical building would be next to the new dining hall. Mr. Cook responded in the affirmative, adding that it will be between the new dining hall and the gym, and the school will be on the other side parallel to it.

Mr. Shuman asked for clarification of the dollar amount then asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Daniel Menefee moved to approve the resolution for the sale of bonds for the construction of the medical/intake building at the Augusta YDC. The motion was seconded by Ed Risler and carried.

Region II Prevention Program Presentation

Vonnie Guy, Regional Administrator – Region II

Introduction: Prior to the presentation, Rob Rosenbloom, Deputy Commissioner of Operations, introduced Ms. Guy and her staff in Region II. He stated that they were provided leadership on prevention from the Commissioner and given the challenge to go forward to do it. He added that while we don't have specific funds in the Department to do prevention outside of our caseload responsibility, Region II, under the leadership of Vonnie Guy as Regional Administrator, has been the vanguard for a more formal way to do prevention with different approaches. Mr. Rosenbloom stated that we will replicate some of those types of programs and give each of the regions the opportunity to identify where those same opportunities are in their region. He stated that there is an expectation for these kinds of programs to be done statewide. He then turned the floor over to Ms. Guy.

Ms. Guy thanked Commissioner Murray and the Board for the opportunity to bring their presentation before the Board. She stated that the Commissioner wanted them to know about what is happening in Region II and the good people working there.

Referencing General George S. Patton, she stated that he once said, "*Don't tell people how to do things, tell them what to do and let their results surprise you.*" She stated that she was pleasantly surprised with the results from Districts 2, 5 and 7. She expressed her amazement about how one concept can go in many different directions and they are all phenomenal.

Ms. Guy stated that they began talking about the prevention programs in September 2005, and when she presented it to her District Directors, they were very excited about it. She stated that their talk was about how to impact young people before they come into the juvenile justice system. They talked about going into the school system where they already had an audience and to identify a target grade level. Some districts chose the 6th

grade level while another chose the 5th grade level. She stated that each District Director and Assistant District Director will share what they are now doing in their respective areas. She introduced Lisa Casey, the Case Expeditor in District 2, who helped put the PowerPoint presentation together and assisted with the presentation to the Board.

District 2 – Glenda Bullard, Director

Ms. Bullard stated the District 2 chose mentoring as their prevention model. She stated that research shows that when you have qualified adults developing relationships with youth, it can bring on a lifetime of positive changes in a child's life. In his 2003 State of the Union Address, President George W. Bush stated, "One mentor, one person, can change a life forever." She urged us to be that one person.

Todd Bentley, Assistant District Director, took the lead on developing the mentoring program.

Building Partnerships

Mr. Bentley stated that they have partnered with Center Point Counseling Center, a local counseling center located on the Hall County High School campus. About a year ago, he was informed that they had 400 fewer mentors than they had applications for that school year. This means that kids that were identified by their school social workers or teachers as needing a mentor did not have one. Two elementary schools were identified as needing mentors.

Mr. Bentley stated that research has proven that kids that have a positive role model or mentor in their life are 53% less likely to skip school. He stated that in their district maybe two different CSO's caseloads average about 50% of being truancy cases; meaning staff are using a lot of their resources to supervise kids that are truant. Forty-three percent (43%) are less likely to begin using alcohol and drugs; 33% are less likely to commit acts of violence. He stated that these are the kind of charges that are placing kids in our RYDCs and YDCs. Mr. Bentley stated that a kid with a mentor is more likely to increase their academic performance in their classes and more likely to increase their self-esteem and achieve the goals that they set for themselves. He added that all those percentages are just statistics but it would make their jobs easier if they didn't have these kids in our system.

The goal of District 2 is "To close the gap in the need for mentors." There are two different methods being used to achieve that goal: Recruiting mentors, and providing staff opportunities to mentor.

Lisa Casey injected that everyone had that special someone that helped them to get where they are today, and what District 2 is attempting to do is to encourage our staff and the community to become involved; to coach a kid in the game of life.

Adventure Based Counseling (ABC)

After District 2 got involved in the prevention idea, the enthusiasm was so great that staff developed another program. The program is the ABC Program (Adventure Based Counseling). The program was developed by two masters' level JPPS out of the Hart County Court Service Office. The program serves twelve (12) seventh grade girls in the Franklin County School System that have been identified by administrators, teachers and counselors as exhibiting behaviors that makes it difficult for them to achieve academically in the classroom. There is experiential learning involving a ropes challenge course that happens to be located on the Franklin County Middle School campus. DJJ staff is meeting with these girls one hour a week for nine (9) weeks, challenging their unhealthy behaviors and rewarding functional change in their behavior that would be transferred back into the classroom. The program targets things the girls need to know how to deal with, not only in school, but in life, e.g., communication, teamwork, cooperation, problem solving, and trust. The girls develop their own individual goals, work through them, then transfer goals and their positive behavior back into the classroom and they are successful academically.

District 5 – Annette Rainer, Director

Ms. Rainer stated that they were given the task to develop a prevention program. She stated that she decided to collaborate with her Assistant District Director, Kim Conkle, to come up with something creative, innovative and fun, not only for district staff but for the kids they serve. They came up with a prevention team called 'The Right Choice'. Ms. Conkle led the prevention team; two probation officers were recruited from the field. In recruiting staff for the team, they wanted someone who not only enjoyed working with kids, but who had that extra edge, someone who could really relate to the kids. As a result, Marcel Mincey and Charles Campbell, both JPPS IIs, were chosen for the task.

Ms. Rainer stated that in developing the program, they looked at the definition of 'prevention' and how to use the term and incorporate it, not only into their job, but also in the families they affect, the community, and the partners they work with. Their goal is "To reach as many youth as possible and prevent them from penetrating into the juvenile justice system."

While brainstorming, they agreed that kids like to have fun doing the following:

- Laughing
- Rapping
- Learning with their friends, and
- Dancing

Ms. Conkle referenced the Right Choice handout given to the Board. She stated that they have visited all of the Clarke County Middle Schools and at each visit they distribute this handout. She meets with the sixth grade teachers prior to the visit and talk with them about the importance of the kids having fun in assembly; how they want them to interact instead of just sitting there listening to someone talk to them. Ms. Conkle stated that Marcel Mincey is a fabulous musician who helped with a lot of the music and wrote all of

the songs. When kids come into assembly music is playing that they recognize as rap/hip-hop sort of thing. They first talk about making the right choice; they talk about friends. Ms. Conkle stated that along with his music, Mr. Mincey penned a poem entitled *The Dangers of Smoking Weed*. He wrote the poem based on his conversations with youth at the detention center and the things that had gotten them all involved with detention and court and how the dangers of smoking marijuana had gotten them to where they were. A copy of the poem was also distributed to the Board.

Ms. Conkle then informed everyone that they perform a rap song about education and that she had learned to rap and Ms. Rainer was the spin master, playing the music to accompany the rap songs. She stated that the kids are very enthusiastic with this part of the program and participate fully, competing with each other reciting the words, expounding education.

While Mr. Mincey is the entertainment guy, Mr. Charles Campbell handles the inspirational aspect of the program. Between each of the songs Mr. Campbell talks about each of the choices. He lets the kids know that everything they do, from having friends and building foundations, will get them to their career.

Response to the program by students has been tremendous. Many of the kids took the opportunity to write letters. Ms. Rainer shared a couple of the letters with the audience. She stated that at the end of the session, the kids are allowed the opportunity to ask questions of staff ranging from the misconception of drugs, staff's careers, kids going into detention, etc. They hope to replicate the program throughout their district.

District 7 – Angela Cosby Director

Ms. Cosby shared that she was uncertain about what District 7 would do when she was approached by Ms. Guy to develop a prevention program. After speaking with one of the students in the RYDC, and consulting with juvenile program managers and Assistant District Director Judy Heath, it was decided that they would do a prevention program targeted to 5th graders. The decision was made based on the fact that the transition from 5th grade to 6th grade was a critical time because this was the time during which peer pressure kicks in.

Ms. Cosby stated that, at a cost of \$700, they purchased a program that they will implement in seven school systems. The program will start in Wilkes County the second week in March because the rural counties present less resistance. The goal is to educate and provide information and basic intervention techniques; and, to focus and encourage positive behavior in order to reduce juvenile delinquency.

The program is for six (6) weeks, in one-hour sessions, as follows:

Week 1: Introduction to Juvenile Justice and Juvenile Laws

- Students will be given the history of DJJ, focusing on our mission and vision.

- Students will also be given information on the juvenile code, the 1994 School Safety and Juvenile Reform Act, and offenses and consequences for their behavior.

Week Two: Social Standards

- Discussions on self-respect, the importance of respecting others, the importance of cooperation, responsibility, and how to make good choices.

Week Three: Bullies

- How to help them and techniques on how to deal with them; how to reason with them and how to avoid them.
- Self-esteem and how to avoid conflict.

Week Four: We Can All Get Along: Improving Relationships with Friends, Classmates and Students

- Settling differences peacefully, not using your hands
- Help kids identify, understand, express, and cope with anger appropriately.

Week Five: Why I Won't Do Drugs

- A musical tour of the human body
- Differences between medicines that take care of the body and drugs that harm the body
- 101 ways to remain drug free
- Guest speaker from the GBI who will discuss methamphetamine.

Week Six: Healthy and Unhealthy Fear

- Discussion will focus on your fears and anxieties, when things seem scary, and your overreactions to fear.

At this point, Ms. Judy Heath, Assistant District Director, addressed the Board. She informed the Board that the previous week, she attended a national leadership forum in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America. This was the sixteenth conference. She attended the conference with the Executive Director of their Family Connection, which is now their community partnership. The conference had 5,000 different coalitions around the country to participate. Simultaneously, there was a youth summit being conducted with thousands of kids there for the week that participated in different sessions.

Ms. Heath stated that in addition to speakers, they had 30 sessions to choose from that they could attend. She made her choices based on those sessions she felt could enhance what we do in DJJ that would give her new and creative ideas. The four sessions she attended were Restorative Justice; The Journey of Change that taught you how to deal with difficult times when you have to move people from A to B and they are not willing to move with you; The Art of Facilitation; and A Faith-Based Prevention Model. She stated that the latter is what she wanted to share with the Board.

Ms. Heath stated that this model was based in Tallahassee, Florida. The program has been in existence for fifteen (15) years. They formed a huge coalition with hundreds of churches. Within the coalition, there are volunteers. One must go through several steps in order to participate. Once you show an interest and go to the meetings, there are four different areas, community development, readiness and empowerment, and church leader training. During the training stage, if you are going to participate, you have to complete eight weeks of training. In addition, once you're trained and you participate, you have to attend training once a month to see where you are. They also have program implementation and evaluation and program redesign.

Ms. Heath gave additional information on the program and stated that everything that is done in the program is done by volunteers, people who are retired or homemakers and volunteer their services.

Ms. Heath stated that she intends to revisit the program, along with Ms. Cosby, to take another look at the program and to meet with program administrators to try to get an idea on how to start the initiative here. Faith-based prevention is what they are looking at to be the next level of prevention in District 7.

Mr. Rosenbloom again addressed the Board, stating that this concludes the presentation from Region II. He added that there are a lot of exciting things happening in Region II without using a lot of DJJ resources, other than staff time, this shows that there are a lot of opportunities for prevention, and they are looking forward to expanding it.

Chairman Shuman acknowledged Lisa Casey who worked with him during his tenure with the Department. He stated that she was always a high-energy worker who always did a lot of unusual things. He asked her to share with the Board a story she previously shared with him about one of our kids during that time that is an unusual success.

Ms. Casey stated that about eighteen years ago she supervised a young man who was committed to us in the Glynn County area. She stated that it involved a family that they were very familiar with and she already had two of his older brothers on her caseload, one of which is currently serving time in the penitentiary and the other died of sickle cell anemia. Ms. Casey stated that Lamar was different. He came to the department for three counts of aggravated assault with were very serious offenses. He went through a short-term program at the Athens RYDC which existed at that time. He was put out of school for the offenses he perpetrated but went to night school to get his GED, then went back and got his diploma. When he finished all that he came to her and said he wanted to go to college and asked her what could he do to make it happen. She decided that since she had attended Valdosta State and worked for a few professors there, she would make some calls and help him fill out applications. As a result, he was able to enroll in Valdosta State. It took him four and a half years, but he graduated from Valdosta State with a degree in Biology.

Ms. Casey stated that after graduation, they remained in touch. He had a lot of student loans to repay so he joined the Army as a means to help him repay the loans. He was a

medic in the Army and the Army sent him to Officer Candidate School where he graduated about four years ago and just completed his third tour of Iraq as a platoon leader. Ms. Casey stated that she believes his rank is Second Lieutenant and that he's in the Infantry. Currently, she stated, he is back at Fort Stewart. She stated that she does not recall doing a lot, just making phone calls, helping with paper work and just being there to interact with him, but it is young people like him that makes her get up everyday and do what she does. She stated that we don't get a lot of pats on the back and don't see a lot of success stories, but this one kid has really made a difference for her and let her know that what we do at DJJ can help and can change a kid's life. She stated that when she last met with him, he was trying to decide if he would go to physician's assistant school and, if so, how to finance his way through.

Ms. Casey stated that she is very proud of him and it was through the leadership of Daniel Shuman and the things he allowed them to do in South Georgia at that time that made a difference for that kid.

Mr. Shuman stated that he had received a request to forego the break and continue with the next agenda item. He asked if everyone was in agreement. After confirmation, he called 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 and convene the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education. The motion was seconded by Sandra Taylor and carried.

Education Update

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

Dr. O'Rourke stated that it is exciting to see the prevention programs being put in place in the Regions and to hear the good things about education.

He reported that everything is going well with the education program. The biggest challenge we have now is making sure that we have highly qualified teachers which is a part of the No Child Left Behind legislation. He stated that we are working very hard in that area and he indicated that he is reasonably comfortable that when the deadline comes later in the spring we will be in good standing.

Dr. O'Rourke then referenced the handout distributed to each member, pointing out the information on the Education Conference taking place in March on the 6th and 7th. He stated that the theme of the conference is "Aiming for Highly Qualified Services for our Youth." He added that we are looking at a variety of programs trying to ensure that we have the best services we can possibly provide. He briefly discussed some of the workshops being conducted during the conference.

Dr. O'Rourke requested that members who plan to attend to let him know so that he could acknowledge them at the conference. He then concluded his remarks.

Hearing no 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. Ed Risler moved to adjourn the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education and reconvene the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. The motion was seconded by Judy Mecum and carried.

Chair's Comments

J. Daniel Shuman, Board Chairman

Mr. Shuman informed the Board of the following:

- The next scheduled Board meeting will be on March 23, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. at DJJ Central Office.
- The April, May and June 2006 meetings will be off-site around the state; locations to be announced.
- He will be having replacement knee surgery on March 7, 2006 but hopes to be present at the March meeting; otherwise, Ms. Wilhite will chair the meeting.

Van Herrin asked if the Board could be provided a copy of the presentation given today by Region II. He stated that he was very impressed with the presentation. He sits on the local Board of Education in Lowndes County and they work with the local Family Connection on that type of project and think it would be very useful. Ms. Guy stated that she would make it available and the Office of Public Affairs would provide each member a copy.

Hearing no other comments, Mr. Shuman asked for a motion to adjourn. Van Herrin moved to adjourn the February 23, 2006 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. The motion was seconded by Daniel Menefee and carried.

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Albert Murray
Commissioner

Dr. Ed Risler, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice