

**Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, January 26, 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 January 26, 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: Michael L. Baugh; Elizabeth G. Lindsey; William B. McQueen; Daniel A. Menefee; 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; Dr. Thomas Coleman; Edward Cook; Ericka Davis; Steve Herndon; Amy Howell; Paul Jones; Jeff Minor; Dr. Thomas O'Rourke; Rob Rosenbloom; Michelle Staples-Horne; Jimmy Taylor; Shirley Turner; Sher're Walton; Lena Wilson

Others: Jill Miller, Reporter-Atlanta Journal/Constitution; Dr. David Houchins, Georgia State University; Dr. Kristine Jolivette, Georgia State University

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 December 8, 2005 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. The motion to approve the minutes for the December 8, 2005 meeting of the Board of

Juvenile Justice was made by Daniel Menefee and seconded by Michael Baugh. Hearing no discussion, the minutes were approved.

Commissioner's Comments

Introduction

Commissioner Murray greeted the Board and all present. He stated that today marks the end of his second year as Commissioner of DJJ. He stated that January 25th was the end of his 2-year tenure and, on a personal note, it was also his birthday and marks 36 years in the juvenile justice field.

Commissioner Murray thanked Dr. Ed Risler for serving as the commencement speaker for the Eastman YDC in December at their graduation ceremony. He stated that he was present and had the honor of introducing Dr. Risler as the keynote speaker. He indicated that this ceremony ranked as one of the most noted because of the number of graduates and the number of family members that were able to attend. Commissioner stated that the event served as a reminder of the valuable work we do for the students and how much they benefit from it. He commented that this was a good and event and Dr. Risler did an excellent job of motivating and encouraging our young people in that facility and we appreciate him taking the time out of his busy schedule to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Commissioner also thanked every board member that was able to come out to support the Department in our Legislative Breakfast Initiatives across the state. Daniel Menefee, Daniel Shuman, Mary Wilhite, Sandra Heath Taylor, and Michael Baugh participated in this initiative. He stated that these were good events that served us well and we had a good turnout at each location.

Commissioner Murray continued with his comments as follows:

Operations Division

Since our last board meeting the Operations Division continues to work hard in keeping our detention center population within our capacities. He stated that this will always present a challenge to us but we are fortunate to be in a much more manageable shape than we were a year ago. Overall the statewide population remains below 100% capacity. However, we have had about 40% of our facilities operating over the 100% capacity on any given day. The population is being managed by the center Directors' efforts to stay in touch with one another and moving juveniles around the state as needed to remain within our rated capacity of 100% or the 120 percentile as established by the Department of Justice. This remains an ongoing process and we expect population will rise over the next 6 months until summer.

This Division has held a number of management team meetings over the last month and has been strategizing on a number of initiatives:

- The process of meeting with juvenile court judges across the state on the graduated sanctions policy is now complete and the local procedures are being finalized. This level of communication between DJJ staff and the judges has gone a long way to improving use of graduated sanctions as a supervision tool. We are moving forward to develop policies and practices that will serve the courts, the agency and, most importantly, the kids in our care and custody.
- Also underway and briefly mentioned at our last meeting is the initiative “School Based Supervision”. Deputy Commissioner Rob Rosenbloom has asked all 13 districts to begin the process of selecting, at minimum, one school to set up school based supervision as a pilot. All districts have made contact with local schools or superintendents and have selected schools in which to partner. The first one up and running is in Dublin and is finding early success. JPPS staff are housed at the local high school, checking attendance each morning, interacting with teachers, school counselors and students, as well as providing supervision and counseling. We will be reporting on this exciting initiative as the months go on and more sites are up and running. Commissioner expressed his excitement about the potential of the school based supervision initiative. He stated that given time, the results from the pilot programs in 2006 will serve us well and we will be able to build on the program statewide.
- Prevention is another key area that community staff are working on. Region Two headed by Regional Administrator Vonnie Guy has involved her district directors in prevention programs in three districts. Examples include a mentoring program in Gainesville; in Athens, staff is presenting to 6th and 7th graders on how to make good choices and; in Augusta a 6 week course will be offered in middle school. These efforts are done by our staff with no extra funds. Commissioner stated that the feedback he has received shows that all of these programs are getting great reviews in their communities and there is a demand for more. This is very much in keeping with our interest in moving toward a greater investment in our community programs. He informed the Board that he has passed this message on to the Budget Committee in his presentation this session. We are at a point where we need to make a heavier investment in community programs which is where the overwhelming majority of kids are that are being served by DJJ. He stated that we served 2,600 kids in our RYDCs and YDCs; the remaining 21,000 youths under DJJ supervision are at the community level. Because of the MOA and other related issues, we have focused heavily on the kids in facilities. We will continue to do that and maintain the level of operating efficiency we have achieved.

The Operations Division also has begun a divisional newsletter and developed their own intranet website to better communicate with all staff in the field. This is in addition to our agency newsletter ‘Directions’. Good communications is the key to effective

implementation of programs. He indicated that copies of the first newsletter were available for them today to read at their convenience.

Program Services Division

Office of Behavioral Health

RYDC Substance Abuse Intervention Program - During the month of November and December the Office of Behavioral Health Services provided statewide substance abuse intervention trainings at the RYDCs. The training was coordinated to launch a new substance abuse intervention program titled *A New Freedom*. This evidence based curriculum was chosen to be utilized in the RYDCs due to its adaptability to the ever changing RYDC population. Substance abuse among our youth and their families continues to be an every growing problem. This program will allow each RYDC the opportunity to begin to help address the problem while the youth is in the facility. OBHS will monitor the program implementation at the RYDCs through the Regional Behavioral Health Coordinators as well as providing periodic specialized clinical oversight and training.

Young Offender Reentry Project/Youth IMPACT Update - The Youth IMPACT project which is a federally funded project focusing on providing substance abuse case management services in Region III continues to make headway. To date, Youth IMPACT has served over 45 youth transitioning back into the metro Atlanta area from YDCs and RYDCs. The project began serving youth in June of 2005. It is anticipated that we will serve over 525 youth during the four years of the grant. Youth Impact recently hired a new Project Coordinator, Dr. Jody Tarleton, to manage referrals and monitor the project from a clinical standpoint.

Office of Medical Services

Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne will be representing DJJ on the Executive Committee of the Georgia Alliance for Drug Endangered Children. The mission of this organization is to rescue, defend, shelter and support children who suffer physical and psychological harm caused by methamphetamine, alcohol and other drugs.

Dr. Staples-Horne also represented the department at the Morehouse School of Medicine's National Center for Primary Care Forum on Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System. The panel included, among others, Judge Greg Mathis and former U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher.

Office of Campus Operations

McIntosh YDC-Ramsey Corporation, the former vendor operating McIntosh YDC has been replaced by a new vendor, Youth Services International (YSI), earlier this month. DJJ already enjoys a relationship with YSI who is on contract with the agency. We expect again that they are able to establish a good program at this facility. YSI has already begun the process of hiring and training staff and anticipates being in position to

accept youth in early February. We are pleased with the contract award to YSI. The company is not a stranger to DJJ as they currently operate Crisp YDC and Paulding RYDC. The new director at McIntosh is Mr. Lemuel Johns. Mr. Johns is a former employee at McIntosh having previously served as the Assistant Director.

Division of Fiscal & Administrative Services

Office of Training

We are proud to announce that Georgia will serve as the host state for the 2007 American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) Winter Training Institute Conference. It will be held here in downtown Atlanta, February 11-14, 2007 at the Sheraton Hotel. Commissioner stated that this is the first time the conference will be held in Atlanta and that it is a great opportunity for the agency to be a part of hosting this national conference. He stated that we will keep the Board updated on any developments. Along with DJJ staff, Board members will have the opportunity to be involved with APPA.

Commissioner Murray served as the graduation speaker for our December BJCOT graduating class at Forsyth. He thanked Judge Quintress J. Gilbert for agreeing to be our next graduation speaker on February 3, 2006 at the academy. Other board members have committed to serve as speaker at upcoming graduation ceremonies. He stated that it would be good to have graduates and other staff to hear from members of the Board.

Along with other DJJ management staff, several members of the Board (Daniel Shuman, Ed Risler and Daniel Menefee) will join Commissioner Murray at the American Correctional Association (ACA) Winter Conference, in Nashville, Tennessee later this week. He expressed his excitement about their participation. Commissioner added that later on the agenda, a comprehensive report will be given to the Board to give everyone a better look at the mission, goals and vision of ACA.

Announcements

Commissioner Murray congratulated Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne, Director of Medical Services, for her appointment as President of the National Society of Correctional Physicians. The Society provides support, education, and professional development for physicians delivering healthcare in both a juvenile and adult correctional setting. He stated that her appointment to this position will give Georgia and DJJ additional exposure. He thanked her for her willingness to take on this responsibility and stated that it is quite an honor for Dr. Staples-Horne and our agency. Dr. Staples-Horne was congratulated with a round of applause.

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

William McQueen inquired about the extent of the current use or planned use of volunteers for the School Based Supervision Program; is there an opportunity for that?

Commissioner responded that it is something to look at, but we consider the JPPS positions because they are on staff with us and we can place them in public schools without going through additional steps. He stated that his initial idea about placing a volunteer in that role is that it would take a different type of clearance. He added that having volunteers working in collaboration with the JPPSs in public school settings could help strengthen the school based program. He stated that we could look to see if any other jurisdictions have used volunteers in their school based supervision program. If so, we could benefit from their experience and, if not, maybe we should be the first state to pilot it.

Dr. Risler stated that it underscores the fact that our educational program is SACS accredited. It is noteworthy that there were thirty-five graduates and the first ever, to his knowledge, of a student graduating with a college prep seal, which speaks to the good work of our educational staff. He officially acknowledged staff at the Eastman YDC: Marilyn Dryden, Principal; Barbara Harrell, Education Supervisor; and Robert Manville, Director. He stated that he was really impressed with the conduct of the kids; several of whom gave testimonies about what they were involved in and he was humbled by the experience.

Commissioner added that it was a very moving event and expressed his hope that other Board members could attend a ceremony and possibly participate as speaker at one of the events. He stated that he would like for them to see what Dr. Risler experienced and what we see routinely. Commissioner pointed out that our kids get their diplomas in a cap and gown ceremony and for a short time they do not see the correctional environment they are in; rather an educational environment where they are doing something really good and meaningful.

Daniel Menefee inquired about the type of community programs the Board will be supporting through funding. Commissioner Murray asked Rob Rosenbloom, Deputy Commissioner of Operations to address the inquiry. Mr. Rosenbloom responded that the efforts we will be making in the community to build our capacity to serve kids in the community is to first to add into the budget request JPPS positions to reduce caseload size to provide better supervision. Secondly, we have a request in for wrap-around services for kids coming out of placement who need additional services in the home or diverting kids at screening who could otherwise avoid residential placement. The other areas are more intensive probation service teams along with monies for MST (Multi-Systemic Therapy) which is a family based program in the metropolitan Atlanta that we are looking to expand throughout the state. These are some of the examples along with some of the initiatives Commissioner Murray has mentioned like the school based supervision that provide an opportunity to partner more with local schools and graduated sanctions, an opportunity to work with kids who are giving problems and struggling to meet the conditions in their order.

Commissioner stated that it is important that we have the Department of Education on board with us. There will be a meeting with them to ensure that there is a partnership and a clear understanding of what it is we are trying to do so that our JPPSs and school

administrators, school principals and others will have a good ongoing working relationship.

Mr. Menefee then inquired if the Youth Impact Program (YIP) would be extending outside the metro Atlanta area. Commissioner responded that the grant specifies certain counties within the metro area and we will have to focus on the metro area counties because of the way the grant is written.

Hearing no other questions or comments, Chairman Shuman called for the next agenda item with was the Executive Session. He asked for a motion to adjourn the regular meeting to convene the Executive Session. William McQueen moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice to convene the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mary Wilhite and carried.

At the end of the Executive Session, Mary Wilhite moved to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. The motion was seconded by William McQueen and carried.

Upon returning to the Board Room, Chairman Shuman called for a break prior to continuing the meeting.

ACA Preview

Steve Herndon, Assistant Deputy Commissioner
Division of Programs

Mr. Herndon greeted everyone and informed the Board that Commissioner Murray felt that it was timely to present this overview of ACA since the conference is being held this weekend and a number of members will be attending. He stated that the information being presented will also include DJJ's relationship to ACA, which he feels is very significant.

Mr. Herndon stated that his overview will cover a little about the history, vision statement, mission, goals, and principles of ACA. He added that there are a lot of activities associated with ACA but he wanted to highlight just of couple of them, mainly their training since several members are going to ACA Mid-Winter Conference. The conference is a key part of their training function. He indicated that their standards are another area he wants to cover because there is a relationship between ACA Standards and DJJ Policy. He added that DJJ has a history, though limited, of having facilities accredited by ACA. He will also cover our current involvement with ACA and the benefits we find with our association and last, how to contact ACA or become involved.

History

The main function of ACA is to promote the cause of corrections and correctional effectiveness. ACA was founded in the late 1800s as the National Prison Association and then changed their name in the mid 1950s to the American Correctional Association to reflect their changing role and the changing perception and role of corrections as a function and as an important activity in society. ACA is the oldest correctional association developed specifically for practitioners in the corrections professions; it is also the most diverse.

The membership of ACA selected the future U.S. President, Rutherford B. Hayes, as the first ACA President, who was at that time Governor of the State of Ohio. More than 100 years ago, ACA issued their 'Declaration of Principles' that served as a guide for correctional practice in the United States and Europe. ACA is based in Lanham, Maryland and has more than 20,000 members world-wide.

Mr. Herndon shared ACA's vision statement and mission with the Board. He also shared with them the goals of the organization, including:

- Membership – Have a very active and aggressive membership activity
- Diversity – This is a key goal. The diversity of the organization is more than just racial or gender. The diversity of membership covers a spectrum of society: public/private sectors, different professions within corrections, etc.
- Professional Development Opportunities – This is one of their most important functions. Opportunities are provided not only through their conferences, but also through their publications, research and other networking activities.
- Standards and Accreditation – Mr. Herndon cited this as one of the major functions of ACA. Standards are published and continually updated to keep current. ACA has a program of accreditation process for almost any type of correctional activity.

Mr. Herndon stated that there is a significant presence of people from other countries that look to the United States as a leader in correctional practice.

The Declaration of Principles was developed in 1870 and is still held by ACA. The principles are: humanity, justice, protection, opportunity, knowledge, competence, and accountability.

Mr. Herndon stated that the two activities he wanted to highlight are training and standards and accreditation. He stated ACA has two large training activities and meetings each year and the Mid-Winter Conference being held in Nashville later this week is one of the training venues and the other is the Annual Congress of Corrections held in August. He encouraged Board members to attend the annual meeting in August as it is larger and has more activity and a greater variety of workshops.

Regarding training, Mr. Herndon announced that Commissioner Murray and Robert Manville, Director of the Eastman YDC, will be conducting a workshop at the Mid-Winter Conference on Changing the Culture at an Institution and, Dr. Thomas O'Rourke will conduct a workshop on juvenile correctional education based on the DJJ model. He added that, last year, Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne conducted a workshop at the ACA Conference in San Francisco on Health Services.

Continuing, Mr. Herndon shared with the Board copies of standards manuals as examples of the varieties of standards manuals published by ACA. He stated that the standards manuals are specified by categories, e.g., juvenile detention programs, training programs, day treatment programs, adult jails/prisons, medical facilities, etc.

Mr. Herndon stated that there are two types of standards: Mandatory Standards and Non-Mandatory Standards. Mandatory standards relate to life, health, and safety issues such as fire safety, health care and other things that are critically important. In order to be accredited, a facility must meet every mandatory standard. Most of the standards in the standards manual are non-mandatory standards. Non-mandatory does not imply that they are unimportant; it means that they are not as critically important, in terms of life and safety issues, as the mandatory standards and a facility will still need to meet 90% or more of the standards in order to be accredited. DJJ has adopted ACA Standards as the model for our policies.

At this point Dr. Risler asked how many standards are in a manual. Mr. Herndon responded that it varies by manual to which Dr. Risler inquired about the number of manuals. Commissioner Murray injected that there are about six manuals of standards. He added that a typical audit of a juvenile training school would involve about 425 standards of which 25-30 would be mandatory. He stated that a facility could be out of compliance on a non-mandatory standard and still be accredited; but the expectation is that the agency submits a plan of action that would demonstrate how the agency would, at some point, come into compliance.

- ACA standards are implemented by DJJ policy.
- Any ACA standard we use as a reference for policy will be stated on the face sheet of the policy.
- A standard can be addressed in more than one policy.

Currently DJJ does not have a state facility that is accredited using the standards. We have had two RYDCs and one YDC accredited in the past: Dalton RYDC [1985], Griffin RYDC [1991], and Macon YDC [1985]. We have a private vendor whose programs are currently accredited using ACA Standards: Paulding RYDC (YSI) and Crisp YDC (YSI).

The current costs for ACA accreditation is about \$11,000 per facility every three years. Accreditation occurs in stages and is based on on-site monitoring by trained professionals. DJJ is not actively pursuing ACA accreditation at this time, but will evaluate this initiative in the future. The benefits of having ACA Accreditation include:

- Improved staff training and development
- Opportunity for operational improvement through assessment of program strengths and areas in need of improvement
- Meeting accepted standards can help defend against lawsuits
- Improvement of staff morale
- Improvement of safety and security

Commissioner Murray is a long time member of ACA and serves on the Board of Governors and also actively participates on the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections. Rob Rosenbloom, DJJ Deputy Commissioner of Operations is a candidate for the Board of Governors; and Dr. Thomas O'Rourke is a candidate for the Education Committee. Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne, DJJ Medical Director is a member of the Health Committee; Ronnie Lane, DJJ Director of Investigations is a member of the Nominating Committee. DJJ also has other staff members that are trained, certified auditors and members.

The key benefits of ACA are:

- Accepted standards are a benchmark and a management tool for practice
- Acts as a voice of and for the corrections and criminal justice fields
- Information sharing and professional development opportunities.

Mr. Herndon stated that members of the Board could visit the ACA website for additional information, if needed; the web address is included in their handouts. He concluded his preview and opened the floor for questions and comments.

Judge Gilbert inquired if the cost for re-accreditation the same as the initial accreditation. Mr. Herndon responded that he was not sure but he will acquire that information and pass it on. Commissioner added that there is not much difference in the cost for accreditation and re-accreditation.

Mr. McQueen stated that even though all of the facilities are not accredited, we will probably meet most of the standards because the practices are part of policy. He inquired if this was a true statement.

Commissioner Murray responded in the affirmative, stating that most Georgia facilities, if audited today, with a few exceptions, will probably meet the minimum requirements for accreditation because we have based our policies on the standards over the years. As Mr. Herndon indicated, we are not budgeted for accreditation at this time, but we are enjoying the benefits of it by basing our policies on the standards.

Resolution: Bond Sales

Edward Cook, Director
Office of Engineering and Construction

After greeting everyone, Mr. Cook informed the Board that on February 28, 2006, the Georgia State Finance and Investment Commission will be selling bonds amounting to \$2,730,000 to fund the construction of the new Augusta YDC medical and intake buildings. The completion of this building will be one of the four improvements that will complete the goals of the master plan of the Augusta YDC that we are trying to implement.

The new building is 12,500 square feet, with 10,000 feet dedicated primarily for medical functioning. It also provides a much more secure layout with clear lines of supervised sight and secured barriers between the student accessible areas and staff only areas. There are two isolation/crisis care stabilization rooms for use by students on a short term basis. In addition, the building will have 2,500 square feet for intake functions that will be completely distinct and isolated from the medical area.

This item was originally placed on the agenda when we first found out that the bonds will be sold at the end of February, thinking that the law department would not consider the amount of time between the next Board Meeting and the time to sell the bonds; five days would not be enough time to handle all of the necessary paperwork once the resolution is passed. However, we were told that they are comfortable with the time frame and they will not give us the wording for the resolution until just before the next meeting. We left the item on the agenda so that we could talk about the details and answer any questions you might have to minimize the amount of time we have to spend on the next meeting to accomplish it.

Given that the bonds are going to be sold on February 28th, we will probably have the money in hand sometime in April and that would allow us time to bid on the project. With a bid in April, we should start construction by June 1st and construction should last about a year.

Mr. Cook informed the Board that he has copies of the plans if anyone would like to review them and would answer any questions they have.

Chairman Shuman clarified that a vote on the resolution was not necessary at this time.

Legislative Briefing and Update

Amy Howell, Director
Legal Services

Ms. Howell stated that she was standing in for Spiro Amburn, Director of Legislative Services, who was to initially give the update.

The department received its budget following the Governor's State of the State Address. We have been approved and the budget included 67 new JPPS positions which will support the agency's desire to make a greater investment into strengthening community programs. Twelve (12) new investigator positions were also included that will assist the agency in conducting timely administrative investigations.

On January 18th, Commissioner Murray performed a budget presentation to the Joint Appropriations Committee and a similar presentation to the House Appropriations Committee yesterday. Next week he will make the same presentation to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Ms. Howell stated that, in addition to the DJJ budget, the agency is going to advocate for the passage of two bills that were included in our packet last year; she noted the handouts given to them related to Senate Bill 135 & Senate Bill 136. She also noted that, due to their failure to make it to the floor during the last session, they were carried over to this year's session.

- SB135 proposes to limit the amount of time a child who is awaiting trial in Superior Court has before their case is presented to the Grand Jury. The total length of time they will wait, if the bill passes, is 180 days.
- SB136 proposes to modify O.C.G.A. 15-11-47D concerning a child's right to bail upon application of their parent. The proposed language will allow any person who is a blood relative, a step-parent, or any person who has legal custody to post bail and afterwards they are required to return custody to the legal guardian.
- During the 2005 legislative session SB135, while still in the House Judiciary Committee, was amended adding language regarding the transfer of SB440 youth.
- The fact sheets for SB 135 & 136 state that the bills are in the House Rules Committee. At the conclusion of the 2005 session because they did not make it to the floor, they were both recommitted and are currently in the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee.
- The Department also plans to advocate for the passage of a bill in regards to a juvenile's mental competency to stand trial in juvenile court in the upcoming session.

Ms. Howell concluded her update and asked for questions or comments.

Ms. Wilhite inquired about the identity of the bill. Ms. Howell responded stating that because it is yet to be introduced, it does not have a number. Ms. Lindsey asked if the bill came about as a result of the talks of the Juvenile Code Rewrite Committee. Ms. Howell responded in the affirmative, adding that some of the language regarding age and maturity being a factor are included, as well as other procedures regarding youth who are deemed incompetent to stand trial. Ms. Lindsey inquired if the Public Defender would have input. Ms. Howell responded that she did not know.

At this point, Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board to convene the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education. Daniel Menefee moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board to convene the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education. Elizabeth Lindsey seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Education Update

Dr. Paul Jones
Office of Education

Dr. Jones stated that they conducted an after-school program at the Sumter YDC helping kids learn to read. Reading is critical to our youth today. He added that as a former public school principal coming to DJJ, many of the kids being served by DJJ are with us because they had difficulty reading and found it easier to act out in school rather than to attempt to learn to read. It became a masking behavior that got them in trouble; they got in trouble in school; they soon got in trouble on the street, they were frequently suspended; and then they ended up with us.

Dr. Jones introduced Dr. David Houchins and Dr. Kristine Jolivette of Georgia State University (GSU) who conducted the study of the program.

Addressing the Board, Dr. Houchins stated that this past summer, he and Dr. Jolivette were part of a research study conducted with Arizona State University and the University of Maryland. The study was to determine the impact the reading program had on the reading achievement of the population of students involved in the study. Participants in the study were kids from Arizona, Maryland and Georgia. He stated that the study lasted for twelve (12) weeks and had a pre-test and post-test design with variables. The instructions were comprised of corrective reading program, repeated readings to build the fluency or speed at which students learn or read, and the program *Read Naturally* which built the comprehension of students. The study was measured based on standardized tests, e.g., the Woodcut/Johnson; the Graves Solid Reading for Comprehension; and, Dibbles, each week, to determine how many words they were gaining per week. There is strong correlation between the faster you can read, the better your comprehension is.

Dr. Houchins informed the Board that Dibbles was given to the students for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade levels and he shared with them the results of the tests. Overall, test results show that the students from Georgia out performed the kids in the other two states. He

expressed his amazement at the results as the other universities are considered national leaders in juvenile justice and education.

He stated that youth participating in the program at Sumter expressed their desire to have the program daily except for Friday, and asked that the class be extended to two hours from the one hour currently used.

Elizabeth Lindsey inquired if there was a packet of information that could be used by volunteers. Dr. Houchins responded in the affirmative, adding that they could train them and that they are currently doing a program with volunteers in Fulton County Juvenile Court. He stated that the program could easily be put into a package and that, typically, volunteer programs do better with economic incentives. He added that the correlation between reading deficits and incarceration is one of the strongest correlations there is.

Dr. Risler inquired how the kids were selected to participate in the study and if there was criteria for participation. Dr. Houchins responded that the selection of the kids was random. One hundred forty-seven kids were taken from the population and of the 147, 87 were identified, and 20 of the 87 were randomly assigned to participate.

Dr. Jones injected that they are currently doing a three prong study at the Bill Ireland YDC starting this semester using the DJJ Reading Program (which is very effective), the Corrective Reading Program used by Dr. Houchins, and the Fast Forward Program, to determine which method works best teaching youth how to read. At the end of the semester the programs will be evaluated to see which one best meets effectiveness and cost.

The Education Update was concluded at this time.

Mr. Shuman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education and reconvene the regular meeting of the Board. Michael Baugh moved to adjourn the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education and reconvene the regular meeting of the DJJ Board. The motion was seconded by Daniel Menefee and carried.

Chair's Comments

J. Daniel Shuman, Board Chairman

Mr. Shuman informed the Board of the following:

- The mileage rate for travel has been changed from \$0.485 to \$0.445
- There is a correction to his email address on the list distributed earlier
- The next scheduled Board meeting will be on February 23, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. at DJJ Central Office

Hearing no other business, Mr. Shuman called for a motion to adjourn. Elizabeth Lindsey moved to adjourn the January 26, 2006 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. The motion was seconded by Michael Baugh and carried.

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Albert Murray
Commissioner

Dr. Ed Risler, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice