

**Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, May 25, 2006
1:00 p.m.**

**Eastman Youth Development Campus
176 Freamon Graham Boulevard
Eastman, Georgia 31023**

Opening Remarks

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair

Mr. Shuman called to order the May 25, 2006 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education. He noted the time as 1:00 p.m. and stated that there were members of the Board that were participating by conference call. Following his request for introductions from all guests and others present, Mr. Shuman stated that at the last meeting the Board had discussed having an opening prayer at the meetings and that the Attorney General's Office is studying the issue. He stated that if the Board does not receive an opinion from the Attorney General's Office by the next meeting, there will be an invocation but for now we will continue with the current format for the meetings. He then invited everyone to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and then observe a Moment of Silence. Afterwards, he asked for the Roll Call.

Roll Call

Lena Wilson then called the roll.

Board Members Present: Elizabeth G. Lindsey (conference call); William McQueen; Edwin A. Risler; J. Daniel Shuman; Sandra H. Taylor (conference call); Mary E. Wilhite (conference call)

Advisory Board Members Present: Judge Quintress Gilbert; Judge Ellen McElyea (conference call)

DJJ Staff Present: Albert Murray, Commissioner; Dee Bell; Edward Cook; Ericka Davis; Martha Dalesio; Marilyn Dryden; Gordon Fisher; Leonard Giddens; Todd Hendrix; Steve Herndon; Fred Lee; Robert Manville; Dr. Thomas O'Rourke; Gary Pattman; Pamela Sloan; Sher're Walton; Lena Wilson; Ronnie Woodard

Others: Eva Lou Shuman

After Roll Call, Ms. Wilson announced that a quorum of the Board was not present. Because of some technical difficulties, it was not discernable if all members who were to be connected by conference call were, in fact, connected.

Therefore, citing the absence of a quorum, Mr. Shuman asked that the motion to approve the minutes from the March 30, 2006 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice be postponed pending the arrival or confirmed connection of other members.

Commissioner's Comments

Introduction

Commissioner Murray greeted Chairman Shuman and other members of the Board. Before he began his comments, he took the opportunity to acknowledge Robert Manville, Director of the Eastman YDC and his staff for hosting the Board meeting. He stated that their hard work assisting the Office of Public Affairs in organizing the meeting was greatly appreciated. At this point, Mary Wilhite was successfully connected by speaker phone and Commissioner Murray announced that there was now a quorum of the Board. Chairman Shuman injected that he is very impressed with the culinary program at the Eastman YDC, believes it has a lot of potential, and hopes it will be continued.

Commissioner shared that he had the pleasure of being the Graduation Speaker earlier today at the campus for the 43 youth receiving their educational recognition. The group's accomplishments consisted of the following:

- 17 youth received their GEDs
- 11 youth received high school diplomas
- 15 youth received diplomas from the Heart of Georgia Technical College

He stated that it is always an inspiration to him to be a part of these ceremonies as it is a reminder of what we do and its value. He added that he believes these young people, for a short time, do not see the facility or boundaries, but the ceremony itself where they realize they have done something really good.

Commissioner stated that the Eastman education program continues to excel under the leadership of Dr. Marilyn Dryden and on behalf of the Department he thanked her and her staff for their hard work with our youth. He stated that it takes a team effort that includes oversight from Robert Manville, Dr. O'Rourke and the staff from Central Office. He added that education is one of the most important things we could do for the youth in our custody.

Commissioner also thanked Dr. Ed Risler in advance for speaking at the JCO graduation tomorrow in Forsyth and expressed his belief that Dr. Risler will do an admirable job. He added that we thank him for doing double duty and for being an inspiration to the youth

at the facility. He stated that Dr. Risler also served as the “graduation speaker” at the Eastman YDC at a ceremony held a few months ago.

Commissioner Murray continued with his report as follows:

Operations Division

- The population in our RYDCs is increasing as anticipated at this time of the year. Our decision to convert the Crisp Youth Development Center back to a RYDC has proven to be an accurate and very timely one. With the addition of Crisp, nearly all of the RYDCs including Crisp are operating at or near their capacity. The conversion of the Crisp facility has made a significant impact on relieving the detention population.
- The Operations Division is finishing a year long Restorative Justice Training Program in Region Five. After the training, community supervision staff will integrate the restorative justice philosophy and principles during youth screenings, the application of graduated sanctions, and diversion.
- All thirteen DJJ Operations Districts now have Juvenile Probation and Parole Specialists working in at least one middle school or high school. There are eight high schools, six middle schools and two alternative schools currently involved in the program. Each of these schools has provided office space to the JPPS staff, signed a memorandum of agreement with DJJ to define the job responsibilities of the DJJ staff and the responsibilities of the school, and in many cases provided internet connectivity for DJJ staff. DJJ staff assigned to the school report smooth operations with early success in intervening in school issues with DJJ involved youth. During the summer school break, JPPS staff will continue to manage their caseloads either at the school or through the Court Services Office. Training to include Restorative Group Conferencing facilitation is planned for School Based Supervision staff this summer. Commissioner stated that he hopes we can continue to build on this program. He stated that the concept is not new but that it is new to Georgia. He expressed his hope that it will have the effect of intervening at a much earlier stage when our youth are getting in trouble in school and will help to divert what could be a long term commitment in our department. It represents a good partnership with educators around the state. He added that we will continue to brief the Board on the School Based Supervision Program and expect to have some good things to report.
- In November 2005, the new Graduated Sanctions Policy and JTS Module began use in the Department of Juvenile Justice. This policy was modified to reflect the requirements under O.C.G.A. 15-11-66 that requires a judge to determine if a probationer, being considered for a 60 day sentence has failed to respond to graduated sanctions.

The Department of Juvenile Justice has used graduated sanctions as a supervision strategy for several years for both probated and committed youth, so the basic policy and concepts remain very similar. Holding youth accountable for violations is best accomplished using a graduated approach based on the level of risk posed by the youth and the seriousness of their violation. A progressive level of sanctioning is considered a national “best practice” and research indicates it can be our best chance of helping the youth in our care and custody to become successful.

A recent review of the first six months of implementation show that graduated sanctions is being used consistently and with good results. In the first four months of calendar year 2006, more than 10,000 sanctions were issued with more than 60% being successfully completed. Several issues in implementation have been solved and the new policy has been successful in holding youth accountable for their actions while assisting them in successful completion of supervision.

- As reported last month, Lisa Casey, a DJJ case expeditor was named the “DJJ Public Servant of the Year” by the Juvenile Law Committee of the State Bar of Georgia. Lisa was recognized for her tireless efforts in making a difference in the lives of Georgia’s children. Commissioner stated that he wanted to share some background information on Lisa he has recently received so that the board will have some idea of what a quality staff member she is.

Lisa Casey, Case Expeditor for Region 2, is a member of the Children and Youth Coordinating Council’s Juvenile Justice Training Network. Lisa has presented a stress management workshop entitled “Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff” to DJJ staff in District 1, District 2, District 4 and also at the Georgia Juvenile Services Association Conference in Athens in April. The “Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff” workshop is a very popular workshop that helps teach staff ways to manage stress and take care of themselves so that they can be at 100% when working with Georgia’s most troubled youth. Another workshop Lisa is presenting is “Juvenile Street Gangs: What You Need to Know”. She has been asked by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to present this training at the annual Peace Officers Association of Georgia Convention in September at Tybee Island. She will also be presenting a workshop on “Building Self Esteem” to 60 youth from Glascock County participating in a youth camp sponsored by the Glascock County Family Connection at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island on May 24th (yesterday). Lisa enjoys providing training and having the opportunity to interact with staff, law enforcement, and youth in the educational setting.

Commissioner Murray added that Ms. Casey has certainly proven her worth and value to DJJ.

Program Services Division

- On April 28th, Dr. Thomas Coleman served as the keynote speaker for graduating class #109 of Juvenile Correctional Officers at the DJJ Training Academy. Dr. Coleman reports that this was a class with a student body of 75. Twenty-three of the students were college graduates and another nineteen were within two years of obtaining their college degree. Commissioner stated that these numbers speak very highly of the caliber of students we are getting. He stated that there will be a number of college graduates and military veterans, with options, who made a commitment to become JCOs and chose to work for the department. He expressed his hope that they will not just become JCOs, but will become long-term state employees who we can promote, help mold and develop to become managers and hold other positions within the department.
- On May 10th, Dr. Coleman represented the Commissioner's office in bringing the welcome address to the Judicial Council of Georgia, Annual Drug Court Conference, at the Peachtree Wyndham Conference Center in Peachtree City, Ga. The conference's focus was on the great work and the great expectations of the many Drug Courts across the state of Georgia.

Office of Behavioral Health Services

- The Office of Behavioral Health Services held a clinical in-service training on May 3rd and 4th. The training focused on how trauma and substance usage impact the development of a youth's brain and overall functioning. The training was attended by over 150 DJJ staff that included not only mental health staff, but facility administrators and regional staff that wanted to increase their understanding of the special needs of youth with mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders.
- The Office of Behavioral Health Services participated in the Carter Center Mental Health Forum on May 19th. This year's forum focused on Gaps in the Mental Health Services Delivery System. Dr. Ron Koon served as the DJJ representative on the Georgia Mental Health Planning Council for the past year during which time the council conducted a gap analysis of mental health services in Georgia. The findings were presented at the forum and work began to develop strategies to meet the identified needs.

Office of Medical Services

- The week of May 8th was recognized nationally as Nurses week. Commissioner stated that we at DJJ especially wanted to recognize our nurses who provide excellent clinical care with compassion to all our youth. They work countless hours to make sure all their health needs are met and treat every youth with

kindness. The Department truly acknowledges and appreciates the fine job that they do everyday.

Commissioner added that, much like JCOs, nurses don't have to work for DJJ. We find it difficult, in some parts of the state, to recruit and retain nurses because oftentimes our salaries are not competitive and they are working under some stressful situations. In spite of this, he stated, we still have some nurses who have worked for this department for a long time and serve us well. He expressed his appreciation for their dedication and hard work.

- The Office of Medical Services is gearing up for summer by alerting facility staff of the dangers of heat related illnesses. Heat stroke can be life threatening, so precautions must be taken to protect youth, as well as ourselves, from overexposure to high temperatures while continuing required physical activity. Youth on certain medications must also avoid direct sun exposure and high temperatures. The Office of Medical Services has released protocols to provide guidance in this area for staff.

Office of Campus Operations

- Campus Operations continues to monitor YDC operations to ensure MOA readiness is maintained. Commissioner stated that we remain in a holding pattern with the MOA, but at some point in 2006, we expect to be back on track with closeout verification tours. To date Robin Florie, the internal Quality Assurance Officer, has conducted MOA audits at 7 YDCs. The last YDC (McIntosh) is scheduled for completion this week.
- This month, Campus Operations staff member, Yolande Collins found it necessary to take extended medical leave. We do not anticipate her return to work. She leaves a tremendous void which in the interim is being filled by all campus operation staff.

The Augusta YDC - will hold its annual graduation on June 9, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. Nine (9) students will graduate, one of which will graduate with a High School Diploma. Commissioner invited Board members who are able to attend to do so. The Mental Health Annex is still on schedule to open this summer at the facility. Also, on June 12th, the YDC will celebrate "Juvenile Correctional Officer/Juvenile Correction Counselor Appreciation Week" culminating with a barbeque on campus on the 16th. DJJ Board members in the area are cordially invited to attend. Commissioner shared that the Director, Mr. John Brady, will be out of the office for surgery over the next two weeks and our prayers are with him for a speedy recovery.

Bill Ireland - A Career Day program was held for the students on April 21st. Students toured the exhibits and had an opportunity to ask questions about potential jobs/occupations. Teachers later visited with students in their units to discuss career

surveys. Representatives from the following agencies were available to provide the students with information and guidance on possible career choices:

- Central Georgia Technical College
- Heart of Georgia Technical College
- Oconee Regional Medical Center
- United States Marine Corp
- Job Corp
- Georgia College & State University
- United States Army
- Milledgeville Fire Department
- United States Air Force
- Georgia Military College
- Georgia Army National Guard

Muscogee YDC - Muscogee celebrated its first anniversary on May 11th. In this first year of operation only one youth who has gone through the Muscogee program has recidivated.

Savannah River Challenge Program - SRCP has a grant in place that will allow the development of an outside ecological lab classroom. Students will conduct water samples and study the surrounding area.

Announcements

- From May 7-11, 2006, Commissioner Murray, along with Chief of Staff Bill Reilly, Deputy Commissioner Rob Rosenbloom and Office of Continuous Improvement Director Shirley Turner, attended the Governor's Executive Leadership Training at Emerald Pointe Resort at Lake Lanier Islands. Six state agencies were represented to attend the week long training conducted by the Georgia Merit System that included: the Departments of Corrections and Technical and Adult Education, the Office of Planning and Budget and the Board of Pardons and Paroles. This training provided the opportunity to learn about different management styles and how those styles can benefit other respective agencies. The training also provided the opportunity for them to become acquainted with DJJ management counterparts in other agencies. The group attended daily workshops that extended into the evenings. It was a very worthwhile training that will be held in cycles so that all state agencies can benefit. Commissioner stated that this training was very beneficial to him and no matter what your management style there is always something to learn.
- On May 18, 2006, the Clayton Regional Youth Detention Center was officially re-named the Martha K. Glaze Regional Youth Detention Center. The Renaming Ceremony was held at the facility's location in Lovejoy, Georgia at 10:00 a.m. A host of local elected officials and dignitaries were present and participated in the special event to include: former Governor Roy Barnes, State Representatives Gail Buckner and Roberta Abduhl Salaam, Clayton County Commission Chairman Eldrin Bell along with other county elected officials, and judges (both juvenile court and superior court) from around the state. Approximately 100 people

attended this event along with Judge Glaze and her family. We are particularly proud of having a facility named after her because she served as a judicial advisory member to the Department appointed by former Governor Zell Miller.

Conclusion

Commissioner concluded his remarks and opened the floor for questions and comments. Hearing no questions or comments, Chairman Shuman revisited the previous agenda item to vote on the minutes from the April 27, 2006 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Bill McQueen, seconded by Dr. Ed Risler and carried.

At this point, Commissioner Murray injected he thought it was important that, since the meeting was being held at the Eastman facility, we show the Board where Eastman is now and how far it has come. He stated that Mr. Manville has taken an approach at the facility that has improved programming at the facility and he appreciates the good leadership and work he has done. As a result, he asked that Mr. Manville present the Board with highlights of the programming taking place at the facility.

Chairman Shuman interposed that he would like for the nurses at the facility to make a brief appearance so that Commissioner Murray can let them know how much the work they do for the youth in the facility is appreciated.

Eastman YDC: Overview

Robert Manville, Director

Mr. Manville addressed the Board on the organizational changes at the Eastman YDC. He complimented the staff stating that they have a dedicated, committed, hardworking, and highly motivated and trained staff. Staff has readily embraced the ideas and put forth an effort to bring about a positive change. He stated that he is fortunate and proud to be their leader but the most important thing is to have trust and support of Commissioner Murray and the high standards he places on them all. With Commissioner Murray's leadership and with the motivating staff he has working around him at Eastman, Mr. Manville added that it's easy for him to say that they have succeeded at Eastman just as well as they succeeded at Bill Ireland where he served as Director previously.

Mr. Manville informed the Board that the population count at the Eastman YDC is 326 hardcore/challenging youth, 267 of which are designated felons, 6 superior court youth, and 53 regular commitments. He stated that many of these youth will remain with DJJ until their 21st birthday whereby they will be transferred to the Department of Corrections. There are 89 youth in the facility under the age of 17; one hundred twelve (112) youth are 17; 77 youth are 18; 31 youth are 19; and 18 youth are 20 years of age. Most of the 18-20 year-olds will be getting out on their 21st birthday.

Population Management - The population management system in place is geared toward long-term gratification of 17 year olds or older youth. He stated that they have learned that this age group wants to hear positive gratification; they want to hear people say they are doing good things; they want to know that their behavior has improved and they want people to hear what they are saying.

Unit Management – Unit management consists of three functional areas: Unit Manager; Institutional Program Director; and a Lieutenant, Social Service Provider and Education Supervisor.

- Mr. Manville stated that they wanted to change the mind set of the employees so they changed their job titles and job responsibilities.
- The Master Plan developed by the agency in 2005 indicated that the Eastman YDC would be returned to the Department of Corrections. However, Eastman remains with DJJ and is a viable institution.
- Mr. Manville stated that they wanted to know why they were losing staff at the rate of 15 employees per week, so they began an in-depth interview process. As a result, they developed a new aggressive system to recruit new employees from within communities.
- Developed an information program to make staff aware of actions taking place against youth with acting out behavior.
- Developed a program to empower staff.

The Phase Unit is a program made up of tiers. Each tier has more rewards and more freedom. The first phase is the Behavior Risk Management Plan, a 20-bed program located in one of the units that is designed to change youth behavior. It is a seven-day cycle with elevated tiers. The first 7 days, the youth have limited access and movement; the second seven days, if he improves, it gets better; each program tier has more rewards and more freedom, but each tier also has more demands. After the youth has completed all four levels of the program, they are then placed back into the general population on a transition plan. This program has shown that these youth can completely turn their lives around. Mr. Manville stated that their goal is to reduce the number of special incidents to below 100 by July 2006. In April there were 77.

He stated that they want to maintain a good working relationship with local law enforcement and they also have a contract with the county jail. He indicated that it is probably one of the most successful programs we have had at the facility. When a youth commits a felony and is 17 years old or older, whether at Sumter, Augusta, Bill Ireland or Eastman, they can be housed in the Dodge County Jail. The contract agreement provides

for education and counseling services for the youth at the jail. If they can't make bond, they stay there until they are tried.

Mr. Manville stated that they will be making some major renovations on the campus that will be presented to them by Mr. Ed Cook, Director of Engineering and Construction. Dr. Marilyn Dryden will discuss the transition program.

Mr. Cook informed the Board that the Eastman YDC currently has four basic problems that need to be addressed from a facility standpoint: lack of office space, medical space, visitation space, and the lack of a nurturing environment.

The current project involves construction of two exercise yards behind the housing units with monies the department have in hand. New projects awaiting release of funding includes: refurbishing dayrooms, fence upgrades, sleeping room lighting, day room lighting, addition to maintenance building, landscaping, the addition of cameras to help track movement on campus, and other projects outlined in the handout. Major capital projects awaiting appropriation of funding are: the addition of visitation/multipurpose building; medical expansion; and the renovation of the old visitation space for additional offices.

Mr. Cook briefly highlighted items on the handouts to better inform the Board. Afterwards, hearing no questions or comments, Mr. Cook concluded his comments.

At this point, the nursing staff at Eastman YDC made an appearance. Chairman Shuman had previously requested their attendance. Commissioner Murray informed them that the Board and DJJ staff wanted to take the time to recognize them and the good work they do. He stated that National Nurses' Week was not at a time when we could give them the kind of recognition we are giving them today. He stated that they are valued as professionals and we know how hard it is to find and retain good medical professionals. He thanked them for the good work they do for the children we serve. All persons assembled showed their appreciation by a round of applause. Dr. Risler asked that each of them introduce themselves and Commissioner Murray asked them to include their length of service at the facility. They are as follows:

- Millete Maynard, Nurse Manager – since 1996 – stated that you cannot work in an environment such as this without dedication and commitment
- David Woodard – one year; previously worked at the facility when it first opened
- Peggy Crooms – since March 2005
- Sharon Glover, Medication Nurse – almost three years – stated that she can't think of anything she'd rather do
- Ted Niblett – since 1999

Chairman Shuman stated that he has a real affinity for what they do and shared that he has a daughter who is an RN that works with Telfair County Corrections. He thanked them, once again, for their work.

Restorative Group Conferencing

Dee Bell, Program Coordinator
Operations Division

Ms. Bell addressed the Board, informing them that Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) is a philosophy that focuses on trying to repair harm for crimes committed by delinquents. BARJ asks that they not only be accountable to the system, but also to the actual people who has suffered harm. Her presentation highlighted the following:

- The three (3) basic principles of restorative justice: 1) Justice requires that we should work to heal victims, communities and offenders who have been injured by crime; 2) Victims, communities, and offenders should have opportunity as early and fully as possible; and, 3) Rethink the relative roles and responsibilities of the government and the community
- The important goals that guide the work regarding restorative justice are accountability, community safety, and competency development.

Justice is about healing relationships. What is the harm? What happened here? What harm did it cause? What needs to be done to repair the harm? Who's going to be responsible for the repair?

The Operations Division began work with this practice a number of years ago. In the fall of 2005, Region V became the pilot region for Restorative Group Conferencing (RGC). RGC involves the community of people most affected by the crime...the victim, the offender, and the family, friends and key supporters of both...in deciding the resolution of a delinquent incident.

Ms. Bell provided additional information on the procedures and goals of RGC and the lessons learned from the process.

Judge Gilbert inquired about how BARJ works with multidisciplinary themes. Ms. Bell responded that it works great, especially with information sharing between teachers, treatment providers, coaches, parents, and everyone who touches the child.

Chairman Shuman requested that the data from the program be shared with the Board. Ms. Bell stated that she would provide a copy of the executive summary to Ericka Davis to share with the Board.

Commissioner Murray stated that he had the opportunity to visit Florida Atlantic University shortly after this concept originated and it has done well. He indicated that at the time some 25 states had embraced the BARJ concept, which is probably more now (Ms. Bell injected that there are now 37 states involved). He stated that it is a concept that really works and DJJ is fully committed to balanced and restorative justice.

Commissioner shared that some of our budget requests was based on it and that it is what our programs evolve around.

Gary Pattman mentioned that the BARJ initiative in District 11 collects data each month from mediation on predisposition.

Prison Rape Elimination Act Update

Ericka Davis, Director
Office of Public Affairs

After greeting everyone, Ms. Davis informed the Board that the Office of Public Affairs had the honor of receiving a call from the National Institute of Corrections who were in a cooperative agreement with The Moss Group and Pip Gilmore Productions to produce a documentary on prison rape. Initially they wanted to interview Commissioner Murray as he is considered an expert in the field of juvenile corrections. After some discussion of our facilities and programs, it was decided that they would come to Georgia to film several segments of the the documentary as we had all the pieces in place. This vigorous activity took place from April 18– 22, 2006.

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) began in 1993. It was initially geared toward adult corrections but was expanded to include juvenile corrections. The requirement of the act was for every juvenile justice department in the United States to conduct a survey and report any incident(s) of juvenile sexual assaults, whether by staff on child or child on child. Once the reports were received and reviewed, the head of the system with the highest number of incidents and the head of the system with the lowest number of incidents would be called to appear before a congressional body to be interviewed about their numbers and what was being done in that system to lower the numbers that are higher and information on how the low numbers are obtained.

Ms. Davis stated that Commissioner Murray, along with Leonard Dixon, Director of Michigan Youth Services, and Gail Mumford, Acting Director of Missouri Youth Services, filmed different segments of the documentary. She added that the filming went very well and staff at the different facilities and programs was very receptive and accommodating.

After sharing this information with the Board, Ms. Davis played a film of the adult version of the documentary that was done in 2003.

Afterwards, Ms. Davis stated that the juvenile justice version of the documentary would look very much like the one they just viewed.

Ms. Davis then noted that a PowerPoint presentation had been placed on CD and distributed to them for their convenience when speaking to groups on behalf of DJJ. The presentation is not write-protected so they would be able to personalize it.

At this point Mr. Shuman called for the next agenda item which was the Education Update. He asked for a motion to close the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice to convene the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education. William McQueen moved to close the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. The motion was seconded by Ed Risler and carried.

Education Update

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

Dr. O'Rourke greeted everyone and stated that it was a great day! He stated that coming to a facility to see 46 kids get a diploma of some kind is a good thing and a good thing for education. He thanked Mr. Manville, Commissioner Murray, and the Board for providing them with the support they need to have a good educational program. He then turned the floor over to Dr. Marilyn Dryden, Education Principal at the Eastman YDC.

Dr. Dryden distributed a copy of the program from the ceremony to persons in attendance for their information. She then introduced a youth who is a part of the GAP program who would share, from his perspective, what GAP (Graduate Advisement Program) is and what it means to him.

The youth stated that while participating in the GAP program, he and other youth in the program learned different skills they would need when released such as business management, money management, filling out job applications, and classes on choosing careers such as horticulture and computers. He spoke briefly about his counselors and the guidance and other assistance he received in the program. The youth expressed his appreciation for the program and how much it has affected his life. He is currently employed through the WIA (Work Incentive Act) program and receives wages for fifteen hours per week.

Mr. Manville stated that, prior to today's meeting, the WIA program had 5 students participating but another 10 were added the past week and one (1) was added on this day. He anticipates adding another two students within the next week. The money the students earn goes into an account issued to them upon their release.

Dr. Dryden stated that they found themselves with many graduates receiving many different diplomas last year. She added that in 2004 they had a mixture of short term and long term students, but in December of that year, their whole population at the facility changed and they became the facility with the older, tougher kids and suddenly had more and more graduates. As a result the GAP program was developed where the students are assigned an advisor to help with social skills and the students are given work assignments and participate in a vocational program.

Mr. McQueen asked if there were specific goals or objectives that are established for the youth to accomplish. Dr. Dryden responded that there are some objectives in the general details. Mr. Giddens injected that when the youth leaves he will have a portfolio of everything he participated in at the YDC and the skills he has learned. He stated that the portfolio is the goal.

Dr. Dryden then added that this program coupled with the Transition program has been very successful.

The education update was concluded.

Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to close the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education and reconvene the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. Ed Risler moved to close the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education and reconvene the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. The motion was seconded by William McQueen and carried.

Chair's Comments

J. Daniel Shuman, Board Chair

Chairman Shuman stated that the next meeting of the board is scheduled for June 22, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. at the Armstrong State College after the Georgia School Board Association Training. He asked for clarification on the time of the training. Ms. Davis stated that for those attending the communications portion, the class begins at 8:30 and for those attending the policy portion the class begins at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Shuman announced that transportation to the college will be provided to the group from the hotel. A block of rooms have been reserved for members at the Savannah River Street Inn which is next door to the Hyatt where the GSBA training will be held.

Ms. Davis added that dinner will be served at the meeting.

Hearing no other questions or comments, a motion to adjourn was made by William McQueen and seconded by Ed Risler. The motion was carried.

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Albert Murray
Commissioner

Dr. Ed Risler, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice