

**Board of Juvenile Justice  
Thursday, November 30, 2006  
11:00 a.m.**

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

**Opening Remarks**

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair

Mr. Shuman called to order the November 30, 2006 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education. He noted the time as 11:00 a.m. Following his request for introductions from all guests and others present, Mr. Shuman stated:

“I would like to call to your attention to those who may not know that a long term employee has died since our last board meeting Joe Ard. He was a career employee and was very well thought of, please keep this in mind.

He then asked those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance. After the invocation by Board Member Sandra Taylor, Chairman Shuman asked for the Roll Call.

**Roll Call**

Steve Hayes then called the roll.

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

**Advisory Board Members Present:** Judge Quintress Gilbert (after roll call)

**DJJ Staff Present:** Albert Murray, Commissioner; Spiro Amburn; Dr. Thomas Coleman; Ed Cook; Gordon Fisher; James Frazier; Richard Harrison; Steve Hayes; Steve Herndon; Amy Howell; Jeff Minor; Dr. Thomas O'Rourke; Rob Rosenbloom; Fabienne Tate, and Jimmy Taylor

**Others:** Normer Adams, Georgia Association of Homes and Services for Children (GAHSC); Chuck McMullen, Piedmont Public Affairs, Jason Naunas, Assistant Attorney General; Angela Jones, Life Star Project Brightside Youth & Family

After Mr. Hayes announced the presence of a quorum of the Board, Mr. Shuman asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 26, 2006 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education. Board Member William McQueen made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 26, 2006 Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education. The motion was seconded by Board Member Judy Mecum and, hearing no questions or comments, the motion was carried.

Chairman Shuman then called for the Commissioner's Report.

### **Commissioner's Comments**

Albert Murray, Commissioner

Commissioner Murray began by informing the Board that he literally just arrived in from Columbus. Thanks to Deputy Commissioner Rob Rosenbloom, they left Columbus this morning, just to be here for the Board Meeting literally walking in at 11:00.

Commissioner Murray welcomed everyone back to the DJJ Central Office for the November DJJ Board meeting. He then thanked Daniel Menefee and Judge Quintress Gilbert for representing the DJJ Board at the Legislative Breakfast held in Columbus.

Continuing, Commissioner Murray stated this (legislative breakfast) is an annual event that takes place in Columbus. There was a good turn out of legislators, judges and local leaders in the Columbus area.

Commissioner Murray appreciated Daniel Shuman's comment about the death of the former DJJ employee. He stated that he feels it's important to always recognize individuals who have served this agency and who presently serve this agency in a time of sickness and death. He then announced that Lena (Wilson) who normally works with Steve (Hayes) is in the hospital with a possible case of pneumonia and requested that we continue to keep her in our thoughts and prayers.

### **Operations Division**

Commissioner Murray stated that the Operations Division is working to fill a number of vacancies at the management level within this Division that has occurred. A program coordinator and four RYDC Director Positions are currently being filled. Commissioner Murray stated that this is a significant number of management positions and that these positions are vacant due to retirements, promotions, or career choices of incumbents. Recently filled positions include Mr. Edward Boyd who is serving as the new Director at the DeKalb RYDC. He was promoted from the Griffin RYDC. Ms. SheRee Young was promoted from Assistant Director to District Director in District 3B. Also, Debbie Alexander-Dixon was promoted from Director of Martha Glaze RYDC to Associate Director at Metro RYDC. Commissioner Murray stated that these are a number of changes that have occurred since our last board meeting and highlighted the fact that we have been able to recruit from within DJJ for promotions and recent changes and how

this speaks well of the Department's bench strength of where we can, we try to use the talent already within the agency to move people up and fill our management jobs as they become vacant. He added that he has no doubt that these three individuals are well suited and very capable to undertake these new responsibilities and will serve DJJ well.

Commissioner Murray stated that one of our strategic goals for workforce planning is to continue to improve the ability of the Department to recognize and develop our future leaders. The demographics of our workforce show we could continue a turnover of leadership positions in the next five years. There are a number of managers who have worked for the Department of Juvenile Justice for a long time who are near the point where they can retire. He added as much as we hate to lose good managers that is what we work for. Retirement and opportunities outside of our system require us to plan because these changes are inevitable, they are going to take place as people work. There has been a great deal of change in 2006 and we've been successful in filling open positions, we feel like with well qualified individuals within the agency. There will be times we will need to bring managers in from the outside. Commissioner Murray stated that he feels that strong systems are best defined with a good mix of internal people and occasionally individuals from the outside who bring in fresh thoughts and fresh ideas. He stated he knows everyone will wish our new managers well in their new roles.

Recently, Commissioner Murray attended the child placement conference that took place in Augusta, Georgia, along with Commissioner Walker (DHR) and other state leaders. He then added that he was able to address a group of service providers that included DJJ staff and DHR staff. At the conference they discussed the ongoing changes to funding processes driven by Medicaid policy, changes in the Medicaid policy and the refocus on home placement being preferred before out of home placement. He stated this is a major piece that DJJ is heavily involved in. Jeff Minor (Deputy Commissioner) and others from the agency are working with DHR and DFCS, to try and make sure that the agencies make the best decision as a state government to comply with the recent Medicaid changes. This is a continued work in progress and Commissioner Murray stated he thinks that after all is said and done DJJ will be in compliance and have a system that we hope and believe will be for a better service delivery. Commissioner Murray added that the sessions were interactive and provided for a very good exchange of information for all parties involved. Deputy Commissioner Rob Rosenbloom, Legal Services Director Amy Howell and a number of DJJ staff were present and presented to the group. As a special note, Commissioner Murray recognized Dr. Jody S. Tarleton, Program Manager in the Office of Behavioral Health Services who, at the conference, received the "Friend of Children" award for significant commitment to making a difference for children in foster care, juvenile justice and mental health systems by providing direct care service. Commissioner Murray added that DJJ is fortunate to have Dr. Tarleton on staff. She has over 18 years of experience and currently manages our Youth Offender Re-Entry Program (YORP). Commissioner Murray briefly explained the YORP Program, which identifies and provides youthful offenders with substance abuse treatment as they re-enter the community.

Detention population has remained just barely within statewide capacity since last month's meeting. The impact of detention practices and staff involvement in detention decisions continues to help maintain our capacity within acceptable levels. Commissioner Murray stated, "This is no small undertaking, and hasn't been and won't ever be." He stated that we have staff who engage in routine, daily communication to move youth around the state as our facilities reach near that 120% capacity that we can not exceed. Overall population predictions for the department are trending up and planning for these increases is reflected in the DJJ budget request and population management strategies. Each week time is spent in a formal and informal way working on population management and implementing strategies that will keep us on track.

#### Office of Training and Development

Commissioner Murray announced the Central Office Sexual Harassment Training began on November 15<sup>th</sup>. At this time 65% of Central Office staff has attended the training. The remaining dates are December 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM and 1 PM. Commissioner Murray added that this training is excellent and the facilitator Venesa Foster is doing an excellent job. This is mandatory training for all central office staff and he stated that he wanted to set a good example by attending. He was able to attend a session and found it very informative. He added "there's always something new to learn." We want to make sure that we are pro-active in delivering good sexual harassment training at the central office and in time through out the department so that we can minimize and at all possible eliminate any incident of sexual harassment taking place. He stated that he had no doubt that as an agency we will benefit from the training. In 2007, the agency plans to take this training to field staff so that they may benefit.

Four DJJ transportation officers were sponsored by the office of training to attend a three day "Advance Disaster Life Support" training seminar presented by the American Medical Association. The disaster drills included children from a local youth challenge program. The attending staff reported that this was an excellent training program and that additional security and medical staff should be required to attend to assist our agency in being ready in the likelihood of a disaster.

The next scheduled BJCOT graduation is scheduled for December 22, 2006 at 10:30 (a.m.). Natilyne Young, Region Administrator for Region IV, will be the guest commencement speaker. Commissioner Murray again noted the time change to 10:30 as the graduation is normally at 1:30 (p.m.). Commissioner Murray announced the following dates are available for graduation speaker commitments for the upcoming BJCOT classes in 2007. He recognized that the Board has been very helpful in volunteering in '06 and he welcomes their participation in '07. The dates are as follows: Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, April 27<sup>th</sup>, May 25<sup>th</sup> and June 29<sup>th</sup>. He then asked Board Members to contact Steve Hayes or Fabienne Tate if they are in a position to serve as a graduation speaker.

## **Division of Program Services**

### The Office of Behavioral Health Services

From Program services, Commissioner Murray stated the Office of Behavioral Health Services (OBHS) held its annual Behavioral Health Conference on October 30<sup>th</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>. This annual event took place at Lake Lanier Islands and allowed mental health providers statewide to gather and attend a variety of workshops. Commissioner Murray stated that he was able to attend the first day and presented the opening remarks. He added that this event was well attended and planned. A number of workshops were presented and covered a variety of topics to include; identifying and working with traumatized youth in DJJ custody; working with conduct-disordered youth in care; diversity issues in the workplace, and diversity issues as they impact the work with youth. Dr. Tom Coleman addressed the group during the closing ceremony and Director Richard Harrison gave the “Founders Award” to those mental health employees who had been employed by OBHS prior to Jan. 1, 2000.

On November 13<sup>th</sup> Commissioner Murray stated he had the opportunity to participate in the meeting at the Department of Administrative Services that focused on studying Pharmacy cost among the Department of Corrections, Human Resources and the Department of Juvenile Justice. Commissioner Murray recalled presenting some of this information to the Board last month. The A.T. Kearney company facilitated a program review to determine how these three agencies could work closer together to reduce pharmacy cost. Commissioner Murray designated Dr. Michelle Staples–Horne, Dr. Shawn Allen and Pharmacist Jay Garbutt to represent DJJ in this process. This inter-agency group will meet weekly over the next two to three months to review operations and study possible ways for the state to save money in this program area. As he stated last month, Commissioner Murray added that the staff at the Kearney Company was very complementary of DJJ’s competitive cost model for Pharmacy services. This is why we are being singled out as a key player in this project and the agency is pleased that DJJ is being used as a model.

Commissioner Murray had the opportunity to provide the welcoming address at the opening session of the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) Conference in Atlanta on October 30<sup>th</sup>. He said the conference was a successful event and added that NCCHC juvenile health standards are incorporated in the DJJ Medical and Behavioral policies and standards of excellence.

He commented that November has been a month filled with good conferences and he feels that DJJ needed to have a presence and was pleased we could make an appearance and support the many conferences and the staff that were involved.

## **Campus Operations**

Commissioner Murray stated that during the month of November, Campus Operations operated beds at full capacity with the exception of specialized beds such as the Augusta Shelter and Ireland Residential Substance Abuse Unit (RSAT). During most days the YDC capacities fluctuated between 99% and 105%. The Macon YDC continued to receive additional short term program youth as a result of the modification of its capacity which decreased long term beds to provide more short term space as was reported to the board last month.

All YDC's have completed development of local operating procedures for customer service. This initiative is actively being put in place system wide. Commissioner Murray reiterated to the Board the agency's commitment and investment in customer service as an agency. Campus Operations has fully implemented their local operating procedures as it relates to customer service. The YDC's are in the process of completing their operational plans for the year 2007. Several goals are as follows:

The Augusta YDC plans to align the DJJ processes with stakeholders by building enhanced relationships with local communities and its agencies to include, law enforcement, colleges, service clubs, youth services and the media.

The Bill Ireland facility will provide groups, meetings and workshops to promote the physical and mental well being of staff and attempt to prevent staff burn out.

Other goals are to decrease the number of youth on youth assaults by 10% and the number of abuse allegations, use of physical control measures and number of youth exposures by 50%.

At the Eastman YDC, the administration plans to decrease the number of grievances by encouraging counselors to improve on meeting the needs of residents on their caseloads and deal with issues at hand before they become a larger area of concern.

The Sumter YDC plans to obtain more opportunities to provide "live work" for vocation classes which would include working on state vehicles in the auto repair class, and working with habitat for humanities in the construction class.

Commissioner Murray noted the next Board Meeting will be December 14<sup>th</sup>. This is a different date from the past. He stated that normally, we have combined the two dates in November and December. He mentioned his appreciation for the board members flexibility in scheduling changes.

Immediately following the December 14<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting Commissioner Murray announced DJJ will host the Central Office Holiday festivities. He commented he understands this is getting into the Holiday Season but hopes that most board members can attend the Board meeting and stay for staff activities. He added that this event should be nice and that plans are to provide all the good holiday food.

Commissioner Murray continued that later that day at 2:00, at Georgia Perimeter College, DJJ Central Office will have a quarterly Staff Meeting. Commissioner Murray invited the Board to stay for the full day of activities on December 14, 2006.

Before closing, Commissioner Murray reminded the Board of the upcoming ACA (American Correctional Association) Conference that will be held January 20<sup>th</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup> in Tampa, Florida. He recalled that some of the Board attended the ACA conference last year in Nashville and hoped that some of them will sign up to go to Tampa. He noted the next ACA conference will take place in August in Kansas City, Missouri if they cannot make the one in Tampa. He added that if any board members have an interest in attending to please let him know and DJJ will be glad to work with them. Commissioner Murray then mentioned other DJJ staff that participate in the ACA Conferences and hold offices to include; Rob Rosenbloom serving on the Board of Governors, Dr. O'Rourke serves on the Delegate Assembly and he, Commissioner Murray serves on the Commission of Accreditation. Other staff serve in specialty roles, and he hopes to have a good presence of both DJJ staff and Board Members at January's ACA Conference.

Commissioner Murray concluded his report and opened the floor for questions and comments (of which there were none).

### **Resolutions**

Edward Cook, Director  
Office of Engineering and Construction Services

#### **Transfer or Disposal of Property**

Mr. Ed Cook, Director of DJJ Engineering, presented the additional resolution regarding transfer of the Lorenzo Benn YDC property to new owners. Mr. Cook recalled the previous resolutions that were adopted at the October Board Meeting which like this present resolution were placed before the Board under the direction and at the advice of the Georgia State Properties Commission. Those two resolutions declared the properties to be surplus and requested that the Georgia State Properties Commission proceed with disposing of the property.

Mr. Cook stated that on November 1<sup>st</sup>, Commissioner Murray received a request from the Georgia Department of Agriculture that approximately 20 acres on the North West side of the property be transferred to the Georgia Department of Agriculture to be used in the construction of a testing laboratory. Due to the passing of the previous two resolutions occurring prior to the request, the question was put to the Properties Commission whether or not the wording of the previous resolution sufficed to allow a property transfer of this type between state agencies. The State Properties Commission responded that a third resolution would be required, specifically authorizing this transfer.

As a result DJJ presented a third resolution for the Board's consideration. Mr. Cook then presented the Board with a handout detailing what property the resolution is referring to. Mr. Cook then explained that the property is on the North West side up against an existing industrial area. The actual old facility is on the opposite side of the property. Mr. Cook concluded his report and opened the floor for questions and comments.

Judge Quintress Gilbert asked what kind of testing would be done on this property. Mr. Cook responded that he did not know the answer to that.

Board Member Elizabeth Lindsey stated that we worried about the neighbors before and did Mr. Cook think that because it's attached to the industrial side that won't be an issue. Mr. Cook responded affirmatively, stating that there's a large amount of woods, many, many acres between this acreage and where the housing is located. He indicated by pointing to the handout that the location of the housing is limited, and that all of the other space is industrial. He stated Fulton Industrial Boulevard is located in the area.

Board Member, Dr. Ed Risler then made a motion to approve the resolution transferring the property to the Department of Agriculture. Chairman Shuman acknowledged the motion and asked for a second, which was made by Board Member Mary Wilhite. Hearing no other discussion the motion carried.

Chairman Shuman called for a motion to close the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and to convene the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education. A motion to close the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and convene the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education was made by Board Member Michael Baugh and was seconded by Board Member William McQueen and the motion carried.

### **Education Update**

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

Dr. O'Rourke began by stating he wanted to do a short presentation in the area of Transition Programming. He wanted to highlight DJJ's goals in three areas which are Academic, Vocational Programming and Social Skills Programming. Dr. O'Rourke stated the Department feels good about where they are with the curriculum and vocational programming which is tied to the Department of Technical and Adult Education. He added that we do a lot of work in our character education programming with the youth in all of our classes and in our transition classes. In the second area, Dr. O'Rourke stated that we want to put something into the student's hands, so when they leave DJJ, they will have something in their hands, that is substantive, that when they go back into the community, they can become functioning young people and citizens in our community. He stated the department is doing much work in the area of providing certificates, diplomas and GED's for the students. Dr. O'Rourke then added that we are "data driven." The department is making decisions based on the data that they have and he wanted to show some of the data available to show the success in the programming.

Dr. O'Rourke then reiterated the three goals which are: do something while they (youth) are with us; put something in their hands; and third, to provide a support system for them when they return to the community. He then added if we don't have a support system in place then all of the things that we've done upfront isn't worthwhile because we can't put a child into the community and then not provide a support system for them. The system used in the community is putting their certificates in the hands of the JPPS's, transition specialists and so on, so they can provide a support system for the youth as they go back into the community.

Dr. O'Rourke then introduced the "THINK EXIT AT ENTRY" poster that you see at all of our facilities. He introduced Mr. Coy Satterfield, Director of Student Support Services, in order provide some information for the Board on the "THINK EXIT AT ENTRY" initiative. Dr. O'Rourke then asked Coy Satterfield to provide the data that shows the success and progress of our "THINK EXIT AT ENTRY" initiative at the Eastman YDC.

Mr. Satterfield opened by thanking Dr. O'Rourke and stated that approximately, four years ago DJJ implemented and developed a student transition initiative program with the help of funding from the Federal Department of Labor. Since that inception at the Eastman YDC, DJJ has cumulatively served and provided transition services to 1,362 youth, 918 of these youth were ages 16 to 17. 383 of these youth have been released from commitment at the Eastman YDC and 190 have been placed in the work force. They have become tax payers instead of being on the tax roll. 30 of them have earned Technical College Certificates and those are the College Certificates they earn as a result of their dual enrollment with the Technical Colleges who serve our Eastman YDC and other long term facilities as vocational instructors. 126 of these students are currently enrolled in post secondary institutions. Mr. Satterfield stated the Department is currently working to get one student, Raphael Brown into Albany State University. There is a minor detail that has to be satisfied in terms of his (student's) credentials so he can be admitted to Albany State as a full time student. Mr. Satterfield stated that these were youth who were committed over a period of time at the Eastman YDC that have now entered the work force, technical colleges, community colleges and four year college institutions.

Mr. Satterfield then shared another number for the Eastman YDC. From 2002 until today, 203 young men have earned their GED. He further stated that considering that we are in the first semester of the 2006-2007 school year, that number is expected to increase. Statewide there are 600 youth since 2002 that have earned their GED's from our department. Another number the department is proud of is that there are 113 youth that have received a High School Diploma. This is a full fledged High School Diploma that enables the youth to go on to College. That is a total of 713 youth that have come out of our facilities with either a GED or High School Diploma. That High School Diploma includes a Technical College Prep Diploma or College Prep Diploma. Some of these students will become engineers and electricians and others will be able to have white collar jobs. This is all possible because of the resources at Eastman provided by the

federal grant. Those resources include the career education teacher who helps prepare those students with writing resumes, developing resumes, workforce readiness skills, simple etiquette and how to interview. Also in place are two Transition Counselors who work daily with youth at the Eastman YDC to get them ready for the transition back into the community. Mr. Satterfield said one of the integral roles is the Career Facilitators. These Career Facilitators help augment the services of the JPPS's in that they meet with the youth 30 days prior to their release from the YDC and then within 3 to 10 days upon release, they meet with the youth at their home and advocate with that youth, to go back to school, go to college or back into the work force. Often times, they have already championed a job on behalf of that youth.

Mr. Satterfield stated that of course, all youth are not following through with jobs but there are many job opportunities for those who want to follow through. He stated that there are many success stories and he wanted to read about one success story involving two youth from District 3A. "Bryan Cowart was released in June. He earned his GED prior to leaving the Eastman YDC and has been working for Universal Alloy Corporation in Campton, Ga. He recently received a promotion. Bryan's goal is to obtain a first shift job so he can begin course work in the evenings at the local college. His PO says "I wish there were more like him!" He initiates contact with her and makes weekly meetings consistently. Tony Harris was released in September from Eastman YDC. Tony has earned his GED and has steadily been working part-time with the CNC event staff. Tony is preparing to go to college to pursue a Business Management Degree with the career goal to work with theater or movie production as production manager."

Mr. Satterfield continued saying that there are many similar stories. He stated initially many of the students went to work in the fast food industry. He outlined new initiatives to include, setting up a working relationship with UPS in Atlanta where they (UPS) are readily accepting the youth coming from Eastman to go directly into their training program to be loaders for their trucks. Mr. Satterfield also stated DJJ's Education Department is opening a relationship with Enterprise to accept our students to be car porters preparing cars for their rental customers. He stated those are two relationships we are working out at our jobs sites here.

Mr. McQueen asked what the outlook was for future funding since this program is funded through Federal funds. Mr. Satterfield responded "very blique," stating Dr. O'Rourke would further discuss the future of the grant funding. Mr. Satterfield then noted that the grant ends December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Dr. Risler wanted to confirm the numbers. Mr. Satterfield confirmed the first number was 383 (youth) who were released from commitments of the 1,382 (total).

Dr. Risler: Of the 383 almost half are in post secondary education?

Mr. Satterfield responded "absolutely!" 126 youth are either in technical schools, community colleges, and four year institutions.

Dr. O'Rourke added that all 383 kids are in the Vocational Programming and the Vocational Programming is staffed under contract by the Technical Adult Education. He adds that every child has the opportunity to get into some type of post secondary. First they have to pass a test called the ASSET test. DJJ continuously tries to get the kids to pass this test. He notes that it is very impressive because these youth are leaving us and we are getting them back into technical college. Dr. O'Rourke called that "very positive."

Dr. Risler then asked Dr. O'Rourke, that aside from questions about future funding, what he would recommend or what Dr. O'Rourke felt needed to be done to keep the program ongoing. Dr. O'Rourke responded that we get funding from other resources like special education and Title I programming. Dr. O'Rourke stated that what they have done is shifted gears and moved some special education funding into transition programming to help underwrite some transition programming. Currently, that's kind of a stop gap method. He stated we are taking some Title I funding. Under the new Title I initiative, we are using 15% up to 20% of 1.1 Million Dollars and moving it to transition programming. He stated that this still leaves us short and we (the agency) have to put that in the budget for the coming year.

Dr. Risler said that really the critical piece of transitional services is what we provide in the community. He asked how many of those do we have now. Dr. O'Rourke answered that we have 12 strategically placed. Mr. Risler asked if that is enough. Dr. O'Rourke responded, "probably not." Dr. O'Rourke continued, saying we have a couple in the Atlanta area and a couple in the Savannah area so that when any of our kids are released from any of our sites the JPPS and the Job Placement Specialist work together to get that youth placed in a job or back into school. That was the missing link and now we are getting a more bang for a buck in getting some of our kids placed and tracking.

Dr. Risler asked in his opinion (Dr. O'Rourke's), are the JPPS's buying into the things that we are doing with the transitional aspect of this? Dr. O'Rourke responded that we are still in the early stages. He feels that we probably need to do a better job possibly on our end. He feels they (JPPS's) need more of an understanding of all of the things that we are now putting into these kids hands. The JPPS's need to know what we do have available. He feels it is a work in progress and we certainly could and should improve in this particular arena. Mr. Satterfield added that they have set up in JTS, a shared information system where any successes and progress the Career Facilitators make in the field for a student, the JPPS's can readily look at their case notes and share information so they can duplicate the services. Dr. O'Rourke explained that JTS stands for Juvenile Tracking System and that means more of the records are readily accessible by the JPPS's.

Board Member Van Herrin asked how much was the federal grant for. Dr. O'Rourke responded that the original amount was for \$750,000 for approximately two years. The agency kept renewing it and it's now down to approximately \$500,000. He stated that we

are trying to get the resources in that range right now through every avenue available so that we can keep these Placement Specialists in our communities.

Dr. Coleman added there are over 700 kids that have received their GED's and diplomas over a period of years. He stated these same kids have already been counted as "dropouts" in the state of Georgia. He continued saying that Georgia has a high number of dropouts. At the same time, DJJ hasn't gotten credit for "Drop-Ins". Dr. Coleman further stated, that we've been able to find those very same kids that have been counted as dropouts because they have left the school system, and that we've been able to give them their diplomas or GED's. He said, when they leave us they do not have to go back to school. DJJ has to figure out a way to plug those numbers back into the system because they are no longer considered dropouts.

Mr. Herrin stated that this was an interesting point because the local school system has been charged with the dropout. Dr. Risler asked if you have a GED, you are considered a dropout. Dr. Coleman responded no, and explained they are considered a dropout because they left the school system. Dr. O'Rourke then added that data about dropouts is counted in different ways and that he believes no one can really define what a dropout is. Dr. O'Rourke stated that Dr. Coleman, "hit it right on the head," when he said "we have a lot of "drop-ins." Dr. O'Rourke commented he thinks its credit to all of our teachers and people who work hard, saying we have 600 kids who have GED's and 113 youth who have High School Diplomas. He reiterated, "That's 713 kids, that didn't have that in the past." Commissioner Murray added that a number of those kids are a grade level behind (when they come to DJJ). Dr. O'Rourke then stated, a minimum of two, on average, these kids are at least two years behind.

Board Member Michael Baugh asked whether or not anyone has contacted Cathy Cox to try and get that number rectified to help out the individual school system. Dr. O'Rourke answered he thinks that is a good point. But, the answer is no, but it is something we should and will do. Mr. Herrin stated it would help the overall state to help our whole number look better, it could benefit all of us, DJJ's "Drop-Ins" counting against our dropouts on the public side. Dr. O'Rourke commented, "We are very proud," concerning the agency's successes.

Board Member Sandra Taylor commented about possible funding available, stating the Governor has made a move to put counselors in the high schools toward keeping children in schools, and whether some of that money could be used for DJJ's purposes in this program area, because she stated in essence that is what this is, it's characterized differently and it's titled differently, but it's the same thing.

Mr. Herrin indicated that funding might be temporary and you don't know when the funding might be pulled. He stated the (in school counselors) were only funded \$30,000 per position for that in the state. He continued saying a true counselor doing anything of that magnitude, is going to cost about 50 + thousand a year. The local system then would be looking at coming up with the difference. He stated then, "we look at it in the aspect

of when are you going to pull that and leave us like the instance with the school nurses to where you're funding nothing and we're having to pick up 100% it?" Mr. Herrin commented that you have to be careful with "these type things that he called, "Dabs there of election year type things." Mr. Herrin said the local school system would have to pick up the difference if and when it was pulled out. Mr. Herrin stated that we find that they help our kids so then we locally have to come up with all of the money.

Dr. O'Rourke indicated everyone very much supports the effort. He added that, "we've robbed Peter to pay Paul." It's not that he feels good about it (the program), the teachers or anybody feels good about it, adding he has good solid data that shows that it does work.

Mr. Herrin stated that we need this to find its way to the Governors office to request help.

Jeff Minor, DJJ Deputy Commissioner, responded that it has. He then recalled that this was presented as one of the priority areas in DJJ's budget request to the Governor. He continued that as impressed as we are with this program and the data it has produced, this is exactly what the Governor has asked agencies to do. He said we've been able to show the results of this. Mr. Minor continued saying that even though any state bureaucrat is a little nervous about what they want to return to us in federal funds. The feds do exactly what you're talking about. They'll give you a little dabble and then pull out. Then you're stuck wondering how to maintain this good program. But the data speaks for itself. Mr. Minor then reminded the Commissioner of their initial meeting with OPB (Governor's Office of Planning and Budget) earlier in the month to go over DJJ's budget request. He felt that OPB was very impressed with this particular item in the budget and impressed with the data and Mr. Minor stated he believes that this has a very high chance of making it into the Governor's budget request. He added that they left feeling happy about their entire presentation but particularly about that specific item. He then added that he believes the requested budget funding amount was about \$500,000. Dr. O'Rourke then added that it's approximately \$525,000.

Mr. Herrin asked if the Board could be notified if the funding is cut, so they could get in contact with legislators and express to them how important this program is to the Department of Juvenile Justice. Commissioner Murray added that if this is something that they would like to do, it can be done now with the information that was provided.

Ms. Taylor said it would be easier now before it was cut later.

Hearing no other questions or comments, Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education and reconvene the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice.

A motion to adjourn the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education and reconvene the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice was made by Ms. Wilhite, seconded by Mr. Herrin and carried.

## **Chair's Comments**

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair

Mr. Shuman announced that the date of the next meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice is scheduled for December 14, 2006 at 11:00, two weeks from today. He also brought to the Board's attention the need to place on a future agenda, a policy that says that we have some kind of presence at funerals of staff members and retired people. He added that he attended a funeral a couple of weeks ago of a retired employee who dedicated his career to working with the Department of Juvenile Justice. He did not want a vote today, but wanted Board Members to think about it and give him their suggestions following the meeting.

Mr. Shuman then added that the Department of Corrections has a set amount of staff that represents DOC at funerals and that this is also done by other state agencies. He later indicated to the Board that this topic likely won't make the January agenda because he will be out of town, but he feels very strongly about this matter and hopes to put it on the agenda in the near future.

Commissioner Murray added that he, Amy Howell and Legal Services staff are currently working on a resolution to be presented to the board. They planned to present it at the January Board Meeting, but with Daniel Shuman not being present, may hold off on presenting it until February.

At this point Commissioner Murray asked for the opportunity to recognize Jason Naunas. Mr. Naunas is the Assistant Attorney General assigned to work with the Department of Juvenile Justice. Commissioner Murray stated he appreciated Mr. Naunas taking the time to come to attend the Board Meeting. Also, on a personal note Commissioner Murray congratulated Deputy Commissioner Rob Rosenbloom on celebrating 32 years of marriage.

Judge Quintress Gilbert mentioned that Juvenile Court Judges have signed up to be present one day during the legislative session and suggested that the Board may consider doing the same at the next Board Meeting. Mr. Shuman agreed as he recalled another time Board Members visited the legislature and showed support and perhaps it should occur on a set date and not wait on some particular hot issue.

Commissioner Murray added that he would coordinate with Spiro (Amburn, DJJ Legislative Affairs Director) and others working closely with the legislature making sure that we coordinate with the Board advising them of those dates that we feel a strong Board presence or any Board presence would be helpful.

Hearing no other questions or comments, Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to adjourn the November 30, 2006 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. Mr. McQueen moved to adjourn the November 30, 2006 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilhite and carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

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J. Daniel Shuman, Chair  
Board of Juvenile Justice

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Albert Murray  
Commissioner

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Dr. Ed Risler, Secretary  
Board of Juvenile Justice