

**Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, September 28, 2006
11:00 a.m.**

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

Opening Remarks

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair

Mr. Shuman called to order the September 28, 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 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: Michael Baugh, Van Herrin; Elizabeth Lindsey; William McQueen; Judy Mecum, Daniel Menefee, Edwin A. Risler, J. Daniel Shuman, Sandra H. Taylor

Advisory Board Members Present: Judge Quintress Gilbert, Judge Ellen McElyea

DJJ Staff Present: Albert Murray, Commissioner; Spiro Amburn; Dr. Thomas Coleman; Gordon Fisher; James Frazier; Steve Hayes; Amy Howell; Dawn Miles; Jeff Minor; Dr. Thomas O'Rourke; Martha Patton; Marilyn Reaves; Rob Rosenbloom; Shirley Turner; Fabienne Tate; Jimmy Taylor; Lena Wilson

Others: Jason Naunas, Assistant Attorney General, Dorothy L. Moore, Clinical Director, Sunshine Residential Care Home; Helen Stout; Nelson Mullins; Joe Cook; Chuck McMullen, Piedmont Public Affairs; Janine D. Porter, GA Youth Network, Inc. (group home)

After Ms. Wilson announced the presence of a quorum of the Board, Mr. Shuman asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 24, 2006 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education. Daniel Menefee made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 24, 2006 Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education. The motion was seconded by William McQueen 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 greeted everyone present and expressed his pleasure at their presence at the meeting.

He then recognized Marilyn Reaves who will soon retire as Director of the Office of Training. He noted that this is the last meeting she will attend before her retirement. He stated that Marilyn is being replaced by Fabienne Tate who will do a good job leading the training division.

Operations Division

The Operations Division continues to focus on detention population as it shows an increase that typically comes this time of the year at the majority of our RYDCs. Deputy Commissioner Rob Rosenbloom has issued a memo to staff that has re-enforced current practices and introduces new expectations that will assist in managing detention beds. Commissioner Murray reminded the Board that a detention summit was held in August and the result of that work is now paying dividends for DJJ. An example of a different approach being utilized is the requirement, in most instances, for a face to face intake decision in the courts where DJJ provides the intake function. An intake worker will meet with law enforcement, the youth and family, when possible, to perform the detention assessment and make a decision regarding detention. In many instances, this process allows the parties to see opportunities for the youth to remain at home pending court rather than wait in detention.

The Operations Division also met with judges in Region Three (Metro Atlanta) recently to discuss a possible bed allocation plan for the detention centers in the region. While an agreement was not reached on this proposal, the meeting provided an excellent opportunity for information sharing and discussion about the challenges of the detention process in the region. These centers remain chronically crowded in the Atlanta area and dialogue will continue.

Fulton Juvenile Court recently held a Juvenile Justice Blue Ribbon Panel discussion and Deputy Commissioner Rob Rosenbloom and Dee Bell, Program Coordinator, attended as representatives of the department. This event was well attended by other agencies and community representatives.

We are in the process of filling Directors positions at three RYDCs: Dekalb, Metro and Albany.

DJJ staff continues to work on its prevention efforts, including school based supervision and the out of home placement of youth. The School Based Supervision program continues to grow and to serve us very well. Commissioner Murray indicated that he was informed last week that Macon schools approved the program for two middle schools in the area. He stated that this program includes many positives for the youth, the schools and communities; and for DJJ.

In the Baxley community of Georgia in Appling County a challenge is underway regarding a vendor change to operate the Baxley Wilderness Institute. The contract with DJJ is to serve juvenile offenders locally. The present vendor, Associated Marine Institute (AMI), has operated this program for several years, but lost the contract recently to Youth Services International (YSI), who presented a better bid proposal. AMI has appealed the decision by DOAS to award this contract to the other company and this appeal is presently under review by DOAS. We have met with local leaders, Board members of AMI, DOAS management, and local legislators on this matter, and will continue the dialogue until some final decisions are made. Both companies are on contract with DJJ to operate other juvenile programs in other parts of the state and both companies have done good work. We have a vendor dispute that is not within DJJ purview. There has been significant media coverage on the event, much of which contains misinformation about this vendor change. The decision will be made by DOAS.

The next Regional Judges Conference, is in Region Three in October, will be conducted at Lake Lanier Islands and is again sponsored by CYCC. The dates are October 5th & 6th.

Campus Operations has implemented a new office of Campus Programs. This office is responsible for oversight of all YDC case management and general counseling programs currently being provided by Juvenile Detention Counselors as well as the Behavior Management and Sex Offender Treatment programs. The office is headed by Mr. Bill Parks and includes two additional staff; Ms. Christina Pollard-Durr who formerly headed Assessment and Orientation, and Mr. Oliver Johnson. The assessment and orientation functions have now been split. Assessment will be conducted by the office of Behavioral Health and orientation will remain with YDC staff. Mr. Johnson comes to Campus Operations from Sumter YDC where he served as a Social Service Provider II (SSPII). With the establishment of this office DJJ has acquired the ability to standardize and coordinate all YDC counseling functions.

At this point both Judge Gilbert and Judge McElyea arrived. Commissioner informed Judge Gilbert that he commented earlier about the success of school-based supervision and that a decision was made in Macon to implement the program in two middle schools there. Judge Gilbert stated that they are excited about it and that they can't wait for it to happen.

Elsewhere in Campus Operations, the local Boy Scouts of America have volunteered to provide life skills and mentoring programs at the Augusta YDC facility. Augusta joins Bill Ireland and Sumter as YDCs that provide Boy Scout programs to our youth.

Also at Bill Ireland, Ms. Ruby Franklin has been selected as the facility's "Teacher of the Year". Additionally, she was selected as the "Teacher of the Year" to represent her region for the "*DJJ Teacher of the Year Award*" which will take place next week at the Education Conference in Macon.

Recently, the Bill Ireland YDC was selected to participate in a pilot project to establish and evaluate a modified admission and orientation process. On August 31st, Dr. Ron Koon (author of the revised process) observed the facility's version – titled the "synthesis" group meeting. Departments at the facility participating in the group include medical, education, counseling, mental health, the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program or (RSAT), and security.

Office of Behavioral Health Services

The Office of Behavioral Health Services received a 2 million dollar grant in 2004 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to improve re-entry to the community and to improve follow-up treatment for youth with substance abuse or dependence disorders in the metro area. Youth returning to their families and the community face many barriers, primarily the lack of well coordinated services that increase the probability that they may re-offend. The Youth IMPACT program will serve 525 youth over the life of the four year grant. Presently, the program is on track having served 155 youth. We have over 11 different providers offering individual and group counseling in clinics as well as in the youth's home. Youth IMPACT also utilizes mentoring services, job placement assistance and other ancillary services to help youth transition back into the community.

The Office of Behavioral Health Services is very happy to announce the formation of a Critical Incident Stress Management, or CISM, Team. CISM is a form of crisis intervention that was developed for first responders such as police and firemen, and has been expanded to include all public safety providers. Teams of trained staff members respond in crisis situations ranging from large-scale emergencies such as natural disasters to smaller situations such as assaults on staff and provide crisis intervention for impacted staff and youth. In this way we plan to reduce the impact these situations may have, improve the environment in secure facilities, and further support our staff and the youth

we serve. We presently have 25 team members that have completed the training requirements and are able to respond to a crisis. The service will be coordinated through OBHS.

The Office of Medical Services

The Office of Medical Services held its Medical Training Conference with the support of the Office of Training at St. Simons Island, last week, September 20-22, 2006. DJJ medical staff from across the state converged to receive relevant clinical training as well as to share information on medical administrative operations.

DJJ was recently spot-lighted by the Governor's Customer Service Newsletter for the month of September. All state agencies are making a good effort to raise customer service awareness and to implement a customer service plan. DJJ is continuing to implement its program. We meet next week in Central Office as we move forward to make DJJ faster, friendlier, and easier. A copy of the newsletter was provided to the Board.

As mentioned earlier we have a number of Directors positions vacant. In addition to the three RYDCs, DJJ is actively working to fill a vacant YDC Director position. The vacancies exist at the Sumter YDC (created as a result of Derek Glisson assuming the position as Director of the Eastman YDC), and at the three RYDCs previously mentioned. The vacancies at these facilities are the result of resignations, retirements, and promotions. Our challenge is that the vacancies at these facilities occurred at the same time and in some cases, were unanticipated. We are actively seeking to fill these vacancies, however, the facilities are currently operating under good interim management using Assistant Directors, temporarily reassigning experienced managers from other facilities and the central office, and assigning experienced Regional Administrators on-site at some facilities.

The director position at the Eastman YDC was recently filled. Former Eastman YDC Director Robert Manville retired August 31st. His replacement is Mr. Derek Glisson who had previously served very ably as Director of the Sumter YDC. Because of Eastman's size, complexity, and population of older youth, it was important that the new director be a seasoned staff member with previous successful experience as a director of a secure facility.

Office of Training:

As mentioned earlier, the retirement of Ms. Marilyn Reaves, Director of the Office of Training is effective October 1, 2006. She departs with 34 years of state government service, with the most recent seven (7) years with the Department of Juvenile Justice. Commissioner Murray expressed well wishes to Marilyn on behalf of the Department.

He continued that although Marilyn is leaving, we're excited at the same time because the incoming Director of the Office of Training is Ms. Fabienne A. Tate, who was the former Assistant Director of Training for the Agency. She has 18 years of state government service with 12 years being in staff training and development. Her transition has been a seamless one.

Commissioner noted that in September 2006, Ms. Fabienne A. Tate was named a Board Member for the National Juvenile Justice Training Association. This is a significant appointment that will place her in a position to have exposure to a number of opportunities for DJJ and DJJ staff. The organization will meet next month in Las Vegas at a national juvenile justice summit.

Also from the Office of Training, the P.O.S.T. Instructor Training Class in progress has nine (9) participants enrolled and they are the new hires serving in the Lt. Position as facility-based trainers, serving as local resources for in-house policy, pre-service and in-service training. The course completion date is September 29, 2006.

We continue to look for partners in order to continue our mission and serve Georgia. DJJ is participating in a collaborative project called the CitySafe Summit. The CitySafe Summit is being spearheaded by Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin and is focused on ex-offender re-entry within the City of Atlanta. The purpose of this project is to help reduce weapons and drug-related offenses in high-crime areas of the city by ensuring that state, local and federal resources are streamlined in an effective manner. On August 25, Commissioner Murray attended a summit meeting which included the heads of various criminal justice agencies such as the Attorney General, Commissioner Jim Donald of DOC, the Parole Board Chairman, and other local and state leaders. They all agreed to work together on this important effort by synchronizing important services that are delivered in the community. This is an ongoing collaborative project that will meet periodically to evaluate critical needs and determine next steps. He stated that he certainly plans to continue to be an active part of this group.

Commissioner informed the Board the he recently visited Savannah and took part in an event sponsored by DOC and the city of Savannah, which is part of the Governor's Initiative titled, "Georgia on the Move." The event focused on addressing crime in Savannah and Chatham County. Chairman Shuman attended the event with Commissioner Murray. This was a collaborative event involving numerous state agencies and was a well attended event. Participants included the Department of Corrections (DOC), Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Department of Human Resources (DHR), Pardons and Paroles, Department of Labor (DOL), and other local and state agencies involved in public safety. Local participants included the Mayor, Police Chief, local legislators, judges and others from the area. Jim Lientz from the Governor's office also participated in this endeavor. The primary focus was on the "re-entry" of both adult and juvenile offenders leaving state custody and returning to the communities of Savannah and Chatham County. Chairman Shuman added that Judge Quintress Gilbert also

attended this event. Commissioner stated that he appreciated the judge's participation. He stated that we intend to follow up and that at this point in time, crime in the Savannah-Chatham County area seems to be really high and could be due to a number of reasons. We have pledged our support to work even closer with the communities of Savannah and Chatham County to ensure that we are a partner in addressing what appears to be an increase in crime, both with adults and juveniles.

Also last month, a member of Governor Perdue's policy team toured three of our facilities. Abel Ortiz, the Governor's policy advisor on juvenile justice, was escorted by DJJ staff as the group toured the Macon RYDC and the Macon YDC, as well as the Griffin RYDC. This was a great opportunity for a member of the Governor's staff to get a first-hand look at the inside of our secure-facilities. As we move forward on legislative and budget proposals, Mr. Ortiz will have a better understanding of the types of services we provide and the challenges we face. Commissioner Murray commended the facility staff at each of these locations. He stated that the reports he received concerning the visit indicated that the staff of all three facilities, as we expect, represented DJJ with excellent professionalism.

Commissioner reminded the Board that he will be participating in a day long event at the Carter Center in Atlanta later in the afternoon. He informed them that the non-profit group, Voices for Georgia's Children is hosting the conference and is focusing on care, treatment and services for Georgia's children. He stated that this group is about three/four years old and normally he would not accept speaking engagements on Board days because he likes to allow ample time for the Board to interact. However, he felt that this was a worthwhile event for him to be a part of. Commissioner is scheduled as the afternoon's featured speaker where he is scheduled to speak at 2:00 p.m. He will be discussing our agency's vision for juvenile justice and many programs and services. He extended an invitation to anyone who was able to attend.

At this point, he concluded his remarks and opened the floor for questions and comments.

Daniel Menefee: In reference to the school-based supervision, when will that be rolled out state wide and how is it rolled out? Commissioner responded that right now we have school-based supervision and asked Rob Rosenbloom to address the inquiry with more details. He added that we have about 33 offices and 44 schools or the reverse. He asked Mr. Rosenbloom to explain how we plan to expand the concept. Mr. Rosenbloom stated that we started a pilot program in each district last year. This year it was expanded to 43 schools. We are doing it as opportunities present themselves. We are trying to do it in as many schools as we can and in schools that show an interest in it. Mr. Menefee asked that if schools are interested would they then contact him. Mr. Rosenbloom responded in the affirmative. Commissioner added that we are doing this with no new resources; that we are redirecting our existing resources.

Elizabeth Lindsey: Ms. Lindsey stated that she has questions regarding the bed issue and the allocation plan. She asked how the courts are handling the intake function and does it tie in to the fact that there was no agreement at the region three judges' conference. Once again Commissioner called upon Mr. Rosenbloom to respond. Mr. Rosenbloom stated that there are two separate issues. One is that where we serve the intake function in the courts that we work directly with, rather than the independent courts, we will have our staff in all the instances that makes sense to do a face to face intake rather than do it over the phone. The issue in the metropolitan Atlanta area centers, which is in region three, has been chronically crowded even though we manage the population we have. We tried to float a plan spearheaded by Pete Colbenson, Director of the Children and Youth Coordinating Council (CYCC) where there is a bed allocation for the judges in each of the counties that were served by the centers in the catchment area. He stated that it would be a different process than what we are currently using. It would not be just us having to move kids around or divert law enforcement once we reach capacity, but a collaborative effort. He stated that there are challenges with that and the judges were not ready to sign on to a process like that and there are also logistical issues.

Dr. Risler asked if this was similar to what we used years ago. Mr. Rosenbloom responded in the affirmative. Commissioner stated that the department felt it is worthy of discussion and that he is not sure how many judges were present at the meeting. Mr. Rosenbloom stated that he believes all of the counties were represented and that there were 6-7 judges present. Commissioner stated that at some point we may want to revisit the matter with the judges. Before making such a major change we certainly would like to have, and need to have, the judges on board with us. He added that it may be a better way of managing the population than what we are currently doing.

Ms. Lindsey asked if it was part of the allocation problem was the fact that we have these rising populations, especially in metro Atlanta, and not enough beds. Commissioner responded in the affirmative, stating that it is not a new problem; that it is long standing and we can predict with fairly good accuracy when our numbers will begin to rise. He stated that our staff is doing a great job in moving kids around to stay within our allocation of 120%.

Referencing the old allocation system, Dr. Risler stated he is sure there would be challenges and that one of the strongest points about it is ownership of the detention problems and that management issue becomes more a collaborative effort about controlling that population.

Sandra Taylor wanted to know why the judges would object since it would give back to them some of the discretion they were upset about. Elizabeth Lindsey stated that there are different issues. She has heard some judges complaining about moving children to placements that are not close to their families or lawyers. She stated that her sense was that the judges felt DJJ was trying to shift their responsibility directly to the judges for the

overcrowding issue and that was something they were not buying into. She stated that the population has more than doubled over the past ten years..

Sandra Taylor stated that we are under pressure to decrease the number of children that we are incarcerating for financial reasons and for the Governor's policy of not wanting to incarcerate children. She then asked if we have conducted any studies to show that the level of violent crime has increased and that the need to incarcerate is increasing which is causing some of the overcrowding in the facilities. She inquired if we could have these numbers to present them to whoever questions us about us holding more children. It is not that we are holding more children, it's just that more children are committing crimes that are more violent and more dangerous to society.

Commissioner responded that we have done population projections that give us a good idea of the increased number of juveniles that will be sent to DJJ over the next several years. It takes into account kids who are committable, many for violent offenses. We can see that the numbers will increase which is why, at some point, we are going to need additional beds and we are making efforts to plan for those beds, at both the YDCs and RYDCs. We have already converted one of the YDCs into an RYDC.

Ms. Taylor iterated that we need to be able to show legislators that we are not just holding kids for status offenses, but for more violent crimes. Dr. Risler stated that he believes it is an important question for long term planning.

More discussion ensued regarding this issue and Commissioner Murray stated that we continue to get a category of young people who we must by law take. These are low level offenders who need treatment and services. We are a juvenile department and we should be serving juveniles who are serious and violent offenders. A greater effort should be made at the front end at the kids who are entering the system. We are shifting our efforts to community programs which may help offset the number of kids who are coming in and may be best served elsewhere.

After the conclusion of this discussion, Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and convene the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education. Elizabeth Lindsey moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and convene the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education. The motion was seconded by Van Herrin and carried.

Education Update

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

After greeting everyone, Dr. O'Rourke introduced Ms. Martha Patton, the newly appointed Curriculum Director for the Office of Education. He stated that Ms. Patton

retired from the public school system after 33 years as a psychological education director. She has been with the department for nine (9) years serving as a teacher in the community schools and most recently at the Metro RYDC.

Dr. O'Rourke then announced that the teacher's Fall Education Conference will be held October 2-3, 2006 at the Centreplex in Macon, Georgia. The theme for the conference is, "Knowledge: Food for Life." Approximately 450 educators and people who work in the education program will come together at the conference. He gave kudos to his secretary, Joan Carroll who designed the cover for the conference outline.

Referencing the handout distributed, he highlighted a few of the conference offerings on the first day, including a session on Teens and Sex, Professional Ethics, School Discipline, and other topics. On the second day, Pete Colbenson, Director of the Children and Youth Coordinating Council, provided speakers for the conference who will discuss gangs and violence and other topics to help us to be proactive. Among other activities on this day, the Teacher of the Year Award ceremony will take place during the lunch period. He stated that the conference promises to be a good one and he again welcomed the Board to attend.

Dr. O'Rourke then thanked Dr. Ed Risler for his participation and input in the meetings on the transition matrix that will help develop service plans for youth as they move through the system.

The Office of Continuous Improvement (OCI) has just completed the education audit at the Metro RYDC. Twenty-nine (29) standards were audited. Of the 29, 28 of them were in compliance. He added that of all the audits conducted on education programs at DJJ facilities, there has never been more than one standard that needed to be addressed. Dr. O'Rourke stated that the Eastman YDC is our most challenging facility and that the audit of the facility shows that it is in full compliance with the standards in the area of education.

Dr. O'Rourke also attended the 10th anniversary of Eckerd Youth Alternative's Camp E-MU-LAKU in Suchez, Georgia that serves about 30-35 of our youth.

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

Chairman Shuman asked for clarification on the location of the education conference. Dr. O'Rourke iterated that it will be held at the Centreplex in Macon, Georgia.

Hearing no other questions or comments, William McQueen moved to adjourn the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education and reconvene the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. The motion was seconded by Judy Mecum and carried.

Chair's Comments

J. Daniel Shuman, Chairman

Chairman Shuman announced that the next meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education is scheduled for Thursday, October 26, 2006 at DJJ Central Office at 11:00 a.m.

He noted a copy of the Board address list in the handouts and asked that everyone review it before leaving and to identify any additions or changes that need to be made and inform Lena of any changes.

Mr. Shuman concluded his remarks and hearing no questions or comments asked for a motion to adjourn.

Van Herrin moved to adjourn the September 28, 2006 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. The motion was seconded by Michael Baugh and carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Albert Murray
Commissioner

Dr. Ed Risler, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice