

**Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, January 25, 2007
11:00 a.m.**

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

Opening Remarks

Mary E. Wilhite, Vice Chair

Vice Chair Mary Wilhite called to order the January 25, 2007 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education. She noted the time as 11:00 a.m. Following her request for introductions from all guests and others present, Ms. Wilhite asked those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance. After the invocation given by Board Member Daniel Menefee, Ms. Wilhite asked for the Roll Call.

Roll Call

Steve Hayes, Director of the Office of Public Affairs, then called the roll.

Board Members Present: Michael Baugh; Van Herrin; Judy Mecum; Daniel Menefee; Dr. Edwin Risler; Sandra H. Taylor; Elizabeth Lindsey; Mary Wilhite
After roll call; William McQueen

Advisory Board Members Present: Judge Quintress Gilbert

DJJ Staff Present: Albert Murray, Commissioner; Spiro Amburn; Dr. Thomas Coleman; Doug Engle; Gordon Fisher; James Frazier; Steve Hayes; Steve Herndon; Amy Howell; Jeff Minor; Dr. Thomas O'Rourke; Fabienne Tate; Jimmy Taylor; Rob Rosenbloom; Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne

Others: Aaron Estis, President of Estis Group; Sheila Hunter, Estis Group; Dave Lemmerman, Eckerd Youth Alternatives Incorporated; Jason Naunas, Assistant Attorney General; Boris Blackwood, Colt Security.

After Mr. Hayes announced the presence of a quorum of the Board, Ms. Wilhite asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2006 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education. The motion was made by Board Member Judy Mecum. The motion was seconded by Board Member Michael Baugh and the motion was carried.

Vice Chair Wilhite then called for the Commissioner's Report.

Commissioner's Comments

Albert Murray, Commissioner

Commissioner Murray welcomed everyone back to the DJJ Central Office for the January 2007 Board Meeting. He began by thanking the Board for attending the first meeting in 2007 and recognized Vice Chair Mary Wilhite for conducting the Board Meeting while Board Chairman Daniel Shuman is out of the country on vacation; scheduled to return in February.

Vice Chair Wilhite then congratulated Commissioner Murray on his third year anniversary of being the Commissioner of the Department of Juvenile Justice and Commissioner Murray added that it is also his birthday.

Continuing, Commissioner Murray stated that three years ago he was appointed Commissioner on January 25, 2004. He was sworn in that morning by Governor Perdue and introduced to the Board that afternoon. Commissioner Murray added that during his tenure he has enjoyed DJJ's successes and challenges and he looks forward to more good years with the agency. Commissioner Murray noted that this was the first time that he's had the benefit of a supportive board. He then thanked Mary Wilhite for acknowledging the anniversary of his appointment as Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice.

Commissioner Murray began his comments by mentioning that the holiday break was good for DJJ. Incident reports were at a minimum and field employees were on top of all issues which allowed him and other staff to take extended time off and enjoy the holidays. He's thankful for that time off and for the good staff that continue to work for this agency every day.

Commissioner Murray stated that he and other staff were just returning from Tampa, Florida from the American Correctional Association (ACA) Winter Conference. He thanked Dr. Ed Risler for attending and representing the Board and the Commissioner acknowledged several DJJ staff who participated. They included; Deputy Commissioner Rob Rosenbloom who serves on the Board of Governors, a major leadership role with the American Correctional Association; Dr. Tom O'Rourke, who serves on the Delegate of Assembly and Commissioner Murray who serves on the Commission on Accreditation. Operations sent six personnel, Program Services sent three personnel, OCI sent three individuals and Ronny Lane attended from the Apprehension Unit. DJJ was well represented as the Commissioner stated that's how he feels it should be. ACA is a major conference and it is to DJJ's advantage to have a high profile and participate in this conference twice per year. Commissioner Murray invited the Board to mark their calendars for the second week in August when the American Correctional Association will meet in Kansas City, Missouri. He will remind the Board again as the time gets close so they can continue to have board representation. The Office of Legal Services'

Director Amy Howell attended her first ACA conference and presented a workshop on behalf of Commissioner Murray due to him participating in Commission Hearings all day Saturday and Sunday. Commissioner Murray congratulated Ms. Howell on doing an excellent job on her presentation entitled, "Culture Change in Juvenile Institutions," adding that her presentation with two other state representatives was well received and presented. Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne was also present and conducted a workshop entitled, "Community Collaboration for Continuity of Care for Juveniles." Commissioner Murray acknowledged Dr. Staples-Horne's presentation went very well and had good attendance.

Commissioner Murray noted that currently, the "I CAN" interagency case management program is functioning in Rome, Georgia and being piloted in Savannah. He added that this is one of many good programs DJJ continues to operate.

Legislative Services

Commissioner Murray presented DJJ's budget highlights for the 2007 amended budget and 2008 general budget to the General Assembly to help legislators understand where DJJ's budget priorities are, and the critical needs that continue to face the department. Commissioner Murray visited with legislative leadership and committee chairs to foster and build relationships as they move forward in this session. He noted that there are additional meetings planned for this afternoon with legislators to make our needs and issues known. Commissioner Murray also stated that he will meet with the Governor's staff at 2:00 today to further discuss the agency's legislative proposals. Hopefully soon, DJJ will be given the authority to move forward with all, parts, or some of the Agency's proposals this session. Commissioner Murray notified the Board of House Bill 50 which was introduced by State Representative Ron Forrester. The bill will enact a new version of the interstate compact for juveniles utilized in transferring juveniles from state to state. The current compact has not been updated since 1955. Commissioner Murray added that there is obvious need for significant revisions and in the upcoming months there will be opportunities for Board members to participate as legislation moves forward. Commissioner Murray welcomed the support of all or some of the Board to attend legislative sessions as their schedules permitted. He added that for the past three years Board members have supported the agency during presentations and he hopes this level of support can continue. He will keep the Board informed about upcoming events should they have an interest in making phone calls or making a personal appearance.

Campus Operations

Commissioner Murray announced the resignation of Mr. Lemuel Johns as the Director of the McIntosh YDC effective December 15, 2006. Mr. Johns was replaced by Mr. Dan Gaskins who reported to work on January 2nd. Mr. Gaskins was most recently the Assistant Director of Operations at the Baltimore (City) Juvenile Justice Center in Maryland where he provided oversight for security operations for a 144 bed facility. Prior to his position in Maryland, he was the Assistant Director at the Marietta RYDC,

Program Manager at the Fulton County Multi Service Center and Assistant Director at the Athens RYDC. He returns to the agency with a good resume and experience. He also earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Troy University in Atlanta.

The Eastman YDC held a High School graduation ceremony December 19th. Twenty-Eight students received a GED, High School Diploma, or Special Education Certificate. Sixteen students were present to receive a technical certificate from the Hearts of Georgia Technical College (HGTC). Five Document Processing Assistant certificates were awarded, two Environmental Horticulture Technician certificates, six Certified Construction Worker certificates and three Auto Collision Helper certificates were awarded. HGTC Acting President Beth Crumpton presented the certificates. Commissioner Murray stated that with all graduations at Eastman there was a good parent turn out and family representation at the ceremony. He added that we always take pride in these juveniles who get their diplomas and certificates given the fact that the juveniles continue to come to DJJ several grade levels behind and in all likelihood would never get their diplomas or certificates if they didn't have the experience in DJJ. This is just an indication of DJJ's continued emphasis on education. DJJ strongly encourages education in its facilities. It can almost be said that it is required and it gives juveniles something that we know will help them once they leave the system.

Division of Program Services

The Office of Behavioral Health Services is implementing an Automated Behavioral Treatment Planning Process through the Department's Case Management Juvenile Tracking Software (JTS) in all DJJ facilities. OBHS has worked on this project with the Office of Technology and Information Services (OTIS) since the fall of 2006. Since January 22nd facilities have been using this module in daily mental health practices. All remaining facilities will come online by the month of February. By adding this new module to the existing software, mental health and suicide risk screening; mental health assessment and progress notes; staff will be able to more efficiently and effectively manage these critical mental health processes.

This software allows the clinician to create a daily task report that outlines what needs to be done each day to meet policy timelines and treatment requirements. It also gives central office staff and facility managers the ability to create management reports that allow them to identify any problems and trends that may have an impact on the given program. The last phase of the development phase will include the ability to generate a youth transition plan to document the mental health care that youth should receive while in our facilities and also provide recommendations for follow-up needed after release. Commissioner Murray stated it should be very valuable information as the youth leaves the system. Commissioner Murray added that he is very pleased with the development of this tool in support of the DJJ mental health staff in approving overall system care.

Operations Division

The Operations Division has had several management position changes since December. Commissioner Murray regretfully announced the resignation of Region V Regional Administrator Lorr Elias. Elias resigned as of February 15th to accept a position with DHR, Office of Mental Health Services. Ms. Elias has been a long time DJJ employee and manager and her experience and skills will be missed. She will continue to work closely with DJJ staff and with youth in need of mental health services who are served by both agencies. Commissioner Murray added that District XII Director Audrey Fuller has left the agency to pursue other opportunities. There is an acting director in that position and DJJ is currently advertising to fill this position. Deputy Commissioner Rob Rosenbloom is taking the lead in filling that position. Commissioner Murray congratulated Cynthia Wood currently an Assistant District Director who was recently selected and promoted to the position of Program Coordinator for Community Services. This will bring Ms. Wood to the Central Office and DJJ welcomes her expertise in this statewide position.

In early January, Commissioner Murray addressed Regional Administrators, District Directors and Assistant District Directors at the Manager's Meeting conducted by the Operations Division. Deputy Commissioner Rob Rosenbloom outlined a number of initiatives and projects for the calendar year of 2007. One of the initiatives discussed was working to increase school based supervision from the current number of 60 schools. Commissioner Murray added that this program continues to work well for DJJ and he is very excited about the unlimited potential for school based supervision and what it has done for communities and schools to date. He stated all agree the concept needs continued investment and should be expanded. Other topics discussed during the Manager's Meeting included a new focus on victim services, gender specific programs and improvements in the transition process from facility to the community. He added that DJJ continues to see this as a critical time for youth leaving the system. In addition to the good work being done in the facilities, DJJ needs to make sure that the children have a strong support system when they return to their communities. He stated that's where DJJ wants a system in place where efforts in facilities and at other DJJ placements can be built upon and the students will not lose ground. Commissioner Murray said he would continue to update the Board regarding future meetings such as this one as they are held in 2007.

Office of Training and Development

DJJ has been on the forefront regarding the implementation of the Prison Rape Elimination Act or PREA. This month DJJ conducted a PREA training session held at the academy from January 3rd through January 5th facilitated by the National Institute of Corrections, NIC, the Moss Group and the DJJ Office of Training and Development. Commissioner Murray acknowledged DJJ Training Director Fabienne Tate. This training session was specific to PREA and its impact on the juvenile population. This was comprehensive training for DJJ trainers and administrators regarding PREA which was signed into law September 4, 2003 by President George Bush. PREA training is designed to help correctional leaders in adult and juvenile systems nationwide understand their

roles and responsibilities in implementing the PREA law and the accountability for employees in the agency in regard to compliance. As part of this training, Legal Services Director Amy Howell presented on the potential legal consequences related to PREA. Commissioner Murray added that DJJ wants to continue to place heavy emphasis on DJJ's responsibilities as they relate to PREA.

The Office of Training and Development will be sponsoring three, two part sessions of "Imagine 21". This is a self awareness training program which will be held from February through May in collaboration with the Pacific Institute to promote personal growth and excellence. Commissioner Murray stated that the staff selected to attend "Imagine 21" will be afforded the opportunity to examine ways to balance their current life choices in order to create change in both their personal and professional lives. This training will allow participants to gain a clear picture of themselves, their attitudes, ability, potential and goals. This self examination will allow individuals to look at ways to unleash their potential with tools and techniques that can be applied immediately to help them reach their goals easily and enjoyably. Over the next three months personnel from Central Office, the executive management team, direct reports to the commissioner's office, staff that assist those offices, and field and facility staff, will be afforded the opportunity. Commissioner Murray added that if there are any board members interested in attending to let him know so that they could be worked in.

The 2007 American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) Conference will be held on February 11th and continue through the 14th at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel. Approximately 750 attendees were expected, but as of January 19th registration has exceeded expectations, totaling 1,050. The opening ceremony will be on February 11th at 6:00 PM. The Winter Institute Conference is being co-sponsored by the Department of Juvenile Justice, The State Board of Pardons and Paroles, The Georgia Department of Corrections, Georgia Probation Association and other local county and private correctional agencies. Monday, February 12th from 1:45 to 3:15, Commissioner's Murray and Donald and Chairman Garland Hunt from the Parole Board will participate in a panel discussion with a focal point on "Evidence Based Practices in Community Corrections." Commissioner Murray added that if there was anyone that is not registered and is interested in attending to contact Fabienne Tate or Linda Layton for additional details. Commissioner Murray stated that he would like DJJ to make a good showing representing the state with good participation. He then invited the Board to attend if members were able to do so.

Commissioner Murray announced that the next BJCOT graduation is scheduled for February 2, 2007 at 1:30. Dale Mann, Director of the Georgia Public Safety Training Center will be the commencement speaker. There will be a total of 80 candidates graduating. Commissioner Murray added that if any Board members can attend, DJJ welcomes their attendance. He hopes that some Board members have already signed up or will sign up to be speakers at future DJJ BJCOT graduation ceremonies. Their participation has previously gone over well and gives recruits an opportunity to better understand the role as a board and connect with the department in a special way.

Commissioner Murray acknowledged the Board's participation in 2006 and he hopes it will continue in 2007.

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

Vice Chair Mary Wilhite called for any questions or comments.

Board Member Van Herrin commented on the drug problem that communities are having in middle and high schools and that parent's are trying to get help, but are being told that we can't do anything until they break the law. Parents are being told by the Magistrate Judge and state judge and our system that until their child breaks the law they can't mandate that the child goes to rehab. He added that there are several youth in his school system who are reaching out for help and he feels sad that the system tells parents to allow their child to break the law so that they can become a product of our agency before we can attempt to get them help and get them off these drugs.

Commissioner Murray responded that he (Van Herrin) brings up an interesting issue and an interesting problem and to some degree it is true. DJJ is a public safety agency with its greatest focus being on the cases that we currently have. What Mr. Herrin is addressing is the case before the case, which is the best time to intervene and prevent youth from becoming under the umbrella of DJJ. This is called early intervention and prevention. If there aren't some interventions they will become the cases of DJJ and drive our resources and fill our facility beds. Commissioner Murray added that DJJ is doing some early intervention and he would like to do more, but DJJ has to do what we are statutorily mandated to do which is to take care of the youth which are sent to us and become our cases. Commissioner Murray added that DJJ has discussed ways to do more in the area of prevention and early intervention. DHR and other agencies are in a position perhaps to do even more. DJJ recognizes the need to work with other agencies that are doing prevention and early intervention to divert youngsters from having to come through DJJ and being labeled a juvenile offender.

Vice Chair Wilhite added that there are after school programs in churches and community programs which help children with prevention, intervention and treatment. In Cherokee County she is involved with programs that are forming community outreach meetings where parents step forward and say that their child is having a problem and they will send them to INSIGHT and help the parents receive help.

Mr. Herrin stated in rural Georgia, they are trying to get that started. He stated Meth (Methamphetamine) is a real bad problem.

Judicial Advisory Board Member, Judge Quintress Gilbert suggested looking into the Drug Courts that are being implemented. She added that what happens in Drug Court is that a child may be charged with a drug offense but voluntarily enters a drug program and upon completing the program the charge is dropped in essence keeping the youth out of

the system but providing the services. Judge Gilbert also mentioned a suggestion that she believed was given during the President's State of the Union Address about giving tax incentives to private insurance companies. She added that there are large costs involved with insurance companies trying to make placements. She stated there aren't placement facilities for children who are outside of the system that are on drugs. Judge Gilbert stated that it's the parent's responsibility to get help. This is just like any other sickness a child goes through whether it be mental health issues, but sometimes the parent may wait because the services will be there if the child is charged. She said that shouldn't be the case because it's like any other illness. However with insurance being more readily available or tax incentives directed that way, then she could see it help alleviate the problem.

Vice Chair Wilhite added that she gave a speech in Cherokee County on Methamphetamine addiction and programs that could help. She added that a friend called and said that she was going to spend her son's college education to get him treatment. These programs are very expensive and many of these programs are not in place at this time. Mrs. Wilhite says without the programs in place the question is; "What do you do with the kids now?"

Board Member William McQueen added that parents should check in to programs that are funded by the United Way which provide various types of programs for people with substance addictions. There are various programs out there but parents will have to take the lead and seek out these programs.

Board Member Judy Mecum added that each county has a Commission for Families and Children, a combination of agencies that meet in the area. In her area they meet once every quarter. They are presently doing a report card to do an assessment of the communities needs and to see what's out there. This involves all the schools, Mental Health, DHR and community representatives. They have been working on this problem for a while and are now seeing that a Methamphetamine problem needs to be brought in to the awareness part of this program.

Mr. Herrin added that the case load is too heavy on the courts. In his county they don't have a state court judge but a Magistrate that doesn't have the teeth to try these types of cases. He sees this situation as becoming a problem. All that parents are trying to do is to figure out a way to help their children and community leaders are saying lets get a point of direction for these parents instead of waiting for their children to break the law.

Board Member Sandra Taylor asked if they have any interagency forward thinking group that collaborates with DHR and other agencies. Ms. Taylor asked if DJJ should pull together on an executive level of strategic planning. She stated that we have some big issues that we are facing along with a number of other agencies. She feels on a state level we are saying we need mental health services and they need help and DHR you're the agency to provide those services and DHR is saying that the child is in DJJ's custody and you should pay for and provide these services. People high enough within the agencies

who have enough authority to make decisions that affect the future of the agency can get an interagency approach out to the Governor and legislature. Pointing fingers and switching money from pot to pot is not addressing the issues that the legislature and Governor understand need to be addressed.

Commissioner Murray added that Steve Herndon served on a Methamphetamine Committee last year that involved several state agencies as the representative for DJJ. He then asked DJJ's Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne to address some initiatives that she is involved in.

Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne stated that she is part of the executive committee for the Georgia Alliance for Drug Endangered Children. There is an on going effort to address the concerns that were expressed in trying to pull the resources not only from various state agencies such as DHR and DJJ, but also school systems and faith based communities. She added that the list of partners continues to grow as they meet. With the Governor's support, they are attempting to pull in all the partners to address these issues specifically substance abuse in children and targeting the Methamphetamine problem. Dr. Staples -Horne mentioned that the committee is actively meeting and there is an upcoming meeting in Macon. She will provide the information and website to the Board through Commissioner Murray.

Vice Chair Mary Wilhite added that a sad part is the parents. She knows of a mom going back to prison for using Crystal Meth and her children are now wards of the state.

Mr. Herrin said that what brought this issue to his mind was that a parent came to him and said he went everywhere he knows and he can't get a clear answer of what to do for his child. He feels that with all of these resources we should be able to provide something to parents, where to call and what their rights are as parents, because in rural Georgia they don't have any information.

Commissioner Murray agreed and added that they are looking at what's being done in other states that may work well in Georgia. During the February Board Meeting, Rick Harrelson, DJJ Director of Behavioral Health, will conduct a presentation on a program with detailed plans where DJJ is trying to venture out and look at things where they can do things under the early prevention and intervention umbrella within our existing financial resources. He added that while in Florida he took the opportunity to see what they are doing and how they are doing things and like other states they are looking at ways that they can identify students who are going to be Methamphetamine users and DJJ cases if we don't make a greater investment at that level. Commissioner Murray added that Rick (Harrelson) may not be scheduled for the February Board Meeting but at some point they will provide information on programs they are doing in that regard later this year.

Mrs. Taylor stated that probation officers are a good source of information about programs that are out there. She added that she wrote about "One Teen Challenge"

which is a free, faith based program that they are referring a lot of children out to as a condition of probation. Probation officers in every area should be a good resource for programs that are available.

Board Member Daniel Menefee asked Commissioner Murray about PREA from a liability standpoint. He then asked if one of our clients is raped in our facilities is DJJ legally responsible.

Commissioner Murray responded that we are legally responsible for the health and welfare of every child that comes into our facilities. Liability can be greater if there is staff negligence which resulted in a child being raped or sexually molested. But, PREA was mandated to raise the bar to ensure that agencies are going the extra step to minimize and prevent the instances of sexual assault and rape. Georgia has presented numbers that indicate that we've made good progress in those areas. He added that you can't ever get too good in protecting children when it comes to those types of things. Our goal is to make sure that we have strong policies and training to where our staff are doing their part that if we have an unfortunate incident it will not be the result of the staff not being properly trained or otherwise negligent.

Daniel Menefee asked from a cost standpoint; is this another unfunded mandate or is this something the government is sending money for us to come up to par with the training?

Commissioner Murray stated that he doesn't expect any funding for this program. That they will look at the funding that DJJ currently has and make sure that it is being maximized to build our PREA program so DJJ can continue to demonstrate that Georgia is continuing to give it high priority. He added that DJJ will make whatever efforts necessary to be in compliance.

Amy Howell added that PREA doesn't necessarily add any particular requirements but within DJJ enabling legislation we do have legal requirements to protect youth within our care. Under other avenues of the law there would be potential liabilities.

Vice Chair Mary Wilhite then announced the next agenda item to be the "DJJ Strategic Plan Update" presented by Doug Engle.

Strategic Plan Update

Doug Engle, Director
Office of Technology and Information Systems (OTIS)

Director Doug Engle then presented an overview of the work on the DJJ Strategic Plan. During the presentation Director Engle referenced the strategies that support the objectives and opened the floor for questions.

Board Member Elizabeth Lindsey asked what is the unit of measure, and what does 100 child care days, mean.

Doug Engle replied that 100 child care days is the national standard that the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA) set. DJJ measures everything they do in child care days, even the budget.

Board Member Elizabeth Lindsey then asked for verification concerning the reference to 100 straight days, one incident per .5 incidents every 200 days. What does .5 incidents per 100 days mean?

Commissioner Murray recognized staff to discuss the formula.

Jeff Minor, Deputy Commissioner of Fiscal and Administrative Services, responded that a child care day is a day of care for 1 child. If you had 1 child in care for 100 days, you will have 100 child care days.

Ms. Taylor then asked if this goal means that with 1 child, we don't want the child to have more than half of a chance of having an incident?

Jeff Minor and Doug Engle responded that was accurate.

Doug Engle referenced FLSA. He was asked what the acronym stood for. He responded Federal Labor Standards Act.

Dr. Ed Risler asked why there was a 46% turn over rate in 2006 for the JCO I employee group and asked what was Doug Engle's best guess as to why these people leave?

Doug Engle responded that JCO's are first on the ladder and the pay is low.

Jeff Minor added that there was a combination of contributing factors that cause JCO's to leave but primarily it is due to salary. This presents advertisement recruitment problems and retention problems. He added that some time ago the state did away with incremental step increases. Now, state employees are subjected to increases at the discretion of the Governor and General Assembly. Therefore, JCO's see no hope in advancing financially. Another issue is competition with other law enforcement agencies that are paying bonuses and more money for the same experience.

Mr. Herrin added that he likes the whole strategic plan and it's linkage with goals. For example; reducing the 46% turnover rate will enable you to reduce the instances with child care today because of continuity of staff.

Ms. Lindsey commented about the overall mission statement saying the Board indicated when they did the original language of the mission statement that the concept of prevention should be in the mission statement.

Commissioner Murray said that they would take that into account when they finalize the strategic plan. That is why they wanted to present the draft today to get their (Board) input.

Board Member William McQueen added that when he looks at the objectives and strategies the first thing that comes to mind is how you will manage these strategies and when will these strategies be implemented. He sees no time frame where you expect to see these strategies completed.

Doug Engle responded that he has these dates in the operational plans but hasn't put those dates in the strategic plan. He deferred that decision to the Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray responded that this is a work in progress and he will take all feedback from this session as we move toward finalizing this plan.

Doug Engle asked if there were any other questions.

Ms. Taylor mentioned that there is no mention of punishment in this report. She feels the public probably perceives that part of DJJ's role is punishment.

Dr. Risler disagreed and responded that the research shows that most victims believe that the community should be protected but they don't necessarily believe that kids should be treated harsher or punished in a dramatic way; they would rather see treatment and rehabilitation models being applied.

Commissioner Murray responded that part of punitive services is implied with treatment and rehabilitation but he is not sure that it is stated in our code. He added that Amy Howell and Rob Rosenbloom are lawyers and that he will let them explain it more.

Deputy Commissioner Rob Rosenbloom responded that they tried to capture the idea of punishments or sanctions through the idea in that statement that youthful offenders are held accountable for their actions.

Ms. Taylor agreed and wanted to point out that she didn't want to be misunderstood; that she wanted them (youth) to be imprisoned and return to the old days. She feels accountable is a good word but she feels it needs to be put in there in a way that it is reiterated enough to let them know that it's not being overlooked. She added that this is fresh on her mind because this week the solicitor from her county came to her office and said that they are having a large and sharp increase in serious violent offenses. The age of violent offenders is going down but the number of violent crimes is going up. She is very concerned that we are moving so much to service, taking care, protecting and encouraging children that we are not realizing that some of these kids are acting like adults and committing horrible and violent offenses.

Commissioner Murray responded that we should always be victim sensitive. He and Rob Rosenbloom spoke about ways to do so in 2007 and that DJJ doesn't want to be

perceived as being soft on crime. He added that through the loss of freedom and the loss of liberty there is some punishment built into how we deal with juveniles. Generally, as a group, the word isn't used because of the perceived connotation. We are a juvenile system in the business of treatment and rehabilitation versus the adult system which is based on punishment.

Judge Quintress Gilbert suggested that you can say something more along the lines of delivery of effective sanctions, treatment and rehabilitative services.

Doug Engle concluded his strategic plan update.

Vice Chair Mary Wilhite called for a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and to convene an Executive Session. The motion was made by Board Member Daniel Menefee and seconded by Board Member William McQueen. Hearing no discussion, Vice Chair Wilhite called for the vote and the motion carried.

At the close of the Executive Session, Vice Chair Mary Wilhite called for a motion to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. A motion was made by Board Member Van Herrin and was seconded by Board Member William McQueen and the motion carried.

Vice Chair Mary Wilhite announced the next agenda item would be the Education Update to be given by Dr. Thomas O'Rourke. Ms. Wilhite called for a motion to adjourn the regular Board of Juvenile Justice meeting and move into the Board of Education meeting. Mr. Baugh made the motion and Ms. Mecum made the second and the motion carried.

Education Update

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

Dr. O'Rourke opened by letting the Board know that he only had a few comments to share.

The DJJ Education Department is three weeks in the new semester. In the area of teacher vacancies there are three regular teacher vacancies and two special education vacancies at the Bill Ireland Facility and at the Augusta facility they have one teacher vacancy. Across the entire state that is all the teaching vacancies they have. The Bill Ireland vacancies are very challenging to get these positions filled. They are taking a more comprehensive look and focus on getting these positions filled. He stated it is area that needs to be addressed, and he will keep the Board up to date on this issue.

Dr. O'Rourke stated that the Metro RESA, (Metropolitan Regional Education Service Agency) an education agency that is part of DOE and Teach Georgia are partnering to recruit teachers through Georgia TAPP (Georgia Teacher Alternative Preparation

Program). This is an alternative certification program geared toward individuals who want to become teachers who do not have a teaching certificate or the experience of student teaching. DJJ is partnering with them and hosting the recruitment emphasis for Metro RESA here today. They anticipate that there will be 20 to 25 potential candidates. Dr. O'Rourke stated he would be informing the candidates about the successful DJJ education program.

The Department of Education just completed an audit of the DJJ vocational program. DJJ will get the results in writing soon and Dr. O'Rourke will provide it to the Board. DOE auditors spent the whole day at the Eastman Facility and they (DOE auditors) were extremely complimentary of the vocational program.

The Department of Special Education from the Department of Education will be conducting an audit to begin in February and continue through the summer. Dr. O'Rourke added that he feels good about them coming to monitor our special education programming. After they complete their monitoring he will update the board as to where DJJ stands in the area of special education.

The Education Department will be conducting teacher training at the spring conference from March 5th through March 9th. Dr. O'Rourke thanked Fabienne Tate (DJJ Training Director) for all of the hard work she has done to help put all this training together. They (DJJ trainers) will be taking basic training and all of the training that the teachers do through out the year and compress it into one week session. They think they can do this once a year during that week at one time. If they are able to do this it will reduce the interruptions they have through out the year of teachers needing to go to training.

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

Board Member Van Herrin stated that if we figure out how to train them all in one week to let the Board know because they would love to do that in the public sector.

Board Member Michael Baugh added that he spoke with Chris Carr, in (Senator) Johnny Isakson's Washington office, about counting the DJJ kids for graduation rate. He said at the upcoming renewal of the No Child Left Behind Act, at this congressional session, that it is one of their (Congress) goals to get our kids counted for the graduation rate.

Commissioner Murray added that they have had some good contacts regarding that and he asked Spiro Amburn, DJJ Legislative Director, to update the board about that.

Mr. Amburn stated that after the last Board meeting he spoke with Heath Garrett in Johnny Isakson's Georgia office and he seemed very interested in sitting down and discussing this issue with DJJ. Mr. Amburn added that he also spoke with the Department of Education. The next step will be to get together with them and other Senators. He feels this is worth the effort and that this is generating support.

Dr. O'Rourke added that at the ACA conference he met with the person who is the head of CEA (Correctional Education Association), Steve Stewart (CEA Executive Director). Stewart submitted Dr. O'Rourke's name and asked Dr. O'Rourke to meet with the Senate or House Subcommittee for the No Child Left Behind legislation. Dr. O'Rourke stated that it looks like DJJ will be in good shape or at the very least they will lend an ear to some of our comments.

Hearing no other questions or comments, Vice Chair Wilhite 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 Board Member William McQueen, seconded by Board Member Sandra Taylor and the motion carried.

Chair's Comments

Mary Wilhite, Vice Chair

Vice Chair Wilhite announced that the next scheduled board meeting will be February 22, 2007 at 11:00 AM in the Central Office Board Room.

Ms. Wilhite concluded her announcements and opened the floor for questions and comments.

Steve Hayes updated the Board concerning Lena Wilson's condition. She remains out with a serious condition and she continues to see her physicians and is currently still out on leave. Mr. Hayes stated that we are keeping her in our thoughts and hope that she can return soon. In an effort to provide the necessary office support we are filling a part time position in the Office of Public Affairs.

He added that hard copies of reimbursement forms have been provided to the Board. If Board members did not receive the emailed electronic version this is the hard copy. He can continue to provide hard copies if this is their preference or he will re-send the electronic copy if necessary.

Mr. Hayes then announced that guests had arrived. Commissioner Murray then received a presentation from Camille Cunningham, Commissioner Murray's daughter, to commemorate his appointment anniversary, and birthday.

Commissioner Murray then announced that in the city of Augusta, DJJ is partnering with the local District Attorney's Office and the school system to have DJJ staff in high schools to conduct presentations for students about the effects of Methamphetamine use, truancy, and a laundry list of things that can lead to children being in trouble. The pilot is being done in Augusta and if it goes as well as he hopes, DJJ will look at doing it in other

communities. He added it is one illustration of DJJ's commitment to early intervention and prevention.

Vice Chair Mary Wilhite called for a motion to adjourn the DJJ Board Meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by Board Member Van Herrin and was seconded by Board Member Daniel Menefee and the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Albert Murray
Commissioner

Dr. Ed Risler, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice