

**Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, July 26, 2007
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 July 26, 2007 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education. He noted the time as 11:00 a.m. He asked that all attendees stand and state their name and organization affiliation.

DJJ Staff Present: Albert Murray, Commissioner; Spiro Amburn; Nathan Cain; Dr. Jack Catrett; Janie Claiborne; Dr. Thomas Coleman; Edward Cook; Gordon Fisher; James Frazier; Tony Ham; Steve Hayes; Amy Howell; Jeff Minor; Savannah Murphy; Dr. Tom O'Rourke; Martha Patton; Janssen Robinson; Rob Rosenbloom; Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne; Jimmy Taylor; Lena Wilson

Aaron Cohn RYDC: Freddie C. Grisson, Jr.; Tommie Davidson; Angela Davis

Bill Ireland YDC: Daron Lee; Rose Walker; Mae Dickson

Augusta YDC: Kendra Strawbridge; Elliott Norman

DeKalb Multi Service Center: Tahesha Wade; DeMarcus Jordan

Others: Mary E. Wilhite, former board member; Joseph Drolet, Attorney General's Office; Todd White, Attorney General's Office; Brooke Williams, Associated Marine Institute (AMI); Helen Slaes, Nelson Mullins

After introductions, Mr. Shuman asked those present to please stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the invocation. After the invocation, Mr. Shuman asked for the Roll to be called.

Roll Call

Lena Wilson then called the roll.

Board Members Present: Larry Barnes; Michael Baugh; James Kelly; William McQueen; Judy Mecum; Daniel Menefee; Dexter Rowland; J. Daniel Shuman

Advisory Board Members Present: Judge Quintress Gilbert; Judge Steven C. Teske

After Ms. Wilson announced the presence of a quorum of the Board, Mr. Shuman asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 20, 2007 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and the DJJ Board of Education. William McQueen made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 20, 2007 Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education. The motion was seconded by 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

After greeting everyone, Commissioner Murray stated that it was good to once again assemble and have the board meeting back in Central Office after having meetings off site for the past two months. He stated that we have had excellent meetings at the Sumter YDC in Americus in May, in Savannah in June, followed by the August meeting next month in Forsyth at the DJJ Training Academy which will be the last off site meeting this year. He stated that it has been a good opportunity, particularly for the newer board members, to get a chance to visit our facilities and see them in operation and to see the training academy next month. The dedication of this board was exemplified by the members' participation at those off-site meetings.

Commissioner Murray expressed his pleasure to have several facilities represented by staff in the Operations Division at the meeting and acknowledged them.

Commissioner Murray then took the opportunity to recognize Jack Catrett, Special Education Director in the Office of Education. He shared that Mr. Catrett is now Dr. Jack Catrett as he has recently earned his doctorate degree (this announcement was received with a round of applause). He stated that this is a very noteworthy achievement, having bestowed upon him an L7 certification in Education Administration and Supervision. In addition, effective July 2007 he is the current president of the Georgia Correctional Education Association.

At this point Commissioner Murray began his report with information regarding a very tragic incident at the Sumter Youth Development Campus last Sunday evening that previously was communicated to the board member in that region. At approximately 8:00 pm the death of a youth occurred and the preliminary report indicates this to be a suicide. The GBI is leading the investigation into the death. Our focus as an agency is the investigation as well as the youth's family. He stated that the youth was seventeen years of age and had been at the Sumter YDC for approximately six months, serving a 48

month commitment of which he had completed about two years of the commitment. He stated that as more information is shared with us by the GBI, he may be able to share that information with the board at a later date. He added that while any suicide is unfortunate, we are fortunate to not have had many over the years. The last juvenile suicide in a secure facility occurred in March 2003. Our staff goes to great length to protect our kids in custody and expressed his belief that this would prove to be true of the incident that occurred on Sunday. He asked that the family of the youth be kept in our prayers.

Continuing with his report, Commissioner Murray stated that we have another change on our Board since the last meeting in Savannah. Paul Erwin who was appointed by Governor Perdue to represent 11th Congressional District has resigned. Mr. Erwin says it is simply an obligation he is unable to fill due to other commitments that arose. Mr. Erwin says he didn't realize the scope of the commitment that would be necessary to be a productive member of the Board. He stated that he had a good experience in the one board meeting in Savannah and there was absolutely no other reason for his decision except that he felt he would not be able to spend the amount of time it would take to be a good DJJ board member. Commissioner Murray expressed his belief that Governor Perdue will be making new appointments to the Board very soon.

Because of a full agenda, Commissioner Murray indicated that he will try to keep his report as brief as possible.

Division of Operations

In the Operations Division the RYDC population continues to experience consistent numbers below statewide capacity. The focus remains on reducing length of stay and the expeditors working closely with the juvenile courts and our staff to ensure that each youth is detained appropriately. A number of centers have received operational audits over the past few months with good results and remain focused on readiness for MOA inspections, as well as OCI audits and others.

The new Residential Placement processes which became effective July 1st are now in place. Training of staff and information sharing with the vendors took place and so far it has gone smoothly. The challenge will continue to be matching the existing resources we have within the Agency with the new process. We will review the results quarterly to evaluate how the new services are being delivered to the youth. The process will be tweaked, as needed, to ensure that it is strong and self-serving.

Deputy Commissioner Rob Rosenbloom will make a presentation, later in the agenda, on our new Victim Services initiative. Commissioner Murray stated that they have spoken previously about our desire to include this component, in terms of our total service delivery. We are in the process of bringing on a victims' coordinator that we had hoped to be able to present at this meeting. This will be in keeping with the Balanced and Restorative Justice approach which we base most all our treatment programs on. BARJ takes into account the needs of the offender, the community and the victim. Over the years the focus has been on the needs of the offender and the community. We now want

to also focus on the needs of the victim. This will be a very good addition to our overall service delivery. Commissioner Murray expressed his hope that an individual will have been hired in that role by the next meeting date.

Division of Program Services

Office of Behavioral Health Services - The Department was appropriated \$400,000 for the new fiscal year to provide additional substance abuse services in the YDCs. We continue to see an increase in the number of youths in our facilities with substance abuse issues. The Office of Behavioral Health Services is currently working with each long-term YDC to hire part-time staff that will provide these services at the long term facilities under the direction of a statewide coordinator. Curriculum training will be provided in September with plans to have the program fully implemented at each YDC by October 1st. The curriculum is called The 7 Challenges and is the curriculum used by DHR substance abuse service providers.

The Office of Behavioral Health Services held a quarterly clinical in-service training for all DJJ psychiatrists and psychologists in Perry, Georgia on July 20th. The focus of the training was ethical practice, how to provide clinical supervision in DJJ secure facilities, and an overview of the requirements for their roles in our implementation of the New Freedom (mental health) Treatment Program now being implemented.

Office of Classification & Transportation Services - The DJJ Transportation Unit continues the process of training the Captain and three Officers to become Emergency Management certified. The Emergency Management responsibilities were added to the Transportation Unit a year ago. This certification provides the necessary competency to oversee emergency situations and will secure DJJ's place at the Statewide Operations Center (SOC) operated by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA). The training complies with the requirements set forth in Governor Perdue's 'Safe Georgia' Initiative.

DJJ was recently commended for having completed six of the components of the training in advance of the schedule. The components include:

- Introduction to Incident Command System
- Law Enforcement command systems
- Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents
- Emergency Planning
- National Incident Management Systems or (NIMS)
- State Operation Center Training Basic Level 1

In June 2007 members of the Emergency Management Team attended the Governor's Emergency Management Conference and Training in Savannah, Ga. The theme was "Learning from the past to Prepare for the Future."

On July 18, 2007 the Primary and Alternate Agency Coordinators attended a meeting of all State Agencies to be briefed on hurricane preparedness for the remainder of the year.

The Department of Juvenile Justice has been assigned to Emergency Support Function 13, also known as ESF 13 (law enforcement support). The interim Commander of ESF 13 is Major B. Hicks of the Georgia State Patrol. The State Patrol serves as the lead agency of this support function. The Transportation Unit will serve in this role by delivering personnel and supplies to non hazardous areas. These functions will be secondary to securing the safety of DJJ youth and staff.

After ensuring the safety of DJJ youth and staff, Department of Juvenile Justice resources that are currently offered for deployment regarding emergency situations include:

- 25 secure transport vehicles (Blue light equipped)
- 9 possible unmarked pursuit vehicles (Blue light equipped)
- 29 unarmed Transportation Officers
- 9 sworn armed Law Enforcement Investigators and
- 2 – 48 Passenger Buses

These are our agency initiatives that we make available to emergency management situations. We want to make sure that, as an agency, we are a player and that we are doing our part to contribute.

The Department is preparing to move forward with authorizing a paperless system of storing Central Office youth files. We hope to reach the point where we see fewer file cabinets around Central Office that will give us much needed space and also make us much more proficient in managing youth files. The procedures for scanning and reviewing youth files on line have been piloted. This process allows central office youth paperwork to be available to authorized individuals more readily than the file room. It protects the confidentiality of files protected by HIPPA and other laws.

The position of Director of the Office of Classification & Transportation Services has been announced on our web site. Linda Layton retires August 1, 2007 after eight years with the Department of Juvenile Justice. There will be a small retirement reception in Central Office for Linda July 31st. Commissioner Murray added that we have seen and will see a number of long term and significant staff retire this year.

Office of Training - In accordance with the agency specific Eastman YDC Directive, OC Training will be provided to shift supervisors, key medical personnel, Institution Program Director (IPD), Director and Assistant Directors of Eastman YDC. P.O.S.T. trained shift supervisors will be authorized to utilize this method. Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) will be the DJJ approved chemical spray authorized for use as a last resort physical control measure, other than deadly force. The one day training is scheduled for August 6th and August 7th.

APPA, American Probation and Parole Association, held its Summer Institute in Philadelphia, July 8-11, 2007. The agency sponsored five (5) attendees: Linda Layton, Phyllis Hall, Ira Caslin, Diane Douglas-Harris and Yvonne Saunders-Brown.

ACA, the American Correctional Association, will host its Summer Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, August 10-15, 2007. The agency will sponsor 15 attendees, to include Commissioner Murray and Chairman Shuman.

The next BJCOT graduation is scheduled for August 3, 2007, 1:30 p.m., at GPSTC in the auditorium. This graduation will include the seven (7) executive participants who began their BJCOT Training on April 3, 2007. There are 75 candidates for graduation and the guest speaker will be DJJ Board Member Sandra Taylor.

A specialized, two-day mandatory training for all RYDC and YDC Lieutenants/Captains will be held at the DJJ Academy on the following dates:

- August 20-21
- October 9-10
- December 6-7

The annual GJSA (Georgia Juvenile Services Association) conference will be held August 21-23, 2007 in Savannah at the Savannah Marriott Riverfront. Registration will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 21, 2007 and the conference opening ceremony will begin at 1:00 p.m. Commissioner Murray will be the opening speaker.

Commissioner Murray informed the board that Steve Hayes will provide them with information regarding this conference.

At this point Commissioner Murray concluded his report and opened the floor for questions or comments.

Hearing none, the next agenda item was called.

Service Award Presentation

Albert Murray, Commissioner

Chairman Shuman announced the presentation of a special service award and asked former Vice Chairman Mary E. Wilhite to come forward.

Commissioner Murray addressed the assembly stating that Mary Wilhite served on the Board of Juvenile Justice for a number of years and was a faithful board member and not only did she serve, she was vice chair for a number of years and helped the agency in many ways. She is also active in her community. He stated that we wanted to have her back today to express to her how much we appreciate her service on the board and to DJJ.

Addressing Ms. Wilhite, Commissioner Murray stated, "Mary, you have seen many youthful offenders come through DJJ and you have seen board members come and go. When you were on the board you were genuine; you were committed; you were here when you had to be, when you needed to be; and was always there when we needed you."

He stated that we didn't want her to get away without at least recognizing her in a very special way. He then presented her with a certificate with the following inscription:

Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice
In Appreciation
Mary E. Wilhite
Georgia Board of Juvenile Justice
2001 – 2007
Vice Chair 2003 – 2007

For outstanding, dedicated service to the State of Georgia and its youth.

The certificate is signed by Chairman J. Daniel Shuman and Commissioner Albert Murray.

Chairman Shuman then presented her with a gift. Mr. Shuman stated that the gift, a crystal clock/plaque engraved with the following:

Mary E. Wilhite
Georgia Board of Juvenile Justice
2001 – 2007
Vice Chairman 2003 – 2007

He thanked her for her service to the board and Commissioner Murray added that he would like to give her an opportunity to greet the board.

Ms. Wilhite thanked everyone and stated that it has been great serving on the board and a wonderful experience to serve the State of Georgia. She shared that she has just returned from Washington, DC where she attended a leadership summit dealing with education policies, economic development, and health care for youth. She stated that she continues to work for the children in our communities and in our State, and added that if ever the occasion arises and her help is needed, she is available to be of service.

Bond Sales Resolutions

Edward Cook, Director
Office of Engineering and Construction

Mr. Cook addressed the Board and thanked them for the opportunity to present to them two resolutions regarding bond funds created for DJJ's use during this year's General Assembly.

The first of these resolutions approves the sale of \$8.5 Million in 5-year bonds to fund maintenance and minor construction activities for FY2008. These funds are used to pay for numerous and never ending maintenance reimbursements, certification fees, repairs, equipment replacement, and minor construction projects that not only revitalizes and improves our facilities but also keeps them functioning.

The second resolution approves a portion of the sale of \$6,795,000 Million in 20-year bonds to fund the renovation and reconstruction required to transform the Department of Corrections' Larmore PDC into the new Atlanta YDC. This is a portion because the money for this project that will be provided to DJJ will be provided in two installments. The first installment will come from an immediate bond sale this summer and will provide \$300,000 to complete the architectural design and provide a document to put out for bid. The second installment for the planned fall bond sale will provide the balance of the funds and will become available about the time the architect finishes his work. Construction should start around the beginning of 2008 and it is anticipated to take approximately twelve (12) months. An additional board resolution will be required prior to the fall bond sale for the second installment.

Mr. Cook stated that, in regard to the new Atlanta YDC project, we are planning to present to this board at the August meeting another resolution authorizing the State Properties Commission to transfer the property to DJJ from the Department of Corrections (DOC). The DOC Board has the precursor property transfer resolution on their agenda for their August meeting (early in the month) and the DJJ Resolution will have to follow that. He then asked if there were questions regarding the resolutions.

Mr. James Kelly stated that the resolutions make reference to certain projects and facilities and, in fact, calls for them (the Board) to approve and authorize the projects. He asked where the projects were contained in the resolution that they are going to be considering. Mr. Cook responded that there are hundreds of projects on the request we presented to OPB last year, and projects at every facility in the state. He added that he could get that information for him if needed.

Mr. Kelly then asked Chairman Shuman and Commissioner Murray how it is structured when a Board approves projects and says it has authorized and approved a project, as a defined term, yet they don't have any idea what these projects are. He stated that he understands that there is a voluminous amount of them, but he inquired how this could be rectified. Chairman Shuman responded that he noticed on the agenda that one of them is for repairs, and another is for the new Atlanta YDC which is the 20 year bonds. He indicated that he and Commissioner Murray had discussed the bonds earlier that morning; that the money was appropriated by the General Assembly and the resolutions are only making it available to the department. He asked Mr. Cook if this was a correct assessment to which Mr. Cook responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Cook further stated that DJJ will request 'two pots of money' for maintenance and minor construction, which is the issue here, to include a vast amount of projects. And, in addition to that, for additional projects like the Atlanta YDC or other large projects that we asked for, we'll make separate requests and those are approved separately with wording in the appropriations legislation that specifically references those projects. But because maintenance and minor construction involves so many projects and facilities, it is usually not specifically called out in the legislation.

Addressing Mr. Kelly, Commissioner Murray interjected that he understands his interest in wanting to know what it is he is voting on. He stated that the information could be provided in follow-up at the next meeting and, for future meetings, if he is interested in reviewing the number of projects, we could arrange for him to do so. Mr. Kelly stated that as a new board member, maybe it would be helpful for him, or other members who are interested, to receive an explanation of the types of projects undertaken in these bond exercises so that they would understand what it means when it says we have improvements we're making. They can walk through the facilities; be provided with the cost for the maintenance, etc., or maybe some type of work session would be helpful. He stated that until that time he is going to abstain today because he is not informed enough about the process to make an educated vote on the matter. Chairman Shuman stated that this is something that comes before the board once or twice a year and is just a legal process. He asked Amy Howell, Legal Services Director, if she had anything to add to which she responded in the negative.

Mr. Cook stated that next month we will be coming forward to present the following year's appropriations request. Chairman Shuman stated that each year Commissioner Murray and others go before the appropriations committee and will have the list of projects and things that need to be done. He then asked if there were any other questions or comments. Hearing none, he stated that the requests will be voted on separately and asked for a motion to approve the 5-year bonds. Michael Baugh made a motion to approve the 5-year bonds for repairs and minor construction. The motion was seconded by William McQueen. Mr. Kelly abstained. The motion was carried. A motion was called for the 20-year bond. Judy Mecum made a motion to approve the 20-year bonds for the new Atlanta YDC. The motion was seconded by William McQueen. Mr. Kelly abstained. The motion was carried.

The next agenda item was called.

Employee/Guest Recognition

Janie Claiborne, Acting Director
Office of Human Resources

After greeting everyone, Ms. Claiborne stated that we have several employees who the department has passed forward to the state merit system to the employee recognition program in January 2007. The names were gathered from quite a few nominations and these individuals were selected to represent the areas in recognition to that program. She stated that the certificates have been received from the State Merit System, Employee Recognition Program, so we would like to now present them to the recipients and inform the Board what they were recognized for.

The first candidate recognized and receiving a certificate of achievement in the area of Customer Service was Freddy Grissom. Mr. Grissom is the Store Keeper at the Aaron Cohn RYDC and was recognized for going above and beyond the call of duty assisting the youth with bedding, linen, uniforms, and other things they need, even if it falls in the

evening or on the weekends, outside his normal working hours. He also assists the human resource office to distribute pay checks to staff so that they would not be interrupted to go get them. He delivers them to staff on their shifts and to officers at the P.O.S.T. Academy for their training.

The next recipient of a certificate of achievement was Kendra Strowbridge. Ms Strowbridge is a Juvenile Correctional Lieutenant at the Augusta YDC and was nominated in the area of Leadership. She has been designated as an administrative lieutenant at the facility, which is a working title but it represents the coordination of scheduling and oversight of the overtime compensation and calculations for all of the officers. This was an area of great need at the Augusta YDC and she has taken leadership and works with a team, including Elliott Norman who nominated her for the award. Chairman Shuman noted that anybody with a smile like hers has got to be all right.

The third recipient of a certificate of achievement was Rose Walker, teacher at the Bill Ireland YDC. Ms. Walker was nominated for Leadership in Education. Ms. Claiborne stated Ms. Walker has taught for the Department of Juvenile Justice for more than twenty-five (25) years and that the kids love her and looks forward to going to her classes. She has received numerous awards in several areas including Teacher of the Year, The Golden Apple Award, and the Peek-A-Boo Award, which are all for achievement in leadership in the area of education. She developed one of the first GED tutorial programs for Augusta State University and created the first newspaper for youth at the Augusta YDC. Today, she still encourages youth to complete assignments and enroll in the GED program so that they can become productive citizens in their communities.

In conclusion, Ms. Claiborne welcomed all the recipients and their nominators to stay for the remainder of the meeting and to join her in her office at the conclusion for other recognition.

Election of Board Officers

J. Daniel Shuman, Board Chair

Chairman Shuman reminded the Board that he had sent out an email stating the following:

“The Board of Juvenile Justice Bylaws calls for the election of officers at the July board meeting and we proceeded in that manner. However, the Governor’s Office recognized that several board members terms had expired and desires to address those reappointments and has asked the Board to delay the election process until the August meeting. It is my understanding that the Governor plans to take these reappointments up early next month, August 4th being the date heard, and we can proceed with the election in August. Amy Howell, Legal Services Director, has indicated that we can delay the process with a motion and we can also have further nominations during the election process next month.”

He then called for a motion to delay the election of officers for the Board of Juvenile Justice until the August meeting. Judy Mecum moved to delay the election of board officers until the August meeting; Michael Baugh seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

Victims Advocacy Program

Rob Rosenbloom, Deputy Commissioner
Division of Operations

Mr. Rosenbloom stated that although Commissioner Murray has already alluded to the program, he wanted to go into more detail and present a proposal to the Board for their consideration.

Proceeding, he stated that for those who have been a victim of crime, they know that there is a frustration of dealing with the aftermath of those kinds of events and we at DJJ feel that, as an agency, when we have to deal with the victims of juvenile crime, we have the responsibility to mitigate that frustration the best we can. He stated that he wanted to present to the Board what we have done as an agency until now in trying to address this important responsibility that we have. In conjunction with where we are regarding the status report, he proposed an opportunity for the Board to participate in the agency's effort.

The Department has a Strategic Plan that has been approved by Commissioner Murray. The current plan extends to the year 2010. Balance and Restorative Justice (BARJ) focuses on victims, community and offenders, and is one of our continued focuses in the Department. He stated that he believes we have done a good job addressing the needs of offenders with different programs and, although there is always room for improvement, we continue to focus on it. He added that we try to involve ourselves and participate as much as we can with communities on helping them address the issues of juvenile crime and delinquency. The third leg of the stool is an important one for us to begin to focus on and one of the things we have done in this regard over the past couple of years through the efforts of Dee Bell who works with our department and is a national expert on balanced and restorative justice, is to work on restorative group conferencing with victims and offenders. He indicated that Judge Quintress Gilbert has gone through some of that training and was trained to use this type of mediation.

A unit is now being established within the Operations Division which will focus exclusively on BARJ principals as well as victim services. Staff of the Operations Division along with staff from the Program Services Division will focus on how we will extend our efforts.

Within the Operations Division a new position of Victim Advocate has been established and will report to Dee Bell, and one BARJ Coordinator will be established in each Region of the State and will work in conjunction with the Victim Advocate here at

Central Office and help establish local victim services. These coordinators in each area will assist with different activities, such as restorative group conferencing and to promote other kinds of activities that help kids understand the harm they have done and how best to repair it. Using balanced and restorative justice, community service is tied into the crime and issues around the crime which takes effort and creativity. He stated that also through this effort, they want to set up local programs and services that victims can take advantage of and they want to serve as a contact point for the staff of regional committees. With the help of the victim advocate, they will be helping to establish new information; a new way to get information to victims; a contact number, and possibly an 800 number that will allow people to call in and find out what kinds of service is available.

We will also coordinate with the Victim Crime Compensation Fund with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC). Monetary service is available to victims but because they don't always know it is available, they don't apply for it.

Mr. Rosenbloom stated that we also would like to have a Victim Advisory Committee as an integral part of what we want to do; a process by which victims can be part of our policy development; of what service development should be offered. We see a way for the Board, if they desire, to be the nucleus for this advisory committee, which is the thrust of the proposal. This committee will advise the department and the board on victim rights and services and how to interact in a coordinated way to ensure that we are doing the right things for victims.

Suggested board action:

Within the existing committee structure there is the potential to create another committee that will be the Victim Advisory Committee, made up of four (4) board members, one that may be the board chair, and one person from each of the five regions that would make a total of nine (9) committee members. Regional sub-committees will be handled through our BARJ Coordinators and will interact with our Operations Division structure with the Victims Coordinator and will be a support to the advisory committee if so appointed by the board.

Mr. Rosenbloom asked for the Board's support in this effort and concluded his presentation. He then opened the floor for questions and/or comments.

Chairman Shuman inquired about the five regions and if a board member would be in each one. Mr. Rosenbloom responded that the regions are representative of the five regions we currently have in the DJJ structure and would not necessarily overlap with the board's geographic areas.

Judge Gilbert stated that she thinks it is a tremendous program and that she attended the training. She encouraged other members to participate in the program when it comes to their areas so that they can see the magnitude of the program that is being sponsored and she believes that they would benefit from knowing what the coordinators are doing and how it can impact their community.

Judge Steve Teske stated that he would like to ‘float the boat’ of Commissioner Murray and Rob Rosenbloom and anyone else who is responsible for Dee Bell coming to work for DJJ. He stated that Mr. Rosenbloom was somewhat modest in stating that Dee is a national expert. He indicated that he has personal knowledge of Ms. Bell as he worked with her at the State Board of Pardons and Parole where he was Deputy Director of Field Services in charge of programs. Ms. Bell was placed on loan to the BARJ Institute at the University of Florida, where she studied under Dan Baisemore who is *the* expert, where she remained for a number of years. For DJJ to pick her up is a true treasure. He stated that he is using this as a foundation he is laying, assuming that the suggestions Mr. Rosenbloom has made are coming, in large part, from Dee Bell and her staff and asked if this was a correct assumption to which Mr. Rosenbloom responded in the affirmative. Judge Teske then stated that, that in itself, speaks volumes. Continuing, he stated that although he is not a voting member of the board and only acts in a judicial advisory capacity, he inquired if Mr. Rosenbloom was asking the board to make a motion on the suggestion today. Mr. Rosenbloom responded that he thinks it prudent to draft a motion for the Board, with the help of Amy Howell, DJJ Legal Services Director, for its consideration at the next board meeting so that they would have something more formal with the substance laid out for them to reference. Judge Teske then inquired if what Mr. Rosenbloom presented today was the introduction and the drafted motion would be a more formal request. Mr. Rosenbloom responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Kelly wanted to clarify that a more substantive presentation will come prior to the board’s consideration of a vote. Mr. Rosenbloom responded that at the Chairman’s direction he would be glad to prepare materials in advance of the next board meeting that will be sent out to the board for their consideration and potential discussion at the next board meeting. Chairman Shuman added that he would like for it to include the areas mentioned (Regions) so that members would know if they are in close proximity to one of the area boards in order for them to determine if they can commit to participation. Mr. Kelly stated that in the presentation he would be most interested in seeing what it is exactly the Victim Advisory Committee composed of board members would do; what are its mission/goals and objectives; how do you measure performance? Mr. Rosenbloom stated that the information will be provided. Chairman Shuman reminded those members who were present that Ms. Bell made a presentation to the board several months earlier and he was very impressed with her. He indicated that if the information could be gathered prior to the next meeting a vote could be taken at that time. Mr. Rosenbloom iterated that it would be provided.

Larry Barnes stated that he was thinking of the different types of offenses regarding victims. He inquired if they were to look at diversity in that area and how ready would the victims be to participate in the program. Mr. Rosenbloom responded that there should be a variety of perspectives. They will inform us of the kinds of services that are needed and the kinds of services we can deliver. He stated that victims can be found in different places in terms of readiness. Some will deal with the offender directly and some will not want to deal with it at all; just some type of service or recognition that they suffered harm and somebody cares about it. He added that in terms of juvenile crime we

know from our statistics that about 20% of the youth that come to DJJ come for violent offenses; 40% come for property crimes and the balance come for status offenses or other lower level offenses.

Commissioner Murray added that in addition to the information Mr. Rosenbloom mentioned that would be provided to the board, Dee Bell did a very good presentation on BARJ a few months ago, and it may be good to coordinate and include a summary sheet to refresh the board on BARJ, then the other information in the packet will have more meaning.

At this point, Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to close the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice to convene the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education. William McQueen moved to close the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and convene the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education. The motion was seconded by Judy Mecum and carried.

Comprehensive Education Report

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

Dr. O'Rourke opened, stating that he would give an overview of the education program and entertain any questions the board might have. Referencing the first item in the handout (folder) they were provided, he called their attention to the school calendar. He stated that it is their (Office of Education) responsibility to present to them a school calendar for the year. He then highlighted a few items on the calendar that he thought might be of interest to the board.

- The school year consists of 220 days that coincide with the public school system's school year. The 2007-2008 School Year begins on August 6th.
- We have the same testing schedule as any other school system in Georgia.
- Referenced April: DJJ YDC Statewide Career Fairs – We are doing a lot of work with transitioning; doing what we can to help youth in our care to be ready and prepared to return to their communities and become productive citizens. In our long term facilities we host career fairs and have people from the different communities to come in to talk with the youth about a variety of jobs and occupations that they can have. These fairs have been very successful.

Addressing Chairman Shuman, he stated that he presented the calendar because he needs approval from the Board to adopt the calendar and that its activities are tied to the state school calendar. He added that it is a formality and unless there are questions on it, he is asking approval for it as presented. Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to adopt the school calendar as presented. Hearing no questions or discussion, Larry Barnes moved to

adopt the school calendar as presented. The motion was seconded by Judy Mecum and carried.

The next item in the handout, LEA 2007-2008 Consolidated Application Grant Funding, was referenced. Dr. O'Rourke indicated that each year we apply for a variety of federal grants. He noted that we are able to put all of the federal grants we are applying for in one consolidated application which goes to the Georgia Department of Education. He stated that it is their way of monitoring it and our way of seeking and getting the resources. The money that we receive from federal grants is critical and is used to supplement our programs, not to supplant money. He then highlighted a few of the grants for which the Office of Education intends to apply, to include Title I, Part A and Perkins grant funding.

Historical perspective of the education program:

- 1992 - 181st school district
- 1997 – United States Department of Justice (DOJ) issues findings of non compliance
- 1998 – Georgia and US Department of Justice enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)
- 1999 – Plans for school improvement developed and implemented
- 2000 – Compliance reviews conducted by DOJ
- 2003 – DJJ Education Program found to be compliant in all areas and released from federal oversight
- 2004 – Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

Education Program Mission:

The mission of the DJJ Education program is to provide a comprehensive educational program, which will facilitate the successful integration of each student into the school, community and workplace.

Education Program Vision:

Each student educated in the DJJ School System will function as a productive citizen in a democratic society.

Dr. O'Rourke stated that education is the 'Key to Rehabilitation and Reform'. In order to capitalize on this we have to do something with them while they are with us; put something into their hands to help them to successfully return to the community; and, provide a support system upon reentry to the community.

- **Do Something** – Provide comprehensive curriculum; individualized instruction; coursework with credits; courses tied to the State Curriculum; hands-on vocational training; vocational courses with dual credit; and, social/life skills courses.

- **Put Something in Their Hands** – Withdrawal forms; transcripts; portfolios (vocational certificates, performance certificates, work samples); diplomas (high school, special education, vocational, GED).
- **Provide a Support System** – Advocates to provide support for the youth (portfolios, diplomas, transcripts, etc.); transition specialists; probation and parole specialists; accountability/tracking system.

Dr. O'Rourke stated that in order to eliminate what is termed 'program drift', we need to make sure everyone knows what our expectations are; we need to have quality leadership; for performance, we need to evaluate what we are doing; and finally, we need to continuously provide training to reduce staff turnover.

Expectations

The expectations of the Office of Education are tied to established policies, including those for SST/504 and Special Education, as outlined on the handout. Expectations are also outlined on the Education Program Model that lists youths' education needs in the RYDCs, short-term YDCs, and long-term YDCs from admission to release, and on the YDC Student Transition Model.

Leadership

Our special education program has not had any problems in the last eight years, as a direct result of the leadership provided under Jack Catrett and technical assistance from special education professionals.

Evaluations

Monthly reports: quarterly review, special education standards (provided by regional principals). Able to monitor very closely what is happening throughout the state at each facility.

Last year the DJJ Office of Education awarded 39 high school diplomas; no diplomas were given in the past (prior to the MOA). The department's education program averages about 100 GEDs per year. More and more kids are returning to their communities in a position to compete.

On the issue of high school graduation, Dr. O'Rourke stated that it is unlikely that kids in our system will be able to compete with the more advanced kids in other school systems, but we try to move the percentages upwards of kids who pass the high school graduation tests. The area that will probably continue to be low is in science, just by the nature of our situation. Our system does not have chemicals or conduct dissections because of safety and security concerns.

Training

Training CDs have been developed for education staff.

Larry Barnes asked how we are evaluated in regards to federal guidelines, NCLB and AYP, and wanted to know if we fell under those guidelines or if we are evaluated individually. Dr. O'Rourke responded that, on average, kids are in our detention centers 10 days or less, therefore, we are getting new kids all the time. He stated that although we are educating them, half of our population is not evaluated under NCLB. However, we do provide that data for kids in our long term facilities and we are evaluated from that data. Mr. Barnes stated that there are so many sub groups within that evaluation and if we fall short in one area we will be rated 'Needs Improvement School'.

Regarding vocational education and referencing the Perkins grant monies, he inquired if we apply for funding individually by facility. Dr. O'Rourke responded that we apply as a group and a plus for us is that we contract with the Department of Technical and Adult (DTAE) Education. Even though we get money for vocational education, DTAE provides teachers for us through that contract.

Pastor Rowland inquired if the quarterly report was a self-reporting process. Dr. O'Rourke responded that the report is self reporting by the administrator and the school principal who confer with the director to review the standards, and the principal is held accountable. He added that the Office of Quality Assurance reviews the program once a year.

Chairman Shuman then asked for a motion to close the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education and to reconvene the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. Daniel Menefee moved to close the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education and to reconvene the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. The motion was seconded by Judy Mecum and carried.

Chairman's Comments

J. Daniel Shuman, Board Chair

For the benefit of those members who were unable to attend, Chairman Shuman stated that last Tuesday, the DJJ celebrated 15 years of being a department. He informed them that it was a very nice ceremony and was well attended and that several of the past Commissioners were present.

The next meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice is scheduled for Thursday, August 23, 2007 at 11:00 am at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth. He indicated that the agenda for that meeting will be rather lengthy and asked that they plan for it.

He asked for any questions or comments, and hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn. Larry Barnes moved to adjourn the July 26, 2007 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. The motion was seconded by Judy Mecum 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