

**Board of Juvenile Justice  
Thursday, May 24, 2007  
11:00 a.m.**

**Sumter Youth Development Campus  
300 McMath Mill Road  
Americus, Georgia 31719**

**Opening Remarks**

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair

Mr. Shuman called to order the May 24, 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:**

Central Office: Albert Murray, Commissioner; Spiro Amburn, Director Legislative Services; Dr. Thomas Coleman, Deputy Commissioner of Programs; Gordon Fisher, Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Program Services, Director of Campus Operations; Steve Hayes, Director of Public Affairs; Steve Herndon, Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Programs; Linda Layton, Director Office of Classification and Transportation Services; Sonia Norman-Johnson, Legal Services Officer; Dr. Thomas O'Rourke, Associate Superintendent, Office of Education; Bill Parks, Director of Campus Programs; Rob Rosenbloom, Deputy Commissioner of Operations; Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne, Director of Medical Services; Lena Wilson, Office of Public Affairs

Field Staff: Debbie Blasingame, Director Macon YDC; John Brady, Director Augusta YDC; Ronnie Richardson, Director Bill Ireland YDC; Derek Glisson, Director Eastman YDC; Ronnie Woodard, Regional Administrator; Maurice Barron, Assistant Director, Muscogee YDC; Gary Pattmon, Regional Administrator; Frank Spearman, Education Principal Sumter YDC; Anthony Wynn, Director McIntosh YDC; Keith Wright, Director Savannah River Challenge; Glynn Maddox, Director Sumter YDC

**Others:** Pete Smith, Sheriff Sumter County; Senator George Hooks, District 14; Representative Mike Cheokas, District 134; Eva Lou Shuman; Heath Taylor; Jason Naunas and Joseph Drolet, Attorney General's Office; April Morgan

After introductions, Mr. Shuman asked those present to please stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the invocation given by Pastor Dexter Rowland. 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; Daniel Menefee  
Dr. Edwin A. Risler; Pastor Dexter Rowland; J. Daniel Shuman; Sandra H. Taylor

**Advisory Board Members Present:** Judge Quintress Gilbert; Judge Steve Teske

After announcing the presence of a quorum, Mr. Shuman called for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 26, 2007 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. Daniel Menefee moved to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2007 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice; the motion was seconded by Michael Baugh and carried.

At this point Chairman Shuman acknowledged the presence of local legislators in attendance. He introduced Senator George Hooks and Representative Mike Cheokas and invited them to speak to the audience.

Senator Hooks spoke first, stating that there were familiar faces in the room; people who he has known for many years. He welcomed everyone to the Sumter YDC and to Sumter County. He stated that the facility means a lot to the community and they are proud of it. He stated that he represents more counties, more towns, and more communities than any state senator in the United States of America. He stated that he has been with the facility since the conceptual stage, asking Governor Miller to have it built in Sumter County. County commissioners provided the land and the utilities were worked out, thereby, making it a great asset for the community. He stated that on a state level, they are concerned about the things the community at large is concerned about and that their doors are open to provide a clear channel of communication. Senator Hooks stated that he has been in the senate for almost 30 years and knew the department before it was a department, through ups and downs. He stated that they are there in their role as lawmakers to support the department. He then deferred to Representative Cheokas.

Representative Cheokas echoed Senator Hooks' comments on his feeling for the department and expressed his appreciation. He stated that he enjoyed a tour of the facility prior to the meeting and had a chance to view the educational facilities, and the vocational and technical training that is being provided to the residents. He stated that unless we change the attitude, and unless we change their way of life, they will be coming back. He commended the department for its dedication in doing this job that is changing the lives of many people. Once again, he thanked everyone for their presence and for the good job they have done. He added that he joins Senator Hooks in saying that state employees who work at the facility have benefited the community. He stated that their doors are open and they are there to serve.

At this point Senator Hooks thanked everyone, again, for being there and excused himself because of another commitment.

Chairman Shuman then called for the Commissioner's Report.

### **Commissioner's Comments**

Albert Murray, Commissioner

Commissioner Murray greeted the Board, staff members and visitors and thanked them for their presence at the meeting. He stated that he hopes that those who arrived early took the opportunity to tour the facility and, if not, to consider doing so after the meeting. He stated that it is one of the facilities we depend on heavily to manage a very difficult population of young people. Under the leadership of Glynn Maddox and staff, a good job is being done on a daily basis. He stated that he is pleased to be present and have a room full; board members, YDC Directors, and others to be a part of the meeting. He thanked Pastor Dexter Rowland for the invocation.

Commissioner Murray began his comments with news concerning the latest addition to the board, and expressed his pleasure that all board vacancies are filled with the exception of one. He stated that Mr. Paul Lawrence Erwin, of Cave Spring, represents the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District and that, unfortunately, Mr. Erwin could not make this meeting but we hope he will be able to make the meeting in Savannah next month. Mr. Erwin retired as president and CEO of Primrose Schools in 1999 which he and his wife started in 1982. He also worked for over 30 years in the institutional and retail management business. Commissioner Murray added that he will give more details about Mr. Erwin when he joins us at the next board meeting.

Continuing, he stated that from the report provided by Deputy Commissioner Jeff Minor at the April Board Meeting, HB95 (the SFY2008 Budget) included some last minute budget reductions. In his presentation to the Board, Mr. Minor had briefly detailed these cuts and what the department's plans are to address them.

Commissioner Murray outlined the budget changes. The operating budgets for secure facilities were reduced by \$2.5 million; \$1.5 million in the YDCs and \$1million in the RYDCs and the request for \$1.1 million in utilities was not funded. This is a significant reduction to the operation of facilities budget. Reductions of this level in facility funding would require the closure of secure beds or a drastic reduction in staff, which is not a realistic option for this agency. Due to the fact that secure facilities are operating at capacity and with population trend considerations, the Department is unable to close secure beds or severely reduce staffing levels without seriously impacting the overall system. The Executive Team, in consultation with the Governor's Office and the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, has reviewed DJJ operations in detail to come up with alternatives that cover the funding reductions, but may have a lesser impact on daily operations of the agency. In the interest of time, Commissioner Murray elected not to go into detail on those plans, but will follow up at a later date. He stated that we have not taken the cuts out of our facilities' budget because it would not be realistic to do so; that there has to be a better way and we will look at our overall budget. This will require

the approval of OPB, the Governor's Office, Fiscal Affairs, and others. He added that we understand that some tough decisions must be made during the legislative session and that we will work as closely as we can with the General Assembly; but we also understand that we have reached a point where we can no longer do more with less, and there are some fundamental things we must do within this agency to make sure we are operating in a constitutional way.

Commissioner Murray stated that budget reductions for the most part are coming from non-secure services that this department operates, areas that are important but are not considered critical from day to day.

### **Division of Program Services**

Commissioner Murray noted that over the spring and summer, the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget will be leading several program evaluation efforts, two of which involves DJJ. Along with the Department of Corrections and the Board of Pardons and Paroles we will be participating in a review of issues around Georgia's high incarceration rates. He stated that Georgia's rate is higher than the national average for both juvenile and adult offenders and the scope of this evaluation will be to document and analyze the various factors that impact the incarceration rate and to compare Georgia to other states. The goal of the project will be to develop some strategies to try to reduce incarceration rates in the state for both juveniles and adults. Assistant Deputy Commissioner Steve Herndon will represent DJJ on this interagency team. Also, Behavioral Health Services Director, Rick Harrison will participate on the task force that is looking at the availability of substance abuse treatment programs in Georgia. Both groups had their first meeting last week. He stated that we look forward to working closely with these groups. He added that we do not want to incarcerate someone in the state of Georgia who does not need that level of security, whether juvenile or adult.

### Office of Behavioral Health Services

Beginning in January 2007 the Georgia Addictions Counselor Association, the Department of Human Resources Addictive Services Division, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Juvenile Justice and other community providers developed a taskforce to review the current substance abuse treatment workforce in Georgia in an attempt to promote a stronger and better trained workforce in the state. The 2007 theme will be "Best Practices in Substance Abuse Treatment."

### Office of Medical Services

The week of May 6 was National Nurses Week and we at the Department of Juvenile Justice appreciate the outstanding customer service provided by the medical staff to youth at our facilities. The Office of Health Services provided Appreciation Posters to the medical staff at each facility to be displayed throughout the month of May. Our Medical

Staff Training Conference was held again in May and was coordinated in order to celebrate Nurses Week.

We also took the opportunity to recognize the facilities with the best pharmacy cost and best utilization of JTS, our automated health record system. The top facilities were:

	<u>RYDC</u>	<u>YDC</u>
For Best Pharmacy Cost:	Claxton	Muscogee
For Best JTS Utilization	Metro	Savannah River and Eastman (tied)

Commissioner Murray stated that the Morehouse School of Medicine has approached DJJ to partner in an application for a federal grant to develop a Grandparent Mentoring Program for DJJ youth in the Metro Atlanta area. He stated that we anticipate Morehouse would be the grant writer and we will provide more details about this opportunity as it unfolds. He stated that we see a lot of potential in this program and noted that he has observed other programs similar to this one in other states that involve grandparents and others as mentors and they can relate to the youth in a way that we, as employees, cannot.

### Campus Operations

Commissioner Murray stated that the Eastman YDC has historically had the responsibility to manage the most difficult youth in the DJJ system and that all the youth in the DJJ system require a special kind of management. He stated that Gordon Fisher, Director of Campus Operations, and the Directors of the YDCs spent the morning speaking about how we can improve on managing our population. He stated that we have directors who do an excellent job from day to day but there are always ways to tweak and refine our system to become better at it. He stated that the most difficult population in the state is located at the Eastman facility that houses youth that can't be managed effectively at other facilities; the most violent, the most unpredictable youth that are sent to DJJ. Since March 2005 the facility has also served as the primary placement for "17-21 year-old most aggressive males." Management of this population presents unique challenges that can impact staffing, safety and security. Commissioner Murray informed the Board that since our last board meeting he has directed staff to implement some changes within the Eastman program that will result in more structure and will further enhance the safety of the environment for both staff and youth. He stated that it will better prepare the facility for the anticipated return of the DOJ auditing team. He stated that he looked forward to reporting the effectiveness of these changes to manage a difficult population of juveniles.

For the benefit of the new Board members, Commissioner Murray summarized the MOA and its impact on the Department. He stated that it remains a priority for each of the facilities, both RYDCs and YDCs, to be ready for an initial or return visit so that we can close out the long-standing MOA. He stated that we received a proposal on how to resume the verification close out tours; the proposal was reviewed by the department and the attorney general's office. Changes were made and a counter proposal was returned to

USDOJ with our thoughts on how we might best close out this long-standing relationship. He stated that it is our hope that this can be accomplished sometime in 2007.

### Office of Classification and Transportation

During the height of the fires in the South Georgia, DJJ was contacted and asked to assist by developing a plan that would transport fire fighters to drop locations and provide a coordinator to assist with managing resources that were being made available to assist with prevention and recovery. Commissioner Murray stated that we responded as quickly and as positively as we could; that we want to be as much help as we can to our neighbors in South Georgia who are continuing to deal with a very difficult situation. After devising a plan, it was determined that the resources would not be needed but will be placed in the pool for future use or if needed at a later date. The DJJ plan was to take five officers to assist with transporting staff, assist with outline patrols, and to assist with providing command coverage at the joint command post. He stated that we will remain on standby and be ready on short notice to assist with this challenging initiative.

### **Operations Division**

During the last month the Operations Division has had several District Training Conferences. The Office of Training helped coordinate these events with local district management staff. Many significant issues for the agency were being discussed and action plans initiated.

The Operations Division recommended Commissioner Murray approve the appointment of Rodney Dinkins to serve as the permanent director of the Savannah RYDC, which was approved last week. For the last several months Mr. Dinkins has served as acting director and has done an excellent job in providing leadership to this 100 bed detention center.

### Office of Training

BJCOT graduation will be held on Friday, May 25, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. at the GPSTC Auditorium in Forsyth. There are 47 candidates for graduation. Carl Brown, District Director of District 6, will serve as graduation speaker. Commissioner Murray encouraged Board members to consider serving as speaker for these events. He stated that their participation is welcomed.

The Office of Training will host its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, May 30-June 1, 2007 at Brasstown Valley Resort in Young Harris, Georgia. Among many speakers, Judge Steven Teske will be the Opening Speaker of the General Session at 1:30 on May 30th and Deputy Commissioner Jeff Minor will be the luncheon speaker on May 31, 2007 at 12:00. Commissioner Murray thanked them for their time and participation.

The GBI/GCIC Unit conducted a Security and Integrity Training for our Agency in preparation for our Criminal History Records Audit and to meet our bi-annual training requirement. There were 54 staff members in attendance. A make-up class will be held in June at Central Office. The training will help us better prepare for this initiative.

The Agency sponsored a Juvenile Sex Offender Certification course, April 27- May 4, 2007 at the DJJ Academy. There are 24 candidates for certification upon completion of the practicum. Two of the twenty-four (24) were personnel of the Office of Continuous Improvement and Legal Services.

Commissioner Murray informed everyone that the “Legal Updates Training” sponsored by DJJ scheduled for June 13, 2007 has been postponed until further notice.

Continuing, Commissioner Murray stated that our next board meeting is scheduled for Savannah in conjunction with board training. He stated that he is delighted that we were able to work it out where the board meeting and board training are held at the same time in the same place. The meeting will be held at the Doubletree Hotel and is scheduled for Wednesday June 20<sup>th</sup> to begin at 7 pm. Commissioner Murray thanked all of the board members for being able to participate in the training. He added that this is another sign of a tremendously committed board; that this number of people can break away together to conduct the training and show a commitment to DJJ. If there are any questions about these arrangements, please check with Lena Wilson in the Office of Public Affairs or Steve Hayes.

The July meeting will be back at Central Office in Decatur. The August meeting is scheduled for the training center in Forsyth.

Addressing Chairman Shuman, Commissioner Murray stated that, at the Chairman’s request, contact information for DJJ staff and board members will be provided. With all the recent changes, the current lists are outdated. He stated that Public Affairs will provide this information to all board members today in a hardcopy and will also provide pocket-size contact cards with DJJ staff information on them as he requested.

Commissioner Murray also noted that Public Affairs staff is awaiting approval from some members on contact information they desire to have printed on business cards. Once that information is received, the cards will be printed. It is expected that the cards will be available by the next meeting.

Commissioner Murray informed the Board that a central office staff meeting is scheduled for June the 6<sup>th</sup> at Georgia Perimeter College, Clarkston Campus, near Central Office. He noted that this is the same venue we met at last time in the fall. He stated that we will have DJJ updates and a speaker on “diversity,” a Mr. Vernon Vereen, who is extolled as being an excellent speaker. We will also be recognizing staff so we would like any board members that can make it to attend if they wish.

Also, Georgia on the Move begins that same evening June 6<sup>th</sup> in Augusta. This is an effort through the Governor's office to take state government to the public and their communities. DJJ will be joined by DOC, DHR, Pardons and Paroles, CYCC, and other law enforcement agencies. This event was held in Savannah last year where some board members participated. He extended an invitation to the board to attend.

He thanked Senator Hooks and Representative Cheokas for their attendance at today's meeting and stated that we could not do what we do without support from their offices.

He also thanked all of the YDC Directors present and Gordon Fisher for adjusting his meeting to coincide with the board meeting so that the YDC Directors could participate in today's meeting.

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

Hearing no questions or comments, the next agenda item was called.

## **Introduction & Brief Overview of YDCs**

### Facility Directors

Each facility director shared information on the individual facility they manage, as follows:

#### *John Brady, Director – Augusta Youth Development Campus*

- Hired as director of the facility in July 2004;
- Previously closed and reopened under his leadership;
- First residents accepted on November 1, 2004;
- 120 bed mental health facility; presently houses 114 residents;
- Capacity of 120 is divided into 6 units: 3 general population units; a shelter unit for children who may be victimized by other population units; a mental health unit; and a short term unit;
- Located on 400+ acres surrounded by razor wire fence;
- A second perimeter fence was installed to reduce the size of the secure facility area;
- Some residents at the facility have transgender/other identity issues and low self esteem.

Mr. Brady encouraged Board members and legislators to visit the facility if and when they are in the area.

#### *Ronnie Richardson, Director – Bill Ireland Youth Development Campus*

- One of the oldest facilities; in operation since 1905;

- Serves boys primarily between the ages of 12-15 and some older kids as a result of the residential substance abuse treatment program;
- The only RSAT program in the state;
- 300 bed facility located on 65 acres;
- Currently employs about 400 staff, which includes contract and part-time staff;
- Other specialized programs include a residential sex offender treatment program; an honors program; merit dorm; integrity dorm; and special management unit.

*Derek Glisson, Director – Eastman Youth Development Campus*

- 330 bed facility originally built by the Department of Corrections as a prison;
- During negotiations regarding the MOA, DJJ needed more bed space and took over the facility;
- DJJ’s most secure facility; has an electronically monitored fence;
- Currently housing older, more dangerous youth ages 17-21;
- Almost 400 staff positions;
- A change in the operation of the facility is forthcoming.

*Debbie Blasingame, Director – Macon Youth Development Campus*

- Female population; the only female facility in the state of Georgia;
- Seven (7) housing units;
- Both long term and short term population; residents are serving between 60 days and 5 years;
- Seven (7) housing units: the general population consists of 2 short-term population units; 2 long-term population units; a mental health unit; an honors dorm; and a behavior management unit.

Ms. Blasingame distributed a manual on the facility for the Board’s information. Chairman Shuman injected that some staff from the Macon YDC were honored at the last meeting for their heroic acts in saving the life of a resident in respiratory arrest.

*Keith Wright, Assistant Director – Savannah River Challenge*

- Houses 150 youth between the ages of 14-18;
- A challenge-based short-term outdoor therapeutic facility;
- Minimum security with no fences, use of cuffs or cells;
- Designed to support kids with short-term sentences, identify any issues they have and help transition them back into the community.

*Maurice Barron, Assistant Director – Muscogee Youth Development Campus*

- 60 bed facility located in the northeast area of Columbus in a small community called Midland;
- Least restrictive of the YDCs; no traditional correctional materials (no locks, no concrete, etc.);
- Adopted cottage culture; all residential style cottages (6); 10 residents per cottage;
- Operates the PAWS program: Residents provide care for 4 dogs to help teach them responsibility and to learn to provide care for another living being that will

transition into their relationships with their families, their cottage mates and other adults.

*Anthony Wynn, Director – McIntosh Youth Development Campus*

- 60 bed facility with individual cells;
- All male population serving 12-15 year olds; short-term sentences (between 30-60 days);
- Open bay facility; dormitory setting;
- Focus is on changing the facility culture to a more therapeutic environment; to put kids in a nurturing, clean environment.

*Glynn Maddox, Director – Sumter Youth Development Campus*

- 150 bed facility with individual cells;
- Houses youth mostly between the ages of 15-17 with a few older youth;
- Provide vocational/technical training;
- Currently have 28 kids to receive their GED;
- Engaged in partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

### **Sumter YDC Overview**

Glynn Maddox, Director  
Sumter Youth Development Campus

Mr. Maddox greeted everyone and informed them that he was appointed as director of the Sumter facility in October 2006. Before that he served as the director of the Eastman YDC. Along with the information previously provided on the Sumter YDC, Mr. Maddox shared information about the tornado that hit Americus/Sumter County on March 1, 2007. The facility was spared but the town was devastated. Several employees at the facility lost their homes and belongings. A system of help was developed and carried out by the residents of the facility to help with relief efforts in the area. He stated that it is amazing how rapidly the citizens had bounced back. He then deferred to Sheriff Pete Smith.

### **Americus Recovery**

Pete Smith, Sumter County Sheriff

Sheriff Smith opened with an animated greeting, with a demonstration of the audience's response to his actions. He stated that this was to give him an idea of how to proceed with the pace of his presentation.

He asked the audience to clap when he dropped a set of keys to the floor. After the demonstration, he stated that their response time was the length of time he had to make a lot of critical decisions in responding to the events of March 1<sup>st</sup>. He stated that without the help of Governor Perdue, President Bush, DJJ, DOC Commissioner Jim Donald and

staff of the other correctional facilities, he doesn't believe Americus would have gotten through the disaster.

Continuing, he shared his journey from his home in the moments before disaster struck. He stated that they had to shut down the entire city; the hospital was completely destroyed. They expected about 200 deaths but only two deaths occurred. They did not have anywhere to take the injured.

Sheriff Smith then shared photos taken during the rescue and relief efforts and briefly described them as they were shown. He also answered inquiries as they were presented. Sheriff Smith received appreciation of his coverage of this event in the form of applause at the conclusion of his presentation.

At this point Chairman Shuman called for a motion to close the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice to convene the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education. Sandra Taylor moved to close the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice to convene the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education; the motion was seconded by Daniel Menefee and carried.

### **Education Update**

Dr. Tom O'Rourke, Associate Superintendent  
Office of Education

Dr. O'Rourke shared with the Board the following:

- Mr. Frank Spearman has been promoted from Principal of the Sumter YDC to Regional Principal;
- Complimented the facility directors for their support of the education program and its expansion to restorative justice, i.e., Habitat for Humanity partnership;
- DJJ wants to rehabilitate youth and give them skills for their future to make them more attractive and more employable in the community;
- He will conduct a complete overview of the education program for the Board in July;
- Of the 28 GEDs received at the Sumter YDC, as mentioned earlier by Mr. Maddox, two (2) were High School Tech Prep Diplomas; one (1) was a College Prep Diploma; and, three (3) were High School Special Education Diplomas;
- Over the past 2 years, 81 youth have received their GED from the Sumter YDC;
- The International Corrections Education Conference will be hosted in Atlanta July 8-11, 2007; he invited the Board to attend. DJJ has been asked to make three (3) presentations about DJJ education programming in Georgia.

Dr. O'Rourke then asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, he completed his presentation.

Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to close the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education and reconvene the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. Sandra Taylor moved to close the meeting of the DJJ board of Education and reconvene the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. The motion was seconded by Pastor Rowland and carried.

### **Chair's Comments**

J. Daniel Shuman, Chairman

Chairman Shuman noted that according to the by-laws of the Board of Juvenile Justice, a nominating committee has to be selected in the month of May, picked by the executive committee, to come up with a slate of board officers to be presented to the board in June. The Board Chairman can accept additional nominations from the floor at this time. The board will then vote by secret ballot in July. He stated that the executive committee has selected Van Herrin, Judy Mecum, and Daniel Menefee for the nominating committee and has appointed Dan Menefee to chair that committee.

He informed everyone that the June meeting will be held in Savannah at a different time than what is normal. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. and asked that members come dressed casually.

He then iterated the summer schedule, noting again that the board will meet in Savannah in June, July 26<sup>th</sup> at Central Office, and August 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth.

Chairman Shuman thanked Mr. Maddox for hosting the meeting at the facility, and Commissioner Murray thanked Jason Naunas and Joseph Drolet for their representation of the attorney general's office at the meeting.

The motion to adjourn the May 24, 2007 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice was presented by Daniel Menefee, seconded by Sandra Taylor and carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

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J. Daniel Shuman, Chair  
Board of Juvenile Justice

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Albert Murray  
Commissioner

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Dr. Ed Risler, Secretary  
Board of Juvenile Justice