

**Board of Juvenile Justice  
Thursday, December 11, 2008  
10:00 a.m.**

**Department of Juvenile Justice  
3408 Covington Highway  
Decatur, Georgia 30032-1513**

**Opening Remarks**

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair

Chairman Shuman called to order the December 11, 2008 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education. He noted the time as 10:00 a.m. He asked that all attendees stand and state their name and organization affiliation.

**DJJ Staff Present:** Albert Murray, Commissioner; Dr. Jack Catrett; Steve Herndon; Amy Howell; Jeff Minor; Rob Rosenbloom; Chris West; Bill Amideo; Gordon Fisher; Spiro Amburn; Ed Cook; Diana Newell; Shirley Turner; Richard Harrison; Steve Hayes; Nathan Cain; Cherecia Kline; Joe Lee; Beverly Brown; Lorie Gann; Bill Spears

**Others:** April Morgan; Eva Lou Shuman

The Chairman asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation given by Steve Herndon.

**Roll Call**

Chairman Shuman asked for the roll to be called. Cherecia Kline conducted the roll call of attendance.

**Board Members Present:** Larry Barnes; Michael Baugh; Van Ross Herrin (after roll call); James P. Kelly; Elizabeth Lindsey (after roll call); Perry McGuire; Judy Mecum; Dr. Edwin Risler; Pastor Dexter Rowland; J. Daniel Shuman; Stephen Simpson; Elaine Snow; Sandra Taylor

**Advisory Council Members Present:** Judge Quintress Gilbert (after roll call); Judge Steven Teske (after roll call)

Noting the presence of a quorum of the Board, Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the December 11, 2008 Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education. Elaine Snow moved to approve the agenda for the December 11, 2008 Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education meeting. Judy Mecum seconded the motion. The chairman called for the vote and the motion was carried.

Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 23, 2008 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education and asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There were none. Judy Mecum moved to approve the minutes from the October 23, 2008 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education. Larry Barnes seconded the motion. The chairman called for the vote and the motion was carried.

**Commissioner's Report**  
Albert Murray, Commissioner

Commissioner Murray said good morning to board members, staff and visitors. Commissioner Murray stated it was great to assemble and have the last board meeting of 2008. Commissioner Murray indicated that due to the bad weather several board members will be late. Commissioner Murray stated he appreciated all the board members who were able to make it to the board meeting. Commissioner Murray said the Central Office Holiday Luncheon will start at 12 noon and Board members and others in attendance are welcome to stay for the activities.

Commissioner Murray stated he hates to start his report on a somber note but stated that recently DJJ lost two dedicated employees. Ronda Moody was the Juvenile Program Manager for Glynn County. Ronda unexpectedly passed away on November 27. Commissioner Murray also stated Lieutenant Alfred McKinney at the Augusta YDC passed away on November 28. Commissioner Murray stated they were both long term employees of DJJ. Commissioner Murray said losing a loved one, of course, is very difficult and tragic, and that's true whenever it occurs especially at the holiday season. Commissioner Murray asked the Board and visitors to keep the family, friends and co-workers of the staff members who passed in their prayers. Commissioner Murray mentioned there are DJJ employees who have lost family members recently. Commissioner Murray also asked the Board and visitors to keep these employees in their prayers as well.

From our Legislative Services' Office:

Commissioner Murray stated on November 13<sup>th</sup> Rep. Chuck Martin along with representatives from the House Budget Office, toured the Metro RYDC, Macon RYDC and Macon YDC. Rep. Martin chairs the House Budget Committee on Public Safety and this was a great opportunity for him and his staff to get a first-hand look at DJJ's secure facilities and to better understand the programming that takes place inside. This is especially helpful to the agency as we present our budget and discuss other issues with the General Assembly. Commissioner Murray stated he was pleased to have Rep. Martin and budget staff to make the rounds. Commissioner Murray stated Spiro Amburn, DJJ Legislative Services Director, accompanied Rep. Martin and his staff.

Commissioner Murray said last week he presented DJJ's proposed budget to Chairman Martin's committee. Commissioner Murray informed the Board that the Governor has

not made recommendations yet, but the committee wanted to hear from agencies in regard to the 6, 8 and 10 percent cut packages. Commissioner Murray continued saying that he and several agency heads spoke recently to reporters about these budget reduction packages and efforts to provide services during these economic conditions. These were agencies identified by the governor that he wanted the media to talk with about the steps these agencies were taking to implement the 6, 8, and 10 percent cuts. The governor chose the agencies that he believed had done an especially good job in putting this information together. Commissioner Murray said he was pleased to be part of that group. Commissioner Murray said he spent about 90 minutes with the press talking about the steps DJJ is taking to implement its budget cuts. Commissioner Murray stated the next set of budget hearings will likely take place after the session convenes in January after the Governor makes recommendations. The first day of the General Assembly will be on January 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### Programs and Secure Campuses:

Commissioner Murray said on November 24<sup>th</sup>, he along with Deputy Commissioner Steve Herndon visited the Eastman YDC facility. They spent the entire day at the facility and met with Director Gary Morris and about 15 supervisory staff, who shared their current activities and goals. Director Morris since taking this position has done an excellent job. Commissioner Murray said they walked the campus, visited most of the units, and spent time talking with the students. Commissioner Murray stated he believes most of the board members have been to the Eastman YDC facility. The Eastman facility is a big facility and there are still a lot of issues there. Commissioner Murray said he is very pleased with the progress that is being made at that facility. There is a new school principal, Frank Spearman. Mr. Spearman began his duties as school principal on November 16, 2008, after previously serving as a Regional Principal at Sumter YDC.

Commissioner Murray said several YDCs have students graduating or receiving GEDs this December. At the Augusta YDC a total of 10 students are graduating tomorrow, the 12<sup>th</sup> of December. Two will receive high school diplomas and 8 will receive GEDs. Dr. Tom Coleman, retired DJJ deputy commissioner will give the commencement address. Commissioner Murray said he will also attend the graduation ceremony and introduce Dr. Coleman. Commissioner Murray said any board members wanting to attend the graduation are welcomed to do so.

At Eastman YDC a total of 24 students are graduating. Seven will receive high school diplomas and 17 will receive GEDs. This is a very large graduation for a maximum security facility. This is a very noteworthy graduation because of the youth being served at Eastman. Commissioner Murray said he will attend the graduation. Vice Chair Dr. Ed Risler will serve as commencement speaker and it will be a great service to these youth to hear from Dr. Risler.

Bill Ireland YDC has 6 GEDs to be awarded this month, and three girls in the long term program at the Macon YDC are receiving GEDs this month and earlier this week, three more girls took the test. Commissioner Murray said it is always good to see our students get their GED's or high school diplomas. Commissioner Murray said this is a testament

to DJJ's good education program under Dr. Jack Catrett and to the educators that work at DJJ.

Commissioner Murray said he welcomes the attendance of any board member at these graduations.

Commissioner Murray said he was very proud of the participation of our staff at the Augusta YDC and their commitment to the state Charitable Contributions program. While all YDCs are participating in the program, Augusta YDC has already exceeded its 2007 total of \$7500 by contributing more than \$8,000 for this year's campaign. That amount is about equal to a little more than 10% of the entire department's total funds raised in 2007. This is an exceptional accomplishment by the Augusta YDC staff.

The monthly YDC Directors meeting was held on November 25<sup>th</sup> in south Fulton County. The Directors and Assistant Deputy Commissioner Gordon Fisher toured the new 80 bed Atlanta YDC as part of their meeting. Construction is almost complete. Steve Hayes and Deputy Commissioner Steve Herndon addressed the Directors and staff at this meeting.

From the Office of Health Services:

Commissioner Murray said the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has awarded a \$1 million grant to the Emory University, Jane Fonda Center, for a Violence Reduction through Early Prevention Program. DJJ is a participating partner along with Fulton County's Department of Health and Wellness and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. The program's goal is to promote healthy relationship education which will be provided to at-risk youth and to youth who are no longer in school due to pregnancy or delinquency. The target population for the project is the nearly 10,000 students in the 6th, 7th and 8th grade in the APS (Atlanta Public Schools) who are predominately African American and low income, and includes the 1,500 youth who visit the Teen Services Program at Grady annually. The initiative, which has been named locally the "Celebration" initiative, will also target parents, teachers, community groups and other teen-influencers. An independent research group will conduct a national evaluation of the program. This national evaluation team will work closely with the Family Violence Prevention Fund, one of the nation's leading organizations working to prevent domestic and sexual violence, to identify best practices and evaluate the program's impact and effectiveness.

From the Office of Behavioral Health Services:

Over the past month, the Office of Behavioral Health Services has offered DJJ staff the opportunity to participate in a workforce training survey focused on identification of needs of all types of staff in dealing with youth and families that are affected by mental illness or substance abuse problems. The workforce survey is being provided as part of the KidsNet Georgia organization and is intended to identify training needs related to providing services to these affected families and individuals. The survey results will be shared with the participating agencies as well as the KidsNet collaborative for planning purposes.

## Moving to Community Services and Intake:

Willie Ford, JPPS I have been chosen as the statewide Case Manager of the Year at the Child Placement Conference held in Augusta on Nov. 13, 2008. He was selected out of all nominations for DJJ and DFACS. Commissioner Murray said he is very proud of his achievement.

Ford works at DJJ's Fulton Multi Service Center (MSC). Ford began his DJJ career in 1994 as a detention supervisor. He's worked in several positions including as a unit manager at the former Lorenzo Benn facility. He started at the MSC in 2006.

The White County Community Service Office was the first CSO in District 2 to initiate a Truancy Court. This was in large part due to all of the hard work of JPPS I Sharon Clarke, who helped to get the court started in Lumpkin, White, and Union Counties. Mrs. Clarke drafted all of the court orders, documents, and contracts of the Truancy Court program. In addition, Mrs. Clarke set up most of the collaborative meetings between the school systems, DFCS, Mental Health, DJJ, and the judges.

Abbie Dillard, JPPS II, has also been instrumental in the development of the Truancy Court in White County. Mrs. Dillard handles all of the Truancy Court duties in White County and meets on a biweekly basis with all of the Truancy Court parties to develop a "Court Note List" to keep track of all of the Truancy Court youth. The implementation of Truancy Court has kept the number of status offenders detained for contempt to a minimum number. Also, the development of Truancy Court has allowed for these youth to be eligible for additional services through other agencies. This has benefited DJJ and many youths in a number of ways.

Commissioner Murray said the Forsyth Community Service Office has participated with Juvenile Court on the development and implementation of the Forsyth County Youth Accountability and Substance Abuse Court. Forsyth County CSO continues to collaborate with the juvenile court to improve upon the program. Shannon Wilkes, JPPS III, attended the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Drug Court Conference as part of the Juvenile Court Team. The program utilizes incentives, consequences, frequent court reviews, and Reasoning and Rehabilitation Therapy.

Commissioner Murray stated the Columbus Multi-Service Center is involved with Partners in Education with Marshall Middle School. Staff helped with CRCT testing preparation, attended student council meetings, and is in the process of starting a Mentoring Program. The MSC staff has also started a clothing bank. Commissioner Murray said there are a lot of good activities coming from the DJJ multi-service centers around the state.

The Randolph County Office is currently conducting a canned food drive to benefit a family in need during the Christmas Holiday season.

The Augusta RYDC has adopted a homeless high school senior and will assist her with all of her graduation and prom items. This was spearheaded by Ms. Edna May-Wiggins, Assistant Director Programs at the RYDC. This concerns a family that had been

displaced and was living in a church shelter. The young lady in the family is a senior at Glen Hills High School. The Augusta RYDC administrative staff along with District Director Angela Cosby decided that they would ensure that the young lady gets everything she needs for her senior year and they continue to work toward that goal. Commissioner Murray said this is a very good effort on the part of Augusta RYDC staff.

Commissioner Murray said the youth at the Loftiss Regional Youth Detention Center in Thomasville, Georgia recently participated in a Christmas activity by sending Christmas cards to recovering American soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. This activity gave the students an opportunity to make a positive contribution and learn more about patriotism and the price of freedom.

From the Administrative Services Division and the Office of Training:

In November, the DJJ Emergency Management Team participated in a panel discussion on Pandemic Flu at Sumter YDC with facility staff, local Emergency Management Agencies and GEMA Regional Coordinator. The DJJ Emergency Management Coordinator Lt. Samuel Wiggins and three staff persons from Region 4 of Community Services and Intake participated in training that was conducted by the Macon Regional GEMA Coordinator and Bibb County EMA. The training was on Emergency Evacuation and Transportation Responses for Bibb and Surrounding Counties. The objective of the training was to discuss city resources, order of evacuation, along with local and state emergency responsibilities. Two Emergency Management staff assisted and was on board when the Macon YDC conducted its annual fire drill in November.

Commissioner Murray said many thanks to Vonnie Guy, Regional Administrator, Region II for serving as the BJCOT graduation speaker in November. Commissioner Murray said Vonnie Guy did a great job as speaker.

The current 138<sup>th</sup> BJCOT class began on Sunday, November 30 and has an enrollment of 67 cadets. Their background summary includes: 18 with military experience; 17 with college degrees; 18 currently working on degrees; 21 married; 45 with children; 47 with experience previously working with children and 30 with law enforcement experience. Commissioner Murray said that is a good class. Commissioner Murray also stated if most of the 67 cadets get through the academy, they will serve DJJ well.

The next scheduled BJCOT graduation is scheduled for December 23, 2008 at 11:30 a.m. in the Georgia Public Safety Training Center Auditorium in Forsyth, Georgia. The scheduled guest speaker is Amy Howell, Deputy Commissioner Administrative Services Division. Commissioner Murray said he will attend the graduation and will introduce Ms. Howell. He said he knows Ms. Howell will do a great job.

DJJ is transitioning from our manual fingerprinting system to the electronic fingerprinting system referred to as GAPS (Georgia Applicant Processing Services) effective January 1, 2009. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation has awarded Cogent Systems the contract to provide electronic fingerprint submission services for applicants in the State of Georgia. The transition is taking place for several good reasons.

This will be a P.O.S.T. requirement, effective January 1, 2009 to process Juvenile Correctional Officers applications and for certification purposes.

Commissioner Murray said DJJ will transition to the electronic fingerprinting process to facilitate and expedite GCIC/NCIC inquiries and clearance information and to eliminate the number of errors that were occurring in the manual process which delayed the GCIC/NCIC results. Results will be returned in 24 - 48 hours in lieu of a varied time frame of 30 days to 8 months.

Commissioner Murray also mentioned GBI/GCIC is in transition from processing manual fingerprint cards to working with agencies to transition to electronic finger printing. The cost per required person to participate in this requirement is \$12.90 at the law enforcement rate.

Commissioner Murray stated there will be one final Harassment Prevention and Customer Service Training program held on December 12, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Central Office Board Room to ensure 100% compliance for the Central Office training mandate for the 2008 training year.

The 2009 In-Service training year is scheduled for kick-off January 7, 2009.

From DJJ Investigations:

Commissioner Murray said the Investigations Unit is progressing well through the transition of making several changes and improvements. The Investigation Unit has completed training related to investigations conducted for all RYDC Directors. This training was held at Central Office. Training was conducted for all District 7 staff on Special Incident Reporting and 14 new Facility Based Investigators were trained in Forsyth. We are currently working to improve the process for submitting completed investigations.

Apprehension Unit (JAU):

The National Crisis Intervention Association met in Georgia in November for their 4<sup>th</sup> National Conference. Ronnie Lane, Director of the DJJ JAU (Juvenile Apprehension Unit) is an Advisory Board Member to this association and attended the conference at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta.

The CIT Program has become an essential element of law enforcement practices in Georgia. CIT positively impacts the mental health and criminal justice communities by furthering the goal of obtaining treatment in lieu of incarceration for people with mental illness and other brain disorders. There is truly a partnership between law enforcement, mental health advocates, and mental health providers in Georgia. The director and the investigators at JAU are certified CIT Officers. They went through a 40 hour training program to become certified.

Commissioner Murray said the Georgia Sheriffs Association had its annual fall conference in Savannah on November 18-20<sup>th</sup>. Ronnie Lane, Director of the Juvenile

Apprehension Unit, represented DJJ at the meeting. Mr. Lane presented an overview of the department. He discussed the DJJ organizational make-up; DJJ Board, Commissioner, Management Team, RYDC's bed allotment and YDC bed allotment.

Commissioner Murray said he recently took part in the "Sheriffs-Elect Academy Lunch" as a speaker on November 21<sup>st</sup>. This was an event for newly elected Georgia Sheriffs who will take office January 1<sup>st</sup>. Their Academy (training) began on November 10<sup>th</sup>. The four weeks of training was conducted at the GPSTC. Commissioner Murray said it was a good opportunity for him to meet and connect with new sheriffs that will be coming on board.

Commissioner Murray told Chairman Shuman and the board that they are invited to stay and join the DJJ central office staff for the annual holiday program after the board meeting.

Commissioner Murray concluded his report and asked the board members if they had any questions.

Board member Stephen Simpson said he thought it was a great idea that DJJ was going to the electronic fingerprinting system. Mr. Simpson asked if DJJ was going to go back and recapture everyone who is on the manual system now and get everyone in that database.

Commissioner Murray said the electronic fingerprinting system is a good thing for DJJ. He called on Amy Howell to provide more details about the electronic fingerprinting system.

Amy Howell said at this point DJJ has no plans to go back and recapture anyone on the manual system. The electronic fingerprint system will be used on new employees.

Stephen Simpson said that is something DJJ should consider in the future.

Board member Elaine Snow said under the new rules of GSIC/NCIC, there is an area on the form where a person can actually check an area that would allow an employer to go back in and make a query on the person's criminal history at any point after they are hired. Ms. Snow asked if this will be done at DJJ.

Amy Howell said she was not aware of that.

Elaine Snow said if there is ever a question raised about a particular employee, DJJ will have the opportunity to run that persons background.

Amy Howell said DJJ doesn't have a practice of routine checking. Ms. Howell said if an issue arises, DJJ will make use of that authorization and recheck.

Vice Chair Dr. Risler said he had the opportunity to go Macon when their site visit was being conducted. Dr. Risler said he met with the auditors and felt very pleased and proud of how DJJ represented itself. Dr. Risler said he had the opportunity to speak to the lead auditor and employees from mental health. Dr. Risler stated under Commissioner

Murray's leadership everyone should be commended. He said it is definitely a fine tribute to Dr. Coleman who is now retired.

Commissioner Murray said the audit was completed for six DJJ facilities. As Dr. Risler indicated the audit went very well. He said it was very nice to have board members present. Commissioner Murray thanked Dr. Risler, Pastor Rowland and others who were able to attend. The audit was a very intense audit. Commissioner Murray said he was very pleased with how the staff performed and how the six facilities represented DJJ. Commissioner Murray said DJJ will now have to wait for the audit team to write their report and submit it. This process may take up through March 2009. Commissioner Murray said he hopes it doesn't take that long. Commissioner Murray said if their written report is anywhere near reflective of their verbal report, DJJ should get a very good report.

Chairman Shuman called for the next item on the agenda; the Property Transfer Resolution.

### **Property Transfer Resolution**

Ed Cook, Director of Engineering  
Department of Juvenile Justice

Mr. Cook thanked Commissioner Murray, Chairman Shuman and the Board for allowing him to speak to them about the property resolution concerning the property at Lorenzo Benn Youth Development Campus. Mr. Cook recalled in 2006 the Board approved two resolutions on the Lorenzo Benn property. The first resolution declared the property was surplus and not required by the department for any future use. The second resolution approved the transfer of the property to the Georgia Department of Agriculture. For unknown reasons the transfer of the Lorenzo Benn property never took place. DJJ was recently approached by the State Property Commission which indicated that the Georgia Department of Defense is now interested in the property. Mr. Cook stated the substance of his resolution is the approval of the transfer of Lorenzo Benn property to the Georgia Department of Defense and empowering Commissioner Murray to affect the transfer. Mr. Cook stated the only other issue is the five houses that DJJ has in the front of the Lorenzo Benn property. The Department of Defense has agreed to allow DJJ to use the five houses as long as needed.

Mr. Cook asked if anyone had any questions regarding the Lorenzo Benn Resolution.

There were none.

Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to approve the Lorenzo Benn Resolution. Dr. Risler made the motion and it was seconded by Perry McQuire. The motion was carried.

Chairman Shuman called for the next item on the agenda, the Customer Service Update.

## Customer Service Update

Steve Hayes, Customer Service Chairperson  
Department of Juvenile Justice

Steve Hayes, Director of the Office of Media and Public Relations, began the DJJ Customer Service Update by greeting the Commissioner, Chairman and the Board. Mr. Hayes said he hopes everyone can stay for the DJJ Central office holiday program. Mr. Hayes also stated he will be the master of ceremonies for the program and will be doing a karaoke tune. Mr. Hayes said there will be door prizes and any board member who wishes to participate is welcome to do so. Mr. Hayes said he will briefly introduce some guests that are in attendance at today's board meeting. Mr. Hayes said it is proper recognition for the work and the commitment that these staff have made to the agency and to the youth that DJJ serves and to the state of Georgia. Mr. Hayes introduced three people and asked them to come before the Board and say a few words about what they do and how they were recently honored. Ms. Lorie Gann, Program Assistant, Carroll County, was honored at the Governor's Customer Service Awards ceremony. In attendance also is Ms. Gann's supervisor, Juvenile Program Manager Bill Spears and their supervisor Wade Moore, district director of District 4. Mr. Hayes made reference to the recent DJJ Customer Services newsletter. Mr. Hayes stated there is a lot of good information in the newsletter about DJJ and on page 11, is the customer service page that speaks about Ms. Gann's nomination and the award that she won. Mr. Hayes said DJJ is very proud of Ms. Gann for what she is doing for DJJ. Ms. Gann is the 2008 recipient of the Governor's Excellence in Customer Service Award. Mr. Bill Spears wrote Ms. Gann's nomination. Mr. Hayes asked the Board, staff and guests to recognize their team and to give them a round of applause. Mr. Hayes asked Mr. Moore, Mr. Spears and Ms. Gann to come to the podium and make a few comments.

Wade Moore greeted Commissioner Murray, Chairman Shuman, the Board and guests. Mr. Moore stated prior to the Governor's Customer Service initiative, Ms. Gann has always been customer service friendly. Mr. Moore said he and Commissioner Murray have played music professionally. Mr. Moore stated he played in a country band while he was at Auburn University and later played in a blues band. Mr. Moore said he was country when country was not cool. Mr. Moore said Ms. Gann was customer service when customer service was not cool. Mr. Moore stated he is very proud of Ms. Gann and is happy to be part of the team and is happy she got the award. The board applauded Mr. Moore's comments.

Mr. Bill Spears took the podium. Mr. Spears said it is a pleasure to speak about Ms. Lorie Gann. Mr. Spears stated he met Ms. Gann in 2001 when he was promoted to a JPPS II in Paulding County. Ms. Gann was program assistant in Haralson County. Through their joint offices, Mr. Spears got to know Ms. Gann very well. Mr. Spears always said if he ever got up to a supervisor level, he would find a way to get Ms. Gann under his roof. Mr. Spears said several years later there was an opening in Carroll County and he recommended Ms. Gann for the position. Little did Mr. Spears know Ms. Gann would eventually become supervisor of the office. Mr. Spears said Ms. Gann does everything for him and helps him out a lot. Mr. Spears said he appreciates everything Ms. Gann does for DJJ. The Board, staff and guests applauded Mr. Spears's comments.

Ms. Lorie Gann took the podium. Ms. Gann said this is an honor. Ms. Gann stated this has been the biggest ride of her life. She said the experience is awesome and overwhelming. Ms. Gann said never in a million years would she think winning the Governor's Customer Service Award would happen to her. She said from a personal standpoint it could not have happened at a better time because her mother was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. Ms. Gann told the Board they could not imagine what it did for her mother's self esteem and the news got her out of surgery and has helped with the ongoing treatments. Ms. Gann said this opportunity has been an honor. Ms. Gann said she can't say enough about the staff she works with. Ms. Gann said her job is to take the little things from them so they can concentrate on the bigger things dealing with the kids and their families. Ms. Gann said in her small way if she can find a small local agency to help a family in need, or if she can give a donation, that is her job. Ms. Gann stated they deal with a lot of clients that are below the poverty level. Ms. Gann stated most recently, they had been dealing with a child that was put on probation and has been living in the family car. Ms. Gann said she doesn't have a lot but it broke her heart to know this child was living out of his car. Ms. Gann said another coworker and her have managed to get him some school supplies. Ms. Gann said this is all he asked for Christmas. Ms. Gann said she goes out of her way to help people in need all the time. Ms. Gann said she doesn't do it to be patted on the back or be recognized but does it because that is how she was raised and the way she is raising her children. Ms. Gann said she hopes one day that her children will be standing before a board one day saying this has been an overwhelming experience. Ms. Gann stated Governor Perdue was not what she expected. She stated Governor Perdue is very much a country boy from South Georgia. Ms. Gann said Governor Perdue was very nice and very pleasant to talk with. Ms. Gann thanked the Board and said she was very proud to represent DJJ. The Board, staff and guests applauded Ms. Gann's comments.

Mr. Hayes said when the nominations were put together, DJJ executive team was asked to work to get the word out. Mr. Hayes said the nomination and award came from the Community Services and Intake division. Mr. Hayes asked Rob Rosenbloom, Deputy Commissioner if he would like to say a few words.

Rob Rosenbloom stated the comments from the staff at work in Community Services and Intake division really said all that can be said. Mr. Rosenbloom said the dedication of the staff and the heart they have for the business, the families and for each other is what makes DJJ a great place to work. Mr. Rosenbloom stated it makes it more than a job. Mr. Rosenbloom said he feels lucky to be working with people that feel this way about the work they do. Mr. Rosenbloom thanked Mr. Moore, Mr. Spears and Ms. Gann for their hard work.

Commissioner Murray stated at the activities where Ms. Gann received her award, he had an opportunity to meet Lorie's husband, and her mother who was not long out of the hospital. Commissioner Murray stated it was such an inspiring event, he wished the Board could have been there. Commissioner Murray said he really appreciates the work that she does. Commissioner Murray said she is one of the most genuine, dedicated employees and she really represented DJJ well.

Mr. Hayes said DJJ has its own Customer Service Recognition Program that they are currently receiving nominations for. The program is being tweaked to work better with the Governor's Customer Service Award Program. Mr. Hayes stated this particular nomination and award is from Community Services & Intake. Mr. Hayes congratulated that division and Rob Rosenbloom. Mr. Hayes said DJJ has so many employees that do a good job like Ms. Gann and they deserve recognition. Mr. Hayes said he will work very hard with the DJJ executive team and Commissioner Murray to get them the recognition they deserve.

Mr. Hayes concluded his report.

Chairman Shuman called for the next agenda item and asked for a motion from the Board to close the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and open the DJJ Board of Education meeting.

Board member Sandra Taylor called for a motion to close the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and open the DJJ Board of Education meeting. The motion was seconded by Larry Barnes and the motion carried.

### **Education Update**

Dr. Jack Catrett, Associate Superintendent  
Department of Juvenile Justice

Dr. Catrett began his report by greeting the Commissioner, Chairman and the Board. Dr. Catrett said he was happy to be there to give the Education report and stated it may not be as uplifting as the last report but promised to deliver some good news.

Dr. Catrett said the end of the fall semester is December 16, 2008. The local planning dates will be December 17-23, 2008. Those days will be used to close out the semester, post grades, post transcripts and conduct any local training that is needed for the principals and regional principals. Dr. Catrett stated DJJ's second semester starts on January 2, 2009. Dr. Catrett said this is also the month that DJJ does its Full Time Equivalency (FTE). FTE is the federal account. The DJJ FTE account looks the same as it did last year which is very good.

Dr. Catrett stated over the past 7-8 years, DJJ statistics have been consistent without any variation. Dr. Catrett said that indicates that DJJ is doing a good job with their procedure that is used to identify special education kids and special population kids. Dr. Catrett said when you look at the DJJ special education population, the population of kids that belong to SST and section 504 of the American Disability Act, DJJ runs about 40%. Dr. Catrett indicated the results from the Georgia High School writing test came back. The regular DJJ Education students posted an 84% passing grade on this test. This is compared to 85% for the rest of Georgia in regular education. Dr. Catrett said he is happy with the results. He said what DJJ really looks at in its statistics is whether or not

they are making any gains. DJJ education can compare favorably with the Georgia public school system at large. Dr. Catrett said when you look at all students that took the test in Georgia, their percentage was 82%. That percentage is for special education, SST and 504 students. DJJ's percentage was 77%. Dr. Catrett said he thinks that percentage is amazing from the fact that 40% of DJJ students are special students.

Dr. Catrett said DJJ got two vehicles donated to the Sumter YDC for the vocational program. One is a Ford Mustang which is a real high interest item for the kids. The DJJ vocational director did an internal audit on the vocation programs and found those to be in good shape. Dr. Catrett mentioned there are some personnel changes at the Augusta YDC in the construction program and in the business program. Those two teachers are returning to graduate school. During this change, Dr. Catrett hopes to end their tenure and get somebody else started in those positions so that no time would be missed with those kids in those two classes.

Other personnel changes included moving Frank Spearman to Eastman RYDC. Dr. Catrett said there was an open position. Before Mr. Spearman was a Regional Principal, he was a very successful principal at Sumter YDC.

Dr. Catrett stated DJJ lost three regional principals due to the budget downsizing. One of them was Mr. Frank Spearman. DJJ has been able to absorb the two principals through open spots in the Office of Nutrition, and Dr. Catrett's old position at the Central Office. Dr. Catrett said they will have to take a cut in pay but they have a job.

Dr. Catrett said DJJ classrooms will open up the second semester with a new math curriculum. This was one of the DJJ objectives at the fall conference. Dr. Catrett stated he will start the curriculum for language arts. Dr. Catrett said the training for that will start in the summer of 2009.

Dr. Catrett stated that DJJ's SACS accreditation is on track. During the month of December 2008, DJJ will certify some of its teachers and stakeholders. Some of the DJJ students will also be surveyed just to gain information on how DJJ can make changes to its master school improvement plan for each school. Dr. Catrett told the Board that they may receive an email from DJJ asking them to fill out a survey. Dr. Catrett told the Board their input will be greatly appreciated and asked them to take the time and fill out the survey once they receive the email.

Dr. Catrett stated this is the last semester for the DJJ afterschool program. This is a program that was hit by DJJ budget cuts. This was a program that touched a lot of kids after school. DJJ YDC directors really enjoyed this program because it allowed them to have some extra structure after school.

Dr. Catrett mentioned that DJJ has also cut back on their transitional programs because they were funded with grant funds. When the grant ran out the state picked it up. Dr. Catrett stated that is one of the programs that will be cut. Dr. Catrett also stated that transition is part of what DJJ does in the school business so there will still be some funding that will go to transition programs from vocational to special education. Dr.

Catrett said that DJJ found a \$3.1 million grant for transition programs. With hard work, Dr. Catrett hopes that DJJ will be able to pick up that grant and carry on with that program. Mr. Coy Satterfield will be the head on that project.

Dr. Catrett said he feels that DJJ is right on track with the number of kids that are either getting high school diplomas or GED's. At the end of this semester, some statistics will be pulled on DJJ schools to see how many diplomas, and GED's was awarded. They will also pull numbers on how many courses were passed. Dr. Catrett said he will give an update on that in the future.

Dr. Catrett announced to Commissioner Murray and the Board that all of DJJ schools meet state school standards. This includes DOE standards for special education and SACS standards.

Dr. Catrett concluded his report.

Chairman Shuman stated in 2008 DJJ had many achievements and reminded the board and guests about two stunning achievements. Jeremy Lee from Bill Ireland YDC was accepted and received a four year scholarship to Morehouse College and Lorie Gann who received the Governor's Customer Service Award. Chairman Shuman asked the Board to give those two accomplishments a round of applause.

Commissioner Murray stated at the present moment, Jeremy Lee and his family was scheduled to take pictures at the Governor's office. The director of Bill Ireland will also be in attendance. Commissioner Murray said the photo opportunity will probably be used in the future.

Board member Larry Barnes asked a question about SACS. Mr. Barnes asked if DJJ was on the system wide plan.

Dr. Catrett replied yes.

Larry Barnes also asked if DJJ heard anything about the committee/commission the Governor's appointed to help with funding to revamp FTE and go to another system. Mr. Barnes said he did not hear any results.

Board member Van Ross Herrin said the Georgia School Board Association (GSBA) announced last week that there was nothing.

Larry Barnes replied and said they accomplished nothing.

Dr. Catrett said in the FTE instructions this time there was no mention of any changes in of the processes or procedures.

Larry Barnes said it definitely needs to be revamped.

Van Ross Herrin asked Larry Barnes if he was at the GSBA meeting in Atlanta the prior week.

Larry Barnes replied yes.

Van Ross Herrin said the only thing that came out of the meeting was the state superintendent advocating to go with the IE Square contract which has criteria for funding and going to charter schools. Mr. Herrin said it is amazing to him that a school superintendent of public schools is advocating going outside the public school and public education and taking money from it. Mr. Herrin said that was a bit disheartening.

Dr. Catrett said he did not hear anything and as far as he knows everything has been quiet from the state department.

Perry McGuire said he enjoyed Dr. Catrett's report especially the part about the reading test results. Mr. McGuire asked if that was the only test given.

Dr. Catrett stated that so far that is the only test result that has come back. Dr. Catrett said as more statistics come back he would report those results to the Board. DJJ students take all the state mandated tests.

Perry McGuire said DJJ has 40% special need kids and a 3 point reduction in percentage passing based on the special need kids is pretty astonishing. Mr. McGuire asked if DJJ has any statistics benchmarking its percentage of special needs children compared to other juvenile justice systems in other states.

Dr. Catrett said yes, as far as DJJ percentages and numbers and especially in the categories of disabilities. DJJ has a much larger proportion of emotionally behavior disorder kids than regular school populations. Dr. Catrett said DJJ keeps up with those percentages and numbers very well.

Perry McGuire asked if an emotional problem is equated to a special need.

Dr. Catrett said yes, that is the category for special education. Dr. Catrett said DJJ refers to those kids as EBD kids. Dr. Catrett said many EBD kids are very bright and are usually two grade levels behind because they have been retained and they are also two grade levels behind in reading just because they can't keep up. When they are able to pay attention and work, they usually do pretty good.

Perry McGuire asked if DJJ numbers are pretty consistent with other states as far as percentages for special needs kids.

Dr. Catrett said yes.

Dr. Risler said he doesn't know of any other Department of Juvenile Justice education program in the nation that is accredited. Dr. Risler said he did some research and as far

as he knows, Georgia is the only one. Dr. Risler said this reflects well on DJJ productivity.

Board member Dexter Rowland said in the past, there were some discussions about training in Savannah, Georgia.

Mr. Steve Hayes asked Mr. Rowland if he was speaking about the annual required training for board members.

Mr. Rowland said yes.

Mr. Hayes said he sent out an email a few months ago concerning the board annual training. Mr. Hayes said in the past, DJJ has conducted this training in conjunction with GSBA conferences in Savannah Georgia. Mr. Hayes said in the past before that, DJJ has brought the Board to the Central Office for training. Mr. Hayes said hopefully that training can take place at the May 2009 meeting. DJJ hopes to work with the Georgia School Board Association (GSBA) to have that training. The plan is to have that training to follow the May 2009 board meeting. Mr. Hayes said he hopes to get the information out to the board that will refresh their memories about that first email. Mr. Hayes indicated that DJJ can put together a more specialized training for the Board regarding DJJ. Mr. Hayes said he is already working with Dr. Catrett and they will be putting together some things in addition to what GSBA will bring to the table. Mr. Hayes said the training will be about 5-6 hours of training. Mr. Hayes said as a board member it is important that everyone get their 6 hours of training in. If a board member is not able to attending the training at the May 2009 board meeting, GSBA has other 6 hours workshops on their website. Mr. Hayes said he would like the Board to make an effort to attend the May training.

Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to close the DJJ Board of Education meeting and resume the Board of Juvenile Justice meeting.

Board member Sandra Taylor made the motion to close the Board of Education meeting.

Board member Judy Mecum seconded the motion.

The Chairman called for any discussion and then a vote.

The motion carried.

**Chairman's Comments**  
Chairman J. Daniel Shuman  
Board of Juvenile Justice

Chairman Shuman asked if there was any unfinished business. There was none.

Chairman Shuman asked if there was any new business.

Board member Stephen Simpson said he was not sure if they would have to go into executive session to discuss his question. Mr. Simpson asked if there were any updates on the litigation at Bill Ireland YDC.

Bill Amideo, DJJ Legal Director, replied and said there were threats of litigation and there were some inquiries from the Department of Education. The Department of Education did a site visit about 3-4 weeks ago and they have requested some documentation. Mr. Amideo said at this point they are just waiting. Mr. Amideo also said there is the GBI investigation and there have been some things in the news about some potential criminal actions but beyond that there are no developments in the matter.

Chairman Shuman announced the next DJJ board meeting will be at the Central Office on January 22, 2009.

Commissioner Murray said the board meeting ended sooner than he anticipated. Commissioner Murray asked board members to stay for the DJJ Holiday activities at 12:00 noon.

Chairman Shuman thanked the Board for attending the meeting in the terrible weather. Chairman Shuman stated Governor Perdue has reappointed him to serve another 5 year term as a board member.

Chairman Shuman asked if there were any other questions.

Perry McGuire said he had some new business to discuss. Mr. McGuire said he read about DJJ participation in the National Survey of Youth in Custody. Mr. McGuire said that would be very instructive information for the Board to have if DJJ will have access to it once it is compiled. Mr. McGuire suggested that DJJ ask the Department of Justice, the US Attorney's Office or who ever will have this information. Mr. McGuire said it will be helpful for the Board to have access to this information.

Perry McGuire asked if he needed to make his request in the form of a motion.

Bill Amideo said Mr. McGuire needs to state clearly what his motion is.

Perry McGuire made a motion for DJJ to use its best effort to obtain the results of the National Survey of Youth in Custody. A motion was made by Stephen Simpson and it was seconded by James Kelly. The motion carried.

Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice.

Board member Larry Barnes made the motion and Board member Elaine Snow made the second.

The motion 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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Daniel A. Menefee, Secretary  
Board of Juvenile Justice