

Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, February 28, 2008
10:00 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 February 28, 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; Spiro Amburn; Nathan Cain; Jack Catrett; Dr. Thomas Coleman; Martha Dalesio; JoAnn Ra'Chel Fowler; Rick Harrison; Steve Hayes; Steve Herndon; Jeff Minor; Diana Newell; Dr. Tom O'Rourke; Rob Rosenbloom; Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne; Jimmy Taylor; Coy Satterfield; Tania Appling; Latera Davis; Ronnie Richardson; Gary Pattman; Debra Shreve; Courtney Bedell; Joe Early, Bertron Martin; Ronnie Woodard; Mary Fletcher; Rush Utley; William Parks; Sonia Norman-Johnson; Fabienne Tate, Lisa George, Gordon Fisher, Martha Patton, Mae Dickson, Betty Walker

Others: Carolyn Fjerrar; Candance Steventon; Kristine Jolivette; David Houchins, Erica Johnson, Eilesa Beult, Savannah Potter Miller, Todd White, Hubert Smith, Michael Winfree, Greg Nichols, Diane Saucier

After introductions, Chairman Shuman asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation given by Gordon Fisher.

Roll Call

Chairman Shuman asked for the roll to be called. Steve Hayes conducted the roll call of attendance.

Board Members Present: Larry Barnes; Michael Lee Baugh; Elizabeth Lindsey; Perry McGuire; Judy Mecum; Daniel Menefee; Dr. Ed Risler; Pastor Dexter Rowland; J. Daniel Shuman; Stephen K. Simpson; Elaine Snow; Sandra Taylor

Advisory Board Members Present: Judge Quintress Gilbert (after roll call); Judge Steve Teske

Noting the presence of a quorum of the Board, Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 24, 2008 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. Ms. Elizabeth Lindsey noted a correction of page #9 of the Minutes. She stated that it was Ms. Sandra Taylor

who made the comments instead of her. Mr. Stephen Simpson moved to approve the minutes from the January 24, 2008 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice as corrected. Ms. Judy Mecum seconded the motion and hearing no questions or comments, the motion was carried.

Commissioner's Report

Albert Murray, Commissioner

Commissioner Murray greeted Chairman Shuman, Board Members, DJJ Staff and visitors. He expressed how good it was to have a full room for the February Board Meeting. He further expressed that DJJ is always pleased to have guests for the Board Meetings. He recognized the faculty from Georgia State University and the student interns brought by Dr. Risler. Commissioner Murray also recognized the Rome Police Chief Hubert Smith and staff for being in attendance. He stated that he wanted to start or begin his report today with a good news announcement. Amy Howell and her husband, Brian are now the parents of their second child. Last Friday (February 22, 2008) Amy delivered a son, William Tuckett Howell. Amy and the baby are doing fine. Commissioner Murray noted that William Tuckett Howell weighed 7 lbs 9 ounces and he was 21.5 inches, which is a good size baby. Commissioner expressed that DJJ is happy for Amy and her husband Brian. DJJ will miss Amy during her absence, but during that time DJJ will be in the very capable hands of staff attorneys, Sonia Johnson and Pam Sloane. They will serve in Amy's absence.

Legislative:

Continuing, Commissioner Murray stated that there's been a great deal of discussion at the State Capitol about DJJ's legislative proposals for this year. Commissioner Murray asked Spiro Amburn, DJJ Legislative Director to come shortly and brief the Board on the latest developments. Commissioner Murray mentioned that there are two bills; House Bill 1224 which deals with changes to the STP (short-term program) and House Bill 1225 which deals with the detention assessment instrument (DAI). He further noted that Spiro will provide the Board with an update during his presentation and Commissioner Murray will assist as needed.

Moving to the Operations Division:

Commissioner Murray stated that the Operations Division management team met last week. The managers in the division covered a number of critical issues for the department and for the division. One of those items discussed was the legislative agenda, as it stood at the time for the department. It was discussed regarding the impact the legislation would have on the Operations division. Contingency plans were discussed concerning any possible changes in the code that would impact the detention centers. Also, related to the legislative effort was the anticipated passage of the budget that would include new case manager (JPPS – Juvenile Probation & Parole Specialist) positions for the community operations. The planning is underway to appropriately allocate the new positions if approved. Commissioner Murray noted that the last two years, DJJ has been very fortunate to get JPPS positions appropriated. Those positions are serving DJJ well and are placed around the state to help reduce caseloads and to provide more individual attention to cases at the community level.

Readiness for expected visits related to the MOA is discussed at every meeting and this one was no different. Each center meets with their staff weekly on MOA readiness and completes any corrective action plans that may be necessary as DJJ prepares for the return visit from the Department of Justice.

Finally, the budget related to specialized placement of youth and the changes to the system that have been in place since July were discussed at this Operations meeting. The group reported on barriers that may need work to improve the placement process for the youth.

Assistant Deputy Commissioner Jim Frazier is heading a team of Operations Division staff to review various processes within the division with an eye toward improving wait times for our customers and increases in efficiencies. They will be making recommendations in the next few months and these efforts will be part of our continued focus on customer service.

Moving to Campus Operations:

Glynn Maddox, formerly the Director at Sumter YDC started his new role on February 1st as the new Facility Director at Eastman YDC. Glynn has a long history with the Eastman YDC, dating back to his service as the Facility's Assistant Director for many years before assuming the primary leadership position at Sumter YDC in the fall of 2006.

Derek Glisson has reassumed his duties as the Director of the Sumter YDC. He vacated this position in the fall of 2006 to serve as the Director of the Eastman YDC.

The leadership duties at Sumter and Eastman YDC are very unique, very challenging and require special leadership with history in order to move ahead and meet upcoming challenges in the coming years. Commissioner Murray noted that essentially what DJJ did was switched these two directors by moving Glynn back to Eastman and Derek back to Sumter. He further noted that DJJ is pleased with Glynn and Derek's commitment to their newest leadership roles in order to best meet the many challenges faced within our long term facilities. These are two of the eight long-term facilities that are very important to DJJ.

Jackie Kelsey, Director of Classification/Transportation Services and Latera Davis, Program Coordinator for Campus Operations/Constituent Services, attended The American Probation and Parole Association Training Conference in Phoenix, Arizona (February 10-13th). The conference serves as an opportunity for members and agencies to explore cutting edge practices within corrections. This conference has existed for quite some time much like ACA (American Correctional Association). Commissioner Murray stated that it is important to him that DJJ has representation at APPA and he was pleased that these staff could go and represent the department. The training opportunity is especially relevant for both Jackie and Latera, since both provide services across agency divisions for facility and community operations.

Campus Highlights to report to you this month include:

From the Bill Ireland YDC:

On January 29th, Director Ronnie Richardson and Secretary II Shamela Salter traveled to Atlanta and attended the Governor's Customer Service Recognition Program. Ms. Salter was among the many recipients of a customer services award presented by the Governor's Office. Following the ceremonies, Ms. Salter visited the Capitol where she met Governor Perdue.

Another DJJ employee, Augusta YDC Interim Assistant Director Tim Felder was also recognized but he was unable to attend.

Ms. Salter and Mr. Felder were among 45 outstanding state employees or teams of employees, receiving the “Governor’s Commendation for Excellence in Customer Service” for the last quarter of calendar year 2007. This commendation recognizes meritorious actions that enhance the public image of customer service or improve the way customer service is provided in Georgia. Nominees were selected on the basis of consistent high levels of performance and going above and beyond the call of duty in the performance of their jobs.

Briefly about our individual award recipients: Shamela Salter was nominated and recognized for her dedication to serving customers of DJJ including co-workers as she checked on them and assisted them while she was on military assignment in Japan. That is going above and beyond the call of duty.

Mr. Felder was recognized for creating a staff appreciation program at the Augusta YDC, a program that has raised morale among staff which has translated into a raised level of service to our DJJ customers.

So again, this is an indication of just two of our fine DJJ employees who are dedicated to their jobs and providing quality customer services and it is an indication that our customers are extremely important to us.

Commissioner Murray noted that Dr. O’Rourke will again provide a customer service update later in our meeting today.

From the Augusta YDC: (In addition to Mr. Felder’s Accomplishment)

The Governor’s Mental Health Commission held a meeting at the Augusta Campus on January 29th which was the same day as the Customer Service event. The meeting was led by Commission Chairman Abel Ortiz with attendance by commission members as well as Augusta Mayor Deke Copenhaver. Our chairman, (Daniel Shuman) attended and represented the Board with a few comments. Commissioner Murray thanked Chairman Shuman for attending the conference. Commissioner Murray stated that he also participated in this event along with a number of staff from the central office.

Commission Members had an opportunity to tour the facility and meet with youth and staff. The Augusta YDC serves youth that have special needs to include youth in need of mental health services. Commissioner Murray encouraged the Board members, especially the new Board members to visit the Augusta YDC at some point. He noted that this facility in particular would give the Board members a greater appreciation for what happens and how things happen in DJJ.

The Commission was formed via an Executive Order by Governor Perdue in order to take a comprehensive look at the delivery of Mental Health Services. The Commission has held and scheduled several meetings throughout that state in order to solicit discussions and recommended actions for mental health services and mental health improvements.

Commissioner Murray stated that he believes DJJ and the Augusta YDC presented very well to the commission, referring to the staff that worked to put together the presentation regarding our services to these special needs youth. He wanted to commend DJJ staff and that of the facility for their efforts. He especially wanted to single out Rick Harrison, DJJ Director of Behavioral Health Services. Commissioner Murray added that Rick and his staff do a good job in this

regard, providing mental health services, and DJJ certainly wanted the commission to be aware of that.

And from the Sumter YDC:

The Sumter Youth Development Campus will be hosting a GED/High School graduation ceremony on Friday March 7, 2008 at 10:00 am. The guest speaker for the event will be DJJ Board member Daniel Menefee. Commissioner Murray thanked Mr. Menefee for taking time out of his busy schedule to travel to Sumter and be the graduation speaker.

Moving to Behavioral Health Services:

On February 22, Christine Doyle of OBHS attended DJJ's first meeting with the Georgia Youth **Firesetter** Intervention Program Steering Committee. The Youth Firesetter Intervention Program is a model that has been used successfully in other states, notably Pennsylvania, to bring together multidisciplinary teams including representatives of the fire service, law enforcement, juvenile courts, juvenile justice, and mental health providers to identify and appropriately intervene with **fire-starting** youth (youth who start fires). Georgia is beginning our implementation of the Georgia YFIP (**Youth Fire-setter Intervention Program**) and we are reaching out to communities to provide them with the knowledge and skills to develop local YFIP teams. The introductory training in the GYIFP was held in November in Duluth and was attended by interested parties from around the state. Several professionals from Pennsylvania were present to conduct some "train the trainer" types of classes and to share expertise on program implementation. The next training will be held in Woodstock on April 10 and 11, 2008, and again is open to interested participants from around the state. Training will be conducted by professionals from around Georgia.

OBHS along with 40 facility substance abuse and mental health staff will take part in the Third Annual Youth Summit on: Substance Abuse, Mental Health and School Safety, March 9-12 at Callaway Gardens. For the past three years the Departments of Education, Department of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Human Resources have joined with the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse to sponsor a Summit that focuses on best practices for working with Youth. The last two summits have brought together over 250 state agency staff, private providers, school administrators and teachers along with other professionals that work with youth in Georgia. Commissioner Murray stated that he is planning to attend and take part as part of the agenda on Monday March 10th.

From the Office of Health Services:

The Office of Health Services has continued its drive toward providing immunizations to age eligible DJJ youth housed in secure facilities. New vaccines for Meningitis, HPV and Hepatitis A have been added to the Federal Vaccines for the Children's Program or VFC, and the vaccines are now available for DJJ youth. **HPV is Human Papilloma Virus**, a virus that causes cancer. Through DJJ's participation in the VFC program, vaccine is provided to the agency free of charge for administration to the youth. DJJ medical staff also has access to the GRITS (**Georgia Registry of Immunization Transactions and Services**) system, a computer data base that captures immunizations given to children in Georgia from any health provider. The current immunization status can be checked in GRITS, as well the recording of any immunizations administered. The improvement in Immunization status of DJJ youth in secure facilities will be one of the DJJ Strategic Goals addressed by the Office of Health Services.

From the Office of Training:

Many thanks to Adam Kennedy, Region V Regional Administrator, for serving as the graduation speaker and Board Member James Kelly for his attendance and support at the BJCOT (Basic Juvenile Correctional Officer Training) graduation ceremony held in January.

The current BJCOT class, as of today has 58 students ready for graduation. 10 have previous military experience; 10 have college degrees; 18 are enrolled in school working on degrees; 18 have previous experiences working with children and 41 have children of their own. Commissioner Murray stated that he will be the BJCOT graduation speaker for the ceremony scheduled at 1:30 at the GPSTC auditorium in Forsyth, Georgia, which is tomorrow, February 29, 2008.

The Agency graduated its 3rd class of the Management Development Training Program on February 21, 2008 at the Marietta Conference Center in Marietta, Georgia. There were a total of 11 graduates. Deputy Commissioner Thomas Coleman served as the guest speaker and Rochelle Taylor, JPM from the Muscogee MSC, served as the class speaker at this ceremony. Commissioner Murray further stated that he was able to have dinner with this class on the evening prior to graduation along with Fabienne Tate, Director of Training, to congratulate them and share in the graduates accomplishment. This is a lengthy training program over a year and graduating from it is truly an accomplishment. The program is helping develop DJJ's future leadership.

The Region I Training Conference is scheduled for March 18 & 19 and will be held at Unicoi State Park and Lodge. For additional information regarding the agenda, you may contact Yvonne Saunders-Brown in the Office of Training, or contact the Office of Public Affairs.

The Agency's AED, **Automated External Defibrillator**, training will begin in March 2008 in which all RYDC and YDC facility staff and select staff from Central Office will be trained. AED units will be located at all of the DJJ secure facilities, Central Office, and the DJJ Training Academy.

The agency's 2008 Financial Users Conference is coming up in March, March 3rd through the 5th. It will be held at St. Simon's Island, the Sea Palms Resort. This annual conference is very important to all financial and administrative staff responsible for sound and ethical business practices at our facilities and field offices. This conference is conducted by the Office of Financial Services.

Concluding Commissioner Murray stated that DJJ received word earlier this month of the passing of one of DJJ's founding Board members. Ms. Eleanor C. Main was a board member from 1992, and our records indicate she served into 2003. He further noted that he believed Dr. Risler and Judge Gilbert served on the board with Ms. Main and DJJ has several staff of course who worked for the agency during that time and knew her. Ms. Main was a respected educator, administrator and member of the Emory University family. She served DJJ a great many years and was a valuable member of the DJJ Board.

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

Referencing the Office of Health Services portion of the Commissioner's Report, Mr. Perry McGuire inquired if DJJ gets permission from the parents before administering vaccine and if so what is that process. Commissioner Murray requested Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne to respond. Addressing the Board, Dr. Staples-Horne stated that DJJ provides a general consent form when the youth originally comes into the system that includes immunization, general health care which is signed by the parent and documented within JTS. Once a child is admitted into one of the facilities the medical staff will look into the GRITS system to determine which vaccine the child has received or may need based on age, etc. The Medical Staff will then provide a Vaccine Information Sheet (VIS) that has specific information about the vaccine. The VIS is mailed out to the parents and they are given a time limit (generally 10 days) to state whether they want their child to receive the vaccine. If there is no response from the parent that is documented, the vaccine is administered to the child. All of the vaccines are those that are recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. DJJ also has certain vaccines that the child can consent to without the parents consent that are related to sexual behavior such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis A and HPV, which is one of the viruses linked to cervical cancer. The youth in those cases can actually consent themselves to receive the vaccine. Mr. McGuire asked if there was a certain or minimum age for the HPV vaccine. Dr. Staples-Horne stated that there is not a minimum age used for HPV, unfortunately most of the girls who come into the facility are already sexually active and DJJ tries to prevent what they may have already been exposed to but there is really no way of knowing that so DJJ's procedure is for the pediatrician to give it to them right at puberty. It is only a female vaccine. The other vaccine based on the guidelines is Hepatitis A. Mr. McGuire asked if the American Academy of Pediatrics was recommending girls age 13 and up get the HPV virus vaccine. Dr. Staples-Horne stated that "yes"; the American Academy of Pediatrics is recommending the vaccine (Gardasil). She further stated that there is some controversy wherein parents felt that if they immunized their daughter with the vaccine that it would somehow promote their having sexual behavior early. Dr. Staples-Horne stated that DJJ administering the vaccine would not be promoting sexually activity but hopefully protecting the child from having cervical cancer in the future. These viruses are so common the youth could still possibly pick up a virus later in life and still be exposed to it and be at risk of developing cervical cancer.

Chairman Shuman called for Dr. O'Rourke to give the Customer Service Update.

Customer Service Update

Dr. Thomas O'Rourke, Customer Service Chairperson
Department of Juvenile Justice

Dr. O'Rourke greeted Chairman Shuman, Commissioner Murray and the Board. He stated that he only had one update today. Beginning his Customer Service Update, Dr. O'Rourke referenced last month's discussion about the pilot study that was conducted by Georgia State University and expressed that a lot of good information was derived from that study. The next step in this process; the Governor's Office of Customer Service is having a follow-up study which will include focus groups. The Governor's Office of Customer Service will be working in conjunction with Georgia State University. Continuing, Dr. O'Rourke stated that again the assumption is that if you have employees that are knowledgeable and satisfied with their work they will in return provide better customer service. Names have been submitted in the areas of senior leadership, mid-managers, frontline supervisors and non-supervisory personnel to serve on these focus groups. They will be serving in the next month which will include meetings.

Concluding, Dr. O'Rourke further stated that once the information is derived from the Governor's Office he will forward the information to the Board.

Chairman Shuman thanked Dr. O'Rourke for the Customer Service Update and called for Spiro Amburn to give the Legislative Update.

Legislative Update
Spiro Amburn, Director
DJJ Office of Legislative Services

Spiro Amburn greeted the Chairman, Commissioner and the Board. Mr. Amburn stated that today is day 25 of the Legislative Session. The Legislative session is moving at a fast pace which may result in a mid to late March finish. Mr. Amburn stated that everyone should have received copies of DJJ draft legislation and since then the Board should have received by email the Bills that were introduced which was House Bill 1224 and House Bill 1225. The 1224 Bill proposes to make changes to the short-term 60 day sentence program and the 1225 Bill references the risk assessment instrument that DJJ is proposing that courts use when making detention decisions. Continuing, Mr. Amburn noted that since the last board meeting much has occurred on the legislative front. 1225 is still in the same form as presented previously. 1224 is the one that has generated the most discussion. It has generated quite a bit of opposition from some juvenile court judges across the state as well as district attorneys and sheriffs. DJJ participated in numerous budget committee meetings over the past several weeks discussing this issue. Mr. Amburn stated that it did seem like the climate in the General Assembly is to not eliminate this 60-day option. DJJ still maintains that it's still good public policy and it's based on best practices in juvenile justice. However, DJJ understands the concerns that are being expressed and from hearing these concerns from judges, legislators and others, DJJ is offering substitute language to House Bill 1224 that will keep the 60-day sentence in place. Under the new proposal that is being submitted felony offenses only will be eligible for the 60-day sentence. Additionally, youth will get credit for any time served at a detention center prior to a disposition which they currently do not. DJJ feels like this addresses the need of secured confinement for high risk offenders that judges and others have expressed a need for. Mr. Amburn noted that even with this proposed compromise from a budget standpoint DJJ will not realize enough savings to be re-directed into other areas. With any compromise or no legislation passing at all, the department will be in a position of requesting additional state funds over the next several years for the construction of new beds. Mr. Amburn also pointed out that this substitute language is not an agreed upon compromise, but it does represent the best opportunity for this department to make significant changes to the statute. Mr. Amburn noted that there is a committee hearing this afternoon on both bills. DJJ will be presenting at this meeting at 2 pm in room 605 at the Legislative Office Building. Concluding, Mr. Amburn stated that it does appear that DJJ is heading toward the path of asking the General Assembly for additional funds to increase the department's (bed) capacity. It is a policy decision that the General Assembly has to make. Mr. Amburn concluded his report and opened the floor for questions and comments.

Referencing page 2, sub-section 8c of the 1225 (handout), Dr. Risler asked what was the particular rationale of the language that read; "the instrument selected by the Children and Youth Coordinating Council." Mr. Amburn stated that there had been some discussion about CYCC and there may also need to be some changes. CYCC is going to be absorbed under the new office that the Governor is creating. The thought process being that an independent organization

or body would be the one to select (type of detention assessment instrument) rather than DJJ or the judges. It would be a 3rd party, neutral party, making the selections. But it would be an instrument that is based on research that is validated. He also stated this is an area that is being looked at which may require some tweaking of the language. Dr. Risler commented that the “validated, objective written assessment” (referencing page 2, sub-section 8c of 1225), would allow them to come up with something very extensive and the burden to implement it would fall to DJJ. It would have to be a very extensive assessment scale. Mr. Amburn stated that it was his understanding that there were a lot of instruments that are researched-based and it would just be a matter of selecting one at that point. Dr. Risler stated that there are a lot out there that are not (researched-based) and are used frequently. Mr. Amburn noted that the intent of the legislation is to make sure that is it researched and that’s where the validated language comes in. Dr. Risler responded that it depends on how you define validated. Ms. Elizabeth Lindsey inquired as to whether the hearing this afternoon was on the substance of this bill and not the budgetary impact. Mr. Amburn stated that it is not a budget hearing; it’s a hearing on the legislation as it stands on the language but it does have a budget impact. Ms. Lindsey asked if there were any legislators in particular that the Board needs to be talking to in order for them to understand the STP problems and budget issues. Mr. Amburn stated that DJJ’s Bill sponsor is also a member of the Public Safety Appropriation Committee. In addition the chairmen of both committees in the House and the Senate would be important. He further stated that anything the department can do to articulate that this does have a budget impact even with the proposed language or if no legislation passes, would be helpful. DJJ is in a position of really needing resources in terms of secure beds. Commissioner Murray noted that our Bill Sponsor is Representative Wendell Willard. Ms. Lindsey asked if Mr. Willard would be in attendance at the Committee meeting. Mr. Amburn responded yes. Mr. Perry McGuire thanked Mr. Amburn and referenced when Mr. Amburn stated that Bill 1224 was good policy and he asked if the Board voted on the policy change for Bill 1224 and how that policy was established. Commissioner Murray stated that the Board voted on the department’s budget several months ago and in terms of the revisions that were just made in the Bill the Board did not nor are they required to vote on the revisions. The revisions were made with the Bill Sponsor and the Governor’s Office staff. Mr. Amburn added that the Board voted on the budget but not the legislative language. The legislation was actually approved by the Governor’s Office. Mr. McGuire asked if the Board proposed the legislative change and who initiated the change. Commissioner Murray stated that the change came from his office (Commissioner’s Office). Mr. McGuire noted that looking at the language in the Bill it seems as if there is a powerful arrow away from the juvenile court judges. Referencing the handout, Mr. McGuire stated that the language that was deleted looks as if the department is taking away a judge’s ability to extend the 60-day sentence to youth who have violated or to those on probation who may be in risk of not showing up at a hearing or to those guilty of an offense of an aggravated nature. He further commented that he was wondering why the department is potentially letting kids off the hook in these instances from a judge who has personal knowledge of the facts being able to give them an additional sentence. Mr. McGuire stated that he felt that this is a significant policy determination that should somehow come to this Board. He further noted that if the Board is going to be asking for changes to legislation that is the Board’s responsibility to implement or oversee, then that is the direct purpose of this Board as a policy-making board. He also noted that based on what he had read, he would strongly object to introducing this legislation. Mr. Larry Barnes commented that the Board wrestled with this quite a bit and it all stemmed from a budgetary process wherein the Board was mandated to make certain cuts and this was the decision. Ms. Sandra Taylor stated that the Governor gave the Board a budget and the Board voted to pass a resolution that she believed was unanimous that

said they did not think this program should be done away with, they think it's a program the judges want and they think it should stay in place, however it cannot stay in place within the budget confines given by the Governor. Therefore, the Board did approve the budget and passed the resolution that went along with that and said if you make us commit to this budget there is no way the department can financially provide these kinds of services. Ms. Taylor stated further; but as a vote strictly on policy, that has not taken place. Mr. Stephen Simpson stated that he agreed entirely with Mr. McGuire on this point. The Board should look at it in draft language before it is a policy, in case there is a problem, a discussion can take place. He further stated that to ask the Board to approve legislation that they do not agree with is tough. Mr. Simpson noted that Mr. McGuire is very good at reading policies and he could bring things up beforehand. Commissioner Murray stated that the process requires that each year the department plan a legislative proposal and submit this proposal to the Governor's Office for approval. He further stated that he did not believe there is a requirement to submit the proposal to Board for approval before sending to Governor's Office. The department must submit the budget to the Board for approval, but the legislative packet does not require Board approval. Commissioner Murray noted that he certainly wants the Board to be aware and if possible be comfortable with the department's legislative packet. Addressing Mr. McGuire, Commissioner Murray stated that on this particular issue there is much about the STP program that he may not be aware of yet and as a new Board member he had not had the benefit of the earlier discussions. He noted that he would have to disagree with Mr. McGuire on the basic premises of 1224. There is good reason to move in this direction. The Governor's Office has supported this direction on 1224. Continuing, Commissioner Murray stated that there are many judges who disagree with him, but he believes there is a better way to serve the population of juveniles being served than what is being done by the STP program. DJJ was also trying not to ask for money earlier than needed. The proposal that Mr. Amburn described will require asking for 45 million construction dollars over the next four years. The original bill DJJ submitted did not have any construction dollars attached. This was a fiscal decision and a programmatic decision that DJJ made as an agency because it was thought to be a better use of resources. Mr. McGuire commented that as a new board member he does not know the background. If the board went through the process of reviewing and promoting this legislation he is completely fine with the decision. He stated that he was just curious how this legislation came about. Mr. Simpson stated that he agreed with Mr. McGuire. He further stated that the question he and Mr. McGuire are asking is not if they can be the ones to say yea or nay on the proposal but if there is an opportunity in the process when it is in draft form if they can take a look at it. If there is an issue during the process it can be addressed. Addressing Commissioner Murray, Mr. McGuire asked for clarity about his statement that the program is being replaced by one he thinks is better. Commissioner Murray noted that is no longer the case. That was the original bill introduced, seeking to replace the short-term program with a probation sanction program, which is a different type of short-term program. The revised language leaves the 60-day program intact as it exists today. Chairman Shuman noted that as Ms. Taylor stated, the Board did spend a lot of time discussing this and this was prior to the new Board members. Dr. Risler stated that he understood everyone's agreement and proposed that either in the Spring or in the next couple of months they plan a day retreat to bring new board members up to date on a lot of the historical context of what the Board is dealing with. He further stated that a lot of what the Board has dealt with was the result of the MOA and the issue about detention, etc. It's a lot of stuff to try to get a handle on and a very dynamic force and it would be a good idea to plan something and perhaps the Executive team could sit down and see what can be on the agenda. Mr. McGuire stated it appears that what the Board passed in the budget process is different from what is presented now. Ms. Lindsey stated

that the Board did not have legislation information with the budget. They were presented that a budget cut was needed. When they prioritized, the felons were the ones they needed to start with. She further stated that she and Judge Teske helped draft a Resolution for the Governor recommending the STP program not be funded. But only because a 2% budget cut is demanded because they believe it's still a powerful tool in some circumstances for judges to rule. Mr. Simpson stated that they are confusing two issues. In a business world you always have to make a hard decisions and he's not judging that. A day retreat would be helpful as far as education. However, he is stating that he understands that a budgetary process ultimately drives some legislation but allow the Board to look at it and perhaps someone can foresee an issue down the line if it is worded a certain way. Mr. Amburn added that the budget was approved in August 2007 with a line item to eliminate STP which the Governor submitted to the General Assembly. The original House Bill 1224 draft which was distributed at the last board meeting was the legislative equivalent of that budget item. The original House Bill 1224 would have accomplished that line item in the budget. With the substitute DJJ is offering it changes the dynamics of the budget where the department can no longer eliminate STP the way it is presented in the budget. That is what is different now than what was presented at the last meeting. Ms. Sandra Taylor stated that the point that needs to be made now is that this Board has continuously said (decision in August) that they did not recommend disbanding this program. She further stated that she thinks the dilemma is if the Governor thinks this program needs to be done away with then the recommendation needs to come from the Governor's Office and not this Board. The Board's Resolution that went along with the budget stated that although this is the budget given we do not recommend doing away with the program. Chairman Shuman stated that the Board needed to move forward and they can put this in the future plans of getting more of this kind of information for the Board.

Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to close the regular board meeting and move into the Executive Session. Michael Baugh made a motion to close the regular board meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and move to the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Larry Barnes and hearing no questions or comments, the motion was carried. Chairman Shuman asked the public to leave for the Executive Session.

Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to close the Executive Session and move back into the regular board meeting. Stephen Simpson made a motion to close the Executive Session of the Board of Juvenile Justice and move to the regular board meeting. The motion was seconded by Daniel Menefee and, hearing no questions or comments, the motion was carried.

Chairman Shuman called for Mr. Gordon Fisher, assistant deputy commissioner for Program Services to give the Campus Operations Update.

Campus Operations Update
Gordon Fisher, Assistant Deputy Commissioner
Program Services Division

Mr. Gordon Fisher greeted the Chairman, Commissioner Murray and the Board members. He stated that the Campus Operations is a component of the Program Services Division supervised by Dr. Coleman with his support and that of Steve Herndon, Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Program Services. Referring to the PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Fisher stated that Program Services operates all of the state's long-term secure facilities. Campus Operations is divided into central office programs and field operations. In central office there is the Office of Campus Operations, Office of Classification and Transportation, Emergency Management, Investigations Review, Quality Assurance and Constituent Services. Martha Dalesio serves as Campus Operations Deputy and provides oversight to investigation review which is headed by Mary Fletcher. Over 60% of the Office of Investigation and Apprehensions investigations are generated from YDC's. Mr. Fisher noted that last year Campus Operations processed 1,286 investigations using the information management system which is an automated process which ultimately eliminated paperwork. Ms. Robin Florie (Quality Assurance) checks to make sure the department is maintaining MOA readiness; that the department is ready for OCI audit and helps out in the field with that. Ms. Latera Davis (Constituent Services and Customer Service) receives letters from the Governor's Office, forwarded to the Commissioner, and she is tasked with preparing a response. She reviews the situations and drafts a response. She also handles requests received for youth for extensions beyond their minimum stay and releases.

Office of Campus Programs

The Office of Campus Programs is headed by William Parks who is the Director. He supervises two Program Coordinators, Christina Pollard-Durr and Oliver Johnson. Mr. Fisher noted that this office is the first in the history of the agency to provide oversight of the standardized general counseling program and case management of all YDC's. Continuing, Mr. Fisher noted that the Office of Classification and Transportation Services (OCATS) functions under the leadership of Jackie Kelsey. Her staff reviews all court orders, makes assignments to the YDC's, determines the length of stay and transports youth to the YDC's and to the RYDC's. Last year over 1000 youth were admitted to YDC's. Transportation is managed by Captain Betron Martin. Originally the department had eight hubs but it has now been expanded to eleven hubs strategically located to minimize travel distance and accessibility to all 30 secure facilities. Transportation Services is also responsible for transporting and supervising youth who are subject to the interstate compact where either they are going to deliver a youth to another state or pick up a youth from another state. Mr. Fisher noted that the transportation officers have radios that are equipped with GPS. This program software allows Captain Martin to monitor the location and speed of the units in real time. Any speed of 80 miles per hour for longer than 15 seconds generates an alert in the form of an email to Captain Martin who can immediately notify the offender. Captain Martin is also the agency's Emergency Management Coordinator, who has a staff of three assistants.

Field Operations

Field Operations daily oversight and supervision of the YDC's is provided by two Regional Administrators, Ronnie Woodard and Gary Pattman. The YDC's serve youth who are superior court sentenced, designated felons, regular commitments, and short-term programs. The agency has 8 YDC facilities. The long-term facilities are Bill Ireland, Eastman, Muscogee and Sumter YDC. There are two mixed facilities (long-term and short-term); the Augusta YDC and the Macon YDC. The two short-term facilities operated by private vendors are the Savannah River Challenge Program operated by Associated Marine Institute and the McIntosh YDC operated by Youth Services International. All youth at the YDC's receive the following core services:

- Educational / Vocational**
- Mental Health**
- Medical**
- Behavior Modification**
 - Change Maladaptive Behaviors
 - Accountability/Responsibility
 - Positive Reinforcement
- Counseling**
- Transitional**

The following specialized services are provided for those youths whose assessments have indicated a need for these types of services:

SPECIALIZED

- Sex Offender Treatment**
 - Five stages / National Cert.
 - Avg. length of stay 9 – 12 mos.
 - Emphasize family involvement
- Substance Abuse Treatment**
- Behavior Rehabilitation Units**
- Balanced & Restorative Justice**
 - Paws
 - Hands on Atlanta
 - Habitat for Humanity
 - Junior Optimist Club

Each YDC is unique in terms of physical plant, configuration, population, and services offered. With the exception of Macon, YDC populations are stratified by age and risk.

The Augusta YDC has an innovated specialized program for the treatment of special needs youth. It is a 120-bed facility of which 60 beds are general population beds, 20 are short-term program intensive supervision beds, 20 are mental health beds and 20 are shelter unit beds. Augusta's mental health beds are for youth with severe mental health illnesses requiring treatment that cannot be adequately provided in general population. The shelter unit provides protective custody for youth vulnerable to victimization by peers whether due to low cognitive functions, small stature, sexual orientation or otherwise increased vulnerability. Access to the mental health and shelter unit beds is controlled by the Behavioral Health Review Panel which is located in the Central Office.

Youth Services International operates the McIntosh YDC. The property is DJJ-owned. The contracts calls for 60 beds and they take youth under age 16.

The Savannah River Challenge Program handles the bulk of the male short-term population. It is a 150-bed capacity, unfenced non-secure facility. Youth ages 15-17 are sent to the Savannah River Challenge Program and the property is owned and operated by Associated Marine Institute.

The Macon YDC is the only female facility. Unlike the other facilities, Macon has no relief value for difficult youth whether it is for medical, behavioral or mental health reasons. Macon has everything that the other YDC's have. Macon YDC is a 150 bed facility with more beds assigned to specialty needs than any other YDC. 54 beds are short-term beds, 12 are mental health beds, and 18 are behavioral management beds. Of the 150 beds only 66 are available for general population girls.

Bill Ireland YDC is the largest YDC and is spread over 63 acres with buildings dating back to the early 20th century. It is the second largest YDC with 300 beds housing the youngest committed males. It is the only YDC because of its young population of 10-14 year-olds that must offer elementary as well as middle and high school curriculum. Of Ireland's 300 beds, 40 are specialty beds set aside for residential substance abuse treatment.

Eastman is the largest and most secure YDC and houses 330 high-risk males. Originally opened in 1993, by the Department of Corrections to house incorrigible youth, Eastman was transferred to DJJ in 1997. The oldest and most aggressive male youth are served at Eastman YDC. The age range is from 17 to 20 years of age. Of the 330 beds, 32 are residential substance abuse treatment beds and 50 are closed unit beds. The closed unit beds are for youth who are routinely disruptive and assault other youth and/or staff.

Sumter YDC is a 150-bed facility, which the department thinks is the optimum capacity for a YDC. It was opened in 2000 and serves youth ages 15-16 who are classified as medium and high-risk. Of the 150 beds, 25 beds are set aside for residential substance abuse treatment. Located in Americus, Sumter has taken advantage of the proximity to Habitat for Humanity to partner in home building.

Muscogee YDC located in Columbus was originally built as a non-secure facility and has since added security fencing and security lighting. It houses 60 low-risk youth. It is DJJ's newest YDC – opened in 2005. The facility operates around a cottage culture that is typified by a strong staff-youth interaction at all levels. It is also home of the PAWS program (PAWS – Progressive Animal Welfare Society).

Trends

Designated Felons - The most recent population projection received as of last week, indicated that in FY2008 (current fiscal year) that DJJ would begin exceeding its capacity in terms of bed space requirements. It also projects by the year 2013 that DJJ will be 269 beds short of the population that DJJ is required to serve. In terms of building, there would be a requirement for three new 150-bed facilities at \$29 million dollars each to build and \$11 million dollars a year to operate. Mr. Fisher noted that this is based on current environment with no changes to practice or policy.

These are the challenges DJJ faces and anticipates:

- **Bed space capacity** – because of the increasing trend of designated felons as opposed to regular commitments beds are not turning over as rapidly.

- **Low risk youth** – There is a presence of low risk youth in secured beds. Approximately 32% of the YDC population is low risk youth. No youth were admitted to long-term YDC's for status offenses or one or more prior adjudicated delinquent offenses.
- **Staff recruitment / retention** – The JCO's job class experiences the highest turnover of any job class (currently almost 50%). Also we continue to experience difficulty in recruitment and retention of professional staff such as medical and mental health staff.
- **YDC geographical locations** – All YDC's are located in either Middle or South Georgia, which adversely affects the ability of families from regions to have reasonable and frequent access to their children.
- **Special needs youth**
- **Aging up of youth population** - The longer stays are presenting programmatic challenges for DJJ.
- **Aging facilities** - Two of the YDC's, Bill Ireland and Augusta YDC have very old physical plants requiring extensive maintenance and renovations to keep them functional. The old design of some housing units also contributes to reduced safety and security for both youth and staff.
- **Operation of mega facilities** - The mega facilities such as Bill Ireland and Eastman are costly, difficult to operate and of limited effectiveness. The ideal size would be 150 beds. Bill Ireland and Eastman need to be downsized. However, due to the anticipated population increases that currently is an unaffordable luxury.

Future

- ✓ **New YDC** – Larmore is located in the Metro Atlanta Area (South Fulton) and will be an 80-bed facility. It was previously owned by the Department of Corrections and it is currently being converted from its present open bed configuration to single-rooms; 80 beds. The engineers are projecting the availability of this facility is April 2009.

Mr. Fisher concluded his update and opened the floor to any questions or comments.

Judge Gilbert asked if there were differences between the YDC's that are run by private vendors versus those run by DJJ. Mr. Fisher stated that one difference is the private vendors operate the short-term programs and they do not have any long-term kids and they have a contract for their cost. But other than that, they follow the same school curriculum, same menu for food services and same programs for behavioral management and everything is essentially the same. Judge Gilbert further asked if the department finds that there are any cost benefits. Mr. Fisher stated that the private vendors are cheaper. The averages cost per child per day for DJJ is \$191.00. Savannah River Challenge is \$148.00 a day. Judge Gilbert asked if DJJ's foresees more of the private vendor type management. Commissioner Murray stated that it would depend on how much construction DJJ will have to engage in and how soon. Commissioner Murray stated that his vision for DJJ and for Georgia is the system is best served by a good and appropriate mix of private and public facilities. DJJ has a good mix now. With DJJ having to engage in extensive construction it is likely that DJJ will seek some other partnerships with private sector. Mr. Michael Baugh commented that one thing that the private sector has that the state doesn't is that the state has to take care of all the health care. Because private contractors do not have to pay health care their cost is \$40 cheaper. In talking to several teachers over the past several weeks, there hasn't been one teacher that said the kids in the school systems are better than they were two or three years ago. The facilities are not going to be decreasing but steadily (population) going up. There were teachers who thought they were going to be teaching a little bit longer and

are tired and are getting ready to wash their hands of teaching. Pastor Rowland asked if the \$148.00 a day for the Savannah River Challenge Program was a sustainable level or are they in the process of asking for additional funds to operate the facility. Mr. Jeff Minor, deputy commissioner for Fiscal and Administrative Services stated that he did not want to speak for the companies but those are competitive bids. The first bid was very competitive when Savannah River first opened and there were five or six vendors who were very capable bidding on the contract and that kept the original price low. Because of the budget DJJ has not been able to sustain consumer price index (CPI) increases and very seldom allowed to give a consumer price index increase. These contracts are typically five year contracts and if they receive no CPI increase then it is very difficult to maintain the kind of level of services and staffing that is required to meet our policy. Mr. Minor noted that yes they (private operators) do struggle and every time the bid comes up the department pays for that struggle with a higher price. The Governor and others have recognized they need to continue to try to fund CPI based increases so they (providers/operators) can continue to offer their employees a pay raise, maybe offer health insurance and maintain the department's staffing needs. They do struggle with turnover as DJJ does, but even more so because they typically offer less salary and less benefits. It's a hard question to answer if they are viable; DJJ has lost (some vendors), not in YDC private contracts but in some residential contracts, where they have basically given up. They could not make it in that kind of environment; another reason why the CPI increase is so important, which is in this year's budget. Mr. Barnes inquired if DJJ's long range planning/vision addresses the lack of facilities in the northern parts of Georgia. Will DJJ be looking for facilities in those areas? Commissioner Murray stated that it is his hope and plan (not a formal plan) that any new construction that DJJ pursues will need to be north of Metro Atlanta. DJJ's facilities are concentrated in Central to South Georgia which places parents in North Georgia at a disadvantage and that's where the need is and that is where DJJ would concentrate proposed new construction. Judge Gilbert asked if the kids age 17 to 20 at Eastman are mostly Superior Court. Mr. Fisher stated that when you look at the Superior Court placements that Eastman has, they probably have among the fewest Superior Court kids. The majority of the kids are at Bill Ireland where DJJ has the youngest kids. There are sixteen Superior Court cases at Bill Ireland and there are five at Eastman. Mr. Simpson asked if DJJ knows what the percentage of the entire population is that has some substance abuse issue. Commissioner Murray stated that roughly 40-50% of the entire population. Mr. Simpson stated that DJJ needs to start "early on" with prevention. There are things that can be done that will not cost any money to involve other entities and perhaps that is something that can be looked at long-term. Concluding, Mr. Fisher stated that the blue folder that was distributed contains more background information on campus operations. There should also be a CD which includes the program description of all of the facilities. He also stated that if any wanted a paper version, one could be provided.

Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to close the regular meeting and move to School Board meeting. Sandra Taylor made a motion to close the regular board meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and move to the School Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Elaine Snow and, hearing no questions or comments, the motion was carried.

Education Update

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

Dr. O'Rourke greeted the Chairman, Commissioner Murray and the Board. Dr. O'Rourke stated that he is very proud of the education program. All of the sites (30 educational programs) are accredited by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and meet all of the state and federal standards. A major concern is in the area of the youth that are served. On an average the kids served are at least two years behind academically. In a lot of cases their reading level is even lower. Pretty close to 40% of the kids in DJJ are receiving some special education programming. The building block/foundation of the whole program is the reading program. If the kids cannot read they will not be able to write, compute, receive the vocational programming and be able to compete once they transition back into the community and the odds are they will recidivate. Dr. O'Rourke expressed his excitement about the collaboration with Georgia State University. The program is called Project LIBERATE (Literacy Instruction Based on Evidence through Research for Adjudicated Teens to Excel). Dr. O'Rourke noted that if DJJ is going to make a difference it is going to be in the classrooms. The directors at the sites will have to work together with the education department in order to make this difference understanding that safety and security is at the highest priority. Good quality programming is as important. The program (Project LIBERATE) is going to be introduced at the Bill Ireland YDC; where most of the kids are middle school age kids. Dr. O'Rourke stated that they felt as if the best results would be at Bill Ireland. Dr. O'Rourke thanked Ronnie Richardson (Director of Bill Ireland YDC) and assistant director, Ms. (Tania) Appling, for the support given to this venture. Dr. O'Rourke also thanked Regional Principal Dr. Rush Utley. Dr. Utley is always pushing to get more programming and support for the schools. Dr. Mae Dickson (Principal, Bill Ireland YDC) and Ms. Walker (Special Education Teacher) will play a key role in the full implementation of Project LIBERATE. Dr. O'Rourke noted that the department does receive Title 1 monies. The Title 1 money has been used to get additional teachers particularly in the area of reading and mathematics. There is some additional staff committed to the Bill Ireland staff. Dr. O'Rourke introduced Dr. David Houchins to give some comments about the Project LIBERATE program.

Dr. Houchins

Dr. Houchins greeted everyone. He stated that Project LIBERATE focuses on reading, writing and spelling. It is a U.S. Department of Education grant. It is a \$2.9 million grant over the course of four years to conduct research at Bill Ireland. It is an Institute of Educational Science grant. Dr. Houchins noted that the Institute of Educational Science is a competitive grant nationally and only about less than 1% of the applicants get awarded this type of grant. In fact this is the only grant nationally of its kind and they have been funding grants for the last four years and Project LIBERATE is the second one of this competition that has ever been funded. It is very prestigious for Georgia State University and the Department of Juvenile Justice and the collaborations that have been going on. Dr. Houchins stated that eventual model/purpose of it is to serve as a national model for how to implement reading, spelling and writing within a juvenile justice setting, particularly kids who are at a middle school level. It builds on the collaboration in the past with Sumter YDC where they conducted the first national multi-state study. Another project was at Bill Ireland initially, a couple years back. These initial collaborations have allowed Project LIBERATE to compete nationally for an IES grant. Dr. Houchins stated that the project is at Bill Ireland for struggling readers, writers and spellers. Those screened individuals will have two periods of language arts and reading. The population is basically for kids who cannot read at their grade levels, age 16 and under, kids with and without disability and Title One. They are estimating approximately 150 students per year depending on the population and over the course of the four years about 600 students. The Project will compare three different programs of REACH, SIM and LEARNING 100.

The project will be looking at student motivation, how those factors play a role in student achievements and the delivery model, in particularly how you implement these types programs in a juvenile justice setting. Dr. Houchins noted that eventually we will have manuals that will be available to the Board and nationally. This award has the potential to get the attention of the Federal Secretary of Education (nationally). There are basically two programs being considered. One is based upon direct instruction and the other is based upon SIM (strategic instruction model). Both have 25 to 35 years of research that has been conducted in the area about adolescence reading and bringing their skills up. The REACH program is a program developed by Bonnie Billingsly out of the University of Oregon and she is actually coming in April to share her knowledge of the program (basic programs of corrective reading, expressive reading, spelling through graphics). The SIM programs are basically more advanced focusing on comprehension and writing kinds of strategies. They are philosophically different programs and that's one of the reasons they are going to be compared. There is a great deal of support for this grant such as:

- Keith Lenz, University of Kansas (developed many strategies/materials for SIM programs)
- Bonnie Billingsly (REACH program creator)
- GSU personnel
- Dr. Steventon - overall Coordinator
- Dr. Chris Henrich – graduate of Yale (Data Manager)
- Dr. Lambert – University of UNC (Statistician)

Dr. Houchins concluded his comments and opened the floor for comments and questions. Chairman Shuman asked what morphic graphic spelling was. Dr. Houchins stated that it is basically teaching kids parts of the words (prefixes, suffixes, etc.). Dr. O'Rourke expressed is pleasure in moving forward with the Project and he hopes it will serve as a model. It will be researched based and the goal and commitment is to do everything possible to get the kids to read on a higher and better level. Mr. Larry Barnes asked if there are letters of intent and what percentage of the staff will be returning next year. Dr. O'Rourke stated DJJ only has about 3 or 4 vacancies throughout the state. Dr. O'Rourke noted that a department study was done and the turnover rate is very low. Dr. Coleman stated that unlike the regular school systems, the teachers at DJJ are not on contract, they are state employees and therefore the department doesn't have to worry about offering new contracts each year. Many of the DJJ teachers are retired from the regular school system and working on a second career which is a great advantage to DJJ because they bring a lot of skill and knowledge. Judge Teske expressed his gratitude to Dr. O'Rourke, Dr. Coleman and those who are involved in the education program. He commented that as a judge he sees kids come out of the system better than they went in. He further noted that in Clayton County they use some of those kids who have finished the educational programs and bring them back and pay them a stipend to give presentations to youth who are on probation and also use the youth in schools for preventive programs in the community. He and Judge Graham, who handles delinquency cases in Clayton County, have asked the youth what really turned them around and the youth stated that getting the diploma and education. Judge Teske stated that he wanted to publicly applaud them (DJJ education) and the fact that DJJ is SACS accredited and doing much better than the school board in Clayton County.

Dr. O'Rourke asked if there were any other questions or comments, and hearing no questions or comments concluded his update.

Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education and reconvene the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. Stephen Simpson made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the DJJ Board of Education to reconvene the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. The motion was seconded by Michael Baugh and carried.

Chairman's Comments

J. Daniel Shuman, Chairman

Chairman Shuman made the following announcements:

- The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice will be held on March 27, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. at the DJJ Central Office in Decatur. Chairman Shuman thanked the Board for agreeing to the 10:00 a.m. meeting change.

Ms. Judy Mecum commented that they received information about the summer conference on education in the mail and she asked if this would be part of the agenda as far as their annual training. Ms. Sandra Taylor stated that it is the normal training that the Board does in Savannah and Board meeting is moved in conjunction with this training. She noted that the Board may want to look at making a block of reservations now considering the trouble that the Board incurred last year when attempting to make reservations. Commissioner Murray stated that the department was not prepared to give a full response but a follow up will be given soon.

After the announcement, Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to adjourn. Elaine Snow made a motion to adjourn the February 28, 2008 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Lindsey and, hearing no questions or comments, the meeting was adjourned.

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Albert Murray
Commissioner

Daniel A. Menefee, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice