

**Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, July 24, 2008
10:30 a.m.**

**Warden's Guest House
Georgia State Prison
Reidsville, Georgia**

Opening Remarks

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair

Mr. Shuman called to order the July 24, 2008 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education. He noted the time as 10:30 a.m. He asked that all attendees stand and state their name and organization affiliation.

DJJ Staff Present: Albert Murray, Commissioner; Spiro Amburn; Rob Rosenbloom; Jeff Minor; Tom O'Rourke; Jimmy Taylor Nathan Cain; Steve Herndon; Steve Hayes; Jack Catrett; Adam Kennedy; Gary Morris; Mary Ellen Thrift; Adam Kennedy; Amy Howell, Gordon Fisher

Others: Todd White, Attorney General's Office; Connie Murray; Eva Lou Shuman; Sherry Herrin; Tom Snow; Warden Steve Upton; Warden Dan Stone;

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

Roll Call

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

Board Members Present: Larry Barnes; James P. Kelly; Perry McGuire; Judy Mecum; Daniel Menefee; Dr. Edwin Risler; J. Daniel Shuman; Stephen Simpson; Elaine Snow; Sandra Taylor; Van Herrin; Bruce Garraway; Dexter Rowland; Elizabeth Lindsey;

Advisory Council Members Present: Judge Quintress Gilbert; Judge Steven Teske

Noting the presence of a quorum of the Board, Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2008 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education. Judy Mecum moved to approve the minutes from the June 18, 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.

The Chairman then thanked Warden Steve Upton and the staff of Georgia State Prison for arranging the morning's tour and hosting the board meeting.

Commissioner's Report

Albert Murray, Commissioner

Commissioner Murray began by thanking Warden Upton for the tour of the prison. He noted this is the second time the board has visited the prison, and that it was an enlightening experience each time. DJJ's Board has gained many new members since its last visit to Reidsville, the Commissioner noted, and it is good for the Board to be able to do this and it shows the cooperation between the DOC and DJJ. Commissioner Murray then thanked DOC Commissioner Jim Donald for allowing the visit and working with Warden Upton to make it happen. Commissioner Murray also thanked DOC Board Chairman Wayne Dasher and Chairman Shuman for the previous night's social hour. The Commissioner said he thoroughly enjoyed the food and fellowship.

Commissioner Murray continued his report.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INTAKE

He began by noting that Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Operations Jim Frazier passed away the previous week. Commissioner Murray stated that Mr. Frazier had come to DJJ three years ago, and had a tremendous career in juvenile corrections in three states. For most of his career, he worked for the California Youth Authority. From there, he was recruited by Commissioner Murray to come to Kansas, where he spent about five years, before coming to Georgia. Commissioner Murray noted that Jim Frazier was a tremendous individual with a passion for working with young people, and did it well.

Mr. Frazier, Commissioner Murray said, was diagnosed with cancer two years ago, and had taken a turn for the worse in the last few weeks. There will be a memorial service for Mr. Frazier, the Commissioner said, on July 25th, at Board Member Pastor Dexter Rowland's church. He then thanked Pastor Rowland for offering his church for the service. Board members are welcome to attend. He further asked that everyone keep Jim Frazier's family in their prayers.

Commissioner Murray went on to say that Chris West, formerly the Regional Administrator for Region I, has been appointed as the new Assistant Deputy Commissioner for the Division of Community Services and Intake (formerly Operations).

Victor Roberts, Commissioner Murray noted, has been selected as the Regional Administrator for Region III, replacing Preben Hiedemann, who retired in June. Roberts, the Commissioner stated, has been with the department for several years and will do a great job.

Cynthia Wood, Commissioner Murray continued, has been appointed as District Director for District 11. She replaces Rudy Gordon who retired last month. Ms. Wood is currently a Program Coordinator in the Central Office and has been an Assistant District Director in the past.

Commissioner Murray then introduced the new Director of Eastman YDC, Gary Morris. He noted that Mr. Morris had taken time out of a very busy schedule to come last night and today.

Commissioner Murray said he knew Director Morris better than anyone in the room because he had worked with Morris when he was in Tennessee. The Commissioner said he was delighted that Morris decided to come and interview with DJJ and take on a difficult job. Running any DJJ facility is challenging, Commissioner Murray stated, but the Eastman YDC may be in a category all by itself. It is DJJ's largest facility and it houses the most difficult population. The Commissioner said the facility has had some good directors in the past but Morris will bring some special skills to running Eastman.

Commissioner Murray addressed Morris stating, "Gary I know you've been on board about six weeks, I'm sure it seems like six years already, but it's good to have you on board and we look forward to working with you."

Commissioner Murray said the CSI division continues to focus on MOA readiness. He said the department expects MOA inspections to get started very soon. This week RYDC directors had a meeting to discuss key policy issues and other protocols for the upcoming inspections. Each director provided a presentation on best practices and areas of focus at their facilities.

PROGRAMS AND SECURE CAMPUSES

Moving to the Division of Programs and Secure Campuses (formerly the Division of Program Services) Commissioner Murray noted that The National Medical Association Convention will be held from July 26th to July 31st in Atlanta. Judicial Advisory Council member, Judge Steven Teske, and DJJ Health Services Director, Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne, will be delivering a joint presentation on "Medical and Legal Issues Impacting the Incarceration of Our Youth" as part of the pediatrics component of the conference. The Commissioner thanked Judge Teske for agreeing to participate and said he knew that the workshop that Judge Teske and Dr. Staples-Horne planned to present would be well done.

Commissioner Murray then said that the Office of Health Services is exploring the feasibility of DJJ becoming a student training site for the Physician Assistant and Nursing programs of Mercer University. If this program comes to fruition it would provide these medical students a unique clinical training opportunity and for DJJ it would be a great opportunity to further integrate our health service operations with the medical education community in Georgia. Commissioner Murray told the Board he will keep them informed on any major developments with this program.

OFFICE OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Commissioner Murray stated that the Office of Behavioral Health Services will hold a Psychiatry Services Meeting on Friday, July 25th from 10-2 in the Central Office Board Room. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Margaret Shugart, Clinical Faculty at Emory University. Her topic will be "Controversies in Bipolar Disorder in Youth." This meeting will also be available by teleconference at all DJJ secure facilities in order for the training to be accessible to all psychiatrists and mental health nurses across the state.

The Commissioner then said that OBHS held a quarterly in-service training for all DJJ psychologists on Friday, July 18th in Macon. This training focused on including experiential treatment groups as a part of the New Freedom Treatment program in all DJJ secure facilities.

Where DJJ has piloted these groups they've been found to increase the youth's participation in treatment, The Commissioner said. The training session also focused on the psychologist's role in ensuring MOA readiness.

Commissioner Murray then said that the Office of Behavioral Health Services has participated in the planning and programming of the 2nd Annual Georgia School of Addiction Studies conference which will be at the Augusta Marriott Hotel on August 18th through the 22nd. The title of the conference is "*Pillars of Prevention, Treatment and Recovery.*" The School of Addictions is coordinated by a board of organizations including: DJJ, DHR, the Department of Corrections, two Georgia addiction certification boards, Mercer University and other agencies providing substance abuse services. The goal of the new school is to provide evidence based substance abuse treatment and prevention education to staff in all organizations involved in the delivery of substance abuse services in Georgia.

CAMPUS OPERATIONS

Commissioner Murray said that during the month of June 2008, Campus Operations continued MOA readiness preparations. Designated Campus Operations staff, known as Program Coordinators, perform facility evaluations on general counseling service areas, services and rights of youth, as well as safety/security of operations. A weekly facility monitoring tool has been recently added for additional compliance monitoring in key MOA service areas.

BILL IRELAND YDC

On June 11, 2008, The Women of the Bill Ireland Support Team sponsored a Father's Day Program to honor the Men of Ireland Commissioner Murray said. He added that he had not been able to attend the event, but heard it was excellent.

The Multi-Purpose Gym was decorated in red, white and blue for the event. Ms. Melissa Aaron, DJJ Community District Director (DJJ District 6) served as guest speaker for the occasion. Director Ronnie Richardson led a charge to the men. Door prizes were awarded to the men throughout the program including a drawing for a special Father's Day gift basket.

Commissioner Murray said the staff at Bill Ireland gave back to the community by donating blood to the American Red Cross to help others in the community in need of blood, typically due to emergency situations. Mr. Carlton Larkin, Institutional Program Director at Bill Ireland, chaired the event which was held in the Multi-Purpose Building. A total of 22 staff rolled up their sleeves and gave blood during a campus blood drive on June 26, 2008.

A Health Fair was held in the Multi-Purpose Building on June 27, 2008. Free blood pressure checks were given to staff. A nurse was on hand to answer any health-related questions. Employees were provided with brochures on diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular disease. Heart healthy menus were also available.

Employee of the Quarter Golden Star Awards were presented at Bill Ireland's General Staff Meeting on June 12, 2008. The recipients were: Ralph Walls, groundskeeper-Skilled Worker Award; Ricky Alexander, RSAT Program Director-Professional/Administrative Service Award;

Belinda Rawlings, JCO 1-Security Award; Jim Henderson, SSP II-Professional Award; Emily Wesley, Administrative Assistant-Clerical Support Award.

Recipients of the awards were nominated by their peers and selected by the Employee of the Quarter Committee.

MACON YDC

Commissioner Murray said that on June 14, 2008, the Macon YDC held volunteer training for 27 volunteers. Volunteer service is instrumental in helping provide additional services and programming to the youth. "The Church in the Now" visited the Macon Campus on June 28, 2008 with a total of 40 volunteers that facilitated a cookout and inspirational program for the youth.

AUGUSTA YDC

Commissioner Murray said that on Thursday, July 18, 2008 the Augusta Youth Development Campus hosted an event to celebrate the opening of the new Medical Intake Building. Attendees included the mayor of Augusta, himself (Commissioner Murray) and other staff from Central Office in Atlanta. The new building is designed to expedite services provided to residents by efficiently and securely streamlining the admission process, medical and dental appointments, and emergency response time.

Each portion of the facility is secure and will be monitored from a centrally located room. There is a waiting area located in front. The facility has spacious offices for nurses, physicians, and mental health counselors. Commissioner Murray said the ribbon cutting was a well done event, and is further evidence of DJJ's commitment to improve programs and services throughout the department.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Commissioner Murray reminded the board that Administrative Services is a new division headed by Deputy Commissioner Amy Howell.

He went on to say that he was pleased to announce the appointment of Deborah Moore to the position of Director of Human Resources in the Division of Administrative Services. Amy Howell had announced the appointment earlier this week. Commissioner Murray stated that Ms. Moore was hired from the DOC some time ago and that she was one more good steal from DOC. He noted that DOC and DJJ have exchanged many employees. Moore, the Commissioner noted, possesses a Master's degree in Public Administration and has 22 years experience working in Human Resource Administration. Prior to joining the DOC, Deborah served as HR Director with the State Board of Pardons and Paroles. Deborah's experience, knowledge, and focus on customer service will be an asset to the Department and the Division. Her appointment is effective August 16th. Janie Claiborne will resume serving as Deputy Director of HR. Janie was serving in the interim as the director but will now resume her previous duties.

OFFICE OF TRAINING

Commissioner Murray said the Annual Georgia Gang Training sponsored by the Georgia Gang Investigators Association is being held this week, July 22 -25, 2008, at the Sea Palms Golf and Tennis Resort in St. Simons Island, Georgia. The agency is sponsoring eighteen (18) staff to attend. He added that for additional information those interested could, visit www.ggia.net.

Commissioner Murray then thanked the June BJCOT graduation speaker, Gordon Fisher, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Secure Campuses, for his congratulatory comments.

Commissioner Murray then noted that the Basic Juvenile Correctional Officer Training new graduation time is 11:30 a.m. He said the time change was made because Board members had requested a time which would be more accommodating to them. The new time takes effect for the August 8th graduation.

Commissioner Murray then said that the current BJCOT Class #134 has 65 candidates for graduation. A summary of their background includes the following: seven (7) have military experience; eleven (11) have college degrees; eighteen (18) are working on degrees; forty-seven (47) have children; forty-three (43) have previous experience working with children; and twenty-seven (27) have previous law enforcement experience.

Commissioner Murray said the Georgia Juvenile Services Association (GJSA) Conference is scheduled for August 25-27, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Savannah Riverfront Hotel.

The Commissioner also said that the 33rd Annual American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) Training Institute is scheduled for August 3-6, 2008 at the Rio Hotel & Suites in Las Vegas. The agency is sponsoring five (5) staff to attend including Jackie Kelsey, Director of the Office of Classification and Transportation.

Commissioner Murray said the American Correctional Association (ACA) 138th Congress of Correction will be hosted in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 8-13, 2008. The Agency is sponsoring eight (8) staff to attend. Dr. Risler from the Board is also attending. The Commissioner noted that he, as an officeholder in the ACA would be there, as would Rob Rosenbloom, Dr. Tom O'Rourke and others. This is *the* conference for corrections workers, Murray said, and DJJ staff try and support ACA each time they meet.

APPREHENSIONS UNIT

Commissioner Murray said that Ronnie Lane, Director of the department's apprehension unit attended the summer training session for the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police in Savannah, Georgia on July 13-16.

Commissioner Murray then said that HIPAA information was sent out this week to you from the Office of Media and Public Relations (formerly the Office of Public Affairs). The HIPAA training is required for intranet access. Once you've completed the training successfully and printed your certificate and read and signed the information security agreement, please fax copies

of both the certificate and the signed information security agreement to Steve Hayes at 404-508-7341.

Commissioner Murray then stated he was finished with his report and opened the floor for comments or questions.

Board Member Elizabeth Lindsey then asked about the reports from the Office of Continuous Improvement regarding facilities that the Board had discussed at its May meeting.

Commissioner Murray replied that Shirley Turner, head of OCI, and her staff are working on those reports for the Board and that they should be ready sometime soon.

Judge Steven Teske said that he would be at the APPA conference on behalf of the Anne E. Casey Foundation. Judge Teske said he will be attending a judicial roundtable and he welcomed anyone from DJJ who was also planning to be at the conference.

Commissioner Murray thanked Judge Teske for the information. He said he thought it was good for the Board and DJJ to be represented at these major conferences. He said he was glad Judge Teske would be attending the conference and that DJJ would be represented at every major corrections conference this year.

Chairman Shuman asked if there were any other questions. There were none, so the Chairman called for the next agenda item, the Customer Service Update.

Customer Service Update

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

Dr. Tom O'Rourke, DJJ's Customer Service Chair, took the floor. Dr. O'Rourke said that at the previous month's meeting he had discussed a customer service survey conducted by the University of Georgia. He said that at the August meeting he would be ready to present the full results of that survey to the board.

Dr. O'Rourke then said that DJJ is seeking nominations for the Governor's Customer Service Awards. The nominations, Dr. O'Rourke said, can come from peers, leaders and internal and external customers of the agency. The nominations are due August 29th. DJJ has sent out information to all DJJ staff asking them to nominate everybody in the agency who has provided the very best in customer service. Dr. O'Rourke said there are individual awards for excellence from the Governor; team awards; there are awards given for improvement as an organization; and there are leadership awards as well.

DJJ's goal, Dr. O'Rourke stated, is to submit some of the outstanding things that demonstrate the high quality of customer service that is being provided by employees on staff. He said the Board members are more than welcome to make nominations, which should be done through Steve Hayes' office. There is a committee to review them and then further submit them to the Governor. Dr. O'Rourke said he knows the agency has many deserving people and he hopes this year someone from DJJ will receive one of the Governor's Customer Service Awards.

Chairman Shuman asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation. There were none, so the Chairman moved to the next agenda item, an executive session.

Board member Van Herrin made the motion to go into executive session.

Board member Judy Mecum seconded the motion.

The Chairman called for a vote.

The motion carried.

At the close of the executive session a motion was made by Van Herrin to close the session and return to the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. That motion was seconded by Board member Dexter Rowland. The motion carried.

Chairman Shuman called for the next item on the agenda, the education update and asked for a motion. Board member Stephen Simpson 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 Board Member Larry Barnes and the motion carried unanimously.

Education Update

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

Dr. O'Rourke said he wanted to once again discuss Project LIBERATE, the reading project the department is piloting in conjunction with Georgia State University (GSU) at the Bill Ireland YDC. Dr. O'Rourke said the department was in the process of hiring, as part of the three-year \$3 million grant, paraprofessionals.

Dr. O'Rourke said that if the project goes as planned it will serve as a model for teaching reading skills in a juvenile correctional setting. Teaching reading is one of the department's biggest goals he added. Most kids in the department's care do not read at the level they should and the agency has good feelings about the project, he said. Dr. O'Rourke reiterated that the department is partnering with GSU, which is providing some resources and the project is moving forward.

Moving on, Dr. O'Rourke said that about 40 percent of DJJ's youth population is in special education and require Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). The department does hundreds of IEPs every year and Dr. O'Rourke said the department is on target in getting all of our IEPs in place, and that is something we feel real good about. If there are going to be problems in the education program, Dr. O'Rourke said, it usually comes in the area of special education.

There is a principal vacancy right now at the Eastman YDC and we're moving forward to get it filled, Dr. O'Rourke said. As a plus, however, the fall semester, which begins August 4th, will begin with just a handful of education vacancies.

Dr. O'Rourke said regarding curriculum, the department has adopted new science textbooks which are in place as are the curriculum activity packets (CAPs). All the training has been done, so as we roll out the new science textbooks and curriculum everything is ready to go for the fall semester.

He also said that the fall teacher conference is scheduled for October 28th and 29th at the Macon Centerplex and the Board is invited to attend.

Dr. O'Rourke then said that the department receives money for grants (Title 1 and Title 6b), and also a Title 4 grant called the Perkins Grant, which is a vocational education grant. The amount is about \$70,000 and is based on the number of youth the department has in vocational programs. School districts all across the state receive the grant and the money is to be used to supplement the vocational program. The department has to apply for the grant electronically and Dr. O'Rourke said he had talked to the education chair and had him be aware that the grant, as it is filed, needs board approval.

Chairman Shuman called for a motion.

Dr. Ed Risler, Board Vice Chair, made a motion to approve accepting the grant.

Board Member Elaine Snow seconded the motion.

Chairman Shuman called for discussion and then the vote.

The motion carried.

Dr. O'Rourke thanked the Board and concluded his report and asked for questions.

Board Member Larry Barnes said that local school boards must report students who are sent to a DJJ facility as a dropout and asked if there was anything that could be done to change that because many of the kids return to school or continue on with education in other ways.

Dr. O'Rourke said that was a great question. He said the media always talks about the high percentage of dropouts and there are dropouts, but if the kid is with DJJ and gets a GED they are still counted as a dropout, and he did not believe they should be considered and counted as dropouts. Dr. O'Rourke added that if kids come to DJJ and are in the program working toward a diploma they are considered dropouts. Dr. O'Rourke said he did not think they are dropouts. He said he had brought it up a number of times, but it has not gone anywhere.

Mr. Barnes replied that he thought labeling the students that way is damaging to the student and inaccurate and that he would like to investigate what could be done about the situation.

Dr. Risler suggested that the matter be referred to the Board's Education Committee.

Mr. Barnes asked who made the decision to classify children in DJJ facilities as dropouts.

Dr. O'Rourke replied that it was his understanding that the Georgia Department of Education made the decision, and that the (DJJ) Education Committee should be able to get an audience with someone from the Georgia DOE and get the issue resolved.

Board Member Van Herrin commented that it was great that with 40 percent of DJJ kids designated as needing special education that the IEPs are up-to-date because those documents are a challenge to keep up-to-date.

Dr. O'Rourke thanked Herrin for saying that, and stated that the department has technical assistance across the state, and that Dr. Jack Catrett, director of special education for the department, and others, do a remarkable job of staying on top of that. Other school systems only have 10 to 12 percent of their students on IEPs, while DJJ has 40 percent.

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

Van Herrin made the motion to close the Board of Education meeting.

Board member Bruce Garraway seconded the motion.

The Chairman called for discussion and then a vote.

The motion carried.

Chairman's Comments

Chairman J. Daniel Shuman
Board of Juvenile Justice

Chairman Shuman said that he and his wife, Eva Lou, enjoyed hosting everyone last night. He said he thought it was good and maybe the Board can do that sort of thing a little more often.

Those of you who were there, Chairman Shuman continued, heard the comments Senator Jack Hill made about the state budget, and the lead editorial in the Savannah Morning News this morning quoted him and said he is right on target and the budget situation is very serious and he thinks that the Board is going to have some tough decisions to make, maybe furloughs, and the Board should keep that in mind. They are even talking about a special meeting of the General Assembly.

Chairman Shuman then said that, if you get the chance before you leave, thank Warden Upton. Chairman Shuman said he had been in contact with the warden a lot in setting this meeting up and could tell the warden was uptight about it and has done such a good job that the he would personally appreciate the Board members doing that.

The Chairman stated that Steve Hayes said he would set up the rooms for the next board meeting, which will be held at the Elbert Shaw RYDC in Dalton on August 28, 2008.

Chairman Shuman added that he is usually the one with a long drive home, but this time the roles are reversed, and he asked everyone to drive safely.

He then asked if there were any more comments before the meeting adjourns.

Commissioner Murray said that Steve Hayes had sent the board an email briefing the board on an issue at Bill Ireland (YDC) that involved a news story, which ran yesterday and will run today. It is not on the agenda, Murray said, therefore it cannot be discussed as part of the Board meeting, but we can talk individually about it after the meeting. The Commissioner further said he will follow-up with an email through Steve Hayes providing additional information as may be appropriate.

Chairman Shuman then gave directions to the board on how to get to I-16.

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

Board member James Kelly made the motion and Judy Mecum made the second and the motion was carried.

The Chairman called for a vote.

The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned.

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Albert Murray
Commissioner

Daniel A. Menefee, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice