

**Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, April 23, 2009
10:00 a.m.**

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

Opening Remarks

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair

Chairman Shuman called to order the April 23, 2009 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: Dr. Jack Catrett; Steve Herndon; Rob Rosenbloom; Bill Amideo; Gordon Fisher; Spiro Amburn; Shirley Turner; Richard Harrison; Chris West; Jeff Minor; Diana Newell; Jackie Kelsey; Bertron Martin; Latera Davis; Shilpashree Sadam; Cherecia Kline; Steve Herndon; Steve Hayes; Nathan Cain; Cherecia Kline; Pansy Bryant; Melissa Aaron; Steve Hodge; Laticia Butts; Curtis Davison; Kinsey Solomon; Ginger Jenkins; Dr. Michele Staples-Horne; Rick Harrison; Coy Satterfield; Spiro Amburn; Janssen Robinson; Julie Spriggs; Dee Bell; Deborah Moore; Fabienne Tate; Martha Patton; James Brown

Others: Destiny Washington – Attorney’s General Office; Normer Adams– GAHSC; Connie Murray; William & Dolores Glassford

The Chairman asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation given by James Brown, Director Marietta RYDC.

Roll Call

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

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

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

Noting the presence of a quorum of the Board, Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the April 23, 2009 Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education. Elaine Snow moved to approve the agenda for the April 23, 2009 Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education meeting. Daniel Menefee seconded the motion. The chairman called for the vote and the motion was carried.

Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2009 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education and asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There were none. Dr. Risler moved to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2009 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education. Judy Mecum seconded the motion. The chairman called for the vote and the motion was carried.

Chairman Shuman asked all guests and other attendees of the meeting to stand and state their name and organization affiliation.

Chairman Shuman thanked the Board for the flowers, cards, prayers and phone calls he received while he recovered from knee and back surgery.

Commissioner's Report Albert Murray, Commissioner

Commissioner Murray started his report by acknowledging Chairman Shuman's return to the Board. Commissioner Murray said Board Vice-Chair Dr. Ed Risler represented Chairman Shuman well at the March 2009 Board meeting.

Commissioner Murray stated the legislative session ended on April 3rd. DJJ received word that House Bill 245 was signed by the Governor and is effective immediately. This is the DJJ bill which reduces the short-term sentence from 60 days to 30 days. It passed the Senate in the final week. Commissioner Murray noted there is a two-year sunset on this legislation and it will allow the agency to deal with the closure of one (McIntosh) YDC and one wilderness camp. Commissioner Murray said these cuts were necessary to meet the required cuts for FY2009 and 2010. Commissioner Murray thanked all who were involved in the process.

Commissioner Murray said Senate Bill 246 also passed, which deals with victim notification for youth who are accused of a "violent delinquent act" and are released from detention. DJJ staff worked with the sponsor, Senator Don Balfour, to ensure that the bill was positive for victims and did not have any unintended consequences for the agency.

Commissioner Murray drew the Board, staff and visitors' attention to the Victim's Advocate Update agenda item that will be discussed later on in the meeting.

Commissioner Murray said the Victim's advocate update will not cover SB 246 specifically, but it will provide information regarding DJJ's victim services program. Commissioner Murray also stated April 26 – May 2 will be National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Commissioner Murray said legislation to revise the juvenile code was finally introduced. Senate Bill 292 was sponsored by Senator Bill Hamrick. It is the comprehensive legislation developed by JUSTGeorgia after many years of research and feedback from stakeholder groups. The plan is to study this bill over the summer and fall and work toward passing legislation in the 2010 session. Committee meetings will be held which will allow for public comments. DJJ will participate in these meetings and will develop a plan for submitting agency positions. Commissioner Murray asked the Board to see Amy Howell or Spiro Amburn if there are any questions about this process.

The General Assembly passed the FY2010 General Appropriations Act (House Bill 119). The bill is awaiting Governor Perdue's signature. Commissioner Murray said Deputy Commissioner Jeff Minor provided a written summary document to the Board last week and there's a copy in the board material. It contains details of the budget cuts and decisions affecting DJJ. The FY2010 Appropriation required a reduction of almost \$55 million in state funds. Of that, \$28 million was replaced with Federal Stimulus Funds from the American Recovery and Investment Act and almost \$27 million are actual cuts to DJJ state resources (representing a true reduction of approximately 8%). Details of the cuts have been discussed with the Board on several occasions and the final bill has very few changes from the original plan. Commissioner Murray said he along with Deputy Commissioner Minor will be glad to answer any questions that the Board may have, following the remainder of his comments.

Commissioner Murray said despite the hard decisions and necessary reductions, it was a successful year. Commissioner Murray gave special thanks to each Board member for the phone calls and personal contacts they made and for supporting the agency during this difficult budget year.

In the Community Services and Intake Division two important events occurred in March in the Augusta area. DJJ Staff were instrumental in both.

The first was the Resource Fair in Augusta. It is a job fair for local youth and it was a huge success. It was held at the Julian Smith facility from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in early March. At this event there were over 50 vendors. Examples include colleges, transitional services, DFACS, DHR, the Sheriff's Department, Fire Department, National Guard, the Board of Education, Department of Labor, Vocational Rehab, Safe-Homes, Augusta Recreation, and many more.

There were several sponsors; Kmart, Target, Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, McDonald's, Wendy's, Pepsi-Cola, Coca-Cola, and several others. CSI staff prepared 350 goody bags for the youth. The room was packed so planning is underway to find a bigger place for next year. All 3 judges and 2 representatives from the District Attorney's Office in Richmond County also attended.

The second event was on March 27, 2009, during the celebration of “DJJ week in the Richmond County School System.” This was coordinated through our School Based Supervision Program. Local DJJ staff conducted projects with local schools.

Commissioner Murray read a comment that was made by a local teacher about one part of the event.

“DJJ staff gave my Business Education class a much needed makeover. They decorated my walls with computer literacy posters and created a character word wall. This team of talented individuals invigorated my class with their warm spirits and collective effort to enhance the learning environment.”

Commissioner Murray said this comment and effort by staff is again, one of the benefits of DJJ’s school based supervision program.

Division of Programs and Secure Campuses

Commissioner Murray shared some good news from the Office of Education. DJJ received their scores from the spring 2009 retest of the High School Writing Test (HSWT). Of the 56 DJJ students who took the High School Writing Test-retest on February 25, 2009, 46 passed the test. Commissioner Murray said this is quite an accomplishment. The 10 that did not pass will take the test again during the next retest in July. Commissioner Murray stated Dr. Catrett will cover this in more detail during the education report to the board.

The Office of Behavioral Health Services will co-sponsor the Annual System of Care Training Academy in Gainesville May 11th through May 13th. DJJ’s co-sponsors are the Governor’s Office for Children and Families, DHR’s Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Diseases, and KidsNet Georgia. The academy will focus on systems change and the role to be played by family members, professionals, agency staff and leaders in developing systems of care.

Ms. Adrienne Torres, MSW intern with the OBHS recently won the prestigious Georgia State University President's Award for Community Service and Social Action. She was awarded this honor for her work on a community education forum on the School to Prison Pipeline and community intervention with at-risk youth. Ms. Torres has applied to the doctoral program in Social Work at the University of Georgia. Commissioner Murray congratulated Ms. Torres on her accomplishment.

Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne, Director, Office of Health Services, attended a two day workshop on March 25 and 26, 2009 sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. The workshop brought together correctional health professionals from across the U.S. to encourage collaboration between the corrections and public health fields. Presentations by national experts focused on infectious diseases that impact correctional populations and the community. A new CDC website was also introduced, which can be found at www.cdc.gov.

This website was developed in consultation with correctional practitioners nationally. Dr. Staples-Horne participated in the development of the website on behalf of DJJ.

Students from the Criminal Justice Program at Augusta State University toured the Augusta YDC on March 27. This year, 25 students toured the campus and participated in a panel presentation by Augusta YDC students. Four YDC resident volunteers serving as facility ambassadors shared information about their experiences in the juvenile justice system and factors that lead them to the YDC. The ASU (university) students expressed this was a valuable learning experience for them and they appreciated the opportunity to visit the campus and interact with DJJ youth.

At the Eastman YDC the GED test was administered in March, and 7 of the students that took the test had passing scores and will receive their GED.

The OCI audit at the Savannah River Challenge Program was completed on April 22nd. Also, DJJ is having ongoing discussions with AMI about the effect of the passage of HB 245 (reduction of STP sentence to 30 days). DJJ is discussing ways to maximize the use of this program, given its anticipation that the length of stay for STP youth will decline. DJJ is considering using a portion of the program as a resource to serve youth committed to DJJ through a wilderness type program, similar to what AMI currently provides at their 2 other contracted wilderness experience programs (Baxley and Cochran). With the closure of McIntosh, the Savannah River Challenge Program will be DJJ's only privatized STP facility.

On April 27th-May 22nd, key administrative staff from the Eastman YDC will attend a train the trainer class for the Department's new safe crisis management (SCM) program at the DJJ Training Academy in Forsyth. Previously, staff from the Sumter and Macon YDCs attended the SCM training at the academy. Also, staff from the Office of Campus Operations, Office of Education, Office of Health Services and the Office of Behavioral Health Services will attend this course. Commissioner Murray said he expects these first staff to be instrumental in supporting the implementation of the Safe Crisis Management model in all our facilities.

At the monthly YDC Directors meeting held at the Sumter YDC, Mr. Rick Jacobs, Special Operations Coordinator with the Georgia Department of Corrections, was invited to attend to discuss some best practices in facility security and lessons learned by GDC in their effort to combat cell phone contraband within secure facilities. Commissioner Murray said Mr. Jacobs served as a good resource for DJJ.

Perry McGuire will be the guest speaker at the BJCOT graduation on April 24 at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. The graduation begins at 11:30 a.m. Commissioner Murray stated he will be taking his furlough day and will not be able to attend the graduation ceremony but thanked Mr. McGuire for agreeing to be a speaker. Commissioner Murray said he knows the graduates will benefit from Mr. McGuire's remarks.

Commissioner Murray said if board members would like to attend a DJJ graduation or take part as a speaker they should contact Steve Hayes or Fabienne Tate.

Also completed on April 22, in Forsyth, was the annual Food Service training for DJJ's agency food preparers. The goals of the training are to improve the overall wellness of DJJ youth and to reinforce the DJJ Food Safety Policy.

May 6-8, in Forsyth, is the Professional Development Course for DJJ's Nursing Staff.

Commissioner Murray said DJJ Board training will be on May 28 after the DJJ Board meeting. Topics will be covered with by both Georgia School Boards Association staff and DJJ staff. The plan is for the training to begin following a lunch break after the May board meeting in the DJJ board room. Commissioner Murray said he knows some of the Board have had to make other arrangements to get their training this year and that of course is fine. Commissioner Murray said he was grateful most of the Board will be attending and meeting their requirements and obligation by taking that training. Commissioner Murray asked the Board to get with Steve Hayes or Cherecia Kline if they needed a hotel reservation either the night before or the night of the training date. There are plans to set up a direct bill to the department.

Commissioner Murray asked the Board to review a separate board comments handout in their packet from the Division of Administrative Services. The handout includes updates from the Office of Training, Investigation Unit, Office of Classification and Transportation, and the Office of Human Resources. Commissioner Murray requested the Board ask any questions they may have regarding the supplemental information.

Commissioner Murray concluded his report and asked if there were any questions.

There were none.

Chairman Shuman moved to the next item, an executive session.

Board member Dexter Rowland made the motion to go into executive session.

Board member Larry Barnes seconded the motion.

The Chairman called for a vote. The motion carried.

At the close of the executive session a motion was made by Board member Daniel Menefee 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 Victim's Advocate Update. Chairman Shuman asked Rob Roosenbloom to introduce Dee Bell to the Board.

Victim's Advocate Update

Dee Bell, Program Coordinator – Community Services & Intake
Department of Juvenile Justice

Rob Rosenbloom stated Dee Bell has worked at DJJ for several years and came from a background of working for the Department of Corrections and the Board of Pardons and Paroles. Ms. Bell also worked for Florida Atlantic University on balanced and restorative justice and did research across the country. Mr. Rosenbloom stated victims are a part of that balanced approach for justice. DJJ adopted that as its philosophical oversight. DJJ's focus on victims came to head about two years ago when it hired the first victim advocate. Within the past few years there has been a lot of development in victim's services and reaching out to victims across the state in the juvenile justice system. DJJ has partnered with district attorney's offices and communities across the state to develop sensitivity toward victim's issues. Mr. Rosenbloom stated Ms. Bell coordinates community programs, conducts research, completes grant proposals, and conducts training. Mr. Rosenbloom presented Dee Bell to the Board.

Dee Bell greeted the Board, staff and visitors. Ms. Bell stated that Joycelyn Evans is actually DJJ's Victims Advocate. Ms. Evans is in Savannah doing training with a victim's organization about what DJJ offers to victims and how it collaborates and partners with other agencies. Ms. Bell stated the National Crime Victims' Right week is April 26 – May 2. Ms. Bell made reference to the National Crime Victims' Rights poster in the Board room. Ms. Bell stated all across the state, DJJ staff are involved with other agencies and other partners like local district attorney offices and victims advocacy organizations in celebrating National Crime Victims' Rights week.

Ms. Bell said she will go through the victims' rights brochure in the board packet. Ms. Bell stated about 18 months ago, DJJ established a toll free 1-866 number for victims. Some of the individuals that get victimized by crimes don't always have that resource available. Ms. Bell explained having a toll free 1-866 number for victims has been a great benefit. The number is used very frequently. Ms. Bell stated each victim is logged in as they call. Ms. Bell said they logged about 250 calls this year through the month of March. Some victims also reach out to local community service and court services offices.

Ms. Bell stated the Victims Advocacy Office also started working on automating victim's information. Ms. Bell said there was already a way to put the information into DJJ's system but it was not always getting there and was not always accessible. DJJ conducted a recent audit at the end of March 2009 and they received a 96% compliance rate for all victims' information. DJJ is not at 100% because they have not been able to access the information needed to talk to and notify victims. DJJ has increased its accountability in knowing who its victims are, and knowing how to best provide advocacy services.

Ms. Bell stated this has led to automated impact forms. Ms. Bell explained those forms are on file not just for the court proceeding but for DJJ staff use as they work with juveniles and hold them accountable and make them understand how their actions cause problems for their victims.

Ms. Bell said this led the Advocacy Office to automate their impact notification letters. DJJ is required by law to notify all victims when kids with certain serious and violent crimes are released from long term placement or confinement. This has always been done but that process is now automated.

Ms. Bell said for the past 18 months a lot of time was spent training the staff about good victim's advocacy and service. It was important that the staff understand what the needs are and what resources DJJ has to offer. Ms. Bell said her office has also been involved in putting together a performance based outcome report card for the DJJ. Two of the measures that are being looked at are very victim centered; restitution collection and completion of community service hours. Both of those have been greatly increased over the past few months. Ms. Bell stated there is additional emphasis on restitution by a law that was passed last year in Georgia. Ms. Bell said they always help victims get restitution. That doesn't always happen because the youths and parents don't make a lot of money. Ms. Bell said they will then work with the district attorney's office to make sure it gets filed as an order in the Civil Court so that restitution can continue to be collected after supervision is completed.

Ms. Bell stated they have not only done training around victims service advocacy but training has continued around Restorative Group Conferencing, which is a dialogue model where victims have the opportunity to speak directly to the youth that victimize them and try to work through what needs to be done to repair that. Ms. Bell stated Restorative Group Conferencing has been a very popular option for victims in Georgia. It is not a requirement for victims but an opportunity. There are currently over 350 trained staff in the state that have completed the 3-day training and are prepared to offer that service.

Ms. Bell said her office has also been involved in the development of victim's services policies for DJJ. DJJ did not have specific policies in place for victim's services and that has been a big undertaking to get those written and implemented.

Ms. Bell stated currently they are working on a victim's link on the DJJ website. If a person is a victim of a juvenile crime, that person will be able to go to the DJJ website and they will be able to click on a link that will give them the toll free 1-866 number, contact email information or access other victim's services and resources.

Ms. Bell also said they are working on a victim's satisfaction survey at the end of the fiscal year. All the victims on DJJ's log will have the opportunity to answer a 10 question survey that will be mailed to them. This would let DJJ know how they are doing. Ms. Bell said she is hopeful that they will receive at least 20% of the surveys back.

Ms. Bell said starting in the spring DJJ will be implementing a victim's impact curriculum in all RYDCs and at the Muscogee YDC. This is a ten week curriculum that will help kids understand how victims are impacted by their choices. Ms. Bell said DJJ hopes to have this program up and running by July 1.

Ms. Bell said Senate Bill 246 will require DJJ to work with other partners to notify victims of serious and violent crimes when youths are released from detention. Victims will be given a 24 hour notification for pre-adjudicated offenses and 48 hours for post adjudicated offenses. The Bill will increase the number of victims that will be notified when a youth is released from a DJJ facility.

Dee Bell concluded her report and asked if there were any questions.

Board member Stephen Simpson asked if there were any age restrictions on any of DJJ's advocacy programs. Stephen Simpson also asked if there was a way for DJJ to track when a victim moved.

Ms. Bell said Senate Bill 246 requires victims to be notified. Ms. Bell said it is the victim's choice if they want to be notified and DJJ will provide them with information on how to update their information if they move. Ms. Bell said if a victim moves without notify DJJ they will try all means to notify the victim which includes sending them a letter to their last known address hoping it will be forwarded to the correct address.

Ms. Bell said as far as the age requirements, most of the crimes are SB440 cases so there are restrictions as to what a youth can be charged with at a certain age. Ms. Bell said other than that there are no age requirements.

Board member Daniel Menefee asked when and how the Restorative Group Conferencing takes place.

Ms. Bell stated it happens because DJJ offers the victims the opportunity. It is also up to the youths and parents if they want to be involved. Ms. Bell said the Restorative Group Conferencing is a voluntary process. Ms. Bell said when it happens truly depends on the situation. The process is sometimes used upfront after delinquency with the idea the sooner you can resolve issues and restore relationships the better off everyone will be. Ms. Bell said the conferencing has also been used later on in the process. Ms. Bell gave an example of a kid that may have been in long term placement at a YDC and is getting ready to return to a community where people were victimized by his or her actions. Those victims are sometimes family or extended family. Ms. Bell said having a conference at that point will help them work it through and they will have an understanding of how they will interact in the future. Ms. Bell said DJJ primarily uses the Restorative Group Conferencing with lower level delinquents but has also used it with very serious delinquents at the request of the victims.

Board member Elaine Snow asked if the Restorative Group Conferencing was located in every county.

Ms. Bell said it will be in every county in Georgia.

Ms. Snow asked where the Restorative Group Conferencing office is in every county.

Ms. Bell said the location would vary by county. Some of the Restorative Group Conference offices will be located at the court houses and some are in rented space by the county. Ms. Bell said it would be where any DJJ office would be located.

Commissioner Murray said that he can provide any Board member a list of all court services offices.

Chairman Shuman asked if they ever encountered any problems during a conference between the victims and the youths.

Ms. Bell said both the victims and the youths are both there voluntarily. DJJ doesn't force the victims or youths to take part in the conferences. DJJ will work with both the victims and youths prior to the conference to make sure they are prepared to be in that meeting and there are no underlying issues by the victims, youths or parents.

Ms. Bell said she has worked in 25 states and she doesn't know of any conferences where there has been an incident.

Board member Sandra Taylor asked at what point in the process victims actually receive the information about the Restorative Group Conferencing.

Ms. Bell said the victims receive the information as soon as DJJ can reach out to them. Ms. Bell says it depends on when DJJ gets the youth's case.

Board member Sandra Taylor asked what is the typical time frame.

Ms. Bell said in some counties DJJ is doing a lot of pre-adjudication work and that can happen within a few weeks. Ms. Bell said you don't ever conference if there is an issue of guilt still to be determined. The youth has to admit to what they have done.

Judge Gilbert said the Restorative Group Conference has been around for a while. Judge Gilbert commended Dee Bell and her staff for the work they are doing. Judge Gilbert stated they have a successful program in Bibb County Georgia. Judge Gilbert stated the District Attorney in Bibb County screens all the complaints that come in and he makes the initial determination as to whether they will go to Restorative Group Conferencing. At that point, the youth will then acknowledge responsibility for what they have done.

Commissioner Murray said Restorative Group Conferencing has been around for a long time. Commissioner Murray recalled it started back in 1984 at Florida Atlantic University.

Board member Sandra Taylor asked how often the Restorative Group Conferencing is being used as informal adjustment and what are the statistics as it relates to the program.

Ms. Bell said DJJ is keeping data. Ms. Bell said one of the most promising practices about conferencing and other restoration practices is that there has been a lot of research done. The recidivism rate is much lower when you sit down and conference with kids. Research will tell

you that because the youth had the opportunity to hear from the actual person who suffered the harm there is a component of empathy. As youths start to understand the real consequence to others they do make better choices not to harm. Ms. Bell said you see a reduction of about 45%. For every youth that is kept out of the system, that is a youth that will not move deeper in the system.

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

Customer Service Update

Steve Hayes, Customer Service Chairperson
Department of Juvenile Justice

Mr. Hayes stated in his report he will recognize some employees. The DJJ Annual Recognition program was implemented over a year ago. Mr. Hayes said DJJ is in a position where it can recognize its employees quarterly as well as recognize its 2008 Customer Service Employee of the Year. Mr. Hayes said the employees that are being recognized are an example of all DJJ staff. There were 24 nominations that were considered. The committee met and reviewed the nominations and made the decision to recognize the following employees. Mr. Hayes stated all the nominations were worthy and it was a hard decision to come up with the three winners. Mr. Hayes also said there are many fine employees in this agency who are great customer service agents for the state of Georgia. Hayes said pictures will be taken of the recipient, with Chairman Shuman and Commissioner Murray. Mr. Hayes announced DJJ's quarterly customer service recipients.

Janssen Robinson is a training specialist in the Office of Training which is under the Division of Administrative Services and under the direction of Deputy Commissioner Amy Howell.

Mr. Hayes read a few comments from the nomination:

Janssen Robinson joined the Department of Juvenile Justice five years ago as a part-time employee in the Office of Training. He was promoted on May 16, 2007 to training specialist which was well deserved. Janssen was recently selected as Team Player of the Year by his Office of Training colleagues. He is conscientious and takes pride and ownership in his work projects and job responsibilities. His skills and talents are in high demand and valued by many internal customers at DJJ.

Janssen is widely known throughout the agency by his smile, approachability, and his willingness to assist with any project that the agency presents as a need and a priority. Mr. Hayes said there is not enough of Janssen to go around. He is a model team player for the five commitments of customer service; he is courteous, helpful, accessible, responsive, and knowledgeable. Janssen's unselfish love for this work and willingness to go over and beyond the

minimum is demonstrated in how he works to engage himself in the customer's request. He is concerned with quality and not the recognition and acknowledgement.

He is concerned with quality and delivery of the final product. Janssen has an overwhelming respect, trust, and credibility within the agency. Mr. Hayes said he can personally speak on that because he works with Janssen daily, weekly, and monthly on several projects.

Janssen Robinson said he really appreciated the award and was not expecting it. He stated he is very passionate about what he does and enjoys working with DJJ under the leadership of Commissioner Murray and Director Fabienne Tate. Mr. Robinson said it's a great job and he enjoys coming in to work every day. Mr. Robinson thanked Mr. Hayes and DJJ for recognizing him.

Mr. Hayes announced Julie Spriggs as the second quarterly Customer Service winner for DJJ. Julie Spriggs is a Juvenile Probation/Parole Specialist II (JPPSII) from Houston County, CSO under the direction of Rob Rosenbloom.

Mr. Hayes read a few comments from Julie Spriggs' nomination:

Julie Spriggs has proven to be an extraordinary, determined and committed DJJ employee. She has had a measurable impact on the small hearing-impaired community served by the probation office. On one occasion Ms. Spriggs showed her industriousness character by assisting a deaf parent of hearing children find her way through the juvenile justice process with the help of an interpreter. On this particular occasion, Ms. Spriggs contacted the main office and legal department to inquire about the correct procedure and paperwork required to obtain an interpreter. Ms. Spriggs successfully provided the much needed communication between the hearing-impaired parent and the PO. The PO was then able to determine the needs of the parent and the child involved, and help with needed services for the family.

Mr. Hayes also announced that Julie Spriggs will also receive a Governor's Office of Customer Service award on May 28, 2009. Mr. Hayes also stated Ms. Spriggs' parents and staff from Houston County are present to show their support for Ms. Spriggs.

Ms. Spriggs stated she was very humbled by the award. Ms. Spriggs said she has been led by an amazing team in Houston County. Ms. Spriggs acknowledged her supervisor Ms. Pansy Bryant and stated she is great leader who has given her more than just supervisory experience. Ms. Spriggs also recognized several other coworkers from Houston County in attendance. Ms. Spriggs thanked her parents William & Dolores Glassford. Ms. Spriggs said since she was a child, her mother has always written in her yearbook: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Ms. Spriggs said she takes that with her every day. Ms. Spriggs thanked Rob Rosenbloom, Commissioner Murray and the staff at DJJ for giving her an opportunity to do what she is so passionate about, to and give back to the community that has given back so much to her.

Mr. Hayes presented the Customer Service of the Year Award to Curtis Davison, Lead Teacher and Kinsey Solomon, Assistant Director from the Marietta RYDC from the Division of

Community Service & Intake. Mr. Hayes said a student entered the Marietta RYDC on May 6, 2008 and upon entering she informed Mr. Davison that she needed only 1 Carnegie Unit in order to graduate from high school. Mr. Hayes said sometimes in state government, things are not as flexible as they need to be to achieve success. Mr. Davison and Mr. Solomon worked hand in hand to assist the student to achieve her high school diploma. The student had been withdrawn from high school in late April and was concerned she wouldn't be able to earn the credit she needed to graduate. Mr. Davison contacted the school guidance counselor at the high school. The two of them discussed the student's situation at length. An agreement was reached whereby she would complete the summer semester at the Marietta RYDC, enrolled all day in the one course she needed; Literature & Composition. This would allow her to earn both the grade and seat time needed to be given credit for the course.

Mr. Davison met with Director James D. Brown and Assistant Director Kinsey Solomon to discuss arrangements for the student to have the opportunity to complete the course. It was agreed that the student would remain in Mr. Davison's classroom during the 4 morning class periods and would be able to work uninterrupted on the course. She completed the very last assignment and Mr. Davison completed the transcript form awarding the Carnegie Unit. Mr. Davison contacted the high school and faxed all the necessary forms.

In order to achieve the student's goals, both Mr. Davison and Mr. Solomon were outstanding in their performance in being helpful, knowledgeable, courteous and very accessible to the student, family and school officials in order to make accommodations with the teachers, security and various other staff members to allow the student to work diligently toward her final goal.

Too many barriers are sometimes in place that will keep extraordinary accomplishments from occurring. This could have been the case in this instance if not for these two dedicated DJJ employees. They saw a youth in their care who could achieve success if the youth received the necessary assistance that called on staff to be flexible and to make the system flexible in order for the youth to be able to earn her diploma.

Mr. Kinsey Solomon said he was not expecting to win but will gladly accept it. Mr. Solomon stated anytime there is a unique situation to help a student he goes out of his way to help. He stated it was a collaborative effort by Mr. Davison and Mr. James Brown. Mr. Solomon said he is deeply honored.

Mr. Curtis Davison said when success is achieved at Marietta RYDC it is always the result of teamwork. It is the tremendous level of support that the education department receives from its facility administrators as well as the genuine spirit of cooperation that exists between the security department and the education department that makes this success possible. Mr. Davison said it is an honor to serve DJJ and the youth of Georgia. Mr. Davison said as an educator said there is no greater reward than to help a child achieve his or her maximum potential. Mr. Davison thanked Commissioner Murray and Steve Hayes for helping to make this possible.

Mr. Hayes asked James Brown, Director of Marietta RYDC to make a few comments.

Mr. Brown said thank you on behalf of the Marietta RYDC for considering their facility for this great award. Mr. Brown said there is always talk about what is not being done at the RYDC's. Everyone at the RYDC takes their job very seriously and appreciates the nomination and support.

Mr. Hayes concluded his report by saying the Governor's Commendation Ceremony is scheduled for May 28 at 9:00. Mr. Hayes mentioned that is the same day of DJJ's May Board meeting. Mr. Hayes said the staff at Governor's Office said they will work with him and move DJJ staff to the front of the line in receiving their commendations. Mr. Hayes said if any of the board members would like to attend the ceremony to let him know.

Mr. Hayes asked if there were any questions.

There were none.

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

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

Education Update

Dr. Jack Catrett, Associate Superintendent
Department of Juvenile Justice

Dr. Catrett greeted Commissioner Murray, Chairman Shuman, staff, and visitors. Dr. Catrett stated it was good to start his education update with good news. Dr. Catrett said thank you to all the staff at the Marietta RYDC.

Dr. Catrett reiterated what Commissioner Murray stated in his report about the spring 2009 retest of the High School Writing Test (HSWT). Dr. Catrett stated 46 youths passed out of 56 and agreed with Commissioner Murray that that was a very good number for a public school. Dr. Catrett said he is very proud of the kids that studied hard, the teachers who worked with those kids and DJJ Curriculum Director Martha Patton. Dr. Catrett stated DJJ's the writing scores were not where they should be, so Ms. Patton's goal was to increase those scores. Ms. Patton researched and came up with some good strategies and taught DJJ teachers those methods. Ms.

Patton is also reviewing that curriculum for next year to make sure DJJ is on track so the 10 kids that did not pass the High School Writing Test will have a better chance.

Dr. Catrett also stated the DJJ administered the Georgia High School Exam test. Those results will be back in mid May.

DJJ is now in the middle of SRCT testing. This includes grades 3-8. Dr. Catrett reminded the Board that grades 3, 5 and 8 are the gate keeping test meaning they have to pass the reading and math portions of the test in order to move on to the next grade.

Dr. Catrett stated the end of the course window is May 4-15. Dr. Catrett stated the tests account for 15% of a child's grades in algebra I, geometry, 9th grade literature, American literature and composition, physical science, biology, US history, economics, math I & math II. Dr. Catrett stated if they have a student that passes with a 100%, if they don't take the test that means their final grade will be 85%. Dr. Catrett said they are working hard to make sure the kids pass the test so they can post Carnegie Units. Dr. Catrett explained Carnegie Units are a good outcome for all kids especially at DJJ facilities.

Dr. Catrett listed the graduation dates at DJJ facilities:

The Augusta YDC graduation will be on May 15, and Dr. Risler will be the speaker. Dr. Catrett said Dr. Risler was appointed to the editorial staff of the Journal of the Correctional Association.

Metro RYDC's graduation will also be May 15. Dr. Catrett stated this will be the first high school graduation for the Metro RYDC in its history. One youth will graduate with a college prep diploma.

The Muscogee YDC graduation will be on May 22.

The Macon YDC graduation will be on May 26. Dr. Catrett stated some of the girls have been released but were asked to come back to attend the graduation ceremony.

The Sumter YDC graduation will be June 6.

The Eastman YDC graduation will be July 31.

Dr. Catrett said in other education matters, all DJJ YDCs had a career day. Mr. Coy Satterfield is in charge of that. Dr. Catrett thanked the directors at the YDCs for helping to make career day a success. Dr. Catrett also thanked Gordon Fisher and Steve Herndon for their support. Dr. Catrett stated about 35 employers were in attendance.

Dr. Catrett said DJJ screened and adopted its middle school language arts curriculum text books for next year. DJJ curriculum is being rewritten for the new books along with its performance

standards from the state. DJJ teachers and principals were brought in to adopt the text books and to help with the curriculum rewrite.

The DJJ Response to Intervention (RTI) manual is finished and final training will take place on April 24 at the Forsyth Training Center. Dr. Catrett stated they have invited the Office of Continuous Improvement staff to come along and be a part of it.

Dr. Catrett announced on May 22, 2009 DJJ will be meeting with some administrators, teachers and staff from Georgia DOE to compile and complete a regular education manual. Dr. Catrett said there is one for special education, student support team, section 504, and one for RTI.

Dr. Catrett announced that DJJ purchased some new software to help with its foreign language program. Dr. Catrett said he hopes the new software will strengthen its program.

Dr. Catrett stated senior management at the Central Office met with the Southern Association (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) leadership and with the Correctional Educational Association leadership about DJJ's upcoming 5 year review. Dr. Catrett said he is happy to report that DJJ met all the standards and is in good shape.

Dr. Catrett said he attended the Spring 2009 Bootstrap Superintendent Conference and learned some things he needs to report to the Board. DJJ will be getting some incentive money and it will be in the form of Title I extra funds and in 6B which is special education fund. Dr. Catrett stated they discussed DJJ will receive about 50% more than what was received last year. Dr. Catrett said those numbers will be available in the near future. Dr. Catrett said the word is this money will be used to supplement and not supplant.

DJJ applied for a grant for its afterschool program. Dr. Catrett said for the past 2 years the program was funded by the state and that was one of the items that was cut. Dr. Catrett said DJJ has been looking high and low for grant money to replace that. Dr. Catrett stated they asked for \$187,000 for the first year, \$265,000 for the second year, and \$346,000 for the third year of the grant. Dr. Catrett stated Commissioner Murray signed off on that as of April 22, 2009.

Dr. Catrett said thank you to Commissioner Murray and Steve Herndon for all their support.

Dr. Catrett concluded his report and asked if there were any more questions.

Board member Dexter Rowland asked if there will be training for the 10 students who did not pass the High School Writing Test.

Dr. Catrett said those students will receive remedial training during the summer.

Board member Elaine snow asked where the grant for the after school program was coming from.

Dr. Catrett said the grant is from the 21st Century Grant which is the same place they received the grant from the previous years.

Commissioner Murray asked if the 10 students can be tested locally if they are released before getting a chance to be retested.

Dr. Catrett said that this test is a big part of their being promoted, making Carnegie Units, getting their high school diplomas and passing the exit exam. Dr. Catrett said when they get a youth's record, they look to see how complete it is, what grade he/she is currently in, and where he/she is in testing. Youths not only have a full time equivalent number (FTE) but also have a Georgia testing number as well. This way DJJ can keep up with the testing scores even though a child is separated from their FTE numbers.

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

Board member Dexter Rowland made the motion to close the Board of Education meeting and resume the Board of Juvenile Justice meeting.

Board member Daniel Menefee seconded the motion.

The Chairman called for any discussion and then a vote.

The motion carried.

Chairman Shuman stated the executive committee met prior to the Board meeting to discuss the process of electing Board officers. Chairman Shuman said the election process starts every two years. Chairman Shuman asked Bill Amideo to discuss the election process to the Board.

Bill Amideo made reference to the outline in the Board packet that gave an outline of the dates and requirements for the Board of Juvenile Justice selections. Mr. Amideo said he prepared the outline as a request of Chairman Shuman. Mr. Amideo said according to DJJ bylaws, DJJ Board elections will take place at the July meeting. The process will get rolling in May. The Board's Executive Committee met prior to the Board meeting to get an advance of the election process so that everything will go smoothly in July. Mr. Amideo said the DJJ Board has 3 officers; Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary. They serve for 2 year terms and it is specified in the bylaws how the process is worked through. The Executive Committee elects a Nominating Committee in May. They will meet and get ready for that process. Between the May and June Board meeting, the Nominating Committee will then develop a slate of officers they will propose to the Board at the June meeting. The Chairman will then open the floor for other nominations. The vote will then take place at the July Board meeting.

Bill Amideo asked if there were any questions.

There were none.

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

Chairman Shuman asked if there was any unfinished business. Seeing none he asked if there was any new business.

Board member Stephen Simpson asked if DJJ looked into any of the government stimulus money.

Commissioner Murray said he and Jeff Minor attended a meeting a few weeks ago at the Capitol. Commissioner Murray asked Jeff Minor to address the questions.

Jeff Minor said there are a number of opportunities for different entities, state, city, local government, courts and others. DJJ is an executive agency that is coordinating with the Governor's Office and the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget around what activities each agency will entertain and be eligible for. In some cases there are strings and in some cases there are match requirements. Mr. Minor said DJJ is actively seeking those. DJJ has made applications for a number of opportunities. The first bid is for part of a \$13 million formula grant money provided to the state of Georgia for public safety. DJJ has made a request for some of the \$13 million. Minor said there are a number of other opportunities that each section or function at DJJ may be going after such as education, mental health and others.

Mr. Minor told the Board if they see any opportunity that may be appropriate to please forward it to him. Mr. Minor stated state cuts were very serious to DJJ. With the lost of the after school programs and transition programs they are looking whatever opportunities they can.

Board member Stephen Simpson said DJJ needs to be very aggressive in pursuing the stimulus money because it's an opportunity that will never come around again.

Board member Van Herrin said the stimulus money is temporary and if DJJ is budgeting, they should consider whether the money will not be available year after year.

Board member Stephen Simpson said there is one piece of the Bill that talks about buying hybrid vehicles. Mr. Simpson said there are some opportunities there for DJJ to make some capital investments that they may need to do 18 months from now.

Mr. Minor said for example DJJ is coordinating with the Office of Administrative Services on that particular item and the needs of each department.

The Office of Administrative Services will be the one to apply for vehicles but they are taking into consideration the needs and condition of each agency's vehicles and also how many needs to be replaced.

Board member Larry Barnes said as far as public education is concerned, they were told that money is designated in certain areas. Everything still needs to filter down through the Governor's Office. As long as DJJ is in touch with the Governor's office, they should be in good shape.

Commissioner Murray stated the plan they submitted for the stimulus money should result in DJJ getting about \$3 of the \$13 million. Some decisions will need to be made because DJJ is competing against other state agencies. Commissioner Murray said DJJ submitted a good plan and is being very aggressive.

Chairman Shuman announced the next DJJ Board Meeting will be at the Central Office on May 28, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

Chairman Shuman asked if there were any other questions.

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

Board member Stephen Simpson made the motion and Board member Larry Barnes made the second.

The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Albert Murray
Commissioner

Daniel A. Menefee, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice

