

**Board of Juvenile Justice  
Thursday, January 22, 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 January 22, 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:** Amy Howell; Dr. Jack Catrett; Steve Herndon; Jeff Minor; Rob Rosenbloom; Bill Amideo; Gordon Fisher; Spiro Amburn; Shirley Turner; Richard Harrison; Steve Hayes; Nathan Cain; Cherecia Kline; Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne; Coy Satterfield

**Others:** Judge Timothy Pape – Juvenile Court (Floyd County); E. Ann Gowdy; Michelle Bakay; Jennifer Felner – Barton Child & Law Policy (Emory); Destiny Washington – Attorney General Office; April Morgan – Nelson Mullins; Ana Moreira – UGA Intern; Eva Lou Shuman

The Chairman asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation given by Dr. Jack Catrett.

**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 – via teleconference; Bruce Garraway (after roll call); James P. Kelly; Elizabeth Lindsey (after roll call); Perry McGuire; Judy Mecum (after roll call); Daniel Menefee (after roll call); Dr. Edwin Risler; Pastor Dexter Rowland (after roll call); J. Daniel Shuman; Stephen Simpson (after roll call); Elaine Snow; Sandra Taylor

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

Noting the presence of a quorum of the Board, Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the January 22, 2009 Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education. Daniel Menefee moved to approve the agenda for the January 22, 2009 Board

of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education meeting. Sandra Taylor 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 December 11, 2008 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education and asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There were none. Elaine Snow moved to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2008 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education. Larry Barnes seconded the motion. The chairman called for the vote and the motion was carried.

### **Commissioner's Report**

Amy Howell, Deputy Commissioner

Amy Howell, Deputy Commissioner of Administrative Services said good morning to board members, staff and visitors. Ms. Howell stated she was standing in for Commissioner Murray who is at the Capitol conducting budget hearings. Ms. Howell stated these are very critical times and it is important that Commissioner Murray is there to present DJJ's budget. Amy Howell stated she will start her report with news that was sent out within the past week regarding an honor Commissioner Murray received. The E.R. Cass Correctional Achievement Award is the highest honor bestowed by the American Correctional Association (ACA). The E.R. Cass Award is presented each year to an ACA member who has made an outstanding contribution to the ACA and to the correctional field over a period of time and has exemplified the highest of principles and integrity as a corrections professional. Amy Howell stated Commissioner Murray will be this year's recipient as it was announced at the ACA winter conference in January and he will be presented with the award at the Summer American Correctional Association conference in Nashville, Tennessee in August. The dates are the 7-12<sup>th</sup>. It's fitting Commissioner Murray will receive this honor in his former home state.

Amy Howell explained the history on the E.R. Cass Award. The E.R. Cass Award was created in 1962 in honor of Edward R. Cass, who served as the ACA's general secretary for 40 years and spent a total of 50 years working in corrections.

Amy Howell also stated Commissioner Murray has been a member of ACA for over 25 years. During that time, he has been very active in the organization. He has served on the Board of Governors, Delegate Assembly, numerous special committees, and is a certified accreditation auditor. He currently serves on the Commission for Accreditation for ACA. Amy Howell stated this is indeed quite an honor and it speaks highly of Commissioner Murray and the level of professionalism he brings to DJJ.

Amy Howell said the January 22 Board meeting marks Commissioner Murray's 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary as commissioner. On January 25, 2004 Commissioner Murray was sworn in by Governor Perdue and was presented to the DJJ Board.

The legislative session began on January 12<sup>th</sup>. The week was highlighted by the Governor's State of the State Address in which he laid out his budget priorities for FY

2010. Amy Howell said included in his recommendations is the closure of the McIntosh YDC. This cut along with other cuts are tied to DJJ's legislation which will reduce the 60-day STP sentence to 30 days. This legislation has the full backing of the Governor's Office and if passed will allow DJJ to manage the cut packages proposed at the 10% level. Amy Howell also said included in DJJ's legislation is the bill that will require the use of a risk assessment instrument by the court when making decisions on whether or not to detain a youth in a secure facility. DJJ has met with juvenile court judges recently and is working closely with them as the legislation moves forward in the process. Ms. Howell stated DJJ will follow up with the Board and provide final copies of the legislation as requested after DJJ's bills have been properly filed.

Amy Howell said Governor Sonny Perdue delivered the State of the State Address on Wednesday, January 14, 2009 and in doing so he opened his speech highlighting the achievements of Jeremy Lee. Jeremy is the youth who spoke to the Board in September after getting his high school diploma at the Bill Ireland YDC and being released from the facility. Amy Howell stated it was a busy week for Jeremy as he also started at Morehouse College in Atlanta as a freshman. Although the school is unable to provide Jeremy with a scholarship for this semester, he is hopeful that he will qualify and receive a scholarship beginning in the fall.

**From the Community Services and Intake Division:**

Amy Howell mentioned beginning the New Year and facing budget considerations and that planning is underway for the reduction of DJJ regions from five to four. This change is part of the budget plan submitted to the Governor's Office and is planned to be implemented in February 2009. Amy Howell stated this change in the Community Services and Intake Division impacts the entire department. The reorganization results in the loss of one regional administrator and the office. The basic change will be dividing the region for metro Atlanta between Region I (One) and Region II (Two). The staff and functions will be absorbed into the work load of the remaining regions.

Amy Howell said other impacts on the budget for the CSI division included the reduction of mental health staff at nine 30 bed RYDC's, reduction in funding for placing youth in specialized out of home placements and the loss of 70 slots for MST which is a family counseling program. These reductions represent a portion of the programmatic impacts along with other administrative reductions in order to stay within budget constraints. Adjustments to the delivery of services to ensure core responsibilities are met will be made during the upcoming months.

An example of doing more with less is seen in the following story of CSI division staff doing work on the front end of the juvenile justice system with a prevention effort.

DJJ District 9 staff met at Collins Middle School to provide a different twist to the school's annual Career Day. Led by District Director Jeff Alligood, with special assistance from emcee Cynthia Joyce, 8th grade students participated in a game of "Just Us Jeopardy" which focused on juvenile justice and law enforcement careers. Topics of the game included school safety, violence, drugs and alcohol, traffic laws, and juvenile court information. Students divided into five groups and chose topics to answer questions, with the winner of the game noting a wide margin against their opponents.

Principal Jeannie Burkhalter praised DJJ staff for their participation in the Career Day activities and noted, "The students really enjoyed the game and the extra attention."

Amy Howell mentioned Deputy Commissioner Rob Rosenbloom had attended the ACA winter conference along with other DJJ staff. DJJ participation in the conference was reduced significantly in the number of DJJ staff sent due to the budget situation. Only those who held ACA office or was involved in training or presentations, attended on behalf of DJJ.

In Deputy Commissioner Rosenbloom's role as a member of the Board of Governors, he participated in a number of meetings and seminars related to juvenile corrections. All systems are experiencing budget reductions and states are coming up with creative measures to continue to meet the responsibilities of their agencies. The biggest concern expressed was the permanent nature of the budget reductions over time and loss of programs. An important idea was expressed that DJJ must work harder to find ways to advocate for resources in a tough climate and show the value in the work.

### **Division of Programs & Secure Campuses**

Amy Howell said at last month's Board meeting a question arose regarding the availability of results from the National Youth in Custody Survey done during site visits to several YDCs last summer. DJJ followed up with the Westat Co. that is conducting the research on behalf of the US Bureau of Justice Statistics and learned that DJJ will not receive the reports of findings until late summer or fall of 2009. When the report is available from the BJS, DJJ will share the findings with the Board.

### **Campus Operations:**

#### **BILL IRELAND YDC**

Amy Howell said on December 30, Keithian Starling, a former student at Bill Ireland, came back to speak to the youths. His personal story was very passionate and powerful. Mr. Starling explained to the youths how he decided to make a change in his life. He went on to start Grace Prison Ministries in Nashville, Tennessee. Ms. Howell said it was great having Mr. Starling speak to the youths about believing that he would never amount to anything in life to his eventual change and how people can change and the lesson he finally learned that decisions have consequences.

#### **AUGUSTA YDC**

On December 12 Augusta held its graduation ceremony. Former Deputy Commissioner Dr. Thomas Coleman was the graduation speaker. Many parents and family members attended. There were 9 graduates; 2 received High School Diplomas and 7 received GEDs. A reception for families, youths and other visitors was held in the dining hall after the ceremony. Two of the youths have met requirements and received acceptance letters to Paine College and may attend there upon their release.

#### **EASTMAN YDC**

On December 19th Dr. Ed Risler, Pastor Dexter Rowland, Commissioner Murray and other central office staff attended the Eastman YDC commencement exercises. Dr. Risler

inspired the graduating students and supporters with his commencement address. Thirty three students received a high school diploma, GED, or course certificate from Heart of Georgia Technical College. Attendance by parents and staff was outstanding.

At graduation, students that successfully completed the Work Ready exam were also recognized. Ms. Howell emphasized this is a state program administered by the Governor's Office of Workforce Development that provides preparation and testing to certify workers to potential employers as possessing basic skills needed for a variety of jobs. This was a large graduation for this facility, the population of which is our most challenging.

The keynote speaker was Board Vice Chairman Dr. Ed Risler. Dr. Risler wore his academic robe and cap and shared with the students how a GED can be the start of something great as he told the youth how his academic career began by earning a GED. Amy Howell said DJJ very much appreciates Dr. Risler and Pastor Rowland's attendance and participation in this important event. After the commencement, families, youth and visitors were treated to refreshments in the gym.

### **MACON YDC**

During December, the girls at Macon were involved in different campus wide activities sponsored in whole or in part by various community and church organizations. Events included dinners, planned activity programs, a cookout, holiday gifts for the girls and other activities. Howell stated that the Macon staff appreciates the involvement of the many civic and church organizations that support the campus, especially during the holidays, which is difficult time for the girls.

This month, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the girls at the Macon YDC created their very own museum honoring the Civil Rights Pioneer. They erected a very large, well-thought out display outlining King's life and legacy, from his start at Ebenezer Baptist Church to the election of President Obama. Ms. Howell said the girls at the facility led Joe Doyle and Katie Christopherson from the Governor's Office of Customer Service on a tour of their "museum" and that both guests were impressed with the effort that went into the display and the knowledge their tour guides possessed.

### **MUSCOGEE YDC**

Amy Howell said the Muscogee YDC partnered with Columbus Technical College to offer Muscogee YDC staff an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice. The program, which is entering its third semester, has been well received with 20 staff members enrolled. Courses are taught on the campus of Muscogee YDC to make them convenient for all staff members on their own time and at no cost to the department.

Muscogee's affiliation with PAWS Columbus continues. PAWS Columbus has relocated to a new state of the art facility and has provided the YDC PAWS team with several of its kennels from the old facility. The new kennels provide better security and shelter for the dogs.

### **Office of Health Services**

Amy Howell said the Office of Health Services has reorganized the Regional Health Services Administrators (RHSA) facility assignments due to the loss of one position. Health Services staff are working with facility managers to help manage the monthly furloughs to minimize the impact on service delivery.

### **Office of Behavioral Health Services**

Dr. Shawn Allen from the Office of Behavioral Health Services will be a speaker for the Georgia Psychiatric Physicians Association meeting in Atlanta, February 13th through the 14th at the Georgia Aquarium. Dr. Allen will provide an overview and summary of the clinical and legal issues of adolescents that are involved with the juvenile justice system and focus on the DJJ mental health system developed to serve DJJ's population. Behavioral Health Services is also reorganizing the Behavioral Health Service Administrators facility assignments due to the loss of one of these positions.

### **Administrative Services and the Office of Training**

Amy Howell said the BJCOT class #139 graduation is scheduled for January 30, 2009. The current class has 64 candidates for graduation. There are 17 with military experience, 10 with college degrees, 23 working on degrees, 51 that are parents, 33 previously with experience working with children, and 24 with previous law enforcement experience. The graduation guest speaker will be Gary Morris, Director, Eastman YDC. The graduation is at 11:30 a.m. at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center, Forsyth, Georgia. All staff and guests are welcome to attend.

Fabienne Tate, Director, Office of Training and Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne, Director, Office of Medical Services were presenters at the recent ACA 2009 Winter Conference. Fabienne co-facilitated a workshop entitled "Trainers as Internal Consultants" and Dr. Staples-Horne co-facilitated a workshop entitled—"Recruiting Correctional Healthcare, Mental Health and Correctional Education Professionals." Both sessions were well attended.

Amy Howell announced the American Probation and Parole Association Winter Institute Conference will be held February 8-11, 2009, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Fabienne Tate and Steve Hayes, Director, Media and Public Relations (Customer Service Enhancements), will be in attendance at a combined trainer and customer service champion training meeting on February 9, 2009. This training is sponsored by the Governor's Office of Customer Service and is designed to maximize the Agency partnership to achieve and maintain exceptional customer service.

The Georgia Applicants Processing Services (G.A.P.S.), the new electronic fingerprinting system, was effective January 2 and has minimum implementation concerns to date.

### **Office of Classification and Transportation**

Classification and Transportation officers have continued to provide outreach to the community. Most recently Officers Alonzo Henderson and Robert Balbosa served as guest speakers at the Terrell Academy located in Augusta, Georgia. Terrell Academy is a co-ed private school. Mr. Henderson and Mr. Balbosa participated in two sections which

included ages 6-8 and grades 9-12. As DJJ representatives, they provided an overview of the department, the types of youths DJJ served, common crimes that are committed by teens and the negative effects of antisocial behaviors.

Amy Howell concluded her report on behalf of Commissioner Murray.

Chairman Shuman asked if there were any questions.

Board member Stephen Simpson asked about the 9 mental health positions that were lost due to the budget reductions. Mr. Simpson also asked what kind of impact it would have on the Community Services and Intake Division.

Amy Howell asked Rick (Richard) Harrison to answer Mr. Simpson's questions.

Harrison said the 9 positions that were lost are from the 30 bed RYDC's. Harrison said DJJ identified cuts that would have the least amount of disruption in DJJ's mental health services. DJJ looked at caseload size and historical data as far as the number of kids that came into the facility with mental health issues. The RYDC's had low case loads so the decision to cut those positions was logical. Harrison said at those facilities, there were two master level clinicians. That leaves one master level clinician which can disrupt mental health services at that facility if that person is out for any extended period of time. Harrison says DJJ is trying to develop contingency plans including positions that will serve as a backup. He said the cuts were in the 30 bed facilities. Harrison said DJJ will have to be a little more innovative and stream line the processes to make sure the needs are met. The overall plan was to find ways to implement the cuts without interrupting services.

Board member Larry Barnes reported Brian Fortner – Solicitor General, State Court of Douglas County Georgia recognized there are a lot of kids getting in trouble without knowing what the implications will be. Mr. Barnes said under his leadership a coalition was formed involving Douglas County's law enforcement officials, judges, solicitors, school officials and mentors. Mr. Barnes said orientation sessions are currently being conducted in the schools where they are going in and explaining what the law is and what the results will be. Mr. Barnes said some children don't realize they are breaking the law. Mr. Barnes also said the coalition is already having an impact on the kids because a lot of them did not know what could happen to them if they commit a crime. Mr. Barnes said if any of the Board members are interested in starting a similar coalition in their district, they should contact Mr. Brian Fortner.

Board member Elaine Snow asked Larry Barnes what age group they were targeting.

Larry Barnes said the program is being started in middle and high schools in Douglas County.

Board member Judy Mecum announced that Hall County received a grant for \$100,000 for their drug free coalition. Ms. Mecum said a coordinator was hired to put the drug free coalition together within the school system. Ms. Mecum said Hall County is looking forward to seeing the results of that.

Board member Daniel Menefee said he hopes the DJJ Board will make an effort to attend the American Correctional Association (ACA) conference in August where Commissioner Murray will receive the E.R. Cass Correctional Achievement Award. Mr. Menefee said the award is a very prestigious award and it would be wonderful if there could be a good board attendance at the ceremony.

Board member Sandra Taylor asked if there was any way that DJJ can arrange its August Board meeting to be around the time of the conference.

Chairman Shuman said that due to the budget cuts, he didn't think it would be possible.

Board member Dexter Rowland asked where the ACA conference was going to taking place.

Amy Howell replied Nashville, Tennessee.

Board member Dr. Risler asked if the DJJ Board will be kept apprised as to what is going on at the legislature as it relates to the budget cuts. Dr. Risler said he read there were talks about the Georgia Juvenile Code Re-Write.

Amy Howell said Commissioner Murray and Spiro Amburn are at the Capitol for budget hearings. Ms. Howell said at some point Mr. Amburn will provide his routine legislative updates during an upcoming board meeting. This will include an update about what is happening with DJJ legislation and the budget. Ms. Howell said in regard to the Juvenile Code Re-write, she attended a meeting where they had key stakeholders including district attorneys, public defenders, juvenile court judges, and superior court judges talk about the more controversial provisions in an effort to build a consensus. They discussed what should be included in the legislative packet. Ms. Howell said she knows they are still developing the legislative packet as of a couple weeks ago and it is nowhere near completion.

Board member Dr. Risler also said he heard that Governor Perdue will be cutting nurses from the Georgia public school system and asked if it would affect the nurses at DJJ facilities.

Amy Howell replied no.

Chairman Shuman called for the next item on the agenda; Chief Justice Led Task Force to Promote Criminal and Mental Health Collaboration.

**Chief Justice Led Task Force to Promote Criminal Justice and Mental Health Collaboration**

Richard Harrison, Director Behavioral Health  
Department of Juvenile Justice

Rick Harrison said good morning to board members, staff and visitors. Mr. Harrison thanked Deputy Commissioner Amy Howell, Chairman Shuman and the Board for allowing him to update them on a project and initiative that Commissioner Murray mentioned a couple times over the past year in his board report. Mr. Harrison said there was an article in the DJJ newsletter several months ago about this initiative. The initiative is called: A Call To Action: Chief Justice-Led Task Force to Promote Criminal Justice/Mental Health Collaboration. Mr. Harrison asked the Board to look at the final report of the project and recommendations in their board packet. Mr. Harrison gave a PowerPoint presentation that gave an overview of the project.

Mr. Harrison said in 2007, the Council of State Government (CSG) selected the Georgia State Supreme Court to participate in the project. Georgia received a small grant to fund some administrative staff. Mr. Harrison said primarily it was a mechanism to bring different agencies together to talk about this problem in Georgia. Mr. Harrison said the problem is the increasing number of individuals being involved in the criminal justice system that have mental health issues.

Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears brought together a group of stakeholders in the spring 2007. The stakeholders were superior and juvenile court judges, and county and state agencies that have a stake in the matter. Other stakeholders included family advocate groups and actual family members.

Mr. Harrison said Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears was in a very unique position to bring the different organizations together and move the project forward. The Chief Justice wanted the stakeholders to review the systemic problem that causes people with mental health issues to be arrested and incarcerated in disproportionate numbers to the rest of the population and to identify solutions to these problems. Commissioner Murray and Mr. Harrison attended this initial meeting that took place in June 2007. Mr. Harrison said it was very interesting to see how the issue of mental health impacts the community and juvenile court system. Mr. Harrison said the numbers are growing and the criminal justice system is becoming more of a default mental health system. Mr. Harrison said that number has increased to 51% since the early 1990's. The population in Georgia is increasing but yet the funding for mental health care is decreasing or not keeping up with the pace.

Mr. Harrison said there has been a lot of information in the newspaper about mental health funding around hospitals. Georgia currently ranks 35<sup>th</sup> in the country for hospitalization funding. Georgia currently ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> for community mental health care and 45<sup>th</sup> for overall mental health agencies. These numbers put in perspective the difficulty that DJJ is facing and DJJ is beginning to see the impact on the criminal justice system.

Mr. Harrison said the task force was organized and chaired by Muscogee County Superior Court Chief Judge John D. Allen and the DeKalb County Chief Magistrate Winston P. Bethel. In the juvenile justice system, the kids with mental health problems are sicker and have more problems. Mr. Harrison said as the stakeholders talked about the issues, it was decided the group needed to be organized into four work groups.

- Juvenile Workgroup – Douglas County Juvenile Court Judge Peggy Walker and Mr. Harrison.
- Protocols – Sheriff Bill Masee from the Georgia Sheriff’s Association and Bill Kissel who brought a wealth of information from the Department of Corrections.
- Resources and Training – Judge Kathleen Gosselin from North East Georgia Superior Court and Sharon Hill from the Georgia Appleseed Project.
- Statutory Review – Judge Susan Tate who is a probate judge from Clarke County and Gwen Skinner who is the director of the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Diseases.

Mr. Harrison said as the stakeholders were organized into these work groups. There were some common themes that ran throughout the groups:

- There was a lack of prevention efforts
- Lack of a continuum of treatment services in the community
- Lack of care management/case management across the board
- Lack of appropriate medications
- Lack of supportive and permanent housing
- Job training and supported employment
- Early identification of problem and diversion to appropriate care
- The community coordination and collaboration among the different system

Mr. Harrison made reference to the – “A Call To Action – Chief Justice-Led Task Force to Promote Criminal Justice/Mental Health Collaboration” book. He asked the Board to look at the outline and responses from each work group. Mr. Harrison said he will only focus on the juvenile issues that the stakeholders came up with. Mr. Harrison said there are some overlaps with some of the adult type work group that might have implications for DJJ.

Judge Peggy Walker and Mr. Harrison’s juvenile work group consisted of 10 meetings. The larger collaborative had about 5 meetings. Mr. Harrison said they met periodically to discuss what progress each work committee was making. They discussed the issues that are problematic in providing care to youth and families in Georgia with mental health issues.

Mr. Harrison said they arrived at two main areas they felt needed to be tackled. The first area was the implementation of prevention and early intervention programs.

Mr. Harrison said historically those are the last funded and least focused on areas. Mr. Harrison said those areas need to be address because they build up the youth's and family's ability to cope. The stakeholders wanted to look at this because they felt it would be a good project.

Mr. Harrison said the juvenile justice group looked at several model programs in the school system. They needed to get involved right at the point where kids start to get into difficulty. He said it is important that they give the kids support and work with the families to divert them from getting involved in juvenile justice system.

Mr. Harrison said another good program is called Zero-to-Three. Zero-to-Three is a really early intervention program. Mr. Harrison said there has been a lot of research about the Zero-to-Three program and it's more of a prevention model where they get with families who would likely be at risk. The Zero-to-Three program would provide those families with training and support and teaches them coping skills.

Mr. Harrison said most of the programs tend to be in the Georgia metropolitan areas but it is sporadic. Mr. Harrison said people recognize this as an issue so they try to implement programs in these areas as much as possible. One of the recommendations was to identify an early intervention program that they can monitor and research and make sure it provided what it is supposed to be providing.

Mr. Harrison said the second area of recommendation that the juvenile justice group talked about is the KidsNet Systems of Care Model. Mr. Harrison said it is an evidence based practice model that is gaining a lot of steam in Georgia. Mr. Harrison stated he will give the board a quick overview of the program but recommended that at some point later on he would like to provide them with a little more detail about the KidsNet Systems of Care Movement.

Mr. Harrison said it is a movement because it started out as a grant opportunity and it has spread across Georgia. The foundational issue for the KidsNet Systems of Care Movement is that it is a child centered, family focused, community based, multi-system, culturally competent and least restrictive program. The key is that this program can service kids in the community. In Georgia the Systems of Care Model has also been defined as Georgia KidsNet. Mr. Harrison said that came about with a state infrastructure grant in the late 1990's. There was one seed planted out in Rockdale/Newton County and it has slowly grown. The KidsNet System of Care Model and Georgia KidsNet are family driven and youth guided and is a support in the community that allows families with seriously emotionally disturbed and addictive disease to remain in their own communities.

Mr. Harrison said the First Lady's Children's Cabinet (FLCC) has become an oversight body for the KidsNet Georgia program. There are currently seven KidsNet sights across Georgia serving twenty one counties. Mr. Harrison said it started from one county and

slowly grew. Four of the sites are actually learning centers so that other interested counties can come and participate and learn about the model. Mr. Harrison said he is proud to say DJJ is a huge participant in this effort. Mr. Harrison said the Community Services and Intake Division including Deputy Commissioner Rob Rosenbloom, Dee Bell, Margaret Cawood and numerous other staff in the community have been huge participants in this effort. They attended the KidsNet meetings to learn how the community can service these kids better.

Mr. Harrison said those were the two primary recommendations. Mr. Harrison also said it is typical with these collaborations when the money goes away the focus goes away. Mr. Harrison said that is one thing that Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears was clear about. Chief Justice Sears wanted to sustain these programs and wanted to plant some seeds and begin the relationship and make bridges that would form a linkage between these different agencies. Mr. Harrison said luckily for the juvenile work group, the two recommendations lead very nicely to the work that is going on in Georgia KidsNet. The juvenile work group talked about a system of care and early intervention.

Georgia KidsNet is expanding a bit to begin to look at some of the early intervention programs. Mr. Harrison said recently the Georgia Department of Community Health came on board to look at early screening and identification of youths and families with mental health issues. Typically in the past, that early periodic screening process focused more on physical health more than mental health and there is a possibility that will be expanded.

Mr. Harrison said one thing with KidsNet that occurred in the past was a lot of the focus was on early diversion so as kids began to get in trouble in the community, they tried to identify a plan that might allow them to effectively manage those youths. The model did not focus on kids that are already at DJJ facilities. Mr. Harrison said that is why it was critical that he sat at the table to say, “what about those kids?”

Mr. Harrison said currently there is a pilot project out in Newton County where they are working with KidsNet and have identified kids that are in the Sandersville RYDC that have mental health issues. All the kids that are coming out of DJJ YDC’s that will be returning back to the community and making that linkage to KidsNet for them to screen them to see if they need the level of KidsNet services. Mr. Harrison said if they don’t need KidsNet, that level of KidsNet services will not be able to link those kids to appropriate services in their communities. Mr. Harrison said that is a huge part of the System of Care Model who is advocating and helping the families.

Mr. Harrison said the Carter Center has offered to serve as a moderator to continue the work of the Systems of Care Model. Mr. Harrison stated he hopes the juvenile justice work group can continue to work with the Carter Center to carry out some of the recommendations and programs that were identified.

Mr. Harrison said what was really nice to see was the level of collaboration that occurred. Each group was talking about what needed to occur and how it impacts others in the system. The Systems of Care is currently funded by the Substance Abuse, Mental Health

Services Administration SAMSHA Grant for the next 3-4 years and he hopes they can carry out some of these recommendations.

Mr. Harrison concluded his report and asked if there were any questions.

Board member James Kelly asked about the responsibilities of the First Lady Children Cabinet as it relates to the Carter Center and KidsNet.

Mr. Harrison said the First Lady's Children Cabinet primary initiatives for the year are to increase school participation and school success. This was presented to them as a Systems of Care Model and how that might support that effort. They agreed to support this Systems of Care Model.

Mr. Kelly asked how that relates to what the Carter Center is doing.

Mr. Harrison said when the task force led by Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears ended; there was a feeling that there was still some work to be done. The Carter Center offered to come in and be the moderator to keep the collaborative efforts going.

Board member Perry McGuire stated during Mr. Harrison's presentation that he mentioned substance abuse and mental health issues. Mr. McGuire asked if substance abuse people were categorized in the same pool as mental health people.

Mr. Harrison said diagnostically yes they are. Mr. Harrison said in the field of mental health sometimes one of the difficulties was trying to peg individuals into a category. Typically what often see is someone that suffers from both mental health and substance abuse problems. There is a lot of movement in the field to try to treat those conditions in a very organized and systemized way. Mr. Harrison said they want to make sure they are not sending a consumer, youths or families in different directions to get their substance abuse treatment and mental health treatment. A lot of that is driven by funding and history.

Mr. McGuire stated there is an increase with people with mental illness and drug abuse being incarcerated. Mr. McGuire asked if they were included in the same numbers.

Mr. Harrison said Mr. McGuire is absolutely right. Mr. Harrison said looking at some of the increase from 1991 as compared to the general population. Those numbers were primarily based on severe mental health diagnoses such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder and how that relates to the numbers in correctional facilities verses the general population. Mr. Harrison said they were 3-5 percent greater in correctional facilities verses the general population. The numbers for substance abuse would indeed drive that number much higher.

Mr. McGuire said he noticed when Mr. Harrison discussed the Systems of Care, a lot of the language and initiatives seemed to parallel the language in the Georgia Juvenile Code

Rewrite. Mr. McGuire asked if there was some collaboration between the Systems of Care initiatives being integrated into the Georgia Juvenile Code Rewrite.

Mr. Harrison said the Systems of Care is being talked about more and more in Georgia. It is not a new model and he doesn't believe there is a direct tie to the Georgia Code Rewrite.

Board Vice Chair Dr. Risler told Mr. Harrison he applauds and appreciates his energy that he spent working on the task force. Dr. Risler told Mr. Harrison he did a really good job of putting the presentation together.

Dr. Risler asked Mr. Harrison if he sees DJJ having a particular interest in a specific policy change that will help him or his division.

Mr. Harrison asked Dr. Risler if he meant specific to the juvenile justice work group recommendation.

Dr. Risler said yes.

Mr. Harrison said some view the Systems of Care Model to be more of a community process. Mr. Harrison said it is very important for DJJ to get involved because it will help divert kids out of the DJJ system. It would allow DJJ to hear their voices and their family's voices about what their needs are.

Dr. Risler stated he remembered in the papers a couple months prior that he read about the privatization of state mental health services. Dr. Risler asked if the task force had a view on that one way or other.

Mr. Harrison said this particular task force did not as far as he was aware of. Mr. Harrison stated that concern could potentially have further implications and increase the numbers of kids who are not receiving mental health services which in turn could then increase the number of kids that end up at a DJJ facility. Mr. Harrison said he believed DJJ should have the best mental health services possible for kids at DJJ facilities. Mr. Harrison stated what he doesn't want to do is provide the best mental health services for kids that don't have to be behind the fence. Mr. Harrison said he doesn't want DJJ to be the default mental health system because they can't get that care in their communities.

Board member Elaine Snow stated there is a KidsNet in Floyd County Georgia and it is a vital program in the community. Ms. Snow said in August 2009, the program could possibly lose funding. Ms. Snow stated if funding for the program is lost, it will be a valuable tool or resource that will be lost that is directly dealing with families that may or may not deal with the court system or DJJ system. Ms. Snow encouraged the Board to go back to their communities and look at the program and see how valuable it is to their local communities.

Mr. Harrison said he will be more than glad to provide a more in-depth presentation about KidsNet at a future meeting. Mr. Harrison said he hopes the program will continue to grow and it can meet some of the challenges. He said they are seeing success with the program.

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

### **Customer Service Update**

Steve Hayes, Customer Service Chairperson  
Department of Juvenile Justice

Steve Hayes, Director of Media and Public Relations, began the DJJ Customer Service Update by greeting Deputy Commissioner Amy Howell, Chairman Shuman and the Board. Mr. Hayes also stated he was also serving as DJJ Customer Service Chair/Champion. Mr. Hayes stated he wanted to discuss the Governor's Office of Customer Service and what they do in conjunction with DJJ's customer service program. The Governor's Office of Customer Service is very supportive of DJJ's customer service program because it is their main function to ensure there is good customer service throughout the state. The Governor's Customer Service Program or Office of Customer Service is headed by Joe Doyle. He is very supportive of DJJ's customer service program and all other state agency customer service programs.

Mr. Hayes said there are about 5-6 customer service meetings a year for all agency champions to attend. The purpose of the meetings is to increase the agencies focus on customer service. On January 20, 2009, Mr. Hayes attended a customer service chairperson meeting in Atlanta. Mr. Hayes stated the quarterly meeting was conducted by the Governor's Office of Customer Service and it was very comprehensive concerning several topics for all chairpersons and agencies in order for them to remain focused on customer service. Mr. Hayes said the meetings focus on different topics each time. Mr. Hayes said it was very beneficial for him to attend.

Some of the main items covered at the last meeting was a review of a survey that was taken by all the agency customer service chairs to determine what the state's overall customer service focus for the final 2 years of the current administration should be and how best each agency can sustain and improve customer service. Some of the topics covered in the survey that are necessary to focus on included training, improved web based services, continued access for customers and the agencies own recognition programs. The survey also showed that 70% of the agencies that responded said they include customer service as a regular agenda item in management meetings and DJJ has been doing that for some time. Mr. Hayes said at the customer service meeting they discussed the best way to sustain customer service.

Mr. Hayes announced that Joe Doyle, Director of the Governor's Office of Customer Service will be attending the DJJ March 2009 Board meeting. Mr. Hayes stated Mr.

Doyle may share more details about the survey with the Board at that time. Mr. Doyle will also speak to the Board about the state's ongoing customer service initiatives.

On January 12, 2009, Joe Doyle and Katie Christopherson from the Governor's Office of Customer Service toured 3 of DJJ's facilities. They toured the Metro and Macon RYDCs and the Macon YDC. They were very impressed with the facilities, staff and the information they received about DJJ. Mr. Hayes said he wanted to show the visitors a contrast between DJJ's RYDCs and a YDC. Mr. Hayes said he specifically wanted to show them the Metro RYDC which is DJJ's largest facility with 200 beds, compared to a 30-60 bed RYDC.

Mr. Doyle asked for the visit because he wanted to familiarize himself with DJJ's operation and how his role as Director of the Governor's Office of Customer Services might benefit DJJ. Mr. Doyle is interested in helping DJJ perform better with customer service.

Mr. Doyle accepted DJJ's invitation to speak to DJJ Board at the March 2009 meeting. Mr. Hayes said the Board will truly enjoy hearing from Mr. Doyle about the Governor's initiatives on customer service, the state's effort, the gain in the past several years and the direction for the next 2 years of Governor Perdue's administration.

Mr. Doyle was cited by Governor Perdue at his State of the State address and Governor Perdue congratulated him for his efforts in helping Georgia continue toward becoming the best managed state in the nation.

Mr. Hayes said on January 29, 2009, the Governor's Office of Customer Service will have a customer service commendation ceremony where employees across the state are honored for their customer service and many will receive commendations. This is part of the ongoing recognition program throughout the state. Mr. Hayes said he is pleased to announce there will be 3 DJJ staff members that will be honored. Two of the names are Fabienne Tate, Director of the Office of Training and Tom O'Rourke, retired DJJ Education Director. Both will be honored at the ceremony. Mr. Hayes said he is still collecting information on the third recipient and will update the Board with that information via email at a later date. Mr. Hayes encouraged the Board to attend the ceremony to show their support for the DJJ staff to be honored. The ceremony will be on January 29, 2009 in the Floyd building (West Tower), on the 20<sup>th</sup> floor in Atlanta starting at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Hayes said he believes this is another indication that DJJ's recognition program is making gains and is being recognized for its effort on a statewide basis. Mr. Hayes said on February 9, 2009, he along with Fabienne Tate will be attending customer service training. Mr. Hayes said this is another one of the efforts of the Governor's Office of Customer Service to improve customer service and training and keeping customer service the forefront of everyone's mind. Mr. Hayes concluded his report.

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

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

### **Education Update**

Dr. Jack Catrett, Associate Superintendent  
Department of Juvenile Justice

Dr. Catrett began his report by greeting Deputy Commissioner Amy Howell, the Chairman and the Board. Dr. Catrett said he was happy to report that on January 2, 2009 DJJ started its second semester. All schools opened and the report from DJJ's regional principal is that the new master schedule seemed to be working well.

Dr. Catrett said they started the semester with four teacher vacancies. There were two vacancies at Eastman YDC, one at Augusta RYDC, and one at Bill Ireland YDC. Dr. Catrett said they interviewed at Eastman YDC and offered jobs for those two vacancies. Those positions should be filled soon. Dr. Catrett said they have candidates for the other two positions that are open. Dr. Catrett said they have also completed the reduction of their regional principals from 6 to 3. Dr. Catrett said DJJ was able to move Dr. Gregg Maybin to an open teacher slot at the Savannah RYDC. Dr. Catrett said Dr. Maybin is happy and is doing a good job there. Dr. Catrett stated that Dr. Muriel Coles moved to his old position as the special education director.

Frank Spearman was moved to Eastman YDC as principal. Dr. Catrett said he had the opportunity to visit Eastman YDC the previous week and said he was happy with what he saw at the school. Dr. Catrett said gave Steve Herndon and Gordon Fisher some recognition for the great job they are doing.

Dr. Catrett introduced Dr. Muriel Coles to the Board. Dr. Coles was an instructional supervisor at the Metro RYDC which is the assistant principal position. She then moved to the principal position at the Metro RYDC and then to the Regional principal position. Ms. Coles has eighteen years experience with nine of those years at DJJ. Ms. Coles holds a doctorate degree from Atlanta University. Ms. Coles is also special education certified, and is also certified in leadership. Dr. Catrett said Dr. Coles will remain in the board room after the meeting if any of the Board members would like to speak to her.

Dr. Catrett said right now they are conducting the 8<sup>th</sup> grade writing test. Dr. Catrett said he did not receive any data yet from the state on DJJ's prior system assessment.

Dr. Catrett said it has been five years since DJJ received its initial accreditation. Dr. Catrett said DJJ has started the last of its preparations to begin the school visits starting in the summer and fall for the SACS and SEA accreditations.

Dr. Catrett stated he served as the state chairman for five years and has named Dr. Rufus Johnson as the new chairman for the process. Dr. Catrett said he will keep a watchful eye because of the importance of DJJ's accreditation. Dr. Catrett said there will be three meetings to be conducted as part of this process. One was held at the Central Office to meet with the on-sight chairman's from each school. The next meeting will take place on January 23, 2009 at the Augusta YDC and the last meeting will be for the southern teachers which will be down in Tifton, Georgia. Dr. Catrett said if any Board member would like to attend please let him know.

Dr. Catrett thanked Rob Rosenbloom who allowed Chris West attend the SACS training in Atlanta. Dr. Catrett said it shows his support and it sends a message that on his side of the house (CSI Division) SACS accreditation is important.

Dr. Catrett asked the Board to look at the red folder that was put in their board packet. Dr. Catrett stated the information is a catalog of DJJ staff development programs called Professional Learning Units (PLU). Dr. Catrett said DJJ is an accredited provider of PLUs from the state. DJJ can give credits to their teachers and staff for attending workshops. This is good for DJJ because it allows DJJ to pinpoint the exact training that is needed for the system. Dr. Catrett also said it is good for the teachers because if they go through the process with DJJ, they earn their ten credits in five years so they can "re-up" their certifications without any cost. This information will be posted on the DJJ education website (intranet) as new information becomes available.

Dr. Catrett introduced Coy Satterfield to the DJJ Board. Mr. Satterfield is the new director of the program and will do a great job. Dr. Catrett also said Mr. Satterfield will be around after the board meeting to answer any questions.

Dr. Catrett concluded his report and asked if there were any questions. There were none.

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

Board member Judy Mecum made the motion to close the Board of Education meeting and resume the Board of Juvenile Justice meeting.

Board member James Kelly seconded the motion.

The Chairman called for any discussion and then a vote.

The motion carried.

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

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

Chairman Shuman asked if there was any new business.

Board member Sandra Taylor said she noticed Spiro Amburn arrived at the Board meeting from attending the budget hearing at the Capitol. Ms. Taylor asked if he could come to podium and let the Board know if there are any upcoming events that they need to participate in.

Spiro Amburn said he would let the Board know via email. Mr. Amburn said there will be a budget hearing within a week with the House Public Safety subcommittee. The meeting will be on January 27, 2009 in the legislature office building in room 415. Mr. Amburn said that information will also be broadcast online. Mr. Amburn also said it will be from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. That time will be appropriated for five different agencies including DJJ, the Dept. of Corrections, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, and a two other agencies. Mr. Amburn said DJJ is at the end of the agenda. Mr. Amburn said an email will be sent out to the Board.

Chairman Shuman announced the next DJJ Board Meeting will be at the Central Office on February 26, 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 Elaine Snow made the second.

The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

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J. Daniel Shuman, Chair  
Board of Juvenile Justice

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Albert Murray  
Commissioner

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Daniel A. Menefee, Secretary  
Board of Juvenile Justice

