

**Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, May 28, 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 May 28, 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; Amy Howell; Steve Herndon; Rob Rosenbloom; Bill Amideo; Spiro Amburn; Shirley Turner; Richard Harrison; Jeff Minor; Diana Newell; Shilpashree Sadam; Steve Hayes; Nathan Cain; Cherecia Kline; Dee Bell; Joycelyn Evans; Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne; Rick Harrison; Coy Satterfield; Martha Dalesio; Miguel Fernandez; Cami Stokes; Jeffery Alligood

Others: Destiny Washington – Attorney’s General Office; Carolyn Fjeran– GAHSC; Pastor Belinda Mitchell

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

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; Judy Mecum; Daniel Menefee (after roll call); Dr. Edwin Risler; Pastor Dexter Rowland; J. Daniel Shuman; Stephen Simpson; Elaine Snow; Sandra Taylor (after roll call)

Noting the presence of a quorum of the Board, Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the May 28, 2009 Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education.

Judy Mecum moved to approve the agenda for the May 28, 2009 Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education meeting. Larry Barnes 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 April 23, 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. Larry Barnes moved to approve the minutes from the April 23, 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.

Commissioner's Report Albert Murray, Commissioner

Commissioner Murray said good morning to the Board, staff and visitors. Commissioner Murray made reference to an email that was sent to the Board concerning the death of Judge Sammy Jones. Judge Sammy Jones was a long time juvenile court judge in Fulton County Georgia. Commissioner Murray said Judge Jones was one of the first judges he met when he came to the DJJ. Commissioner Murray said he was a good man and supported DJJ. Judge Jones was an advocate for kids and court and an individual that tried to make a difference in every way that he could. Commissioner Murray said he attended the memorial service along with several DJJ staff. Commissioner Murray gave recognition to Judge Sammy Jones life and service by asking for a moment of silence.

Commissioner Murray stated he started his day by attending the Governor's Commendation Award Ceremony. There was DJJ staff that was recognized at the ceremony. Commissioner Murray said it was a reminder to him as to how fortunate DJJ is to have those type of staff at the agency.

The Commissioner announced the MOA, Memorandum of Agreement, is over. Officially May 5, 2009, the joint filing was completed in federal court and it ended the 11 year oversight. Commissioner Murray said he is happy to talk to the Board and public without having the federal government overseeing DJJ's work. It took a lot of work and a lot of people working with DJJ to get it completed. Commissioner Murray said the most work was done by DJJ staff who worked within the facilities. Monday May 18th, Governor Sonny Perdue held a press conference to make the announcement. Commissioner Murray thanked the board members and DJJ executive management team who were able to attend the press conference. Board members in attendance included Chairman Shuman, Dr. Risler, Dan Menefee, Sandra Taylor and Jim Kelly.

Commissioner Murray stated plans are underway to have a MOA Recognition and Training event.

A committee has been formed and it was determined the event may take place in Macon. Commissioner Murray said a date has not been set yet but it will probably be in July. He said the board will receive more information as soon as it becomes available. Commissioner Murray said about 300 people will attend.

Community Services & Intake

Commissioner Murray said the CSI Division has been engaged in several initiatives and projects since the last board meeting. The division represented DJJ in the on-going KidsNet Georgia initiative. The Systems of Care training conference was held in May and DJJ was awarded the Agency Partnership award for its collaboration with KidsNet. The efforts have been over the last several years in the form of resources, staff involvement and helping coordinate the statewide effort. Deputy Commissioner Rob Rosenbloom also made a presentation at the closing session regarding DJJ and its partnership.

Long time DJJ employee, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Chris West will retire at the end of May. His retirement function was on May 27 and was well attended. He has served over 35 years, the youth of this state, and has had a proud and productive career.

Commissioner Murray also stated there was a retirement function at the Central Office for Joyce McKay who is a Nutrition Program Consultant. Ms. McKay will also retire after more than 30 years of service.

Due to budget reductions the CSI Division will not be filling the Chris West position and is reorganizing. Deputy Commissioner Rob Rosenbloom will be assuming the responsibilities of direct supervision of the regional administrators and the Metro RYDC. Assistant Deputy Commissioner Diana Newell will be taking on the additional administrative duties.

Commissioner Murray said congratulations to the DeKalb HITS program for their award certificate received for volunteer excellence from the Senior Citizen Services of Metro Atlanta. He stated he was very proud of the continuing efforts during the Saturday Community Service programs with the youths and the Meals on Wheels Program.

Programs & Secure Campuses

Commissioner Murray said this past month DJJ had several graduations of students from its facilities and received some excellent news media coverage. DJJ had four graduations within the past couple of weeks and Commissioner Murray said he was able to attend two.

Friday, May 15th, the Metro RYDC held its first ever graduation ceremony. In fact it was the first graduation from a detention center in DJJ history. The youth was there for 15 months due to some pending charges. Youths typically are not detained for the time required to accomplish a diploma. Judge Marvin Arrington gave the commencement address. Due to the significance of this graduation, the news media covered it very well.

Commissioner Murray said this is just another indication as to what is DJJ's greatest priority. He stated one of the best things that DJJ does for kids is to give them an education. DJJ gives them something that can't be taken away regardless of circumstances the youths may face when they get out.

Commissioner Murray stated the Augusta YDC also held its graduation ceremony on Friday May 15. 2 youths received their GED and one received his high school diploma with a college prep seal. The youth that received his high school diploma was also released the same day and will join the workforce with a pre-arranged job. One of the youth plans to enroll in welding courses at a technical college upon his release and the other plans to study computer forensics at Southern Wesleyan University upon his release. 17 other residents received awards for their academic achievement in a variety of subjects. Commissioner Murray thanked Board Vice-Chairman Dr. Ed Risler for being the commencement speaker at the graduation.

The Sumter YDC graduation will be held on June 6th at 10AM. 14 youth are expected to receive either a diploma or GED. The Eastman YDC has a graduation scheduled July 31st.

The Macon YDC held its graduation ceremony on May 26. Three Macon students earned their high school diploma and seven students earned their GEDs during the semester. Some of the girls had already been released from the YDC by the time their test scores came back but all were invited to return to the YDC and be recognized in the graduation ceremony. One of the youths actually did return to receive her diploma. Ms. Sylvia Simpson of Middle Georgia Technical College was the commencement speaker.

On May 22, 2009 Muscogee held its graduation ceremony. One student received his GED and three students received their high school diploma.

Sumter YDC held its annual Mother-Son Dinner-Dance on May 16. 23 boys participated with their mom, grandmother or an aunt. Etiquette classes were provided for the boys who were eligible for the event by Ms. Diane Matthews, Secretary at the YDC.

On May 9, 2009, the Macon YDC held a social event for the girls called, 'An Evening under the Stars', in the Campus Gymnasium. Nineteen girls met the strict criterion to attend the Prom-like event and attended, dressed in formal gowns and tiaras donated by community members and businesses.

Commissioner Murray said the Office of Continuous Improvement conducted their comprehensive standards audit at the Bill Ireland YDC during May 12-15, 2009. All standards were reviewed except those in Behavior Health Services, Admissions and Releases, Education, and Training which will be evaluated in June due to scheduling difficulties.

Commissioner Murray said a meeting was held in Central Office on May 18 with the Savannah River Challenge Program to plan for the transition of 50 beds of the facility to convert from STP beds to a wilderness program. DJJ is planning on July 1st as the start date for the new wilderness program, which will be managed by the CSI division.

The Office of Behavioral Health Services Director Rick Harrison and Susan Bryceland, Georgia KidsNet director, were presenters at the Judicial Council of Georgia's 2009 Drug, DUI and Mental Health Court Conference which was held in Atlanta on May 26th – 28th. The presentation focused on the prevalence of mental health issues among youth served by DJJ and provided an overview of the System of Care Philosophy and how that may help address the growing needs of youth involved in the Juvenile Justice System.

The Office of Behavioral Health Services recently submitted an Offender Reentry Grant proposal to the Federal Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration.

Commissioner Murray continued his report to the Board. The Office of Health Services after completion of a successful staff training conference held May 6-8 has been focusing on further development of the Department's Pandemic Flu Plan. A work group has been formed to attempt to address all issues pertinent to DJJ's operation in the face of a major epidemic. A new Infectious Disease Policy was released May 1 that instituted and augmented some general control measures to reduce the spread of blood borne infections such as HIV, respiratory infections such as tuberculosis and influenza, as well as other infections spread by direct contact. YDC Directors received training from Dr. Staples-Horne on the new policy on May 20.

Commissioner Murray said Dr. Staples-Horne also was a presenter at the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABJ) meeting held in Atlanta on May 1. She discussed health care staff recruitment and retention in the area of correctional health.

Training Division

Effective July 1, 2009, DJJ will transition the training year from calendar year (January to December annually) to a fiscal year period (July 1 through June 30). Commissioner Murray stated that there will not be a significant change in course offering but this will provide a parallel accountability to the training program budget for its assigned fiscal year.

On May 22, 2009, the department presented 60 BJCOT graduates. Commissioner Murray stated the class breakdown is there (in their board packet) for the Board to review. Diane Douglas-Harris, District Director, District 10 served as the guest speaker. This class had an outstanding academic record with a total of eight honor graduates.

Diana Newell, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Community Services and Intake Division, will serve as the graduation speaker for BJCOT class number #144, June 26th at 11:30 a.m., at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center Auditorium, Forsyth, GA.

The Office of Training has had a very busy month. Commissioner Murray said he won't cover all of the training conducted and those events still to come, however they are included in the board information for their review.

Training in collaboration with Programs and Secure Campuses and the Community Services and Intake Divisions, sponsored a two-day Counselors' Professional Development Course (PDC) at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) in Forsyth, Georgia on May 11-12, 2009. There were 120 staff in attendance. The education focus of this training was; "Motivational

Interviewing & Managing Sexually Acting-out Behavior,” “Group Counseling Skills,” “Victims Impact Curriculum,” and “Using our Authentic Power to Help Facilitate Positive Outcomes” (Youth Behavior).

Commissioner Murray said the Office of Training in collaboration with the Office of Health Services sponsored a three-day Professional Development Course at the DJJ Academy, May 6-8, 2009. Some of the educational topics included: “HIV Clinical Update,” “Infection Control and Disease Management, and DJJ Policy Overview.” There were 80 staff in attendance.

Commissioner Murray stated the American Correctional Association and the Annual American Probation and Parole Association Institute national conferences were coming up. The American Correctional Association conference will take place in Nashville Tennessee from August 9-13.

DJJ has begun the planning processes for the transition from the Pressure Point Control Tactics (PPCT) to the new Safe Crisis Management (SCM) program with a planned training implementation of August 3rd. In preparation, the support training highlights include several courses and separate training events which are listed in your board copy of the Commissioner’s report.

Commissioner Murray said there are less than 5 weeks left in the fiscal year. DJJ received some information that it will likely be necessary for the department to trim its budget even more because state revenues are not what they had hoped to be. This additional budget cut will affect all state agencies. DJJ has not received any written instructions yet but will keep the Board informed.

Commissioner Murray concluded his report and 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 Larry Barnes 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 greeted Commissioner Murray, Chairman Shuman, staff, and visitors. Dr. Catrett stated DJJ's winter semester ended on May 26. The summer program will start on June 1, 2009 and will end on July 27, 2009. The first day of fall semester will be August 3, 2009.

Dr. Catrett stated it is a good time to be in education because you get to see the fruits of your labor. Part of the luxury that DJJ has is its summer program. The summer program allows DJJ to do things they would not normally be able to do. Dr. Catrett stated kids have to pass the CRCT test to move to the 5th and 8th grade. They also have to post a good score on the end of the course test so they can pass for the Carnegie Units and the exit exam.

Dr. Catrett stated DJJ teachers finished their Response to Intervention (RTI) training. Dr. Catrett explained RTI is a new thing that Georgia public schools are going through.

Dr. Catrett said the turnover of teachers at DJJ is low. Dr. Catrett explained DJJ doesn't offer its teachers contract and sometimes loses a teacher to a school system that will give them a better deal.

Dr. Catrett said DJJ moved two assistant principals that were lost due to the budget cuts. They will move into two of DJJ's frozen teacher positions.

Dr. Catrett said he was happy to report that DJJ's special education program met all state and federal guidelines. Georgia Department of Education allowed DJJ to use its own internal monitoring system for their purposes.

Dr. Catrett said he was at most of the DJJ's graduations. Dr. Catrett stated Dr. Risler delivered a moving speech at the Augusta YDC graduation. He said there were many people in the audience with tears in their eyes. Dr. Catrett thanked Dr. Risler for sharing his story with the kids. Dr. Catrett also thanked Commissioner Murray for speaking at the Macon YDC graduation.

Dr. Catrett stated the Metro RYDC's graduation was the first high school graduation at that facility. Dr. Catrett introduced a video clip of the Metro RYDC graduation for the Board, staff and visitors who were not able to attend. One youth graduated with a college prep diploma.

Dr. Catrett thanked Steve Herndon who was the speaker at the teachers training. Dr. Catrett stated he took time out of his schedule to meet with the teachers. Dr. Catrett thanked Commissioner Murray again who was also spoke at DJJ's principals meeting.

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

Board member Larry Barnes asked if DJJ had something in place where the kids can come in at a certain level and move at their own pace.

Dr. Catrett said DJJ follows the CAPS Curriculum which is performance based. This allows the kids to see that it is their performance that counts. Dr. Catrett said it is because of this strategy

along with DJJ's good teachers that the agency is able to move the kids through. Dr. Catrett said the board training that will take place after the board meeting will go into more detail about DJJ's curriculum.

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 Elaine Snow seconded the motion.

The Chairman called for any discussion and then a vote.

The motion carried.

Chairman Shuman called for the next item on the agenda, the Victim's Advocate Update. Dee Bell, program coordinator stated she will introduce DJJ Victim's Advocate Joycelyn Evans. Joycelyn Evans started working for DJJ 2 years ago and has made a tremendous impact in the department. Prior to DJJ, Ms. Evans worked for the Division of Probation and Parole in Maryland. At the Division of Probation and Parole, Ms. Evans started off as a field officer but her last 5 years she was the director of victim's services. Ms. Bell said DJJ is fortunate to have Ms. Evans working in the division of Community Services & Intake. Ms. Bell stated Joycelyn will speak to the Board and introduce Pastor Belinda Mitchell.

Victim's Advocate Update

Joycelyn Evans, Victim's Advocate – Community Services & Intake
Department of Juvenile Justice

Ms. Evans said she will give the Board a brief update about DJJ's victim's advocate program. Ms. Evans said when she started at DJJ 22 months ago and started talking to employers about victims she was immediately embraced throughout the state. Ms. Evans stated the first year when they celebrated victim's rights; every county did some kind of recognition whether it was releasing balloons, donating bricks to build pathways, or a candlelight vigil. Every county found their own way to recognize victims. Ms. Evans said it has grown tremendously the second year. Ms. Evans stated the victim's notification system is now automated and they continue working with the I.T. department to make the process better. Ms. Evans said DJJ handles victims with courtesy, and treats them with dignity and respect and will continue to work hard to improve the system.

Ms. Evans introduced Pastor Belinda Mitchell who is a crime victim as her husband was killed. Ms. Evans stated that after her husband's death, Ms. Mitchell then embraced the Department of Juvenile Justice in Dublin, Georgia. She has embraced her community, kids and started building her own programs to enhance the behavior of children.

Pastor Belinda Mitchell said good morning to the Board, Commissioner Murray, staff and visitors. Ms. Mitchell said she did not know where to start but stated she was glad to be at the board meeting. She said every opportunity she has she shares her story with others. Pastor Mitchell said her husband Milton was also a pastor. The week her husband died was a special week and they had such a great time. Her husband stopped to pick up dinner and five minutes from the restaurant he was killed in a car accident. She said she got a phone call that stated her husband was in a bad wreck and his condition did not look good and he may not make it. Pastor Mitchell said she went to her back door and she heard the spirit of God say "it is so." Pastor Mitchell said it was not murder it was vehicular homicide. The young girl who caused the wreck was on her cell phone arguing with her friend and ran the stop sign and broadsided her husband's vehicle. Pastor Mitchell said she then became a victim. She went to juvenile court and the judge asked her what she wanted him to do. Pastor Mitchell said she told the judge she didn't have the power to take anything from the young girl. She explained to the judge that the young girl did not take her husband's life; she was only the instrument that was used. Pastor Mitchell said she told the judge that putting the young girl away would not bring Milton back and she did not want to destroy her life. As a result the young girl's charges were reduced.

Pastor Mitchell stated one day she was on the south side of Dublin, Georgia and it came to her that she needed to do something to help kids that are in trouble. Pastor Mitchell said that is when she decided to open up a nonprofit youth recovery center. DJJ sends children to her center to do community service. The center is not funded and is currently working on grants. Pastor Mitchell said she used the resources that came out of the wreck to run the center. The workers at the center are all volunteers.

Pastor Mitchell said after everything that happened with her husband, the young girl's family became Christians and they all go to church. Pastor Mitchell said she tells the kids that come to the center there is more to life than going out and destroying somebody else's life. Pastor Mitchell said even though she lost her husband, some good came out of it.

The Board, staff and visitors applauded Pastor Mitchell.

Ms. Evans said there are several victims in the community that are working with DJJ youths. Ms. Evans presented Pastor Mitchell with a certificate of appreciation for her hard work and her commitment to youths. Pastor Mitchell's husband was killed in 2003 and she has been working with DJJ ever since.

Ms. Evans stated she will be providing the Board with the process of DJJ victim's notification system and progress of the victim's impact curriculum. Ms. Evans hopes to have all training

sessions scheduled by the end of June. Ms. Evans stated the victim's impact curriculum should be implemented at all DJJ's RYDC facilities hopefully by July 1, 2009.

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 prior to the board meeting, he along with Commissioner Murray and other DJJ staff attended the Governor's Excellence in Customer Service Commendation Ceremony. Five DJJ recipients received an award with two of those being team awards going to the Eastman RYDC and the Elbert Shaw, Jr. RYDC. Mr. Hayes stated he was happy to see the amount of staff that came from the facilities to show their support. Rob Rosenbloom, DJJ Deputy Commissioner, regional and district administrators were also in attendance at the ceremony. The department was well represented and that speaks well of the customer service initiative that is present at DJJ. Mr. Hayes said moving forward he hopes to sustain that and continue to bring DJJ employees forward with nominations and quarterly awards through the Governor's Commendation ceremony.

Mr. Hayes stated the next Governor's Commendation Ceremony will be in late July. The deadline to receive nominations is June 15.

Mr. Hayes announced the recipients of the Governor's Commendation for Excellence in Customer Service, who were awarded certificates earlier today:

Eastman RYDC (Team award)
Elbert Shaw, Jr. RYDC (Team award)
Jacqueline Brown (August YDC)
Tameka Hill (Fulton MSC)
Julie Spriggs (Houston CSO)

Mr. Hayes said at some point he hopes he can invite the recipients to an upcoming board meeting so the Board members can meet them.

The Governor's Office of Customer Service has initiated an email campaign to keep the customer service focus and drive going. Every other week approximately they will be sending out messages that are based on the 5 key commitments of customer service: helpful, courteous, accessible, responsive and knowledgeable. Mr. Hayes said within the past week an email was sent out on employees being helpful. Mr. Hayes said at DJJ he wants to keep the message going out about customer service so that when DJJ employees go to work each day they will try to help someone and be a good customer service agent for the state of Georgia.

Mr. Hayes reminded the Board members the annual education training will start at 1:00 p.m. today after the board meeting. The training will consist of 5 mini-sessions that will run between 30 – 45 minutes with plenty of breaks through the afternoon. Mr. Hayes stated Dr. Catrett and staff will be at the training session to answer any questions.

Mr. Hayes reminded the Board they need to file their ethics information with the State Ethics Commission.

Mr. Hayes said the Office of Media & Public Relations sends out an electronic news packet every morning. He encouraged the Board to read the packet because it sometimes has good stories about what DJJ staff are doing and how the kids are being served.

Mr. Hayes thanked his staff Nathan Cain and Cherecia Kline for helping to put together a hard copy press packet in the board folder that covers the MOA press conference and the recent graduations that were covered by the media.

Mr. Hayes asked if there were any questions.

There were none.

Board Officer Election Process

Chairman J. Daniel Shuman
Board of Juvenile Justice

Chairman Shuman stated all board officers have a two year term that they serve. The Bylaws state that the DJJ Board should have an election every two years. The executive committee met in April and consists of Chairman Shuman, Dr. Risler, Daniel Menefee, Sandra Taylor, Van Herrin and Pastor Dexter Rowland. Sandra Taylor, Van Herrin and Pastor Rowland were appointed to be a nominating committee. The nominating committee will come up with nominations for new board officer by the June board meeting. At the July meeting there will be an election at that time.

Chairman Shuman asked if there were any questions.

Board member Sandra Taylor stated if any board members were interested in a position to email her or any member of the nomination committee and let them know.

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.

Chairman Shuman announced the next DJJ Board Meeting will be at the Central Office on June 25, 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 Daniel Menefee made the motion and Board member Sandra Taylor 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