

**Board of Juvenile Justice  
Thursday, September 24, 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 September 24, 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:** Commissioner Albert Murray; Rob Rosenbloom; Dr. Jack Catrett; Jeff Minor; Steve Herndon; Amy Howell; Bill Amideo; Steve Hayes; Cherecia Kline; Nathan Cain; Debbie Blasingame; Ronnie Richardson; Gary Morris; Ronnie Woodard; Coy Satterfield; Bill Spears, Karen Lloyd; Corinne Jackson; Bill Parks; Latera Davis; Michelle Staples-Horne; Victor Roberts; Wade Moore

**Others:** Destiny Washington, Attorney's General Office; Kevin Gecowets, Governor's Office of Customer Service; Kamron Mitchell, Emory; April Morgan, Nelson Mullins

Chairman Shuman asked everyone to stand to say the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation given by Dexter Rowland.

**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; James Kelly; Elizabeth Lindsey (after roll call); Judy Mecum; Daniel Menefee; Dr. Edwin Risler; Pastor Dexter Rowland; J. Daniel Shuman; Stephen Simpson; Elaine Snow (via conference call); Sandra Taylor

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

Noting the presence of a quorum of the Board, Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the September 24, 2009 Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education meeting.

Dr. Risler moved to approve the agenda for the September 24, 2009 Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education meeting. Judy Mecum 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 August 27, 2009 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and the DJJ Board of Education and the September 10, 2009 special Board of Juvenile Justice meeting and asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There were none. Daniel Menefee moved to approve the minutes. Larry Barnes 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, visitors and staff. Commissioner Murray said he appreciated the member's efforts in coming out for a second board meeting for the month of September. Commissioner Murray also thanked the Carroll County staff for attending to the board meeting.

### **Community Services and Intake:**

Commissioner Murray stated the Community Services and Intake Division finished its training for community and detention staff on The Four Disciplines of Execution. This is the Covey training that gives staff the skills to focus on execution of the strategic plan and the most important goals set for this year. Those goals are reductions in incidents of assaults in centers and the increase of successful completions while youth are under supervision in the community.

Commissioner Murray said the detention population has shown steady increases over the last few weeks. The overall capacity remains under 100% but that is mostly due to a significantly lower female population. The male population is over capacity and strategies to balance those populations between centers are in place and working to ensure overall balance. These increases are part seasonal and also represent some of the challenges of meeting the transition of YDC population for budgetary reasons. Again these are issues we have been prepared to handle.

Several personnel changes have occurred in the CSI Division. The vacancy at Gwinnett RYDC has been filled by Ed Boyd. Commissioner Murray said he has been director at the DeKalb RYDC for several years and will do a good job as the new leader at Gwinnett. Gary Pattman has been named as the new Director at DeKalb RYDC to replace Ed Boyd. Gary has a long history in DJJ and had been a previous RYDC Director. Gary's last position, before it was eliminated for budget reasons, was as a Regional Administrator in Campus Operations.

Other budget reductions for administrative reasons have impacted the division. On October 1<sup>st</sup> six assistant district directors will be eliminated and five multi service center directors also will

end their jobs. The multi service centers will cease operations and revert to regular court service offices.

#### Division of Programs and Secure Campuses:

Commissioner Murray also announced that Assistant Deputy Commissioner Gordon Fisher will retire on October 1. Mr. Fisher has served the department well since 1993 in several capacities. He was director of the Lorenzo Benn YDC and served most recently in a leadership role in the Division of Programs and Secure Campuses as the Assistant Deputy Commissioner. In this role, Mr. Fisher supervised the Office of Campus Operations which includes YDC operations.

Commissioner Murray said other changes include Sumter YDC Director Derek Glisson's resignation effective October 1. Mr. Glisson has taken a position with a private corrections company to run a juvenile transition program in Colorado. Mr. Glisson has served the department well in several roles, including Director of the Athens RYDC and the Irwin YDC.

DJJ appreciates the contributions of these two staff and wish them well in their new endeavors.

#### Campus Operations:

Commissioner Murray said on September 12, 2009 the Augusta YDC hosted an open house to introduce parents/guardians to the education programs available to residents during their stay. Considering the fact that over 30 families participated, the event was a huge success. In conjunction with the open house, the Junior Optimist club hosted "cookouts" as fund raisers on September 11th and 12th. Proceeds from the fund raisers will be donated to two service groups: Gold Harvest Food Bank and Full Circle Refuge Ministries.

On August 31<sup>st</sup>, Augusta YDC opened the 20 bed long term unit that was previously used for the short term population. The new unit targets young men who are scheduled for release within 12 to 15 months and helps them in their transition back to their communities. In an effort to help the young men further focus on achieving their goals, 8 boys were selected to attend the CSRA College/Career Night held at the James Brown Arena in Augusta on September 10, 2009. Over 150 colleges from all over the United States had representation at College Night. The boys were able to speak with the representatives and also get information on attending colleges and/or the military.

#### Office of Health Services:

DJJ has seen the most recent flu outbreak at Bill Ireland YDC, for the past couple of weeks. DJJ made a medical decision to suspend visitation at the Bill Ireland YDC the weekend of September 19-20 due to the 20 flu cases we had at the time. This was done in accordance with our infection control protocol. Commissioner Murray stated Ronnie Richardson, facility director, spoke to the parents of the youth and addressed their concerns. Commissioner Murray asked Mr. Richardson for the current number of flu cases at the Bill Ireland YDC.

Mr. Richardson said there were 13 flu cases.

Commissioner Murray also noted that one employee at Bill Ireland became seriously ill with the flu and was hospitalized. As part of our protocol, DJJ notified Dr. Rhonda Meadows, Director of Community Health, of the outbreak.

Commissioner Murray asked Mr. Richardson to give the Board an update on the officer who was hospitalized. Mr. Richardson stated the officer was out of the hospital and was doing better.

Commissioner Murray said operations at the Bill Ireland YDC continue with good staffing despite the recent flu outbreak.

Commissioner Murray said the population at the beginning of the week of September 20 at the facility was 187, down from approximately 290 when the process began. This has been accomplished through transfers to other YDCs and normal YDC releases and a discontinuation of the intake process there. There was the group of about 20 or so that were moved after an incident occurred at the facility and that likely would have been a normal transfer of those youth to Eastman regardless of the closure plans for Ireland. A small number of youth, less than 10 were moved to the Augusta YDC because they lived closer to Richmond County.

These are normal and necessary steps the agency must take in order to prepare for the expected closing of the facility by the end of the year. There has been no disruption at any other DJJ facilities as a result of the operations at the Bill Ireland YDC.

Human Resources have been working the process for the employees who will be affected, not just at Bill Ireland but across the agency. Commissioner Murray said from his understanding, that the process is moving along and several employees have been able to secure vacant positions at this point. That process will continue and as we've discussed, it is our hope we can place as many affected employees as possible.

#### Office of Behavioral Health Services:

The Office of Behavioral Health Services held meetings at the Sumter YDC and Macon YDC during the month of August to celebrate the MOA completion and success with mental health staff from each facility that was part of the final Department of Justice verification tour. During the meetings, each of the six sites was presented with a plaque which recognized the mental health staff's efforts in not only being found in compliance with all MOA citations but being recognized as programs of excellence. The meetings also focused on the future and how we can continue to improve our program despite budget reductions and difficult economic times. We are focusing on how we can streamline processes and enhance clinical services.

#### Administrative Services Division:

Commissioner Murray said the Division of Administrative Services has included a great deal of information in the board packet and he will only highlight some of the information.

Policy revisions to comply with U. S. Dept. of Education requests for modifications to anti-discrimination policies have been completed and submitted ahead of schedule. DJJ has now placed that notice on our website, and it will be on the back of the newsletters.

From the Office of Training:

BJCOT Class number 146 is underway as of Sunday, September 21, 2009. The class size will be 40 trainees. Commissioner Murray said it is his hope that all 40 trainees will graduate and be at their work site as soon as possible.

The Office of Training began the Safe Crisis Management Training for the Agency in August as reported last month. The training to date has been customized for non-security staff in a three (3) day program rollout and the security staff in a four (4) day rollout. Commissioner Murray said Fabienne Tate and her staff have made sure that DJJ stays on schedule with its Safe Crisis Management Training.

Commissioner Murray said additional training courses offered by the Office of Training during the months of August and September are listed in their folder. Commissioner Murray also stated if board members have questions about the training items listed he will be happy to give them more information.

From Investigations:

Fourteen Field Based Investigators were trained August 17-21, 2009 at the DJJ Training Academy in Forsyth Georgia. The training was one week long and covered various topics such as; conducting interviews, conducting administrative investigations and legal issues. Commissioner Murray said by attending this training, this will allow these individuals to conduct facility investigations.

The first Safe Crisis Management Special Incident Reporting training will begin September 25, 2009. This training will include the following facilities: Shaw, Bob Richards, and Marietta RYDCs.

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

Board member Elizabeth Lindsey said with the closure of the Bill Ireland YDC, it is important that board members get a population count each month of all DJJ facilities. Ms. Lindsey stated the Board needs to know how the closure of the Bill Ireland YDC is impacting other DJJ facilities. Ms. Lindsey also stated the Board in the past had received that information and would like that information to start again whether via email or included in the board packet.

Commissioner Murray said he received that request from Ms. Lindsey and did not get a chance to talk to Chairman Shuman about it.

Chairman Shuman said that would be fine.

Commissioner Murray said he was not sure how it will be done but he will find a way for the Board to receive that information.

Board member Stephen Simpson said in the past he requested the DJJ Board receive a summary budget report. Mr. Simpson said Microsoft has a template that DJJ can use. Mr. Simpson said the Board needs to know where the DJJ budget is at any given time, even in good times. Mr.

Simpson said the Board is kept in the dark until they come to a board meeting and find out there are variances. Mr. Simpson said variances can be good but they can also be bad.

Commissioner Murray said he would like for those types of requests to go through Chairman Shuman first.

Chairman Shuman asked Jeff Minor to comment on Mr. Simpson's request.

Jeff Minor stated DJJ can definitely provide the Board with that information. Mr. Minor does have that information monthly and can provide the Board with that information so they can see where DJJ is and needs to be in any given month. Mr. Minor said there are reasons why there would be variances. Mr. Minor said for example, DJJ might pay their insurance in the first quarter as opposed to the second quarter. Mr. Minor explained that DJJ does an analysis of what DJJ's current status is and whether or not that is expected. Mr. Minor said he would forward the Board a snapshot of DJJ's budget.

Mr. Simpson said what he would prefer to receive would be a trend report. He stated the banking industry sends out a two page trend report that explains where they are and where they should be. The trend report also explains various positives and negatives with a comparison with the year before.

Mr. Simpson then asked if DJJ is giving its staff that has direct contact with the youths, a flu vaccine.

Commissioner Murray asked Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne to answer the question.

Dr. Staples-Horne said that as part of the pandemic flu planning, DJJ has been in contact with public health divisions. They were initially providing vaccines for the staff as well as the youths. The department decided to only administer vaccine to youth, given the shortages regarding the nursing staff and not having a policy in place for administering the flu vaccine to staff, creating liability concerns. DJJ recommended that public health and the facilities get together to identify locations that staff can go to get the flu vaccine for free or at a reduced cost. The medical staff at DJJ's facility will provide all youth with the flu vaccine on site.

Mr. Simpson recommended that DJJ offer its staff the flu vaccine.

Dr. Staples-Horne said it is addressed in the pandemic flu plan. Dr. Staples-Horne stated DJJ does not have policies in place to address the issues with administering the flu vaccine to staff. She stated some facilities have been very creative and have brought over the health department to offer the flu vaccine to staff and assist with the youth. Dr. Staples-Horne said DJJ will make sure they have a process in place for anyone who wants to receive the vaccine that they will be able to get it. If the vaccine is not administered by DJJ health care staff then arrangements will be made for it through local public health agencies. Dr. Staples-Horne said there are some other avenues that DJJ is exploring regarding getting the vaccine.

Dr. Staples-Horne said DJJ's pandemic flu plan is completed. The plan deals with a lot of issues that includes hand washing. The CDC hand washing video is posted on the intranet. There will be a log that staff would have to sign off on stating they reviewed the video. Dr. Staples-Horne said the CDC hand washing video is being put together with the Commissioner's video for review by youth at intake. There is a full program in place regarding hand washing and isolation procedures, etc. Dr. Staples-Horne said the vaccine is not available, yet there have already been several outbreaks. Dr. Staples-Horne said DJJ is very diligent with regard to keeping the epidemic in check at DJJ.

Mr. Simpson stated he represented part of Bibb County. He stated he was one of the board members that voted against the closure of the Bill Ireland YDC, however, given the directives from the Governor and given the current situation, the Board had no choice. Mr. Simpson said in every case when a decision is made to close a facility, the best people at the facility will be lost. Mr. Simpson asked if DJJ will be giving employees whose positions will be eliminated a retention bonus or anything that will keep the key people in place there so there will be an orderly transition.

Commissioner Murray replied no there is no money for bonuses. He stated that DJJ will try to place as many staff as possible. Commissioner Murray said that is the extent of what can be done based on the resources that are available.

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 Elizabeth Lindsey. The motion carried.

### **Education Update**

Dr. Jack Catrett, Associate Superintendent

Dr. Catrett greeted the Board, Chairman Shuman, staff, and visitors. He said the DJJ (education) mission at the Bill Ireland YDC has changed to working with the schools to make sure that records and services follow youths to their new facilities.

Dr. Catrett said he finds DJJ education to be very exciting. Dr. Catrett said school is underway to a very good start except when there was a flu outbreak at the Sumter YDC and DJJ had to quarantine the kids. Dr. Catrett stated the flu is now gone and the youths are back in school.

Dr. Catrett mentioned the open house that took place at the Augusta YDC. There were some parents in attendance whose children had been transferred from the Bill Ireland YDC. Dr. Catrett said a lot of the parents were very happy about the new school situation.

Some of the youth that were transferred to the Sumter YDC had a little trouble getting acclimated to their new routines. Dr. Catrett said the youth that were transferred to the Savannah River Challenge Program were put into school there and they are doing well. Dr. Catrett stated Dr. Mimi Coles visited the Savannah River Challenge Program to perform a quality assurance audit to make sure the transition would be smooth.

Dr. Catrett said the Savannah River Challenge Program is labeled as an alternative school. DJJ has 3 designations for its schools. The RYDC facilities are labeled as hospital home bond. DJJ's alternative schools have been its STP schools, wilderness schools, and the some of the group home schools. All of DJJ's long term schools have been called full HQ schools. Dr. Catrett said there are differences in the requirements for HQ teachers. Dr. Catrett also said DJJ has been very fortunate to have the Savannah River Challenge Program be listed as an alternative school based on the fact there are STP and Wilderness schools at the facility. Dr. Catrett said when everything is sorted out at the Savannah River Challenge Program, Mr. Herndon and Commissioner Murray will need to look at that school and make the change to a full HQ school for next year.

Dr. Catrett said he is concerned about the educational assets at the Bill Ireland YDC. He stated he wanted to make sure the computers, printers, and books at the Bill Ireland YDC are transferred to the best possible place, where they will best benefit the youth. Dr. Catrett reminded the Board that some adjustments were made 3 years ago at the Bill Ireland YDC to make it a solid middle school. Dr. Catrett said they are looking to see that those supplies go to the best place. Dr. Catrett said Coy Satterfield will be responsible for closing the Bill Ireland YDC School and ensure proper equipment placement.

Dr. Catrett said there is a printing lab at the Bill Ireland YDC. Dr. Catrett said the lab does lots of the printing for DJJ. Dr. Catrett stated DJJ is doing a financial study to see how much that lab has saved DJJ so that a recommendation can be made to Commissioner Murray about the future of that print shop.

Dr. Catrett said DJJ is being trained on Safe Crisis Management. The behavioral management at DJJ's schools is called the alternative educational placement model. That model has been used for about 8 years. DJJ is making sure Safe Crisis Management and the alternative education placement model work together. Dr. Catrett said Dr. Robert Gordon has worked with DJJ part-time for the past 10 years. Mr. Gordon is also the federal monitor for the state of California for special education and behavior management. Dr. Catrett said getting Mr. Gordon to work with DJJ on this will help DJJ to keep its spot as a national leader in behavior management in its schools.

A few other notes from Dr. Catrett include that DJJ has started with its new teacher's observation instruments to ensure all its teachers were on the same page and DJJ has moved its October training days to after Christmas.

Dr. Catrett stated Dr. Mimi Coles was also sent out to the Clayton RYDC, Griffin RYDC, and Savannah RYDC for a quality control audit and those schools were in really good order.

The state testing for the month of September was the Georgia High School Graduation retest and the Georgia High School Writing retest.

DJJ received an After School Award letter and has been able to access some grant money that was awarded.

Dr. Catrett continued saying that DJJ has frozen teacher vacancies so they can work with the teachers from the Bill Ireland YDC. The teachers from the Bill Ireland YDC have not gotten their termination letters yet from DJJ. They will be working with the personnel office to get those teachers from the Bill Ireland YDC to those vacancies as quickly as possible.

Dr. Catrett asked if there were any questions or comments.

Board member Larry Barnes asked how far in advance teachers will be notified about their termination (at Bill Ireland).

Dr. Catrett said they will be given a minimum 30 day notice.

Board member Stephen Simpson said he was very impressed to see in Commissioner Murray's training notes the reference to the 8 hour American Heart Association CPR and First Aid Class. Mr. Simpson asked if that was something ongoing and does the education system participate.

Dr. Catrett confirmed that and introduced Coy Satterfield from the DJJ Education Department.

Mr. Satterfield greeted the Board, Commissioner Murray and visitors. Mr. Satterfield asked the Board to approve the DJJ 2009-2010 School Calendar that was revised on 09/15/2009. Mr. Satterfield said the purpose for the revision this time had to do with human resources and their new furlough dates. Mr. Satterfield said it is the second revision the Board will have approved. Mr. Satterfield said the only changes in the calendar are the changes to the furlough days. Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to approve the DJJ 2009-2010 revised School Calendar.

A motion was made by Dr. Risler and seconded by Larry Barnes.

The motion carried.

Mr. Satterfield also noted that there are currently 8 teaching vacancies statewide at DJJ facilities. These vacancies include special education and regular education vacancies and 1 counselor vacancy.

Mr. Satterfield said he had an opportunity along with other DJJ staff on September 10 to attend the graduation ceremony for Eddie Alvarez at the Paulding RYDC. Mr. Satterfield said the most outstanding thing that was brought out and noted at the ceremony was that Mr. Alvarez had

completed reading 22 hardback novels. Mr. Satterfield said they were major novels like books from John Grisham. Mr. Satterfield said at the graduation exercise they had a display table with the hardback books the youth had read. There was an "Eddie's book list" that included the books the youth recommended that other students should read. Mr. Satterfield said Eddie did not get his high school diploma from DJJ because he completed most of his Carnegie Units from his previous school. DJJ provided him with the last 3 courses and credits he needed to fulfill the criteria to be awarded his high school diploma. Mr. Alvarez received a certificate of completion from DJJ and received his high school diploma from his home school.

Mr. Satterfield concluded his report.

Dr. Catrett stated on October 15, 2009 there will be a regional principal's meeting in Forsyth. Dr. Catrett encouraged the Board to attend.

Dr. Catrett concluded his report and asked for more 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 Elizabeth Lindsey made the motion to close the Board of Education meeting and resume the Board of Juvenile Justice meeting.

Board member Pastor Rowland seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

The chairman moved to the next agenda item, an executive session.

Board member Sandra Taylor made the motion to go into executive session.

Board member Elizabeth Lindsey seconded the motion.

The Chairman called for a vote.

The motion carried.

At the close of the executive session a motion was made by Larry Barnes 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 Juvenile Code Rewrite update.

## **Juvenile Code Rewrite**

Amy Howell, Deputy Commissioner  
Department of Juvenile Justice

Ms. Howell stated that included in the Board packet are 2 handouts that give an overview by the Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic of Senate Bill 292 which encompasses what was formally the Model Code.

Ms. Howell said she will give the Board a brief overview of Senate Bill 292 and issues that pertain to DJJ.

Ms. Howell said as with the Model Code, Senate Bill 292 encompasses a restructuring of the Juvenile Code that is quite useful that will separate into the first 2 sections of the handout. It gives an overview of the structural organization and the sections that are of most interest to DJJ. Ms. Howell said this includes Article 6 and Article 7. Ms. Howell also said Article 8 along with several other Articles will be used by DJJ.

Ms. Howell said if and when the bill passes, the structural organization will be useful to DJJ, practitioners, and the juvenile courts.

Mr. Howell said some of the major changes that are included in Senate Bill 292 included a lot of the feedback that DJJ provided after reviewing the model code. Ms. Howell asked the Board to recall when she presented the model code there were concerns about changing the age of a youth from 17 to 18. Ms. Howell stated that the increased age is not included in Senate Bill 292.

A major change in Senate Bill 292 includes the designated felony statute. Ms. Howell made reference to the third page of the handout and stated pages 1-6 give a more detailed overview of Senate Bill 292 with the provisions.

The designated felony statute has some changes. It changes the minimum from 12 months to 6 months for restricted custody. Ms. Howell said that was something that was arrived at by a group that was convened by the JustGeorgia Coalition that included DJJ, juvenile court judges, district attorneys, and public defenders. They tried to gain consensus around some of the more controversial provisions of what was then the Model Code. Ms. Howell said 6 months was an agreement that the group came to based on interest in changing the minimum for restricted custody. Ms. Howell said that is reflected in the Bill.

Ms. Howell also noted in the designated felony statute in the Model Code, Senate Bill 440 was incorporated into designated felonies. That is not the case in Senate Bill 292. Senate Bill 440 describes the offenses in which youth's age 13-17 can be charged with in adult court. It is not

incorporated in the designated felony statute. Ms. Howell said that remained intact based on Senate Bill 292.

Ms. Howell said what she understood in relationship to both the designated felony statute and the Senate Bill 440 Provisions is that there are still ongoing discussions with JustGeorgia and the Georgia Coalition. Ms. Howell said they are the key stakeholders around those provisions concerning ongoing discussions about what that might look like. That would include the sponsors of Senate Bill 292, which would include Senator Bill Hamrick and several others.

Ms. Howell said she will continue to update the Board as things move along.

Ms. Howell said the other provisions that are noteworthy for DJJ are Children In Need of Services (CHINS). Ms. Howell said this previously was what would incorporate unruly or status offenders. The Model Code involved a key component of case planning that would be more under the current Juvenile Code and would more apply to deprived youth. Ms. Howell said there are case planning requirements that are placed upon DFCS and not on DJJ for youths that would be determined to be in need of services. CHINS allows for commitments to the DJJ or placement on probation. The feedback that DJJ provided with the Model Code was a concern about having youths that are deprived under a CHIN model and also having them committed to DJJ. Ms. Howell said she did not know how that will be resolved, but she stated DJJ will continue to provide that feedback.

Ms. Howell said the other noteworthy provisions that DJJ was pleased to see in Senate Bill 292 was language that required the use of the DAI (detention assessment instrument) in terms of guiding detention decisions. Ms. Howell said there are specific languages in the Bill about emphasizing use of the least restrictive alternatives. Ms. Howell said those were all good provisions that helped determine detention population and appropriate placement.

Ms. Howell said that is generally what is included in the Bill. Ms. Howell said there has already been a committee meeting on the Senate side to begin to review the Bill. The process has begun but the group that is helping Senator Hamrick has indicated that they understand that this is a long process and there is still a great amount of work to be done.

Ms. Howell said DJJ's major interests are yet to be determined when it comes to Senate Bill 440 and designated felons and what compromises will be worked out. Ms. Howell said the major concerns about 17 year olds, that would have had a major impact on DJJ's population, have been changed.

Judge Steven Teske made reference to the second bullet on page 10 of the handout. Judge Teske said this would require that a prosecuting attorney file a delinquency petition. Under current law, any person can make a delinquency petition, which then must be endorsed by the juvenile court as being in the best interest of the public or child. Judge Teske asked if this would be after the court endorses that petition. Judge Teske said he wanted to make sure the prosecutors don't get to make that decision.

Ms. Howell said the way she reads the Bill; the prosecuting attorney will be the one to make the decisions whether or not to file a petition. They are included much earlier on in the process than they are currently are. Ms. Howell said based on her interpretation of the Bill it does not require endorsement by the court.

Judge Teske said that goes against best practices. Judge Teske said in Baltimore and Ohio, they are complaining because the referral rates are going up because everything is in the hands of the prosecutors.

Ms. Lindsey asked what does DJJ need in the Bill in order for it to pass in light of its budgetary issues.

Ms. Howell said there is language in the Bill that is helpful. She stated there are not specific provisions that are currently drafted that she sees as a major aid to the department that will change the way that DJJ operates currently. DJJ came to an understanding earlier on with the group behind the code rewrite that DJJ will continue to pursue legislation on an annual basis that would help with their immediate needs in population management. Ms. Howell said there is an acknowledgement on their part as the process moves along in a more deliberate manner that DJJ will have more immediate legislation that would change what the current juvenile code looks like. Ms. Howell said the change of the STP to 30 days is not in Senate Bill 292.

Commissioner Murray said the process is moving at a good pace. Commissioner Murray said he along with Bill Amideo and Rob Rosenbloom was at the meeting that Ms. Howell spoke about. The Bill is in a discussion stage and DJJ is providing lots of oversight to make sure that DJJ is not mandated to do things that the agency cannot do because of its budget. Commissioner Murray said that would hurt DJJ.

Mr. Simpson said he is impressed with Emory's summary. Mr. Simpson asked if that was something they did voluntarily.

Ms. Howell said the Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic is one of the partners in the JustGeorgia Coalition. Ms. Howell said she knows it is the type of work they do, but specifically they are very involved in the process of the Code Rewrite.

Ms. Howell concluded her presentation and asked if there were any other questions or comments.

There were none.

Chairman Shuman called for the next item on the agenda, the FY 2010 Bond Resolution.

**FY 2010 Bond Resolution**  
Ed Cook, Director of Engineering  
Department of Juvenile Justice

Mr. Cook thanked the Board for the opportunity to talk to them about the FY 2010 Bond Fund Resolution. Mr. Cook said the resolution approves the sale of bonds that fund maintenance improvements and maintenance construction activities at DJJ facilities. The resolution mentions 3 distinct funds. Mr. Cook said each fund corresponds to one of the three projects that were approved for funding by Governor Perdue and the Legislature out of the 16 that were submitted last year as the FY 2010 Capital Outlay Budget Request. Mr. Cook said the 3 funds are \$4,275,000 for maintenance activities, \$6,835,000 for minor construction and \$4,915,000 to complete the funding necessary to bid, renovate and construct a new Rockdale RYDC project. Mr. Cook said the one resolution funds all 3 of the bond fund sales. Mr. Cook said if any of the board members are interested in seeing the breakdown of any of the two funds, he has copies of the breakdown that was approved last year.

Mr. Cook asked if there were any questions.

Chairman Shuman indicated the resolution was not in the board packet of information.

While copies were being provided to the Board, 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 greeted Chairman Shuman, Commissioner Murray and the Board.

Mr. Hayes announced that there were several guests for the customer service update. Mr. Hayes said Mr. Kevin Gecowets, Governor's Office of Customer Service, will speak to the Board about some of the things his office is doing along with DJJ. Mr. Gecowets is also in attendance to recognize one of DJJ's field staff. Ms. Corinne Jackson was a commendation winner back in July 2009 and she was unable to attend that ceremony. Mr. Hayes said DJJ wanted to recognize her before the Board. Mr. Hayes said Mr. Gecowets will assist with that and present Ms. Jackson with her commendation award.

Mr. Hayes introduced Ms. Corinne Jackson to the Board. Ms. Jackson is a JPPS II in Carroll County. She brought along her supervisor Bill Spears, juvenile program manager, and also Karen Loyd who works in the office. Also in attendance were District Director Wade Moore, and Victor Roberts who is the regional administrator for the group.

Mr. Hayes asked Ms. Jackson and guests to come to the podium. Mr. Hayes read a brief synopsis of her nomination.

“Ms. Jackson assisted in organizing events for the youths under supervision. Her excellent customer service has helped her develop many connections within the county and state. These connections have helped her secure treatments for these youths who may not have normally qualified because of the seriousness of their offenses. Many local providers will go out of their way to assist Ms. Jackson because they know she will be there to answer their questions or provide immediate assistance in case of emergency. On many occasions she has spent her time off talking to local businesses about donations for DJJ’s youth. Recently Ms. Jackson had a juvenile sex offender who moved with his mother to Alabama. Once there this youth was informed that Alabama could not provide services and the youth would have to return to Georgia. This could have been a heartbreaking situation for the youth, but through Ms. Jackson’s customer service skills she was able to convince the family that moving back to Georgia was indeed the best for the family and the youth. The youth returned to Georgia and is receiving treatment and is doing well.”

The Board applauded Ms. Jackson as Mr. Gecowets presented her with her commendation award.

Mr. Hayes asked Ms. Jackson to make a few comments.

Ms. Jackson said the youth mentioned in the nomination was in treatment services at Kids Peace for a little over 365 days. Ms. Jackson said it was approved by Interstate Compact Services for him to go to Alabama to live. They were notified of his prior history, events and discharge summary. However, when he got to Alabama, they had him assessed by an outpatient organization and they decided he was not appropriate to be in the community and assessed him as a high risk offender. At that time they asked that the state of Georgia bring him back to be put in residential treatment again. The youth was brought back and was placed in Twin Cedars and he was there up until his commitment order expired on September 11, 2009.

Ms. Jackson said thank you for the award.

Mr. Hayes asked Mr. Moore to make a few comments.

Mr. Moore said Ms. Jackson is an outstanding worker and she has all the attributes that you look for in somebody that does juvenile probation parole specialist. She is dedicated, passionate and has compassion and a sense of humor. Mr. Moore said those things keep you going and allows her to do the things she does. Mr. Moore also gave credit to Mr. Spears because this is the second person from his office who received a customer service award from the Governor’s Office of Customer Service.

Mr. Hayes then introduced Kevin Gecowets from the Governor’s Office of Customer Service.

Mr. Gecowets greeted Commissioner Murray and the Board. He stated he appreciated the opportunity to recognize one of DJJ's outstanding employees. Mr. Gecowets complimented Commissioner Murray and DJJ for dedication to Governor Perdue's vision that Georgia will have the best customer service in the nation. DJJ has been an early adopter and a great supporter of that initiative. Mr. Gecowets said in his opinion, DJJ has been one of the first agencies to make that a part of their culture. It probably always was a part of their culture but now there is a great communications campaign and the Governor's Office of Customer Service has a statewide vision. DJJ has been a great supporter of that along with their past champion Dr. Tom O'Rourke and that now continues with Mr. Hayes. In the agencies where there is leadership, commitment and an active champion, they see it working well.

Mr. Gecowets said in the 3 years that he has been running a statewide customer service recognition program DJJ has submitted 183 nominations, which places them in the top 3 agencies in the state in terms of participation. The only other agencies that have turned in more nominations are agencies that are 2 and 3 times the size of DJJ. Mr. Gecowets said there have been 13 DJJ winners of Governor's Commendations and those are not given out lightly. Mr. Gecowets said no more than 12 awards a month are given out in the state and this includes all \$100,000 plus employees. Mr. Gecowets said DJJ has been recognized in all areas.

Mr. Gecowets said there is also an annual award and Lorie Gann won that award last year. There are also two finalists this year, including Commissioner Murray in the leadership category and Clyde Smith who is the probation specialist.

Mr. Gecowets thanked the Board for allowing him to speak to them about customer service. He extended an invitation to the Board to attend the Governor's Office of Customer Service Annual Awards Ceremony on Monday, September 28, 2009 at the Georgia World Congress Center.

Mr. Hayes thanked Mr. Gecowets for attending the board meeting and sharing that information with the Board.

Mr. Hayes also thanked Ms. Jackson and her guests for attending the board meeting.

Mr. Hayes concluded his report and asked if there were any questions or comments.

There were none.

Chairman Shuman called Mr. Cook again to finish his report on the FY 2010 Bond Resolution.

**FY 2010 Bond Resolution**  
Ed Cook, Director of Engineering  
Department of Juvenile Justice

Mr. Cook apologized for not having copies of the FY 2010 Bond Resolution in the Board packet.

Mr. Cook asked the Board if there were any questions.

Board member James Kelly asked if the Board had previously seen the project list.

Mr. Cook replied yes. He stated the Board approved the project list last year as part of the funding request.

Commissioner Murray asked Mr. Cook to make a copy for the entire Board.

Copies of DJJ's Maintenance and Repair and Minor Construction list were presented to the Board.

Chairman Shuman asked if there were any other questions.

Mr. Kelly said he would like to have a recall of what was approved last year and it would be helpful if these lists were provided to them.

Board member Sandra Taylor asked if the Rockdale facility was a new facility.

Mr. Cook said the Rockdale facility is an existing Department of Corrections, fairly new facility that was closed down. Mr. Cook said it is just like the one in South Fulton County that was turned into the Atlanta YDC. Renovation will be done and housing units will be added along with a gym. Mr. Cook said now there will be a new RYDC located in the Atlanta area located between the DeKalb, Gwinnett and the Metro RYDCs where some population problems exist.

Mr. Cook said the new Rockdale facility will be completed in 1 ½ years.

Ms. Taylor asked if it was necessary for DJJ to ask for this money now instead of next year.

Mr. Cook said DJJ has half of the money now and there are limitations as to how long you can keep bond funds. Mr. Cook also said this is an excellent time to bid and DJJ needs to take advantage of the bidding climate now. Mr. Cook said over the long run these are good buildings for DJJ to have.

Dexter Rowland asked when the Rockdale facility will be completed.

Mr. Cook said if the project is bid the first of next year, the construction will take about a year. He also said there will be some other odds and ends that will probably take a few more months. He hopes the project would be completed by spring 2011.

Mr. Rowland asked if the Rockdale facility will be opened before the Atlanta YDC.

Mr. Cook said he did not know it was a matter of funding staff.

Mr. Rowland asked if there was a possibility there would be two facilities without staff.

Mr. Cook said that could be a possibility.

Ms. Taylor asked if DJJ already has half the money.

Mr. Cook said yes.

Ms. Taylor asked what is being done with money for the project.

Mr. Cook said everything is done and DJJ is ready to bid. All the permits are in and DJJ needs the other half of the money.

Mr. Kelly told Mr. Cook in the future when the board needs to vote on resolutions in the future if he could attach all the necessary documents.

Mr. Cook said yes.

Mr. Kelly said on part C of the Resolution, the Board doesn't have anything specifics and for the sake of the finance committee he asked if Mr. Cook could insert the words "Rockdale RYDC."

Mr. Cook said he couldn't make any changes to the Resolution but he will do something so the Board would know what it is specifically.

Mr. Kelly asked Mr. Cook what exactly he will do.

Mr. Cook said he will add an addendum to the Resolution. Mr. Cook stated the Resolution was prepared by the Law Department and he couldn't make any changes to it.

Ms. Taylor asked Commissioner Murray if the Governor is aware of DJJ's effort to open a Rockdale facility.

Commissioner Murray said the situation was discussed in a DJJ budget meeting last year and the Governor is aware of the Rockdale facility and is supportive of it.

Ms. Taylor asked if, with the recent budget crunch, if the Rockdale facility came up more recently.

Commissioner Murray said it has and DJJ had a meeting with OPB and they are aware of the Rockdale facility. Commissioner Murray asked Jeff Minor to address Ms. Taylor's concerns.

Jeff Minor told the Board that these are bonds that have already been approved by the Board, the Governor and the General Assembly. Mr. Minor said there were many projects that were requested but not funded. Mr. Minor stated this is an effort at a long range approach to solving some of the problems that DJJ has. Mr. Minor stated those needs may be expedited just a bit because of the closure of the Bill Ireland YDC. He stated with or without beds, DJJ would have continued to pursue these efforts. The Governor is supportive of that and probably has a better chance to move in that direction as the economy improves. Mr. Minor said DJJ will probably be on the top of the list to get operational funds first at the Atlanta YDC and second at the Rockdale RYDC. Mr. Minor also stated this is an understanding by the Governor and the General Assembly that long term, DJJ needs new beds, replacement beds, and more operational beds. DJJ is preparing for the future and has the support of the Governor and the General Assembly.

Ms. Taylor asked if DJJ owns the property in Rockdale.

Mr. Minor said the property is state owned.

Ms. Taylor asked if the property was already shifted over to DJJ and if DJJ is currently maintaining the property.

Mr. Minor said yes.

Mr. Barnes asked what the bonds were rated.

Mr. Minor and Mr. Cook both replied that the bonds were rated the highest. Mr. Minor also said a lot of the bonds projects are economic development tools that will create jobs.

Commissioner Murray said he hopes DJJ will not end up with two facilities that will be vacant but it is a possibility. Commissioner Murray also said that DJJ needs the Rockdale facility.

Mr. Kelly told Mr. Cook that whenever he asks the Board to approve a Resolution, it would be very helpful to reference the projects in the Resolutions and attach them so that there will be no misunderstanding about new items being approved by the Board that they don't know anything about.

Commissioner Murray said he agreed with Mr. Kelly's comment.

There were no further discussions and the Board voted to approve the FY 2010 Bond Resolution.

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

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

No new business was initiated.

Chairman Shuman said the DJJ Board will be looking into the possibility of changing to the Modern Rules of Order that has been recommended by the American Bar Association. Chairman Shuman said Bill Amideo will be looking into it and the Board will be trained on it real soon.

Chairman Shuman announced the next DJJ Board Meeting will be at the Central Office on October 22, 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.

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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