

**Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, April 22, 2010
10:00 a.m.**

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

Opening Remarks

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair

Chairman Shuman called to order the April 22, 2010 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education. He noted the time as 10:00 a.m.

DJJ Staff Present: Commissioner Albert Murray; Rob Rosenbloom; Jeff Minor; Steve Herndon; Dr. Jack Catrett; Coy Satterfield; Steve Hayes; Nathan Cain; Cherecia Kline; Bill Amideo; Ronnie Woodard; Shirley Turner; Rick Harrison; Dr. Michelle Staples Horne; Martha Patton; Rufus; Robin Florie; Latera Davis; Diana Hayes; Dee Bell; Joycelyn Evans; Diane Aspinwall; Vincent Jones; Dr. Rufus Johnson

Others: Brian Baquet; Destiny Washington (Attorney's General Office); Christina McCoy (DJJ Intern); Marissa Gaunter (DJJ Intern); Jessica Bates (DJJ Intern)

Chairman Shuman asked that all attendees stand and state their name and organization affiliation. The Chairman asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation given by Commissioner Albert Murray.

Chairman Shuman thanked everyone for their prayers and concerns. He stated he has his bionic ear in place and is hearing much better.

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; Bruce Garraway; Van Herrin; James Kelly; Elizabeth Lindsey (after roll call); Perry McGuire; Judy Mecum; Daniel Menefee; Ed Risler; Dexter Rowland; J. Daniel Shuman; Elaine Snow; Sandra Taylor

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

Noting the presence of a quorum of the Board, Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to approve the Agenda for the April 22, 2010 Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education.

Bruce Garraway moved to approve the agenda for the April 22, 2010 Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education meeting. Daniel Menefee seconded the motion. The chairman called for the vote and the motion was carried.

Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2010 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and the DJJ Board of Education and asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Elaine Snow moved to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2010 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and the DJJ 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 began his report by discussing two retirements. Commissioner Murray announced Deputy Commissioner Steve Herndon's retirement effective June 1, 2010. He has 35 years of service and has been an extremely valuable member of the commissioner's staff but also of the agency. Commissioner Murray reminded the Board that Steve stepped in when Dr. Tom Coleman retired in 2008. Steve's leadership as a member of the executive team has been critical to the agency in a number of areas; one of those was the MOA closeout process.

Commissioner Murray also announced Doug Peetz is also set to retire June 1, 2010. Doug is DJJ's fiscal director. He's a 34 year state employee and more than 10 with DJJ. Doug has done a great many things including DJJ's involvement in the Team Georgia Marketplace, the Statewide Procurement System. He stated DJJ was one of the pilot agencies. His leadership has resulted in great many things for DJJ's fiscal office including the creation of an online travel system whereas employee reimbursements are now paperless and he directed DJJ's Enterprise lease that's saved us thousands of dollars over the past few years in mileage reimbursements to employees. There will be retirement events for both of these valued staff and that information will be forwarded to the Board.

Commissioner Murray said he was able to spend a little time with Doug and DJJ's agency financial officers from across the state. He stated Doug Peetz is well respected by his employees as is Steve Herndon.

Commissioner Murray stated he traveled to Toombs County, Lyons, Georgia where he and Chairman Shuman participated in the District 9 employee appreciation ceremony, along with Deputy Commissioner Rob Rosenbloom, Regional Administrator Adam Kennedy and District Director Jeff Alligood. Chairman Shuman is a past District 9 Director. Commissioner Murray stated it was an excellent event and it showed how much DJJ depends upon community staff such as those in District 9. He stated it also benefits DJJ from the standpoint of its relationship

with the courts. Judge Sherri McDonald from the Middle Judicial Circuit and Judge Ben Brinson from the Atlantic Judicial Circuit, both attended the entire event. It shows the close working relationship DJJ's CSI staff has with these judges that they would make this commitment. Commissioner Murray said the meeting all in all was invaluable.

Commissioner Murray said it was only the fact that Amy Howell and Jeff Minor were in place at the Capitol that he was able to make these quick stops this week.

Commissioner Murray said the business at the State Capitol is fast and furious right now. It appears now that they will wrap up the session on April 28 and 29. He stated there is still work to be done for DJJ and said anything can and will happen between now and the end of the session. He said at this point they are still not sure how much of a cut DJJ will suffer for 2011. He stated he will keep the board informed. Jeff Minor is working hard and closely with OPB and the legislature. Commissioner Murray said Jeff Minor is available for questions following his report.

Amy Howell is currently in a House Judiciary Non-Civil meeting in support of DJJ agency legislation Senate Bill 400 which contains provisions to allow credit for time served for designated felons and also extends the sunset for the 30-day STP until 2012. Additionally, Commissioner Murray stated he attended the Senate committee meeting for Government Oversight last week where HB1144 successfully passed out of that committee HB1144 which gives credit for time served was amended in committee to include language for the extension of the 30 day STP sunset until 2013. Currently HB1144 is in the Senate Rules committee awaiting consideration.

DJJ is tracking the progress of HB1104 which contains provisions regarding the proposed probation management program and was amended in Senate Judiciary to also contain provisions regarding credit for time served and adding a designated felony offense for a "smash and grab" felony. HB1104 passed the Senate on April 21, 2010 and must now return to the House for them to either agree or disagree with the changes to the bill.

This week is National Victims' Rights Week. Through the DJJ victims advocate office the agency has been involved in numerous activities to raise awareness concerning victims and to increase awareness of services available to victims. To kick off the week long recognition, nine agencies collaborated on a ceremony April 12th at DOC headquarters in Forsyth. Commissioner Murray said this included his participation on a panel discussion concerning victims' services. An open house was also held for victims that included the various agencies having informational booths including DJJ. DJJ supported this event with close to 50 staff attending some part of the morning or afternoon events. He stated there will be a presentation on the agenda concerning victims' services so the Board can get more details on these events.

DJJ has entered into a new jail contract with Lamar County to hold its juveniles temporarily that need to be sent there from the Eastman YDC. This contract will replace the contract we previously had with Upson County. Commissioner Murray said he believes Lamar County will serve DJJ well in this regard.

On May 11th, Commissioner Murray stated that he along with Deputy Commissioners Steve Herndon and Rob Rosenbloom and Director of Secure Campuses Ronnie Woodard, will participate in a joint meeting with Department of Corrections Commissioner Brian Owens and DOC staff to explore ways to increase collaboration between secure facilities with an emphasis on emergency response. This meeting will strengthen existing cooperative agreements between the agencies and explore ways of improving communication and assistance when necessary.

On March 28th Bicentennial Chapel of Fort Gordon, Georgia for the second year has sponsored the “Living Last Supper” at the Augusta YDC. The youth enjoyed this presentation and had exemplary behavior throughout the presentation.

Commissioner Murray announced Ms. Charlotte Howard was appointed the Personnel Manager at Eastman YDC. The Eastman YDC employs over 300 staff and the position of Personnel Manager is a critical and demanding position. Ms. Howard started at Eastman YDC as a Juvenile Correctional Officer in 1993 and has served as a personnel technician II, since 2006. Commissioner Murray stated he had the opportunity to meet with Ms. Howard and he has no doubt that she will continue to serve DJJ well in this new role.

On April 8, 2010, the Eastman YDC held their 3rd Seven Challenges Graduation Ceremony. The Seven Challenges Program is an evidence based substance abuse program that is used in DJJ’s long term facilities. Eastman had a total of 19 graduates; which made this class the largest to date. In attendance were central office staff and approximately ten families.

Eleven youth from the Macon YDC completed the Work Ready Program by successfully passing the required Department of Labor Work Ready Test. The work ready tests resulted in one youth earning a gold certificate, 7 youth earning silver and 3 youth earning bronze certificates. These young ladies will participate in the June 2010 educational graduation ceremonies at the facility.

Sumter YDC was visited by Minister James “Hollywood” Henderson during TORCH Weekend held on March 19 -21, 2010. Hollywood Henderson is a former inmate with the Georgia Department of Corrections who shared his life story of making poor decisions and how he overcame life’s obstacles to become a nationally ranked power lifter. Hollywood Henderson used humor and feats of strength to inspire them to make the necessary changes in their lives. Mr. Henderson has previously visited other DJJ facilities.

The Office of Health Services will hold their Professional Development Conference on May 5-7 at the Georgia Public Safety Academy in conjunction with National Nurses Week. DJJ Medical and Dental staff will be in attendance. The agenda will include introduction of the new 2010 Nursing Clinical Protocols, as well as administrative policy reviews and JTS updates.

Commissioner Murray stated Rick Harrison from the Office of Behavioral Health Services met with the staff from the Rivers Edge Community Services Board Crisis Stabilization Program (CSP) in Macon on April 12th. The Crisis Stabilization Program, which is contracted by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities provides acute psychiatric services to youth age 14 and below from around the state and is where most youth from DJJ’s

secure facilities within that age group receive acute psychiatric care. The goal is to improve youth accessibility to the services.

As part of the department's ongoing participation in the System of Care and KidsNet Georgia initiative, Rick Harrison and Dee Bell provided an overview of the DJJ system; focusing on youth with mental illness from the community and secure facility perspective on April 15th at the Georgia Parents Support Network. The presentation, which was attended by parents, parent advocates and staff from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, was intended to help families better understand the process of a youth becoming involved with DJJ both in the community and in secure confinement and how we manage youth that have been identified as having mental health needs.

Commissioner Murray stated the CSI Division will present two topics included on the board agenda. The presentations are on Victim Rights and Community Supervision Services. The RYDC populations have remained below capacity statewide but approximately 40% of the centers experience over capacity and continue to move youth for population management. Commissioner Murray said last week the expeditors who helped find alternatives to detention met to review best practices and get updates from the Division Office. The expeditors are an integral part of how DJJ handles population management at the detention centers. Commissioner Murray mentioned again the Annual District 9 Employee Appreciation Day was held on April 21, 2010 in Lyons, Georgia.

The Emanuel HITS program has begun a service learning project partnering with Department of Natural Resources with restoration projects at the state park near Twin City. This project as well as the Evans Project was highlighted at the Employee Appreciation Day. Commissioner Murray said DJJ has many fine community staff and these presentations they witnessed verified that.

A joint State of Georgia policy issued by the State Personnel Administration (SPA) and State Accounting Office (SAO) will require all State employees who are hired/rehired after May 1, 2010 and who are paid via the PeopleSoft payroll system to use direct deposit to receive payroll related payments, unless exempted by SAO. This will be a condition of employment for these employees. Paper checks will no longer be mailed to the employees work location prior to pay day. All checks will be mailed by SAO on pay day directly to the address currently on file for the employee. It will be imperative that employees maintain an accurate mailing address through Employee Self-Service.

Current employees will be required to enroll in direct deposit by June 1, 2010 but it will not be a condition of employment.

The BJCOT Class #151 began on Sunday, February 25, 2010. The graduation ceremony was held Thursday, March 25, 2010. Derrick Schofield, Assistant Commissioner, Georgia Department of Corrections served as the guest speaker. There were 21 graduates to include one facility director, Gary Morris. He's director at the Marietta RYDC.

The BJCOT Class #152 graduation will be held at 5:00 p.m. on April 22, 2010, due to the furlough day scheduled for tomorrow, Friday, April 23, 2010. The guest speaker will be Ronnie

Woodard, Director of Secure Campuses, Division of Programs and Secure Campuses. There are 23 candidates for graduation. The ceremony is open to all staff and the public.

On March 11, 2010, the Georgia Bureau of Investigations conducted a GCIC/NCIC audit with our Criminal History Unit. There were five (5) applicable primary areas assessed during the audit. DJJ was in full compliance in all areas with the exception of "Security: "Criminal Records Checks and Fingerprinting." The lone non-compliance issue was that all required staff who handle, access, or destroy criminal justice information had not submitted to a background investigation and/or fingerprints. Commissioner Murray said the GCIC/NCIC audit results are in the board packet.

The Office of Training continues to do a great job with Safe Crisis Management implementation and training.

Commissioner Murray stated Legal Services officer Pam Sloan completed her SCM training and scored a perfect 100 on her exam. Legal Services officer Jeff Coleman was scheduled for training during the week of April 12th.

Commissioner Murray said as DJJ progresses through Phase II of the Rollout Implementation Training, the facilities targeted to begin their training in May 2010 are as follows: Martha Glaze RYDC, Gwinnett RYDC, DeKalb RYDC, and Crisp RYDC.

The SCM Debriefing Facilitators' Training was held March 22, 2010 at the DJJ Academy and included 26 successful completions.

The SCM Training Officers' Assessment Monthly Training was held March 24, 2010 at the DJJ Academy. There were 18 Safe Crisis Management Training Officers' represented at the training. There is information included in your board packet regarding the Training Officers' training agenda and what is included.

SCM Non-Security Training was held March 22-24, 2010 at the DJJ Academy and included 32 successful completions and Phase II of the SCM 4-Day Implementation Rollout Training began March 15, 2010. He said additional information is in the board folders regarding that rollout training.

Commissioner Murray announced the Safe Crisis Management Special Incident Reporting Tracking System has been completed and is currently being used by the following RYDCs; Metro, Aaron Cohn, Marietta, Blakely, Claxton, Savannah, Elbert Shaw, Albany, Gainesville, Macon, Paulding, and Bob Richards.

The YDCs using the system are Muscogee and Macon. Both Macon and Muscogee are the first two long term campuses to make the transition to the new program that helps staff manage youth behaviors of concern using the least restrictive alternative. The two facilities are reporting improved communication and management of their youth in correlation with implementation of the new SCM program.

Commissioner Murray said since the March Board meeting, the training office has conducted numerous other training programs for DJJ staff. Those include a “Thinking for a Change Facilitators’ Training;” Facilities Pre-Service Training; Community Pre-Service Training; and American Heart Association Training which is an 8-hour course for employees to obtain certification or recertify in First Aid/CPR/AED. There were five (5) programs scheduled and a total of 174 staff that attended and successfully completed the program at the DJJ Academy, March 2-5, 2010.

Commissioner Murray said Lt. Donnell Collins from Classification and Transportation exemplified DJJ team work and great customer service recently by assisting Augusta YDC staff. LT. Collins assisted on an investigation in which a youth was non-compliant during an interview by the Augusta staff. Lt. Collins was able to come in and get the information needed to aid the staff in their investigation. It was noted by a YDC staff that Lt. Collins tactics were very professional.

Commissioner Murray said the DJJ Annual Report was distributed to the Board. He stated the Annual report is a very important document to DJJ and it describes in detail the important work conducted by the department. He commended Steve Hayes and his staff for the tremendous work they did in putting the Annual report together. He also stated the DJJ Annual Report will be available online.

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 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
Department of Juvenile Justice**

Dr. Catrett greeted the Board, Chairman Shuman, staff, and visitors.

Dr. Catrett stated the Macon YDC graduation will be on June 3, 2010 and the Augusta YDC graduation will be on June 4, 2010. He encourages the Board to attend.

Dr. Catrett said the Board training will be after the May 27th board meeting. The board meeting will take place at the central office as usual and the education board training will take place at 1:30 p.m. at the Metro RYDC. The Georgia School Boards Association will conduct training for the first hour and then the training will be turned over to DJJ's education staff. Dr. Catrett said Board members will also get a tour of the school. Dr. Catrett also stated Martha Patton will have a workshop on how character based curriculum is integrated. Dr. Catrett said his department will provide transportation to Board members who want to leave their cars at the central office.

Dr. Catrett stated DJJ has one teacher vacancy at the Aaron Cohn RYDC and one science teacher will retire at the Macon YDC at the end of April.

Dr. Catrett said DJJ's text book order is completed. This school year rotation is high school language arts. Dr. Catrett said the choice of books has a real emphasis on grammar instead of literature. Dr. Catrett said the department was able to save a lot of money by going with Glencoe Company and getting all the auxiliaries free.

Dr. Catrett said DJJ's work continues with the learning consortium. He stated there will be the second math consortium meeting on April 22. He stated the purpose of these groups is to develop whole group units of instructions for teachers which are in line with the Georgia Performance Standards. Dr. Catrett said DJJ's best experts are their own teachers.

The education school improvement team continues to work with the Eastman YDC staff in implementing their school improvement plan.

Dr. Catrett said the Eastman YDC conducted a career fair on April 21 and had 9 businesses that set up booths and conducted mock interviews and talked to the youth about job expectations and qualifications.

Dr. Catrett said the Macon YDC also had a career fair on April 21 with 12 employers in attendance. They also conducted mock interviews. Dr. Catrett said it was a good opportunity for the youth to have contact with real businesses.

Dr. Catrett said DJJ has had the Work Ready Certificate program in place for about one year. 154 students were tested; 63 bronze level students resulting in 67 silver level students; and 5 gold level students. Dr. Catrett said that is a real good ratio and he is very proud of that.

Dr. Catrett said the CRCT retest will be offered at DJJ's facility on June 21-25. Dr. Catrett said the end of the course test will be administered May 3-12. The tests that are given will be algebra 1, geometry, math 1 & 2, literature & composition, biology, physical science, economics and U.S. history. He stated that test counts 15% of student final grade.

Dr. Catrett said the Sandersville RYDC was audited by the Governor's Office of Assessment and state employees reviewed their whole testing. He stated the visit to the Sandersville RYDC went really well and they are waiting on the official feedback from the Governor's Office of Assessment.

Dr. Catrett asked Dr. Rufus Johnson to give the Board an update of DJJ's SAC's accreditation.

Dr. Johnson stated DJJ will be going through a district accreditation. This means all DJJ centers will be accredited, as a district however only selected sites will be chosen for visits. This serves to give the facilities a frame work while allowing students to continue to learn. He stated they will learn the same things at the same rate as needed. This also supports DJJ having a common language of school improvement within the facilities. It also provides DJJ with an internationally recognized agency for its school district, students and teachers and for the state.

Dr. Johnson reminded the Board that SACS changed its official name to AdvanceED. With that there are seven key standards. Dr. Johnson said when they did this years ago there were 10 standards. Each standard has some indicators. Dr. Johnson said this is a 5 year process and DJJ will be visited again in 2015. He stated DJJ will be visited October 3 – 6, 2010. On October 3, the team will meet and go over the schedule with the central office education staff. On October 5 the team will visit some selective sites. He stated they are trying to confine the visits to the metro Atlanta area at a rate of 2 sites per day. On October 6 the team will draft their final report and DJJ will then receive its preliminary finding and recommendations will be made for improvement.

Dr. Johnson said in the Board packet there is a summary sheet of the Standard Assessment report. He explains this is where DJJ as a system will rate itself. He said it is always safe to be operational because it gives you room for improvement.

Dr. Johnson said on the 3rd handout the Board received, there are some simple interview questions for district leaders and the school improvement team. Dr. Johnson said if the Board needs to talk to him more he is available.

Board member Jim Kelly asked if it would be appropriate for Chairman Shuman or the chairman of the education committee to serve on the SACS leadership team. He stated there doesn't seem to be any Board representation on that team.

Dr. Risler said he was the chairman of the Board's Education Committee.

Dr. Catrett and Chairman Shuman both agree it would be a great idea for a Dr. Risler to serve on the SACS leadership team. Dr. Catrett stated if any other board member would like to join the SACS leadership team to let him know.

Board member Elizabeth Lindsey asked if the education department will be replacing the two teachers that are retiring.

Dr. Catrett said they will fill those positions.

Hearing no further questions, Chairman Shuman called for the next agenda item and asked for a motion from the Board to close the DJJ Board of Education meeting and resume the regular

meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. Board Member Sandra Taylor made the motion. The motion was seconded by Pastor Rowland. The motion carried.

Chairman Shuman called for the next item on the agenda, Probation Services.

Probation Services

Rob Rosenbloom, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Rob Rosenbloom greeted everyone. He stated he wanted to give the Board some brief remarks about his division and about the responsibilities that will give some context to the presentation about probation services. He said it's about community supervision and the different category of youths that they supervise. He said probationers are part of that group. Mr. Rosenbloom said Community Services and Intake (CSI) has a wide range of responsibilities. He reminded the Board that they supervise DJJ's 22 RYDCs with 1,287 youth but they also do residential placement for committed youth in the state and oversee the contracts to ensure programs are delivered appropriately. Mr. Rosenbloom said the CSI division handles interstate compact for the state of Georgia when youth need to be moved from one state to another. He said they also help coordinate court services, probation and commitment supervision in the community. He stated those are the basic responsibilities that his division handles.

Mr. Rosenbloom stated Diana Aspinwall will conduct the presentation on Probation Services. He stated she works in the DJJ Probation office as a program coordinator. She has a lot of experience in DJJ and has held a number of positions including as a Juvenile Probation and Parole Specialist (JPPS). She has also worked as an expeditor and has dealt with DJJ's population issues. Mr. Rosenbloom also stated she has served as an assistant district director. He stated he considers her the department's technical expert for field operations.

Mr. Rosenbloom said a caring adult in a child's life is probably the most important factor in the success of a child. He stated sometimes a JPPS is the only adult that child has that can provide that kind of support and add to the success of the youth. Mr. Rosenbloom said his JPPS staff does a great job in that main role which can help guarantee success in as many youth as they can.

Mr. Rosenbloom stated the JPPS staff wear a number of hats because it is not an easy job they are asked to do. They often have to serve as mentors to a youth and feel for the youth and understand their issues. They also have to enforce conditions of probations and commitment. They are holding youth accountable while trying to be a counselor and a mentor. Mr. Rosenbloom said they also have an opportunity to refer to programs and services to ensure the youth is getting appropriate responses to the needs that are presented through assessment and understand what is going on with the youth. They have to be a partner in so many different ways; a partner with the family and with the court. Mr. Rosenbloom said the JPPS staff is the backbone of what DJJ does in the community. He stated budget cuts have impacted DJJ's ability

to deliver services. Regardless of that the JPPS staff continues to do their job everyday no matter what tools may have been taken from them.

Mr. Rosenbloom said one of their goals in the community is to reduce the number of offenses a youth would commit while under supervision. Mr. Rosenbloom said DJJ does a great job in that area. 90% of the youth who are under DJJ's supervision do not commit new offenses while they are under supervision.

Mr. Rosenbloom asked Diana Aspinwall to make her presentation to the Board.

Ms. Aspinwall said her presentation will be short but it is not a representative of all the good things that go on in the CSI division. She stated she will hit some of the highlights. Ms. Aspinwall displayed a map of Georgia and stated the highlighted counties in red represented the independent courts. The other counties are where DJJ does intake and probation in the courts. The independent court counties do the intake function as well as the probation functions. Ms. Aspinwall said the intake process begins at the juvenile court and in the community for the division. Each county is represented by a judicial circuit. Some courts are staff by county employees and some are staffed by DJJ employees. Ms. Aspinwall said intake begins at the point where the juvenile complaint is filed and it ends with the disposition of that complaint. She stated what happens in the middle is that the child can be dismissed, acquitted or referred out to services.

Ms. Aspinwall said the department focus is to provide services to the court and prevent further delinquent behavior. On any given day DJJ staff has direct supervision of about 16,000+ youth in the community. Overall that number is closer to 20,000+ kids. That would include youth that are in the RYDC, YDC and youth who are out on detention alternatives and placement statewide. She stated this also includes the youth that are in the intake status for DJJ. Ms. Aspinwall stated the interstate compact office handled 1,700 youth either coming or going from the state of Georgia. This office also helps retrieve youth that have fled the state or get youth back from other state.

Mr. Aspinwall presented the list of the many tasks of a JPPS staff. She stated the JPPS goes to the youth homes and also they go to court and make recommendations about what should happen with the youths on their caseloads. They also complete all kinds of assessments on the youth. These assessments include a Comprehensive Risk Needs Assessment which is done for DJJ probated and committed kids.

The Judicial Detention Instrument is the tool that is used to determine which youth are appropriate for secure confinement and those that can be referred out to detention alternatives or released safely to home.

Ms. Aspinwall said they have the Juvenile Sex Offender Recidivism Risk Assessment tools that are used regarding youth that are charged with sexually harmful behavior. She stated the Comprehensive Risk Needs Assessment is also completed on those youth.

Ms. Aspinwall said other responsibilities of the JPPS include screening so they can make recommendation about appropriate placement for the youth that are committed. They also attend school hearings and make home and school visits. She stated they facilitate a number of groups at DJJ for youth that are under supervision.

Ms. Aspinwall listed some of the general conditions a youth has when they are placed on probation. The conditions of their probation may require them to have a curfew; they may need to notify DJJ if they've moved or changed their phone number. There may be requirements as to how often they will report to their JPPS. Their conditions may also require them to go to school and in some instances community service may be required.

Ms. Aspinwall said the CSI division provides a continuum of services that is based on a youth's risk and that drives the placement decisions that are made. She stated the risk assessment that is done is very individualized and works to identify their strengths and their areas of growth.

Ms. Aspinwall said the CSI division works very closely with parents to help give kids a smooth transition back into the community.

Ms. Aspinwall discussed some of the services that can go on at the various locations. She stated there are school based officers in some schools. There are sex offender groups, mentoring programs, anger management, drug prevention and parenting programs and resource fairs.

Ms. Aspinwall said youth are also managed through graduated sanctions. If there is an infraction that can be handled without going back to court then there will be consequences given to the youth for these infractions. She stated there is a continuum of sanctions and they are driven by the seriousness of the infractions.

Ms. Aspinwall said the CIS division also has 46 High Intensity Team Supervision (HITS) units statewide. Each unit serves 36 probated and committed youth as well 9 house bound youth. House bound is a placement used for youth that are awaiting placement or need a graduated sanction. Some of the units cover multiple counties. The criteria for the HITS program are youth that need more supervision and youth that are coming out of long term placement from a YDC facility. The youth work through a level system and they move up levels depending on how well they progress.

Ms. Aspinwall explained case expeditors are tasked with monitoring the YDC population on any given day. They provide a continuum of alternatives and serve as resources for juvenile courts. They try to identify barriers that may keep kids in detention longer than necessary. They also conduct detention review team meetings which are done every week where they review each youth that is in detention to ensure these youth are moving as quickly as possible. Ms. Aspinwall discussed alternatives the expeditors can offer to courts and youth. This includes various assessments such as housebound detention that is conducted by the HITS unit. The HITS unit provides GPS, electronic monitoring and wrap around services. Wrap around services include in home counseling where professionals with appropriate credentials come to the home and work with the youth and their families. There are also tracking programs and behavior aids that occur in school with the youth. This is done when the youth has a behavior problem and is

in danger of being kicked out of school. She stated there are also group homes and emergency shelters.

Ms. Aspinwall said probation is also about prevention. JPPS staff go into the schools and talk to youth about what can happen if they violate the law and the consequences of those actions. A lot of the JPPS staff volunteer in an effort to try to keep youth from ending up in the system. The JPPS staff also go into schools and participate in career days.

Ms. Aspinwall concluded her report and asked if there were any questions; there were none.

Judge Gilbert asked if she can get a copy of the expeditor services list. She stated she thought restorative group counseling had been suspended.

Ms. Dee Bell, DJJ Program Coordinator addressed the board and stated she will discuss restorative group counseling in her presentation on victims' services. She stated there have been some changes but restorative group counseling is still offered.

Dr. Risler told Ms. Aspinwall he enjoyed her presentation and appreciated the work that she does.

Chairman Shuman called for the next item on the agenda; Victims' Services.

Victims' Services

Dee Bell and Joycelyn Evans, Community Services and Intake Department of Juvenile Justice

Rob Rosenbloom said Ms. Dee Bell has spoken to the Board before on issues and she also works in the CSI division. Ms. Bell has responsibilities for restorative justice programs, and victims' services. He stated Ms. Bell is involved in looking for grant opportunities for the state and is considered an expert across the state in restorative justice programs. Mr. Rosenbloom said Ms. Bell has been with DJJ for a number of years and has a history of working with the Department of Corrections and the Board of Pardons and Paroles.

Ms. Bell greeted the Board and stated it is crime victims' week. She stated the presentation on Victims' Services will be done by her and then Jocelyn Evans, DJJ victim advocate.

She stated it was crime victims' week and stated there was a brochure in the Board packet about victims' services. Ms. Bell stated she noticed the Board, staff and visitors are wearing the victim's ribbon that was handed out.

Crimes Victims' week was kicked off with nine other agencies in Forsyth, GA. She stated that is part of a collaboration that began between those nine agencies led by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and victims' services units where they are working together to ensure there is a standard of best practices for victims across the state. She stated that is a very rewarding collaborative that has a lot of potential for the future.

Ms. Bell stated DJJ is also involved in a second collaborative which involves children who are sexually exploited. This is led by the Governor's office of Children and Families Services. It also involves about 5-6 other state agencies as well as some providers. The collaboration is working together to provide kids that have been sexually exploited with counseling and reunification services with their families.

Ms. Bell said DJJ's mission is to two fold and founded on restorative justice. They balance confidence development with accountability and public safety. They focus on the restoration of harm and that is part of accountability. Ms. Bell said restorative group conferences offer opportunities for victims to meet with their offenders. She stated it is always the victim's choice. She stated they discuss what needs to be done to set it right. She said this may be restitution, community service, and competency development. Ms. Bell said they do about 250-300 conferences a month across the state. She said some months they are in the 400-500 conference range. She stated it is used by the community, courts and school based officers. Ms. Bell said in earlier budget cuts they lost two of their school based officers.

Ms. Bell said they added a new focus called the Victims' Impact Curriculum. The Victims' Impact Curriculum is at all the RYDC's. She stated the 12 week curriculum is now starting to go into the YDCs. The curriculum is designed for kids to understand the impact of crime. The goal is for them to not only understand but develop an understanding of what victims go through. Ms. Bell said at the RYDC they focus on making sure any kid with an STP goes through the program while they are there. She said the program was recently done at the Muscogee YDC and the Savannah River Challenge Program. She said as the year progresses they will add the curriculum in additional DJJ YDC facilities.

Ms. Bell said Joycelyn Evans is the DJJ victims' advocate and she will talk to the Board about the new victim notification law that was passed last year.

Ms. Evans stated with everything that is going on at DJJ they are still able to treat victims with dignity, fairness and respect.

Ms. Evans said SB246 passed last year. DJJ is in compliance with the law and the system is automated and they can keep track when letters are being sent out. Since DJJ has installed this new program they have stored 22,000 victim information contacts which will help DJJ develop a database to get more grant funding for the Victims' Services Office.

Ms. Evans played a video for the Board on the National Victims' Rights Week. The National Victims' Rights Week theme is; Fairness, Dignity and Respect. She said she is happy that DJJ has joined the force in the victims' rights movement.

Ms. Evans concluded her report and asked if there were any questions.

Board member Pastor Rowland asked if DJJ has contact information for all victims.

Ms. Bell said DJJ gathers information on all victims because it is included in the youth records. Victims are contacted once the youth is sent to a DJJ facility and by law the victims are notified once youth are released. Ms. Bell stated DJJ offers services to all victims of juvenile crimes whether the youth is placed in a juvenile facility or not. She said it is always the victim's choice.

Pastor Rowland asked how the victims would know if DJJ doesn't contact them.

Ms. Bell said the first contact the youth will have is with law enforcement and then a victims' advocate in the district attorney's office.

Ms. Bell said she has been around a long time and in the early days, DJJ didn't do a good job but in time DJJ has gotten better and has become an integral part of handling victims of juvenile crime.

Board member Elaine Snow said she has been involved in victims' advocacy on the adult side for a long time. She commended DJJ and its staff for the tremendous job they are doing. She said for a long time this was needed on the juvenile side. Ms. Snow thanked Ms. Bell and her staff for their hard work.

Chairman Shuman called for the next item on the agenda; customer service update.

Customer Service Update

Steve Hayes, Customer Service Chairperson
Department of Juvenile Justice

Mr. Hayes greeted the Board, Commissioner Murray and visitors.

Mr. Hayes said the ceremony for the Governor's quarterly customer service commendations was originally scheduled for April 22 but was rescheduled for April 29, 2010 at 12:30 p.m. in the Floyd Building, West Tower. DJJ will have two recipients for commendations. Mr. Hayes said one is the Camden County Court Services and CSI High Intensity Supervision Team (HITS) and the other is Karmal Sims, a Juvenile Detention Counselor, who worked at the Sumter YDC. Mr. Sims is the DJJ employee who passed away suddenly in February. Mr. Hayes said after the ceremony the Governor's office will be offering a tour of the Capital to all guests.

Mr. Hayes said at the last Board meeting the Board was presented with DJJ's 2009 Customer Service Recognition winners. He stated one recipient was not able to attend. Mr. Hayes asked Lt. Vincent Jones to come before the Board. Mr. Hayes also asked Diane Hayes from the Paulding RYDC to come forward.

Mr. Hayes said among the many things Mr. Jones has done at the Paulding RYDC, he worked to establish a crisis response team. He wears many hats when interacting with youth in the facility. He recently organized and implemented a basketball tournament for youth that had no sanctions. He stated the basketball tournament was very successful. Mr. Hayes said Mr. Jones received the “Now Award” which is an award given to outstanding workers at the Paulding RYDC.

Mr. Hayes said one key point about this nomination that the committee recognized Mr. Jones for; was him performing the life saving Heimlich maneuver on one of DJJ’s JCOs who was choking during lunch. Mr. Hayes said this story was highlighted in one of DJJ’s newsletters.

Mr. Hayes asked Mr. Rosenbloom to present Mr. Jones with his certificate. The Board, staff and visitors applauded Mr. Jones hard work.

Mr. Jones said thanked Commissioner Murray, Chairman Shuman and the Board for recognizing all DJJ staff for their hard work and striving for excellence in the CSI division and for such a tremendous honor.

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. Hearing none, Chairman Shuman announced that the next DJJ Board Meeting will be at the central office on May 27, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

Chairman Shuman reminded the Board that there will be Board Education Training following the Board meeting at the Metro RYDC at 1:30 p.m.

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

Board Member Sandra Taylor made the motion, and Board Member Judy Mecum 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