

**Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, February 25, 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 February 25, 2010 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; Jeff Minor; Steve Herndon; Dr. Jack Catrett; Coy Satterfield ; Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne; Steve Hayes; Nathan Cain; Cherecia Kline; Ronnie Woodard; Andrea Glasper; Juretta Thomas; Cheryl Gamble; John Brady; Larry Harris; Audrey Armistad; Robin Florie; Rick Harrison; Victor Roberts; Bill Amideo

Others: Shaiday Smith – Barton Child Law & Policy Clinic; Myron Mills; Dr. Jerome Schiele - UGA; Eva Lou Shuman; Karla Dolby – Attorney’s General Office via conference call

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

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

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

Noting the presence of a quorum of the Board, Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the February 25, 2010 Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education.

Bruce Garraway moved to approve the agenda for the February 25, 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 January 28, 2010 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and the DJJ Board of Education and asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Bruce Garraway moved to approve the minutes from the January 28, 2009 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 greeted the Board, staff and visitors. He stated he is glad to have the second board meeting of 2010. He stated Board member Elaine Snow is absent because she is on vacation in Hawaii. Perry McGuire also called in stated he will not be able to attend the board meeting.

Commissioner Murray stated Amy Howell will give a comprehensive legislative update to let the Board know what DJJ has been doing at the State Capitol.

Commissioner Murray thanked the visitors for attending the Board meeting and especially thanked Dr. Jerome Schiele, who is the associate dean of the School of Social Work at UGA.

Commissioner Murray announced the passing of two DJJ employees. Karmal Sims, who was Counselor at the Sumter YDC, passed away. Mr. Sims was on site at the facility, after his regular work hours, when he died suddenly of natural causes while playing basketball with residents. He passed on February 4. Mr. Sims was a relatively young man and left behind a young son, a fiancé and his family. Commissioner Murray said he wanted to acknowledge him and great work he did for DJJ.

Another staff member in the Community Services and Intake Division, Mr. David Paul, also passed away. Mr. Paul was a JPPS III in the Bibb County Intake Unit. He worked with the Department for 25 years. He passed away on February 7, 2010. Commissioner Murray said Judge Gilbert knew him very well.

Commissioner Murray said these staff members will be greatly missed. The Office of Human Resources is working on an initiative to recognize these and other staff who have passed away.

Community Service and Intake Division:

Commissioner Murray stated the Community Services and Intake Division has 255 youth in residential placement. The majority of these youth have a mental health diagnosis and require more than community mental health treatment. These youth are screened after commitment and then receive mental health evaluations indicating the seriousness of the problems. Depending on the level, they are then referred to placements appropriate to respond to their needs. Of the 255 youth, their length of stay varies based on their progress within DJJ.

Commissioner Murray stated the CSI Division over the past several years has made decisions on residential placements based on the following principles:

- 1) Home is the best placement whenever possible.
- 2) Only place outside the home if appropriate services cannot be found in the community.
- 3) If placed, then only for as long as it takes to stabilize the youth, then transition home with community services.

Commissioner Murray said the staff work closely with DJJ's placement and mental health providers to ensure that each youth is working on an individual plan and both the provider of services and DJJ are working on the same principles. This process has allowed more youth to receive community supervision and for a shrinking budget for placements to be prioritized for youth most in need.

DJJ's community supervision has approximately 16,000 youth and are currently trending toward a 90 % overall rate of successful supervision for the year. This measure is one of DJJ's important goals; to increase the number of youth who do not reoffend while under supervision. In the past year, the rate was approximately 85%. These are good numbers, and working each case individually is at the root of the effort. DJJ community staff deserve much credit for this success.

Commissioner Murray stated there are approximately 60 youth in alternatives to detention. This is a relatively low number compared to the past due to a lower overall detention population and intake in the community. These 60 youth receive a variety of services from electronic monitoring to shelter care. DJJ also has a contract for tracking that services approximately 175 youth across the state. He stated this is also considered an alternative to detention. It consists of GPS tracking and home visits to ensure the youth will appear in court and not get into further trouble awaiting court.

DJJ's detention population is about 93% of capacity, which means of the 1287 beds in 22 detention centers there are approximately 100 available beds. The trend is moving toward full capacity and hopefully not over capacity later this spring.

Moving over to the Division of Programs and Secure Campuses:

Commissioner Murray said the Macon and Muscogee YDCs are ready to begin the implementation of SCM effective March 17, 2010. Both of these facilities have met all of the training requirements set by the DJJ Office of Training and have completed all activities necessary to begin implementation. The Augusta and Sumter YDCs are next in line to complete staff training and prepare for SCM implementation.

Commissioner Murray stated on January 27, the Sumter YDC graduated twelve youth in the New Freedom program. This is a mental health program that provides structured treatment pathways for youth receiving individual and group counseling.

Also, during the month of January, a Haiti relief fund was put together by staff at Sumter which raised \$900.00 plus numerous food and clothing items. In addition, Sumter youth decorated over 200 T-shirts to be sent to Haitian earthquake victims. Commissioner Murray said he really appreciates the effort the staff at the Sumter YDC put in to help the victims in Haiti.

Eastman YDC held a Graduation on January 29, 2010, with 27 youth graduating. This graduation had one of the best showings of parent participation in graduation that the facility has ever had.

Commissioner Murray stated the school improvement team met in January and February in order to continue the school improvement process at Eastman.

On February 15, Georgia Department of Natural Resources Division Director Dr. Marlin Gottschalk and his staff as well as UGA Extension Service staff visited the Augusta YDC to discuss implementing a pilot project in sustainable food gardening at Augusta. He stated it is a project to demonstrate the viability and value of this type of project in other DJJ facilities. Other DJJ facilities are working with Dr. Gottschalk and other DNR and UGA staff to complete plans for the sustainability pilot project.

Commissioner Murray said he appointed OBHS Director Rick Harrison to serve as DJJ's representative on the Department of Behavioral Health's Executive Workgroup. The goal of this group is to identify funding sources and act on other issues identified by the council, of which Commissioner Murray stated he is a member.

Commissioner Murray announced the Office of Behavioral Health is co-sponsoring the 5th Annual Summit on Substance Abuse, Mental Health and School Safety/Discipline on March 7-10, at Callaway Gardens. Other partners include: The Georgia Council on Substance Abuse, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Department of Education, Southeast Addiction Technology and Transfer Center, Student Assistance Programs of Georgia, and Prevent Child Abuse Georgia. Commissioner Murray stated each of these partners has worked together over the past several months to plan a meaningful event which will focus on best practices in substance abuse, mental health and school discipline and safety.

In addition to presenters from OBHS, Dr. Jack Catrett and Ms. Martha Patton will be featured in a session that focuses on current practices within the DJJ education program. DJJ Medical Director Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne will provide a session that describes health services in DJJ secure facilities. Deputy Commissioner Steve Herndon will provide a welcome address from DJJ to conference attendees.

Commissioner Murray said the Office of Health Services has selected a new dental director, Dr. James Curry. This position had been vacant about 6 months. Dr. Curry has over 25 years of

experience in the practice of dentistry in private practice, public health, mental health and corrections. He also previously provided dental services to the population at the Bill Ireland YDC.

Administrative Services Division:

Commissioner Murray stated the Legal Services has initiated a comprehensive review of the DJJ contract process with the intent to improve, unify, and make consistent the varying processes that currently exist. It is anticipated that the project will take about six months.

The State Accounting Office (SAO) announced that employees will be able to print their own W-2's, using Employee Self-Service. SAO predicts this will be available starting in January 2012. DJJ issued over 5,400 W-2's for 2009. When employees are able to print their own, it will save time and the expense of mailing these documents to employees.

HR Director Deborah Moore and Deputy Director Sam Clonts were selected to serve on the advisory board for GaBreeze (Georgia Breeze), the state's revamped flexible benefits program. The state is partnering with Hewitt Associates, a global human resources outsourcing and consulting company, to provide leading-edge flexible benefits administration (FBA) services to state and board of education employees. This process will simplify the selection of benefits, streamline internal processes, improve efficiencies, and give end-users expanded, real-time access to their personal benefits information. This new program will be unveiled in March and will come online in April 2010.

BJCOT class 149 graduation was held on Friday, January 29. There were 27 Juvenile Correctional Officer graduates. Mr. Sam Clonts, Assistant Director DJJ Office of Human Resources, served as the graduation guest speaker. Commissioner Murray said Mr. Clonts did a great job as speaker.

BJCOT class 150 began on Sunday, January 31, with 40 cadets in attendance.

The upcoming graduation ceremony is scheduled for Friday, February 26. Mable Wheeler, Director of the Crisp RYDC, is the scheduled guest speaker. Graduation will begin at 11:30 a.m. in the Georgia Public Safety Training Center Auditorium, Forsyth, Georgia. Commissioner Murray stated he will attend the graduation and encouraged the Board to attend.

BJCOT Class #151 graduation will be held at 5:00 p.m. Thursday evening, March 25, due to the DJJ furlough day scheduled for Friday, March 26.

Commissioner Murray said the Office of Training is preparing for the Safe Crisis Management Training Phase II Rollout as the Phase I facilities prepare for the implementation of SCM. Key dates are listed in the Board packet of information.

Meanwhile, the Safe Crisis Management Special Incident Reporting Tracking System has been completed and was released to pilot facilities on February 15. These pilot locations (RYDCs) will include Metro, Aaron Cohn, Marietta, Blakely, Claxton, Savannah, Elbert Shaw, Albany, Gainesville, Macon, Paulding, and Bob Richards.

Jackie Kelsey, OCATS Director, attended the America Probation and Parole Association Winter Institute Training on January 30, 2010 through February 3, 2010. Jackie is also the Regional Representative for Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. While at the conference, Jackie attended the Juvenile Justice Committee meeting. The Juvenile Justice Committee remains active in ensuring a variety of quality training is developed at the training institutes.

DJJ's Emergency Management Team continues to play a major part in supporting and assisting the facilities with their emergency plans by auditing and making recommendations to enhance facility safety.

Commissioner Murray announced OCATS has two promotions in their office. Captain Bertron Martin has been promoted to assistant director at the DeKalb RYDC, and Transportation Officer Jackie Dyer was promoted to lieutenant in Transportation.

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

Board member Sandra Taylor asked about using cell phone GPS systems to track juvenile offenders.

Commissioner Murray said he was not sure it that was an option that DJJ has considered. He asked Rob Rosenbloom to address the Ms. Taylor's question.

Mr. Rosenbloom stated DJJ has used GPS tracking through a contract for electronic monitoring and has not explored using cell phones to keep track of offenders. Mr. Rosenbloom said he can definitely look into it and stated he wasn't sure what other issues would be involved but it sounds like a possibility.

Board Member Jim Kelly stated that, if there was ever an opportunity, he would like to hear a presentation on the process for determining when youth diagnosed with mental health conditions will require more than community mental health treatment. Mr. Kelly said he would like to know when and how they are being stabilized enough to go back into the community.

Chairman Shuman said he is sure Mr. Kelly's request can be accommodated.

Commissioner Murray stated he will look into Mr. Kelly's request.

Board member Bruce Garraway said he is glad that DJJ is working on an initiative to recognize the DJJ employees that passed away. He stated it is very proper and beneficial to realize their services.

Commissioner Murray asked Judge Gilbert to comment on David Paul.

Judge Gilbert stated Mr. Paul served for about 25 years and was very active with the youth. She stated he worked with youth his whole life. He was a youth minister at his church. Judge Gilbert also stated he was also actively involved as a program manager with Just Children initiatives. He served as chairperson for about 6 years. Judge Gilbert said his death was a tragic loss. She stated he was in her court room on a Friday and later that day suffered a stroke. Judge Gilbert stated Mr. Paul then suffered another stroke after being placed in the hospital where they removed part of his brain. He subsequently died. Judge Gilbert said not a day goes by that she does not think about him because he truly worked for the betterment of juvenile justice and the children he served. Judge Gilbert stated she attended his funeral services and said there were about 150 youth that he served at the funeral. Judge Gilbert said the week after he passed he was supposed to receive a certificate of appreciation from the Commissioner Murray and it was signed by Governor Perdue. She stated DJJ has suffered a great loss.

Board Member Judy Mecum stated she want to commend the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the UGA extension service for implementing a pilot program for the studying of a food garden.

Mr. Garraway said at the last Board meeting Mr. Kelly asked for some reports and asked where they were in getting those on the agenda.

Commissioner Murray said there were a number of projects that were requested and he is committed to getting those on the agenda. Commissioner Murray said he will follow up on that.

Commissioner Murray said he gets a lot of feedback from other state agencies and around the nation about DJJ's newsletter. Commissioner Murray said he is very proud of the work that is put into the newsletter. Commissioner Murray thanked Steve Hayes and Nathan Cain for their hard work with the newsletter.

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 Pastor Dexter Rowland 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 Daniel Menefee. 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 started off his report by thanking Steve Hayes and Nathan Cain for the coverage of DJJ's graduations in the newsletter. Dr. Catrett stated some of the news reports were also placed on the DJJ website.

Dr. Catrett said he will start his report by discussing staff development. The staff development meeting was held at the Forsyth Training Center. Workshops were held on the Georgia Performance Standards, response to intervention (RTI), behavior management, state testing, vocational tracks and tracks for the counselors. Dr. Catrett stated DJJ met its testing objectives and met its objective of staff development. Dr. Catrett said last year they changed the format of their staff development conference. He said previously the staff development conference was a two day conference in Macon. Moving the conference from Macon to Forsyth saved DJJ approximately \$126,000 over the past 2 years. Dr. Catrett said he is happy to follow this new format.

Dr. Catrett thanked Commissioner Murray for giving the motivational speech on the first day of the staff development conference. Dr. Catrett said Steve Herndon and Rob Rosenbloom also spoke at the conference.

Dr. Catrett announced that Friday, February 26 the math consortium will meet from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Forsyth Training Center. Dr. Catrett encouraged the Board to attend.

Dr. Catrett said next month there will be a staff development meeting with all of DJJ's teachers to go through a week's worth of training that will include first aid, and Safe Crisis Management. Dr. Catrett stated Coy Satterfield is in charge of that project and he will be available after the board meeting to answer any questions the Board may have.

Dr. Catrett announced there are no teacher vacancies to report.

Dr. Catrett said the SAC CAE Project is moving forward. Dr. Catrett stated Dr. Johnson, who is in charge of that project, will make a presentation to the Board at a later date.

Dr. Catrett stated that DJJ was notified that the Sandersville RYDC – a 30 bed facility- was placed on the severe list of schools with 25% or more changes in CRCT answers. Those were answers that were changed from wrong to right answers. Dr. Catrett asked testing director Virginia Mickish to investigate any breach in testing protocols. Ms. Mickish went to the facility and did a report.

At the Sandersville RYDC, it was determined in grade 5 one student took the CRCT Test. That student failed the reading and mathematics portions of the test but passed the test in English/ language arts.

In the grade 6, one student was tested and failed the reading, English/ language arts and mathematics portions of the test.

In grade 7, four students were tested. Three students passed in reading, English/ language arts and mathematics portions of the test.

In grade 8, six students were tested. Three students passed in reading and one student passed in English/language arts. No students from grade 8 passed the mathematics portion of the test.

Dr. Catrett said DJJ's sample sizes are very small. Dr. Catrett said DJJ was informed by the state school board testing coordinator that the statistics only apply to larger classes. Dr. Catrett said it is hard for DJJ to draw a conclusion from a test class of 11 students. Dr. Catrett stated he spoke with the testing coordinator Gregory Ingram at the Sandersville RYDC and he said he clearly remembered some of the students "Christmas treeing" or "starring" their answer sheets. Dr. Catrett said when this was done in the past, the answer sheet would be torn up and a student would be given a new answer sheet. Dr. Catrett said now every answer sheet is labeled and numbered so this can no longer be done. Dr. Catrett said Mr. Ingram said during the test he noticed some of the students were not taking the test seriously and he asked them to go back and erase and redo the test. Dr. Catrett said based on that he didn't feel there was any break in testing protocols. He stated some of the students that took the test could have been at the Sandersville RYDC for a day, week or a month. Even though DJJ looks at the testing it is not as critical as the testing at the YDCs. Dr. Catrett stated he strongly believes that no one did anything wrong at the Sandersville RYDC. Dr. Catrett said there is nothing wrong with a student changing their answers on a test. Dr. Catrett said if they had found anything wrong they would have reported it as a breach in testing protocol to the Department of Education and reported the educator or educators involved to the ethics panel.

Board member Dr. Risler asked if the scores that were flagged were for this year.

Dr. Catrett said yes.

Dr. Risler asked if there had been an increase in the scores from last year compared to this year.

Dr. Catrett said DJJ had better test scores this year compared to last year throughout the system but not at the Sandersville RYDC.

Chairman Shuman asked if there was any evidence that staff members tampered with the tests.

Dr. Catrett said no and stated if there was any tampering those employees would be reported to the Department of Education and Georgia Professional Standards Commission. Dr. Catrett stated the Board of Education takes this very seriously. Dr. Catrett said DJJ does not have any statistical information from the previous years that indicated how many erasures were made compared to this year.

Judge Gilbert asked how many students had their tests flagged.

Dr. Catrett said the Board of Education did not indicate how many students had their tests flagged, except that 25% of the answers that were changed on the students' test were changed from wrong answers to right answers. Dr. Catrett said DJJ did not get a clarification from the Department of Education on whether the 25% came from the one student in 5th grade that passed or the 25% came from the overall test from the 11 students that took the tests.

Board member Bruce Garraway said the biggest thing that bothers him is the fact that the Department of Education flagged the Sandersville RYDC with such a small sample without an asterisk that said don't worry about it if you are a small sample. He stated the public does not realize that. Mr. Garraway said DJJ has several facilities that have become SACS accredited since he has been on the Board, and he has seen an increase in the quality and what is done with the youth for the short time they are at DJJ. Mr. Garraway said it is sad that DOE put DJJ on the severe list with such a small sample. Mr. Garraway asked if there was a way to get the message out that DJJ is doing well.

Dr. Catrett said it is so important to the office of education that everything is transparent and above the board requirements. He stated he was not happy when he found out the news. Dr. Catrett said he is grateful to have a good testing director and asked Virginia Mickish to stand to be recognized by the Board. Dr. Catrett said Ms. Mickish will be available after the Board meeting if anyone has any questions. Dr. Catrett said Ms. Mickish is a veteran testing coordinator and he stated he feels fortunate to have her on his staff.

Board member Pastor Dexter Rowland asked if a student took the test and changed their mind about their answers if those answers were flagged by the DOE.

Dr. Catrett said yes. Every test was put through a scanner that identified every test where answers were changed from wrong to the right.

Pastor Rowland asked if the students are instructed on changing their answers.

Dr. Catrett said they tell the students to look at their answers, and if they feel as though they've made a mistake to change their answer.

Dr. Catrett asked Ms. Mickish to further address Pastor Rowland's question.

Ms. Mickish said every test comes with a manual that is written by the company that writes the test. The manual tells the teachers exactly what to say. Ms. Mickish said every teacher in Georgia gives the same directions. Ms. Mickish explained the directions are different for every test. Ms. Mickish said the students are encouraged to review their answers, and if they feel they made a mistake, to correct their answers.

Board member Elizabeth Lindsey asked Dr. Catrett to repeat the results from the CRCT Test results from the Sandersville RYDC.

Dr. Catrett repeated the results of the CRCT Test from the Sandersville RYDC.

Judge Teske asked if the Department of Education conclusion was still pending.

Dr. Catrett said the only guidance DJJ received from the DOE is that the Sandersville RYDC was in the severe category, and DJJ needed to look into it. He stated an investigation was

conducted and it was determined that there were no breaks in protocol or test security. Dr. Catrett said at that point they made their report to Mr. Steve Herndon and Commissioner Murray.

Judge Teske asked if the results of DJJ's investigation were sent back to the Board of Education.

Dr. Catrett said no and stated the Board of Education did not ask for anything from DJJ except that they scrutinize the situation at the Sandersville RYDC.

Judge Teske asked if there was a strategic decision to leave the situation alone.

Dr. Catrett said that decision is up to Commissioner Murray as to what they want to do with the report. Dr. Catrett said when it comes to something real small at one school the media wouldn't pick up on it.

Commissioner Murray said DJJ can explore doing a follow up story to their investigation but it would probably end up being a two lines on the back of the *AJC* if that much.

Judge Gilbert asked if all the students at the Sandersville RYDC were tested at the same time and were given the same test.

Dr. Catrett said yes all the students were tested at the same time. He stated the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade CRCTs are different.

Judge Gilbert asked if the whole investigation is about cheating.

Dr. Catrett said the investigation is about educators taking students answer sheets after they have taken a test and changing their answers from the wrong answer to the right answer. Dr. Catrett stated the answer sheets are not provided with the test so a teacher would have to take the test and come up with their own answer sheet. Dr. Catrett said there is no way that there was a break in testing protocols. He also said there wouldn't be any incentives for the teachers at the Sandersville RYDC to do this. DJJ RYDC schools are listed as hospital homebound schools so certain parts of the AYP don't apply. Dr. Catrett said his office looks at how many Carnegie Units that a school awards and the number of students that move from the 7th to the 8th grade and from the 8th grade to the 9th grade rather than testing because they know that the students are only at the RYDC facilities for a short period of time.

Commissioner Murray said he is satisfied with the investigation done by Dr. Catrett and his staff. He stated he was confident that they did a thorough investigation and there were absolutely no wrongdoing of any kind at the Sandersville RYDC. Commissioner Murray said he endorsed everything Dr. Catrett said in his report.

Chairman Shuman asked if Dr. Catrett had any further discussion.

Dr. Catrett stated Steve Herndon also attended the two days in service staff development conference. On e workshop he attended was a presentation from the Augusta YDC and the

Macon YDC called “Making School Real.” Dr. Catrett said it was a good workshop and Mr. Herndon asked John Brady and Audrey Armistad to present an abbreviated version to the Board.

Ms. Armistad and John Brady greeted the Board. Ms. Armistad stated she is the school principal and instructional leader at the Augusta YDC. Ms. Armistad said her main job is to support her teachers in the classroom on a day to day basis.

Ms. Armistad said she has 18 staff members that work with her. She stated 4 teachers from the Augusta YDC will be giving a presentation to the Board.

Cheryl Gamble greeted the Board and stated she teaches social studies, science and health. Ms. Gamble stated she will present to the Board a short overview as to what they will expect to see if they visited the Augusta YDC.

Ms. Gamble said the leadership staff consisted of herself along with Charles Duggans, Della Hughes, and Dr. Carol Yancy. Ms. Gamble stated they work very closely with Dr. Armistad in making sure there is communication between the teachers, administration, staff and youth. Ms. Gamble said they have a staff development meeting twice a year to strategize on how they can improve the education at the Augusta YDC. Ms. Gamble said there are daily staff meetings to communicate what is going on with the students and what strategies they are using in the classroom.

Ms. Gamble said school at the Augusta YDC runs from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. but the youth come back for after school programs from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Gamble said there are standards based instructions in the classroom and CAPS, which are pre-prepared lessons for the youth. Ms. Gamble said occasionally the teachers put the lessons aside and take the first 15-20 minutes of their class period to give the youth hands on instructions because the classes are mixed between high school and middle school students.

Ms. Gamble said they have a pilot online program called Let’s Go Learn. Ms. Gamble said she is involved with the program and they have identified some of the lowest performing students at the Augusta YDC. Ms. Gamble said they put the students together and are currently working with them on remediation with math, reading and social studies in an effort to get them to where they need to be. The program identifies the student weaknesses and builds on them.

Ms. Gamble asked Mr. Larry Harris to give his presentation to the Board

Mr. Harris said he is the carpentry instructor at the Augusta YDC. Mr. Harris showed the Board pictures of a gazebo the youth worked on in summer. Mr. Harris said most of the youth had never experienced a project like this before. Mr. Harris said the youth saw the blueprint and they discussed the project in great length before they started working on it. Mr. Harris said no one thought they could get the project done. He stated the two month project brought a lot of attention to the youth and gave them hope that they can actually achieve something. Mr. Harris also showed the Board another project the youth worked on; framing and roofing a home.

Mr. Harris said Mr. Charlie Allen is the horticulture instructor at the Augusta YDC. Mr. Harris said Mr. Allen assisted the youth with the greenhouse and the youth are currently working on a rose bed. The youth learn how to prepare and care for the soil and care for greenery and flowers throughout the year.

Mr. Harris also showed pictures of Ms. Rose Brooks teaching the youth how to use the computer including Windows based programs. Mr. Harris said some of the youth listen to music as they work because it helps them to concentrate and perform at a much higher level.

Mr. Harris concluded his presentation.

Ms. Juretta Thomas greeted the Board and stated she is the guidance counselor at the Augusta YDC. Ms. Thomas stated the purpose of advisement is to make sure each kid that enters the Augusta YDC facility receives the educational opportunities that are available. Ms. Thomas said advisement is conducted three times year; when the student enters the facility, during the first semester and during the second semester.

Ms. Thomas said when the students come to the facility they have no idea what it takes for them to get a diploma or GED. Ms. Thomas said she helps them decide what their goals are and where they are going to go once they leave the facility.

Ms. Thomas said the second advisement is conducted with the teachers. Ms. Thomas said they talk to each student individually and help them decide on their long and short term goals. She stated they give the students some ideas to focus on while they are at the facility, and also make sure they are in the classes they need in order to graduate. Ms. Thomas said a lot of the classes such as computer classes, horticulture, and construction classes are offered as a joint enrollment with Augusta Technical College.

Ms. Thomas said one of Augusta YDC's biggest events is their graduation. Ms. Thomas said during the graduation ceremonies they also have other student recognition. She stated to make the graduations at the Augusta YDC a success, each staff member is assigned to a committee. Each committee works with students to practice and prepare for the graduation.

Ms. Thomas said a lot of times the students have never been to a graduation ceremony before or even had an opportunity to dress up. Ms. Thomas stated the students get excited and it's truly a motivational tool to help them do the work.

Ms. Thomas concluded her presentation to the Board.

Mr. Andre Gasper stated he is a social studies teacher at the Augusta YDC.

Mr. Gasper showed the Board pictures from an event where they had a speaker from Wal-Mart to speak to the youth about the various opportunities at Wal-Mart.

Mr. Glasper showed pictures from a pumpkin carving contest. Mr. Glasper said it was a great event where each student had a pumpkin for their classroom. Mr. Glasper said the students had an opportunity to grade the pumpkins.

Mr. Glasper showed pictures from red ribbon week for the students where they had an opportunity to learn about drugs. Mr. Glasper also displayed pictures of a door decorating contests.

Mr. Glasper said the fall festival is a great event where the students get an opportunity to play basketball, play tug of war and bobbing for the ducks where they earn tickets to buy canteen items like chips and soda. Mr. Glasper also stated he is the coach of the basketball team.

Mr. Glasper said they also have a grandparents' program where seniors come in and work with struggling students. Mr. Glasper said they also give parents an opportunity to get involved and he showed pictures of a parent that brought food and other items to share the experience of the Chinese New Year with the staff and students. He stated parents also get an opportunity to get involved at the beginning of the school year during an open house.

Mr. Glasper said their after school program is run through the 21ST Century Program. Mr. Glasper said he also teaches at the after school program. Some of the after school program classes include barbering, money management, math and reading.

Mr. Glasper said he teaches the students job interviewing skills. He stated he teaches them how to tie a tie and how to dress for a job interview.

Mr. Glasper said the students also participate in creative expression where they write in a journal every day and the teachers get an opportunity to read the journals.

Mr. Glasper concluded his presentation.

Ms. Armistad informed the Board about several upcoming projects.

Ms. Armistad said the Augusta YDC will be offering some virtual classrooms with Paine College. The students will be enrolled with Paine College, and they will bring out the virtual classroom to the students. Ms. Armistad said there are a lot of designated felons at the Augusta YDC who will receive their GED or high school diploma before they finish their sentence. Ms. Armistad said they did not want those kids just waiting around to get out, so they lucked out on getting Paine College to come to the Augusta YDC to enroll the students into some college courses. This would allow them to gain credits for the classes. Ms. Armistad said the student will need to meet all the enrollment requirements. The students will receive two classes that will be tuition free from Paine College, and the Augusta YDC will provide the students with the setting to have the classes and the materials. If the students are successful in those classes they will be offered additional classes where the parents will pay reduced rate tuition.

Ms. Armistad thanked the Board for allowing her and her staff an opportunity to speak before the Board.

Ms. Armistad asked if there were any questions and there were none.

Dr. Catrett said Ms. Armistad and her staff are doing a great job.

Chairman Shuman called for the next agenda item and asked for a motion from the Board to close 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 Larry Barnes. The motion carried.

Chairman Shuman called for the next item on the agenda, the approval of the modification of an existing lease at the Augusta YDC.

Approval of Modification of Existing Lease at Augusta YDC

Ed Cook, Director of Engineering and Construction
Department of Juvenile Justice

Mr. Cook greeted the Board.

He stated he was glad to present to the Board a resolution on a property matter concerning the Augusta YDC. Mr. Cook said Attachment A in the Board handout shows the property. Mr. Cook stated for many years a Little League organization have been using state property as the site for their baseball field. This site is located behind the Augusta YDC.

Mr. Cook said he looked through the record and found a draft resolution approving and trying to setup a program like that in the late 1970's. Mr. Cook said he assumed it has been going on since then.

Mr. Cook said he found a copy of the current lease agreement between the local Little League organization and the State Properties Commission. Mr. Cook said the lease agreement was signed in 1996 for 25 years, and it gives to the little league organization use of the property referred to as the existing lease area on Attachment A. The Little League organization approached the State Properties Commission in summer 2009 asking if they would include in the existing lease an additional 14 acres to the north of their present property so that they can expand the ball field.

The State Property Commission came to DJJ as the custodian to the property asking if DJJ had any use for the property and had any objections to the Little League organization using the land temporarily as a ball field. Mr. Cook said that the nature of the Board resolution is to declare that

DJJ doesn't have any use for the land and approving the use as a ball field for the remainder of the lease agreement.

Mr. Cook said the location of the property is next to the existing ball fields and behind the county jail. Mr. Cook said it is about 1/3 of a mile from the Augusta YDC. Mr. Cook said he felt very comfortable saying that DJJ will not have any use for the property for the next 11 years, which is the remainder of the lease.

Mr. Cook said this property was once agricultural land. It has been fallow for decades, but it has roads and is very accessible from all directions.

Mr. Cook said he believes it is best that DJJ has this land cleared and organized as ball fields.

Mr. Cook asked the Board to pass the resolution of the approval of the modification of existing lease to Augusta YDC.

Mr. Cook asked if there were any questions.

Board member Larry Barnes asked about insurance on the property.

Mr. Cook said he had a copy of the lease and the lease does include a hold harmless clause.

Dr. Ed Risler made a motion to approve the resolution; the motion was seconded by Daniel Menefee.

Hearing no further discussion the resolution was approved.

Chairman Shuman called for the next item on the agenda; Legislative Update.

Legislative Update

Amy Howell, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Amy Howell greeted the Board and Commissioner Murray.

Ms. Howell said the legislature is halfway through the session and has completed day 20. They have suspended committee meetings and the general session until March 8, 2010, which will be the 21st legislative day. During this period they are having joint House and Senate Budget Appropriation meetings.

Ms. Howell said she will give the Board a quick update as to what is going on with DJJ's bills.

HB 1144 was assigned to Judiciary Non-Civil and then assigned to the General Subcommittee of Judiciary Non-Civil. Ms. Howell stated she will be meeting with the committee chairman on February 25 and hopes to get a hearing as soon as possible. She said when it is set she will let the Board know.

Ms. Howell stated HB 1144 was introduced by Representatives Oliver, Willard, Ramsey and Lindsey.

Ms. Howell said HB 1144 contains two provisions:

The first is in relation to credit for time served. DJJ is trying to codify the same provision for time served as adults are given. The adult code makes it a requirement for superior court judges upon sentencing. Ms. Howell said this bill will do that for designated felons. Ms. Howell said DJJ anticipates this would have the biggest benefit for those youth who were originally charged in superior court or SB440 offenses. Ms. Howell said it can take 6 to 12 months for cases to be transferred to juvenile court. This bill would give those youth credit for this time.

The second provision in HB 1144 is in relationship to medical expenses. Ms. Howell said currently there is case law that clarifies what she believes is clear in the Juvenile Code, that counties are responsible for expenses for non-committed youth. Ms. Howell said DJJ is seeking language that would have them certify those expenses and send them directly to the county. Some counties have interpreted the language differently, resulting in delays in the certification process and sometimes no certifications. This leads to the provider not being paid. Ms. Howell said when a provider is not paid they are not always willing to continue providing care to DJJ's youth. Ms. Howell said this is a major concern to DJJ. Ms. Howell said she would let the Board know if there were any changes prior to the committee process.

Ms. Howell said SB 396 deals with payment of certain medical expenses incurred by a child in custody of the DJJ. Ms. Howell said the Bill was introduced by Senator Wiles.

Ms. Howell said SB 400 was introduced by Senator Crosby. Ms. Howell said it contains the provisions in relationship to credit for time served.

Ms. Howell said there are two other bills of interest. One bill codifies the graduated sanctions process and changes sentences as it relates to 7, 14 and 30 days. Ms. Howell said juvenile court judges could still sentence up to 30 days, but the bill gives them different increments in relationship to sanctions and relationships to graduated sanctions. Ms. Howell said, as drafted now, the secure sanctions program as described in the bill would replace the language in relationship to STP. Ms. Howell emphasized that judges will still have the ability to sentence up to 30 days.

Ms. Howell said HB 246 was introduced in the 2009 session. Ms. Howell said it involved codification of detention assessment instrument. She stated as of right now it is still assigned to committee but DJJ has not seen much movement on that Bill.

Ms. Howell said the Board had some questions in their response via email about a couple of other bills. Ms. Howell said DJJ is still tracking HB 897, which involves sexual offenses and assault against persons in custody. This bill was introduced by Senator Doug Collins and has gotten a great deal of media coverage in relationship to codifying criminal penalties for teachers who engage in sexual relationships with students and removing consent as a defense to those criminal charges.

Ms. Howell said DJJ is monitoring that legislation mainly because it would apply to its teachers, and it would modify the language that previously applied to DJJ staff in relationship to criminal penalties for sexual relationship with persons in custody. Ms. Howell said juvenile detention facilities are named in the legislation. DJJ is currently complying with that legislation. She stated it should not have any changes for DJJ as currently drafted. Ms. Howell said there is also a Senate bill that is the same concept.

Ms. Howell said the other bill DJJ is keeping track of is juvenile proceedings on zero tolerance on weapons in school. The bill seeks to remove the requirement that weapons in school charges are treated as designated felonies and give judges discretion on whether to treat them as designated felonies or not. It also has some language about requirements on detention. Ms. Howell said DJJ is monitoring that right now but it has not been assigned to a committee.

Dr. Risler asked what two bills she referred to.

Ms. Howell said HB 1108 and SB 299.

Dr. Risler said he liked the way she sent the information out to the Board. He stated he had a questions concerning SB 246. Dr. Risler asked if the objective detention decisions instrument was referring to the use of the DAI that DJJ currently uses.

Ms. Howell said Rob Rosenbloom was instrumental in drafting the bill, and it was written with the detention assessment instrument in mind. It contemplates a different instrument might be created.

Dr. Risler said he read there was some discussion about increasing the compulsory attendance age for school from 16 to 17 years of age and was wondering if that ever got dropped into a bill.

Ms. Howell said it has been dropped and will look to see if it has moved out of committee. She stated she will send an update on that information to the Board.

Larry Barnes mentioned a bill before the House and Senate. He said the bill states that education staff will no longer be paid based on what educational degrees they have and everything would be based on pay for performance. Mr. Barnes said in public education they are opposing those bills because it will affect individual teachers and could be a potential problem.

Mr. Barnes also stated there is another bill stating that schools will be ranked A, B, C, & F. He stated according to the bill it wouldn't matter how well teachers perform because they would be in these categories. Mr. Barnes said that doesn't seem fair to teachers. Mr. Barnes stated

apparently if a school falls into a certain category for two years, there would be a panel that would come in and take over that particular school.

Ms. Howell said DJJ is monitoring that legislation and was not sure if Dr. Catrett had an opportunity to look at those bills yet, but she will discuss it with him and send an update.

Judge Gilbert asked if HB 1144 negated the STP sunset provision.

Ms. Howell said yes. It would make STP 30 days permanently.

Judge Teske asked if the bill would take away a judge's discretion to go directly to the 30 day sentence.

Ms Howell said she does not see it changing that and stated she does not know if Rob Rosenbloom disagreed with her. She stated the increments are suggested, but any judge will be able to sentence at 30 days automatically without meeting any requirements.

Ms. Howell asked Rob Rosenbloom to comment.

Mr. Rosenbloom said when the bill was drafted it replaced the 30 days option and it made a probation option as a sanction program. As it got drafted further, there was recognition that they wanted to retain the ability for first time felons to get the 30 days. Mr. Rosenbloom said the 7, 14 and 30 days options would relate to probation sanctions programs. The 30 days would be for felons.

Ms. Howell said it isn't DJJ legislation but they are monitoring it as needed.

Ms. Lindsey asked if HB 1114 came from the Governor's office.

Ms. Howell said yes.

Mr. Garraway asked if there will be a need to split out HB 1144 because some of the Judiciary members may have problems with the medical expenses provision.

Ms. Howell stated the judges don't have a problem with the medical expense bills. Ms. Howell also said she has conferred with the judges and is currently working with the counties to see if there may be some compromises and will evaluate what the options are.

Mr. Garraway stated he was referring to the Non-Civil Judiciary group; the elected members. Mr. Garraway said the bill was put together with two components and they may have a hard time dealing with the one component because it will get push back from the County Commissioners. He stated the County Commissioners don't have any money and that could hurt DJJ's effort for getting credit for time served.

Ms. Howell said splitting the bill is a possibility. She said the bill does not change counties' requirement to pay, it just clarifies the process.

Ms. Garraway said when you hear from the juvenile probate, they are saying they haven't been paid for months from counties such as Gwinnett County. Mr. Garraway said it is illegal but they are just going along with it.

Ms. Howell said DJJ will evaluate the bill as the committee meeting approaches. She is hoping they can compromise. She also stated she has touched base with most members of the committee and most of them are surprised that this isn't in the juvenile code already.

Ms. Howell concluded her report and stated if there are any more questions she would be more than happy to talk to any Board member after the meeting.

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 he enjoyed the Augusta YDC presentation and thanked them for coming to the meeting.

Mr. Hayes said the next quarterly commendation ceremony will be coming up, and he is currently taking nominations. He stated the deadline is March 15.

Mr. Hayes said DJJ is on track to announce its 2009 Customer Service Recognition Program award winners at the March Board meeting. He stated about 70 nominations were received in 2009.

Mr. Hayes pointed out an article that was sent out in the daily media packet that is sent out to the Board via email. DJJ is on the map with customer service. The article was in the *AJC* and featured Joe Doyle from the Governor's Office of Customer Service. The article points out other states are looking at the Georgia Governor's Office of Customer Service and the state has even received some recognition from President Obama's administration.

Mr. Hayes concluded his report.

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.

Chairman Shuman announced the next DJJ Board Meeting will be at the Central Office on March 25, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Board member Bruce Garraway made the motion, and Board member Larry Barnes made the second.

The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Albert Murray
Commissioner

Daniel A. Menefee, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice