

**Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, March 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 March 25, 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; Amy Howell; Jeff Minor; Steve Herndon; Dr. Jack Catrett; Coy Satterfield; Steve Hayes; Nathan Cain; Cherecia Kline; Victor Roberts; Bill Amideo; Ronnie Woodard; Patricia Wallace; Alysia Mallory; Courtney Jones; Sherry Hurwitz; Linda White; Coretta Green; Jen Cannington; Marty Mathis; Arthur Fegain; Billy Yarbrough; Joe Lee; James Christian; Willie Palmer; Rafael Rosando-Ortiz; Todd Weeks; Anita Hammonds; Alicia McLain; Alyssa Coggins; Roderick Haugabook; Latera Davis; Timothy Felder; Jullian Muffett; Kendra Strowbridge; Keith Edmonds; Jim Walls; Victor Martin; Joye Calvin; Victor Roberts; Wade Moore

Others: Relus Lucear, Jr.; Marolyn Fjeran (Georgia Association of Homes and Services for Children); Christi Hardeman (Barton Child Law & Policy Clinic); Destiny Washington (Attorney's General Office);

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

Roll Call

Chairman Shuman asked for the roll to be called. Cherecia Kline conducted the roll call of attendance.

Board Members Present: Larry Barnes; Michael Baugh; James Kelly; Elizabeth Lindsey (after roll call); Perry McGuire; Judy Mecum; Daniel Menefee; Pastor Dexter Rowland; J. Daniel Shuman; Elaine Snow

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

Noting the presence of a quorum of the Board, Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to approve the Agenda for the March 25, 2010 Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education. Judy Mecum moved to approve the agenda for the March 25, 2010 Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education meeting. Pastor Dexter Rowland 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 February 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. Judy Mecum moved to approve the minutes from the February 25, 2009 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and the DJJ Board of Education. Daniel Menefee seconded the motion. The chairman called for the vote and the motion was carried.

Chairman Shuman asked that all attendees stand and state their name and organization affiliation.

Commissioner's Report

Albert Murray, Commissioner

Commissioner Murray greeted everyone and stated he was pleased to present the commissioner's report. He said he was glad to see staff from the Eastman YDC, Augusta YDC, Sumter YDC and other community field staff at the meeting.

Commissioner Murray started his report by thanking the Board members who were able to participate in the very short notice conference call in early March to discuss further budget reductions. He stated DJJ had less than 72 hours to make some quick budget decisions. Commissioner Murray stated 6 Board members were able to attend the meeting and Pastor Dexter Rowland attending the meeting in person. Commissioner Murray said Jeff Minor will provide the Board with a briefing on the proposed cuts later on in the meeting. He also stated Amy Howell will also give the Board a legislative update.

Commissioner Murray recognized the great work and advocacy at the State Capitol by both Jeff Minor and Amy Howell. He stated Jeff has worked on the budget while Amy worked on DJJ's legislation. Both have done an excellent job. Commissioner Murray stated Amy Howell has been wearing two hats since Spiro Amburn left to ensure DJJ's legislative agenda was well taken care of.

Commissioner Murray said a few Board members are absent from the meeting. Commissioner Murray announced that Judge Steve Teske's father had a heart attack while vacationing. Judge Teske is with his father along with this family. He stated he hopes and prays his father is doing well and that he will have a speedy recovery.

Commissioner Murray also announced vice-chair Dr. Risler called in earlier in the week and stated he could not attend the Board meeting because he would be out of town attending another meeting.

Division of Community Services and Intake:

Commissioner Murray said Glynn County Juvenile Justice has a collaborative relationship with Weed and Seed in Brunswick. Weed and Seed has purchased video conferencing equipment for the Glynn County CSO. This equipment is being used for aftercare and re-entry planning. The plan is to expand the use of the equipment to include family visits and other ways to keep the youth connected to the community.

Chatham County has funded a video conferencing system in the intake area of the Savannah RYDC. This system is used to conduct detention hearings with the juvenile court. This is helpful to the county because the court is presently undergoing a large renovation project and this limits the movement between the court and the facility.

Commissioner Murray stated Bibb County is currently pursuing a re-entry grant that would develop a program very similar to the current Savannah Impact Program where DJJ would partner with the Macon P.D., adult probation, federal probation and adult parole in providing programs and services to youth returning to the community. As is the case in Savannah, juveniles would have a separate portion of the building to ensure separation from the adult agencies. This would provide DJJ's staff with the means to partner closely with Macon P.D., which is something it's been looking for opportunities to do. No cost is anticipated in the sharing of space with the re-entry program.

On March 18, the CSI hosted a collaborative meeting with the Division of Family and Children Services. The purpose of this joint meeting was to increase collaboration on the youth who are jointly committed to both DFCS and DJJ. The meeting was well attended and improvement in the processes should result soon.

James Brown, associate director at Metro RYDC, and Victor Roberts, regional administrator for NW Region, recently attended the 100 Black Men Summit earlier this month at Arabia Mountain High School. They co-facilitated a workshop on dropout prevention for 14 middle school students. It was a good experience for the youth and the staff.

Jimmie Hooks was promoted from Assistant Director at Savannah RYDC to Director at Aaron Cohn RYDC. He started on March 16. He is a welcome addition and expected to provide good leadership to the facility.

Division of Programs and Secure Campuses:

Each YDC celebrated Black History month during February with different activities. The Muscogee YDC had guest speakers for the celebration, including DJJ Board Member Mr. Daniel Menefee. Commissioner Murray said he along with the Muscogee staff appreciated Mr. Menefee taking time from his busy schedule to speak to the youth.

The Office of Behavioral Health and Sumter YDC held a graduation ceremony on March 3 for 12 youth who successfully completed the six months Residential Substance Abuse Unit program at Sumter YDC. In addition to the individual and group therapy that is provided in the unit, the program provides ongoing involvement with the family so that they can become a part of the youth's support system in remaining substance free after release from the YDC. Over half of the graduates had family members present and were able to celebrate following the ceremony during a reception provided by Sumter YDC staff.

Commissioner Murray stated in February, Ms. Patricia Wallace was appointed the personnel manager and Mr. Roderick Haugabook was appointed as the assistant director of Sumter YDC. Commissioner Murray asked Ms. Wallace and Mr. Haugabook to stand to be recognized by the Board.

Commissioner Murray also announced Todd Weeks, associate director for the Eastman YDC, has been selected as the acting director of the facility. The previous Eastman YDC Director, Gary Morris, has accepted the position of Director for the Marietta RYDC effective April 1, 2010. This effective date will allow for a two week transition period for Mr. Weeks as he assumes his new responsibilities. Commissioner Murray asked Todd Weeks to stand to be recognized by the Board.

Macon YDC Director Debbie Blasingame is working along with Macon RYDC Director Ronnie Richardson to develop a protocol for girls from the Macon RYDC to be served at the Macon YDC. He stated in the future, DJJ is seeking to serve the girls at the Macon YDC to make better use of its beds at both facilities. At this time DJJ is exploring the feasibility of the RYDC in Macon serving only males and using the YDC to house the girls from the RYDC. If DJJ can determine this is feasible, it would help the agency make better use of the Macon YDC, which has been underutilized and the action would favorably impact the RYDC population as well.

On February 26, Augusta YDC residents produced a talent show with the admission price being a donation to assist the people of Haiti. Augusta youth worked hard over the last month practicing and talking up the show. All youth attended as well as a large number of staff and some community representatives. The show raised \$400, which the youth gave to Sanctuary Church in Augusta, which is led by a Haitian Minister who is involved with the Haiti Relief Operation. Commissioner Murray congratulated John Brady and his staff at the Augusta YDC for their efforts.

Commissioner Murray said he along with Rick Harrison attended the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Coordinating Council on February 29. Commissioner Murray stated he serves as co-chair of the Council; OBHS Director Rick Harrison represents DJJ on the Executive Workgroup, which will focus its attention on special projects and general support for the Coordinating Council.

Dr. Staples-Horne reported that Gwinnett RYDC had 13 cases of youth with flu during February. The cases were contained with no additional outbreaks or transfer to other facilities. DJJ Health Services staff has handled the flu cases DJJ had over the last 6 to 9 months well, and DJJ seems

to have seen a decline, although public health experts indicate that there could be a rebound over the coming allergy season.

DJJ participates in a Robert Wood Johnson funded grant through Emory University's Jane Fonda Center to reduce interpersonal dating violence among teens. The DeKalb County Board of Commissioners issued a proclamation recognizing "Teen Domestic Violence Prevention" month on Tuesday, March 16 in acknowledgement of the program. Dr. Staples-Horne participated in the ceremony to represent DJJ.

March is also National Nutrition month. DJJ Office of Nutrition and Food Services will be providing educational materials to all DJJ facilities to encourage healthy eating habits for our youth.

Legal Services attorney Pam Sloane attended SCM training during the week of March 15. This experience puts Legal Services in a better position when reviewing employment cases where charges of failure to comply with SCM are alleged as the basis for disciplinary action.

The Office of Human Resources is planning a professional development course for HR field staff. The course will provide staff with training in the basics of Georgia human resources management, with specifics relating to personnel transactions, benefits, federal compliance, timekeeping, discipline, sexual harassment, payroll, and much more. The course will cover a day and a half and will be held May 11 & 12 at the Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth.

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

BJCOT Class #150 began on Sunday, January 31 with 40 cadets in attendance. The graduation ceremony was held Friday, February 26. Mable Wheeler, director of the Crisp RYDC, served as the guest speaker. Commissioner Murray said he attended the graduation and Ms. Wheeler did a great job. There were a total of 38 graduates. The Honor graduates were:

- Larry D. Guthrie--Paulding RYDC
- Joffrey L. Holey--Gwinnett RYDC
- Angel R. Smith--Crisp RYDC

BJCOT Class #151 graduation will be held at 5:00 p.m. today instead of the usual 11:30 a.m., due to the furlough day scheduled for Friday, March 26. There are 21 candidates for graduation. Derrick Schofield, assistant commissioner of the Georgia Department of Corrections will serve as the guest speaker.

Board Member Michael Baugh attended the first day of the three-day SCM training for the educators on March 8, in Albany. He plans to attend the additional two days in a future program. Commissioner Murray thanked Mr. Baugh for taking the time to visit the program, and stated if there are other board members who would like to attend the SCM training, the Office of Training will assist in coordinating the date and location. Commissioner Murray stated additional

information regarding our continuing SCM rollout is in the copy of his report in the board member's folders.

The American Correctional Association (ACA) has looked to Georgia for expertise to enhance their audit team in the training area. Fabienne Tate, director of the Office of Training and Yvonne Saunders-Brown, assistant director of Training have been requested and both have the agency's full support in this role as ACA Auditors.

Commissioner Murray announced that DJJ has a number of staff running for ACA offices. Commissioner Murray stated he was running for president, while Rob Rosenbloom is running for the Board of Governors. Ronnie Woodard and Jack Catrett are both running for positions on the delegate assembly in the area of juvenile institutions. Commissioner Murray also stated John Rogers who is a JPPS II from Dougherty is also running for delegate assembly. Voting will take place next month with ballots being sent to all active ACA members. It will be good for DJJ to have good representation within the leadership of ACA.

The Department of Juvenile Justice is one of seven Georgia child caring agencies collaborating on a Training Directors/Representatives Task Force to focus on workforce development needs to identify basic training topics common among all employees in all agencies for their appropriate job classification. The task force is convened by the KidsNet Collaborative, and the training project will be grant funded. Targeted training topics for consideration are trauma, pharmacology and substance abuse and co-occurring disorders. Fabienne Tate serves as the agency representative and Richard Harrison serves as the task force co-chair.

Classification and Transportation staff is taking an active role in assisting RYDC facilities that are at 105 percent capacity transport youth to other RYDC locations that may be below capacity. While Savannah River Challenge Program (SRCP) is at capacity, there is currently a wait list for youth to go into the transition program at SRCP.

Latera Davis, assistant director of the Office of Classification and Transportation, participated in career day at Rosebud Elementary School and spoke to approximately 167 kids. Latera talked to several groups of third graders about character building. She also gave them wonderful bookmarks that the kids really enjoyed. Commissioner Murray asked Latera to stand to be recognized by the Board.

The Commissioner concluded his report.

Board member Perry McGuire asked how DJJ was using the funds from the Robert Wood Johnson grant through Emory University's Jane Fonda Center.

Commissioner Murray asked Steve Herndon to answer Perry McGuire's question.

Steve Herndon stated the grant is an interagency group that is focused on public health. He stated Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne is part of a group from Emory University, public health, the

Division of Children and Family Services along with some other agencies that are focused on reduction of teen violence. Steve Herndon said he doesn't believe DJJ receives any money from the Robert Woods Johnson grant. He stated it is just a situation where DJJ participates with other agencies in the project. Mr. Herndon said he would be more than happy to provide more information to Mr. McGuire via email.

Mr. McGuire asked if the grant focused on training at the DJJ facilities.

Mr. Herndon said the grant focus is on providing information to youth at facilities about avoiding teen violence in a dating situation.

Mr. McGuire stated he would love to receive more information about the Robert Woods Johnson grant.

Mr. McGuire asked if the children who are on the Savannah Rivers Challenge waiting list are at other DJJ facilities.

Commissioner Murray said yes and stated all the youth that are being transitioned to the Savannah River Challenge Program are coming out of DJJ's YDC facility. It is an opportunity for the youth to have a step down transition before they go home. Commissioner Murray said the waiting list is being managed by DJJ staff. He stated the capacity is 150 and there are 3 camps of 50 beds each and as youth are moved out more youth are moved in.

Mr. McGuire asked if the youth that are moved to the Savannah River Challenge are at the end of their sentence.

Commissioner Murray asked Steve Herndon to answer Mr. McGuire's question.

Mr. Herndon said DJJ is very careful regarding which youth are sent to Savannah River Challenge because it is a different type of facility. Mr. Herndon stated there is a screening process that determines which youth will be sent to the Savannah River Challenge Program and the facility also reviews the case file of each child so they can make the decision not to admit someone. He stated they originally selected youth who were within 4-6 months of release but they currently have youth going to the Savannah River Challenge that have up to 12 months left on their order with DJJ. Mr. Herndon stated DJJ would not send any youth to Savannah River Challenge within the first 6 months of their order.

Mr. Herndon said he visited Savannah River Challenge within the past week and had the opportunity to interview several boys who were within 30 days of release. They were all admitted to DJJ in September and October 2009.

Commissioner Murray said this is a very interesting program and would love to explore the prospect of having an off-site Board meeting at Savannah River Challenge. Commissioner Murray said the American Marine Institute is the vendor that runs the Savannah River Challenge

Program and stated he plans to meet with them in the near future and will explore the idea of having the Board meeting there so the Board can learn more about the step down program. Commissioner Murray stated as the step down program develops it will have great potential.

Board member Michael Baugh stated he attended the SCM training in Albany, Georgia. He said the person who conducted the SCM training did a great job. He said the trainer and teachers were very professional and they kept everyone involved during the training. Mr. Baugh said DJJ is very lucky to have trainers and teachers of this caliber.

Commissioner Murray said the kudos go to Fabienne Tate who is accountable to Deputy Commissioner Amy Howell. He said they give training the priority it warrants.

Board member Elizabeth Lindsey said she was concerned about the changes at Macon regarding putting the YDC and RYDC girls together and asked where the youth will be sent who qualify for a short term sentence.

Commissioner Murray said that is part of the reason why he made the trip to Macon earlier in the week so he could get a fresh look regarding how the facility is set up. He stated several units closed at the Macon YDC because there was no need for the beds. Commissioner Murray said there are unlimited opportunities to have a separation on the campus it just depends on how DJJ decides to approach it. Some of the units that were closed will be reopened and some of the units that are open have provisions where DJJ can operate separate types of programs. He stated it is a big campus and it has a lot of opportunities.

Commissioner Murray asked Rob Rosenbloom to address the second part of Ms. Lindsey's question.

Mr. Rosenbloom said one of the ways that DJJ is looking to use the Macon YDC beds is to help them with issues surrounding there being more boys in detention beds than girls. He stated DJJ is under capacity in girls to a significant level which is a good thing on a certain level but it also presents some operational challenges. Mr. Rosenbloom said this is why DJJ is trying to use these other beds. Mr. Rosenbloom said the idea is that DJJ will still do detention intake at the Macon RYDC and process the girls who are pre-adjudicated as always but they will be housed at the Macon YDC which is right next door. At the time they have to go to court or when they are about to be released, they will be brought back to the RYDC and DJJ's normal detention intake process and release process will occur.

Ms. Lindsey said since she has been on the Board she assumed DJJ made an effort to segregate as pre-adjudicated verses the adjudicated youth in their programming.

Mr. Rosenbloom said in general that is true but DJJ makes limited use of YDC beds for the purpose of committed youth and youth that have post adjudication. DJJ has had a history of having pre-adjudicated youth with serious mental health problem in their RYDCs going to the Augusta YDC to take advantage of DJJ's resources there. Mr. Rosenbloom also reminded the

Board that in every RYDC, DJJ has pre-adjudicated and post-adjudicated youth. Some are waiting placement. Mr. Rosenbloom said DJJ has a history of those two populations being together and DJJ managing them well.

Ms. Lindsey asked where the STP youth are being placed.

Mr. Rosenbloom said because of the closure of YDC beds, the STP boys are serving their 30-day sentence at their local RYDC. The STP girls still go to the Macon YDC as part of that STP population.

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 Judy Mecum called for a motion to close the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and open the DJJ Board of Education meeting. The motion was seconded by Elaine Snow. 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 thanked Board Member Michael Baugh for the comments he made earlier concerning the teachers. Dr. Catrett thanked Fabienne Tate and staff for working with the education department on the SCM training.

Dr. Catrett reminded the Board that the education department has an alternative education placement model and its own behavior management system within the school. He stated SCM talked a lot about some of the same things that they do. Dr. Catrett said they worked with the Office of Training to make sure the language of both of those programs went together.

Dr. Catrett said he has some budget information to discuss but Jeff Minor will give a total update to the Board. He stated he will join Mr. Minor after his presentation to answer any questions.

Dr. Catrett announced there are no teacher vacancies in the system.

Dr. Catrett said as of March 25, 2010, DJJ will start receiving electronic testing results back from the high school writing retest. He stated the retest was administered to 17 students. Dr. Catrett said the testing coordinators will get the actual analysis of the scores and he will be happy to share those scores with the Board at the next meeting.

Dr. Catrett said on March 3, 2010 DJJ administered the 5th grade writing test. He stated 5 students took the test.

Dr. Catrett said DJJ administered the high school graduation administration test. The test was given to all first time 11th and 12th graders who have not taken or passed the graduation test. Dr. Catrett stated 69 students were tested. He stated the result from the high school graduation test comes back fairly quickly so he hopes to get the results soon.

Dr. Catrett said they received the Criteria Reference Competency Test (CRCT) materials and those will be kept under lock and key until they administer those in early April.

Dr. Catrett announced they finished the access for English Language Learners test (ELL). He stated they administered several of those tests and are awaiting the scores.

Dr. Catrett also mentioned his staff administered the Georgia Alternative Assessment Test. Dr. Catrett said they teach students who are handicapped when it comes to learning and some students can't be tested in the normal way. Dr. Catrett said he believes approximately 7 students were tested who couldn't be tested in the traditional way. He stated these students were MID or MOID students. This means they have an IQ from anywhere between 69-55 or below.

Dr. Catrett reminded the Board that DJJ received a federal grant to conduct afterschool programming. He stated they have received some results back. He said they will look at the results to determine the gains they have made with the students in their units. They will also look at the results to determine if it made a difference in reducing incident reports during the afterschool period.

Dr. Catrett said the school improvement team is at the Eastman YDC. He said they determined there was a shift in population at the Eastman YDC and the education program needed to be revamped. More GED slots will be added and they will reduce the amount of regular education at the Eastman YDC. Dr. Catrett also stated they will be adding an alternative school for about 40 students who are basically between 18 and 19 years old who have not shown any indication they are enjoying the curriculum and this also doesn't have a positive effect on the rest of the students. He stated they decided to work on some programs that will help them and he hopes that they will be able to come up with some methods that will help that particular group of students. The school improvement team consists of Dr. Audrey Armistad, Dr. Jerry Jones, Dr. Gregg Maybin, and Frank Spearman.

Dr. Catrett stated the Math Consortium group met to establish protocols for the new performance standards. He stated the social studies team will meet in Forsyth on March 26. Dr. Catrett invited the Board to attend.

Dr. Catrett said the book committee in the adoption cycle for English books chose the Glencoe Company. This was done by teachers and the good news is that they were able to get the books that the teachers wanted but due to the good stewardship of the Curriculum Director Martha Patton and others, they were able to negotiate a reduced price. They were able to get all of the

student text books at the normal price but the Glencoe Company also gave DJJ all the teacher's books and resource materials. Dr. Catrett said that is a savings of about \$40,000 - \$50,000.

Dr. Catrett said there is an online project at the Augusta YDC that is coming to an end in April. Dr. Catrett reminded the Board that the online project didn't cost DJJ any money. He stated DJJ took the opportunity to test to see if it can offer any online services to the students. In order to do this they needed to have secure lines and work with firewalls. Dr. Catrett said he worked with Doug Engle and his staff did a great job. He stated this project allowed DJJ to work on the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). DJJ needs to have a policy as it relates to students being on the internet so Terri Knight is working with the education department on these policies.

Dr. Catrett announced the SAC and CEA are online and there will be a presentation on this at an upcoming board meeting or board training.

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

Board Member Michael Baugh asked what was the adoption cycle on the school books is at the DJJ facilities.

Dr. Catrett said the adoption cycle on the books is every 4 years.

Mr. Baugh said English, math and science don't change much and asked if DJJ can save money by not adopting new textbooks every 4 years.

Dr. Catrett said adopting textbooks is an old line of thinking because everything now is being offered online. Dr. Catrett said he joins the number of superintendents in the state that say schools don't need textbooks but need access to internet books. Dr. Catrett said the textbook bill (costs) will probably be around \$180,000 for the new adoption cycle.

Board Member Larry Barnes said math has changed tremendously over the past couple of years with math I, math II, and math III. Mr. Barnes asked if DJJ received a curriculum from the state for math III.

Dr. Catrett said DJJ hasn't received any curriculum for math III as yet but they do have some books and guidance. He stated this is one of the items that the Math Consortium team met on.

Mr. Barnes said math III combines the different math such as algebra, geometry and trigonometry. He asked if DJJ was utilizing the virtual classroom.

Dr. Catrett said no because they have not been able to access the virtual classroom in a secure manner. He stated one of the things they worked on at the pilot project at the Augusta YDC was the development of these types of structures.

Board Member Jim Kelly asked Chairman Shuman and Dr. Catrett to consider putting together a presentation for the Board on how character education effects the DJJ curriculum and afterschool program currently in place. Mr. Kelly asked if the different programs have been tested

nationally or do DJJ educators make it up as they go along. He also asked if students were allowed to participate in faith based education offered by outsiders.

Dr. Catrett stated he would be more than happy to put a presentation in place at an upcoming Board meeting.

Perry McGuire mentioned the 7 students that could not be tested due to their learning disabilities and asked if they were segregated from the classroom.

Dr. Catrett answered no and stated some of those students receive special education support so they may be out of the classroom in a special education class for a large portion of the day. He stated these students are taught in the least restricted environment possible.

Mr. McGuire mentioned the 5th graders that were tested and stated he would like to see a breakdown of the grades of the DJJ student population.

Dr. Catrett said yes he would be happy to provide that information to Mr. McGuire and stated on the extreme end that number will fluctuate because there are times when DJJ goes several years without testing a 5th grader.

Mr. McGuire said he is not too concerned about numbers but he is more concerned about the amount of 5th graders serving time at a DJJ facility.

Dr. Catrett explained a student may be in the 5th grade but may be age appropriate for the 7th or 8th grade.

Board Member Judy Mecum asked if there are any language barriers with the students.

Dr. Catrett said he doesn't believe there are any language barriers that he is aware of with any of those youth but he will double check.

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 Michael Baugh made the motion. The motion was seconded by Judy Mecum. The motion carried.

Chairman Shuman called for the next item on the agenda, the legislative update.

Legislative Update
Amy Howell, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Amy Howell greeted the Board, Commissioner Murray, staff and visitors.

Ms. Howell stated she was not able to send the Board a legislative update via email because the information keeps changing but said she will try to give them a brief update to this point.

She stated DJJ has been pursuing SB400 which was introduced by Senator Crosby in relations to credit for time served for designated felons and passed the senate unanimously. She stated it included an amendment to extend the 30 day STP sentence for 1 year.

Ms. Howell said HB1144 passed the House 118 to 34 and has already been read twice in the Senate and has been assigned to the Governor's Oversight Committee.

Ms. Howell said both DJJ Bills have passed in relation to credit for time served. Ms. Howell stated March 26 will be day 30 and she believes DJJ Bills will then move to the opposite Houses.

Ms. Howell said HB1104 which was one of the pieces of legislation that DJJ was monitoring was drafted in relationship to a probation management program and passed through the committee process with an amendment that struck out all of the language in relationship to probation management and now has a substitute that would extend the 30 day STP sentence to year 2013. She stated there no longer is any language in relationship to the probation management and only language that relates to the extension of the 30 day sentence. Ms. Howell said that is on the Rules Calendar for March 25, 2010 so hopefully it will be on the floor for a vote by March 26, 2010.

Ms. Howell said Representative Pruitt introduced a bill in relationship to reimbursement for youth that have medical insurance. Language in relationship to DJJ was attached to HB1291 which passed through committee. It is not currently on the Rules Calendar but could be considered on the Rules Calendar by the end of March. Ms. Howell stated that is a Bill that DJJ is monitoring.

Ms. Howell said at the last Board meeting a few Board members had some questions about education bills. She stated there were a handful of education bills that were introduced and a good number of them were heard in committee but not many of them are moving. One of the bills DJJ was monitoring was in relationship to performance based compensation for teachers. She stated that bill still remains in committee but a resolution was introduced in the Senate for a study committee. She stated she anticipates the bill will not pass but anything can happen. She said the introduction of the study committee suggest there is an interest in evaluation of the issue before pursuing legislation.

HB1031 has to do with the age mandatory education. She stated that changes the language around the provision about requirements when a parent needs to enroll their child in school and the penalty surrounding that. Ms. Howell said that bill did pass out of the committee but is not on the Rules Calendar so she stated she doesn't know where the bill will go.

Ms. Howell said DJJ was monitoring other legislation. One has to do with amended language adding a criminal penalty involving sexual relationships between teachers and students and removing the defense of consent. That bill is still up for a vote on the floor but she has not seen any movement at this point and it is unclear what will happen on day 30. Ms. Howell said DJJ was also looking at HB927 which added a penalty for the same thing. Ms. Howell stated this bill is not moving either.

Ms. Howell asked if there were any questions; there were none.

Chairman Shuman called for the next item on the agenda; FY 2010 Amended Budget and FY2011 Budget Updated.

FY2010 Amended Budget & FY2011 Budget Update

Jeff Minor, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Jeff Minor greeted the Board and Commissioner Murray.

Jeff Minor made reference to 3 separate documents that were handed out to the Board which includes a quick summary of the FY2010 amended budget, the FY2011 Budget as they knew it and the third document concerning the extra \$9.5 million cut.

Mr. Minor said the FY2010 amended budget is the recommendations that came from the Governor. The only change to the Governor's recommendation from the House was a reduction of personal services funds by an additional \$500,000 over the Governor's recommendation.

Mr. Minor said the changes to the Governor's Recommendation made by the Senate were a reduction in personal services funds by an additional \$250,000 over the Governor's recommendation.

Mr. Minor said the amended FY2010 budget is awaiting conference committee. He stated that would have typically occurred already but they were waiting for a decision to be made about what they were going to do about a large sum of money that was tied to the hospital bed tax verses the tobacco tax and Medicaid reimbursement reduction. That has been resolved and he believes the FY2010 budget will move now to conference committee to work out the differences between the bills.

Mr. Minor said the Governor's budget recommendation represents a net \$19 million reduction to DJJ's current budget. In addition to the \$19 million reduction, DJJ must cover the \$7.5 million

structural federal deficit resulting in a total reduction to DJJ's current budget of \$26.5 million or 9%.

Mr. Minor said just as a reminder, DJJ closed 300 beds at the Bill Ireland YDC and 24 beds at the Macon YDC. He stated DJJ eliminated 450 full time positions. In addition, DJJ employees have 12 days of furloughs.

Mr. Minor said the FY2010 amended budget update document basically summarizes the cuts that were taken already.

Moving on to the second document, Mr. Minor stated FY2011 is fairly simple. Mr. Minor said the Governor's budget recommendation represents a net reduction of \$17.2 million to the current budget. In addition to the \$17.2 million, DJJ must re-direct \$5.9 million of existing funds and cut \$1.6 million additional dollars from its budget to cover the \$7.5 million structural federal deficit. This action results in a \$24.8 million or 8.6% reduction to DJJ's current budget.

Mr. Minor said the only difference between the Governor's and DJJ's amended FY2010 budget and FY2011 budget is the base budget. He stated the amended budget can include onetime cuts and the base budget can't. The base budget cuts have to be permanent.

Mr. Minor said the Governor's recommended FY2011 budget reductions represent the annualization of the actions taken in DJJ's FY2010 amended budget; with the exception of the onetime reductions of furloughs, hiring freeze and vehicle purchase moratorium.

Mr. Minor said a week ago, DJJ was asked to come back to the Governor's Office and copy the Senate and House on a proposal to cut an additional \$9.5 million which represent an additional 3.3%. Mr. Minor said DJJ is already taking an 8.6% cut or more.

Mr. Minor said DJJ had a couple of days to respond to make those cuts. Mr. Minor said those cuts are outlined in the third document. Mr. Minor asked the Board to review the list and stated he will be willing to answer any questions about the list. He stated he wasn't sure how much has been communicated with staff at this point but stated these cuts were proposals. He also stated the chances of some of the proposed cuts taken place may not happen.

Mr. Minor asked if there were any questions.

Board Member Larry Barnes asked about the FY2011 budget that proposed reducing the school year by eliminating summer school at 18 of DJJ's RYDCs. Mr. Barnes said he was concerned about this and wondered what type of other programs will be put in place.

Mr. Minor said DJJ discussed this possibility before and is looking at the education department and the RYDC staff is going to begin developing a program that will include a lot of different kinds of things. He stated the staff that is retained will be able to do the remediation that is required by the No Child Left Behind Act for the few students that didn't pass their test. DJJ is considering remedial education work in reading and math. He stated he is sure there will be recreational activities that include life skills and character education.

Mr. Minor said DJJ will retain all ancillary staff, DJJ instructors, activity therapist and recreational director. He stated those kind of staff will be there to help during this process. Mr. Minor said it is something that concerns them but they will find something for the youth to do during the summer.

Commissioner Murray said because of DJJ's need to have some kind of ongoing programming during the summer, there will be some cost associated with developing these programs but the cost wouldn't be near as great as maintaining the 12 month school program.

Board Member Dexter Rowland asked if the 20 beds at the Macon YDC were the same 20 beds that were discussed earlier in the meeting.

Mr. Minor said DJJ already closed 24 beds at the Macon YDC. He stated that was a single housing unit. Mr. Minor said DJJ proposed closing another 20 beds which is another single housing unit. Mr. Minor said the population at the Macon YDC has been low. He said there are a lot of options available for DJJ. He said both in DJJ's YDCs and RYDCs, the population has been very low for months. He stated the numbers could be low due to the attitude and education DJJ and advocates have provided about how to treat young ladies. He said a long time ago, young ladies were locked up for their own good but now DJJ is trying to find programming for those with the sexual exploitation debate that is going on right now. He said instead of locking the girls up they are being provided with the help they need. He stated those things are driving changes in the judiciary and changing patterns about what is happening with girls.

Mr. Baugh said since DJJ is proposing cutting out the summer programs if they would consider going to the local colleges to see if they can get some of the individuals who are currently in the teacher's education programs to fill the void during the summer.

Dr. Catrett said he hopes to take some of the things they have learned from the current afterschool program and see how much of that they will be able to transition into the day program at the RYDCs that will not have summer school. He stated DJJ will have to network with other facilities like for example in Augusta where the Augusta RYDC and the Augusta YDC are next door to each other. They will use those teachers to teach the CRCT students that didn't pass. He stated there are a number of special education students that have 12 month, year round IEP's.

Ms. Lindsey asked how DJJ will manage the loss of jobs and a significant amount of employees will have a reduction in pay.

Mr. Minor said there are currently no teacher vacancies. He stated as DJJ approaches this, and if it goes through, it would be in July 1, 2010. He said DJJ will have to move fairly quickly to notify the staff.

Mr. Minor said the teacher ratio will be changed from 1:15 to 1:20. This will eliminate 34 teacher positions. He said he believes there may be more as DJJ transitions some facilities to

GED instruction. There may be some loss of regular education teachers and a gain of GED instructors.

Ms. Lindsey asked if DJJ has a moving population and asked if DJJ was using 120% capacity as to how they get their ratio.

Mr. Minor said for budget count and purposes DJJ uses capacity to determine its ratio. For actual compliance DJJ looks at the number of actual teachers and students present over some period of time.

Dr. Catrett said when DJJ developed the ratios; they look at the actual number of youth that had been at those facilities over a while to develop the 1:15 ratio or 1:12 for special education. Dr. Catrett said he is not too concerned with being over or under ratio at this point.

Ms. Howell added that regarding the teacher's positions that will be impacted; DJJ will be willing to work with those teachers even though there are currently no teacher vacancies. She stated for those employees who wish to remain with DJJ they will be willing to work with them to try and find them other vacancies within the department.

Mr. Minor said he hates to say it but as they deal with the pay changes they may have some vacancies. Some employees who were considering leaving may decide to stay at a lower pay as others exit.

Commissioner Murray reiterated that this is just a proposed budget cut. He stated DJJ has to find a way to cut \$9.5 million.

Mr. Minor said DJJ has fielded many questions and data requests about these additional cuts. He stated the Governor's Office, Senate and House are concerned about the budget cuts. He said he believes there is an appreciation of the fact that DJJ is cutting so much. Mr. Minor said DJJ mentioned some of these cuts before but they did not make the cuts because the Governor's Office was not thrilled about the idea of eliminating summer school for youth who are struggling in facilities and need that structure. He stated DJJ may have an opportunity to hold on to some of the proposals, but these are hard economic times so no one can tell. Mr. Minor said he will continue to work hard to share any new information with the Board as it becomes available.

Mr. McGuire asked how DJJ has communicated with the legislators that they have not really exercised a priority based system for this round of budget cuts.

Mr. Minor said that is exactly what they have communicated to the legislature. Mr. Minor said DJJ should not be taking this kind of hit compared to some agencies. He stated DJJ has put the public safety and children issue to the legislature but because the economic times are so bad they are just making the necessary cuts across the board. He said they may not take cuts across the board but they still want to see them across the board.

Mr. McGuire said he encourages Board members to have these conversations with their state legislators and it is time for them to look at the spending for each agency differently instead of across the board.

Dr. Catrett said he believes DJJ has the finest education program in the nation and doesn't want the education department to be affected by any budget cuts. Dr. Catrett said the cuts were done in a way that wouldn't affect the SACS or CEA accreditation or DJJ meeting state standards. He stated if the education department has to take the cut, they have a plan. He said his education team will push as always, to grow, get better test scores and certificates for the youth.

Dr. Catrett said for the employees that are present at the Board meeting; he doesn't want there to be any bad information out there that this is taking place and for them to understand that this is just a proposed budget.

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 June 30th is the deadline for the Board to file their ethics form with the Ethics Commission. He said he will get the information out to the Board within the next couple of days.

Mr. Hayes said the Board's education training is scheduled for the May Board meeting. He stated they are discussing some options including the Board having the training at one of DJJ's facilities in the local area. This would give the Board an opportunity to look at the school system at that particular facility. He stated nothing was confirmed yet but he will keep the Board updated.

Mr. Hayes said an email was sent out to the Board about upcoming board presentations over the next several months. He said they are on track and those presentations will be presented to the Board in the upcoming months.

Mr. Hayes said the Governor's Customer Service quarterly award ceremony is scheduled for April 22, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Floyd Building West Tower. DJJ will have two recipients for commendations. Mr. Hayes said one is the Camden County Court Services and HITS program (High Intensity Team Supervision) and the other is Karmal Sims, a Juvenile Detention Counselor, who worked at the Sumter YDC. Mr. Sims is a DJJ employee who passed away in

early February. He stated the nomination that was sent in about Mr. Sims was a wonderful nomination. The nomination speaks about how Mr. Sims worked with youth and he is certain his family will try and attend the ceremony. Mr. Hayes said he will send the Board detailed information about the ceremony via email.

Mr. Hayes announced the 2009 DJJ Customer Service Recognition winners. Mr. Hayes said the DJJ Customer Service Recognition Committee took all the nominations from last year and came up with four quarterly winners. From those quarterly winners, the committee selected a 2009 annual award winner. Mr. Hayes said he will mention them by name, allow the deputy commissioner to say a few words and then he will read their nominations and present them each with their certificate.

Vincent Jones, a Lieutenant at the Paulding RYDC was the first quarterly winner for 2009.

Alicia McLain, Administrative Operations Coordinator at the Coweta CSO was the second quarterly winner for 2009.

Victor Martin, a Lieutenant at the Augusta YDC was the third quarterly winner for 2009, and Billy Yarbrough, Social Services Provider II at the Eastman YDC was the fourth quarterly winner for 2009.

Mr. Hayes said Rob Rosenbloom had to leave to go to another meeting so Regional Administrator Victor Roberts will be saying a few words about the award recipients from the Division of Community Services and Intake (CSI).

Victor Roberts greeted the Board and said he was the northwest regional administrator. He said he was very pleased to announce that two of the winners are from the CSI division and also from his region. Mr. Roberts asked Mr. Wade Moore, District Director to make a few comments about the employees being recognized.

Mr. Moore greeted everyone and stated this is District 4's third time to have winners for a customer service award. Mr. Moore said there are critical positions in DJJ that sometime seem to fly under the radar and they don't get recognize as much as they should. He stated Ms. McLain is a good worker and she gets her job done very well and is the reason why District 4 is able to work in the way that it does. He said most importantly she keeps the department under budget. Mr. Moore read an email he received from one of the juvenile program managers about Ms. McLain.

“Wade I just want you to know how Alicia went above and beyond to help our office. We had to make a clothing purchase for one of our committed youth. With my PA on leave and my P-card still in transition, Ms. McLain went out of her way to make sure we got the help that we needed. All though she was out on sick leave, she still contacted our office, entered the requisition and followed up to make sure we found someone to help us purchase the clothes. I would have never expected her to help out when she was home ill but that is not what Alicia is all about. Her team first attitude made it possible for us to get the necessary clothes for the youth. It is very easy to

overlook all that she does for our district because she does her job so efficiently. But the Carroll County Office is very aware of what she does and we sincerely appreciate her.”

(signed)

Bill Spear

Juvenile Program Manager

Ms. McLain was presented with a DJJ customer service certificate.

Mr. Hayes stated Mr. Vincent Jones was not present at the Board meeting and read his nomination. Mr. Hayes said Mr. Jones is a Lieutenant at the Paulding RYDC worked with his system to establish a crisis response team. He also works with the youth on behavior modification and organized and conducted a basketball tournament for youth that have no sanctions. 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 his 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. Herndon to present the certificates to his two division winners; Victor Martin and Billy Yarbrough.

Mr. Herndon asked Mr. Todd Weeks; acting director at the Eastman YDC, Timothy Felder; Assistant Director of the Augusta YDC, Keith Edmonds; Assistant Director of the Augusta YDC; and customer services winners Victor Martin and Billy Yarbrough to come before the Board.

Mr. Herndon said he knows Mr. Yarbrough from the Eastman YDC. He stated he knows Mr. Yarbrough is very involved with the fatherhood program at the Eastman YDC. Mr. Herndon said DJJ is looking to expand that program to Savannah River Challenge. He stated he knows Mr. Yarbrough has worked well outside the bounds of what you think a mental health counselor would do. Mr. Herndon said he knows Mr. Yarbrough is glad to have family and coworkers at the board meeting. Mr. Herndon said it is easy to see how meaningful these recognitions are to staff.

Mr. Herndon thanked Mr. Hayes for his hard work as a champion for customer service and helping this program to go on.

Mr. Herndon asked Mr. Weeks to make a few comments.

Mr. Weeks said he was proud to stand before the Board. He stated Mr. Yarbrough oversees the fatherhood program at the Eastman YDC that the department has seen some wonderful results out of. He said Mr. Yarbrough goes above the call of duty on a daily basis and is probably one of the most respected staff members at the Eastman YDC not only with this coworker but also with the population that they serve. He stated he knows DJJ has made an outstanding choice for this award.

Mr. Keith Edmonds was asked to make a few comments about Lt. Martin. Mr. Edmonds stated he was the assistant director in charge of operations at the Augusta YDC and he said he and his staff are at the Board meeting to honor Mr. Victor Martin. He stated Mr. Martin exemplifies what it is to be a leader and is an example for the youth and staff at the Augusta YDC. Mr. Edmonds said Mr. Martin has a unique ability to initiate discipline at the same time letting the youth know that he truly cares about them. He stated Mr. Martin is a mentor for DJJ's youth and mentor for youth in the community. Mr. Edmonds stated he is honored to have Lt. Martin as a part of the staff at the Augusta YDC and to work with him.

Mr. Hayes then read Mr. Yarbrough's nomination.

"Mr. Yarbrough has been employed at the Eastman YDC since 2008. He immediately initiated numerous activities to keep the youth involved to assist with their rehabilitation. He also constructed an Eastman YDC choir that performs at graduations and inspires the youth. He worked to get involved in art and art exhibits. He participated in numerous black history month activities and set up additional afterschool activities and helped develop the adolescent dad's program. The motto of this fatherhood program is, "you can become a father by accident but to become a dad is intentional." Mr. Yarbrough also assisted with the Department of Human Services partnership at the Eastman YDC.

Mr. Hayes announced that Mr. Victor Martin is DJJ's annual award customer service winner for 2009. Mr. Hayes said Victor Martin is a lieutenant at the Augusta YDC and is consistently visible on campus and quick to respond when staff and youth are in need of assistance. He has the admiration and respect of the youth as he performs his daily duties. Mr. Martin frequently meets with at risk youth from surrounding areas outside the facility at the request of their parents and he takes his own time to intervene in their negative behavior patterns. Mr. Hayes said the mother of a 10 year old boy came to the facility asking that her son be kept at the Augusta YDC facility for the weekend. Mr. Martin and a group from the Augusta YDC spoke with the mother and her 10 year old son for about 1 ½ hour, both the mother and son were in tears after this was over. Mr. Hayes said it could have ended there but Lt. Martin and another officer volunteered to take the boy fishing the following Saturday. The boy and his mother were delighted and this fishing expedition continued every Saturday morning for over a year. The 10 year old boy remained out of trouble.

Mr. Hayes said these nominations speak of what DJJ wants from its staff and there are nominations out there yet to be written and he encouraged the staff to do so.

The Board, staff and visitors applauded the DJJ customer service winners for 2009.

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 the next DJJ Board Meeting will be at the Central Office on April 22, 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 Judy Mecum made the motion, and Board Member Elaine Snow 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