

**Board of Juvenile Justice  
Thursday, May 27, 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 May 27, 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:** Rob Rosenbloom; Steve Herndon; Jeff Minor; Amy Howell; Dr. Michelle Staples Horne; Dr. Jack Catrett; Coy Satterfield; Steve Hayes; Nathan Cain; Cherecia Kline; Diana Newell; Victor Roberts; Lateria Davis; Ronnie Woodard

**Others:** Destiny Washington (Attorney's General Office); Normer Adams (GAHSC); Edward Oliver; Rev. Myron Mills

Chairman Shuman asked that all attendees stand and state their name and organization affiliation. The Chairman asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation given by Board member Van Herrin.

**Roll Call**

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

**Board Members Present:** Larry Barnes; Michael Baugh; Van Herrin; James Kelly; Judy Mecum; Daniel Menefee; Ed Risler; Dexter Rowland; J. Daniel Shuman; Elaine Snow; Sandra Taylor (after roll call)

**Advisory Council Members Present:** Judge Quintress Gilbert

Noting the presence of a quorum of the Board, Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the May 27, 2010 Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education.

Judy Mecum moved to approve the agenda for the May 27, 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 April 22, 2010 and the May 19, 2010 Special Called Board meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and the DJJ Board of Education and asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Elaine Snow moved to approve the minutes from the April 22, 2010 and May 19, 2010 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and the DJJ Board of Education. Van Herrin seconded the motion. The chairman called for the vote and the motion was carried.

### **Commissioner's Report**

Rob Rosenbloom, Deputy Commissioner

Deputy Commissioner Rob Rosenbloom said good morning everyone. Mr. Rosenbloom stated that DJJ has seen a great deal of change since the regular board meeting in April. He stated the DJJ Board voted to approve Garland Hunt's appointment as DJJ's new Commissioner on May 19, 2010. Mr. Rosenbloom thanked the Board for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend the special called board meeting. Commissioner Hunt could not attend the Board meeting due to pre-scheduled commitments he made prior to being asked by Governor Perdue to lead DJJ. He will be in attendance at the next Board meeting in June.

Mr. Rosenbloom stated Deputy Commissioner Steve Herndon is retiring after almost 35 years of service. He stated Mr. Herndon's last day at DJJ is May 27, 2010. Mr. Rosenbloom asked Steve Herndon to say a few words to the Board.

Mr. Herndon thanked Board members Jim Kelly and Dr. Risler for attending his retirement reception the previous week. He stated he and his family are very appreciative for everything that was done to celebrate his retirement. He thanked the Board for all their involvement with DJJ and stated their support is a great help to the department. Mr. Herndon said good luck to the Board and said he hopes to see them in the near future.

The Board, staff and visitors applauded Mr. Herndon for his years of service.

Mr. Rosenbloom said former Commissioner Albert Murray is with the Board of Pardons and Paroles and is already working on cases. Mr. Murray was sworn in on Friday May 21, 2010 in the Governor's Office. His departure was quick, but that was done for him to join the Board of Pardons and Paroles and begin work there immediately.

Mr. Rosenbloom said plans are underway to have former Commissioner Murray back at a board meeting at a later date as a guest. That information will be forwarded to the Board at a later date.

In addition, the department has been reorganized. The Board was informed of this by former Commissioner Murray prior to his departure. Mr. Rosenbloom said DJJ is currently operating with three major divisions, instead of four. Mr. Rosenbloom said he heads up the Division of

Youth Services and the Board will hear from Deputy Commissioners Jeff Minor and Amy Howell as part of the board agenda. The reorganization was effective May 14, 2010.

The new Division of Youth Services will include all of Community Services and Intake, as well as the Office of Secure Campuses, which is responsible for the operation of the Youth Development Campuses. Also reassigned to this division will be the Office of Classification and Transportation. This division will have the responsibility of all 28 DJJ facilities and community operations. Mr. Rosenbloom said he had the opportunity to meet with all the new division office staff and the YDC directors. He said he looks forward to the new opportunities to work together and continue the work of DJJ.

Mr. Rosenbloom said the RYDC population has remained steady and hopefully will remain so. The population in residential placements has been reduced over the last few months, and a strategy to access more community mental health services has allowed DJJ to remain within its budget constraints. A juvenile justice symposium is being planned and sponsored by the First Lady's Children's Cabinet. It will focus on the best approach for low risk offenders and program approaches for juvenile offenders in their local communities.

The Offices of Behavioral Health, Education, and Health Services will report to Deputy Commissioner Amy Howell in the newly named Division of Programs and Support Services. Programs and Support Services will maintain responsibility for Legal Services, Investigations and Training.

Deputy Commissioner Jeff Minor will maintain supervision of his existing and renamed Division of Fiscal and Administrative Services. This division will also assume responsibilities for the Office of Human Resources, which will now include the Criminal Records Office. This division continues to have responsibilities including Budget Services, Financial Services, Technology and Information Services, and related offices and programs.

**From Programs and Support Services:**

The Office of Behavioral Health Services will hold their 2010 Professional Development Training at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth on June 1-3. The focus of this year's training will include engaging youth in the treatment process through experiential treatment and the ethics of self-care.

Experiential treatment incorporates Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Motivational Therapy along with group exercises and has proven to be very helpful in engaging youth in treatment and skill development. DJJ is seeing great promise with decreasing youth symptoms and negative behaviors as it moves forward with implementing this modality of treatment in facilities. This segment of the training will allow staff to develop their skills and come up with ways to overcome any barriers to the implementation process.

The ethics training on Wednesday, June 2 will be presented by Dr. Suzann Lawry. Mental Health practice can profoundly change staff as clinicians and as people. Whether DJJ calls it vicarious traumatization, compassion fatigue, or simply burn-out; mental health staff all experience these types of phenomena at some time during their career. Left unchecked, this can

impact decision making and set the stage for possible ethical problems. This session will help staff identify and explore this phenomenon and develop a self care plan to guard against future problems.

Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne, Director, Office of Health Services, has submitted a grant application to the Office of Juvenile Delinquency and Prevention (OJJDP). The grant is funded under the Second Chance Act and proposes to fund mentoring programs for juvenile offenders. DJJ's application requests funding for parent mentors to support youth and family participation in the ICAN program. The ICAN program identifies youth with medical and mental health needs at the Bob Richards RYDC in Rome and connects them with community resources. Mr. Rosenbloom said this program has been successful in the past, and DJJ will look forward to the grant opportunity.

Legal Services Officer Jeffrey Coleman completed SCM training during the week of May 10 and passed with a nearly perfect score.

Also, Legal Services Officer Pam Sloane is gearing up for revisions in the administrative revocation hearing training she provides to field staff. With the passage of DJJ's bill creating a probation management program, new hearing procedures will be necessitated for those probationers subject to the new law. Mr. Rosenbloom stated the new law goes into effect July 1, 2010.

BJCOT Class #152 graduation was held Thursday, April 22 at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center, and Ronnie Woodard, Director of Secure Campuses, Division of Youth Services served as the guest speaker. This was a historic graduation, as this was the first time in the Department of Juvenile Justice history, dating back to July 1997, when an academy class graduated with a 100% attendance of those enrolling in the course. Mr. Rosenbloom said the class consisted of 23 graduates and their names are listed in the Board information.

The next graduation ceremony was held Friday, May 21, 2010 at 11:30 a.m. at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center Auditorium. The guest speaker was Deborah Moore, Director, Office of Human Resources.

The latest Safe Crisis Management update is included in your board packets along with a few other training highlights. Mr. Rosenbloom stated the list is extensive and he asked them to review it at their convenience and follow up with Office of Training Director Fabienne Tate if they have any questions.

**From the Division of Fiscal and Administrative Services:**

The Office of Human Resources (OHR) conducted its Professional Development Course on May 11 & 12, in Forsyth, GA, at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. There were 97 people in attendance. The theme was "Partners in The Mission." This year's course material was targeted specifically at needs identified by HR staff, in a survey, as being most critical to the daily performance of their jobs. Concurrent session topics included absence management, reducing overpayments, scheduling & timekeeping, the grievance process, PeopleSoft Navigation, Employee Accountability & Discipline, and workers' compensation.

The Kronos pre-implementation meeting for Eastman RYDC will be held this week. The Sandersville RYDC is scheduled for implementation training next week. The only remaining location, where the implementation process has yet to be started, is the Eastman YDC. Mr. Rosenbloom stated the Board may recall that Kronos is a state of the art labor management tool, to improve timekeeping, leave and work schedule management.

**Returning to the Division of Youth Services:**

On April 9, the Augusta YDC youth scout leaders received a reward for service for manual labor and camp improvements for the scouts. Their reward was a leadership day and ROPES Course at Knox Scout Camp.

On April 19 Augusta State University students from Dr. Bill Reece's Criminology class toured the Augusta YDC. The students toured selected units including both the academic and vocational divisions of the school and had an opportunity to listen to a panel of residents discuss their goals, aspirations and values along with a question and answer period.

On April 22, the Augusta YDC had a career day that was coordinated by the guidance counselor of the school with many local businesses as well as the ever popular Richmond County Fire Department attending various classes and talking about career opportunities.

On April 15, the Sumter YDC had their annual career day with various programs and information to include presentations from admission representatives at Fort Valley State University and South Georgia Technical College. Both schools provided information on various careers to include vocational occupations.

April 28, the Muscogee YDC Medical Department held an HIV/STD workshop for students in collaboration with the Columbus Health Department.

Mr. Todd Weeks, acting director of the Eastman YDC was appointed director by former Commissioner Murray on May 17. Mr. Weeks has served in various roles at the facility, with his most recent position as the facility associate director.

Mr. Rosenbloom stated recently there was a training program regarding team building that was held in Forsyth at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. There were approximately 40 Transportation and Classification employees in attendance.

Mr. Rosenbloom announced Transportation Officer George Jackson was honored after the training. Officer Jackson will be retiring from DJJ at the end of this month with 20 years. He also served 22 plus years in the Marine Corps.

Another employee, Carol Cameron, also retired this month with 16 years with DJJ. Ms. Cameron was the Statewide Coordinator for our short term youth that entered the system.

Mr. Rosenbloom closed the report with a DJJ success story. He stated this story represents many stories at DJJ.

## DJJ SUCCESS STORY

Jose came to DJJ back in January 2005, when he was living in Dalton, GA. He spent two years confined in Muscogee YDC where he earned his GED. Upon his release, he returned to Whitfield County for eight months, secured a job, and spent another six months in Forsyth before coming to the Tift CSO. He had no family in Tifton, but had met a girl and was determined to continue his relationship with her. Jose had a hefty restitution to pay, but Jose was a shining example of a young man who turned his life around. He began working at Zaxby's in Tifton, and through counseling with JPPS II Clay Newton and motivation on Jose's part, he found a second job at McDonald's, one that eventually hired him full time and put him in charge of maintenance on that site. Those two jobs produced 60 hours of work a week and Jose planned to marry his girlfriend and did so in late 2009. He found his income insufficient for the family and secured yet a third job cleaning at Tifton's Hospital. Jose supported his wife and one child; and in December 2009, brought another beautiful baby girl into the world.

Jose's determination and true grit paid off. His relationship with DJJ ended on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in January 2010. In May 2010 he was seen wearing a uniform and tie and told his former case manager with much excitement that he is now a shift manager at McDonald's. Because of his new McDonald's position and after considering health insurance and career benefits, he severed ties with Zaxby's and with the hospital, but not before the cleaning service manager offered him a management job with them.

Clay Newton, JPPS II in Tift County said, "Jose was a pleasure to work with, and I'm very proud of how he has turned his life around and gone in a positive direction. He had no family support since 2005, but his determination, along with those in DJJ that worked with him, combined to assure his success. Most of the credit MUST go to Jose who stayed on top of his game, made restitution payments, met regularly with DJJ staff, sought employment, worked tirelessly and eagerly at all jobs and never wavered. He was a pleasure to watch and see all the hard work pay off, and I believe we'll see this young man go far. I wish every DJJ employee had been in my shoes when I ran into Jose at the Post Office, his 4 month-old daughter in his lap, the uniform with tie that he was wearing and the gleam in his eye. Jose is a testament to our (DJJ's) mission, and his success is the 'stuff' that empowers my passion and makes me want the same for all youth with whom I am charged." - Clay Newton JPPS II

Mr. Rosenbloom concluded his report and asked if there were any questions.

Board member Jim Kelly said he noticed in the report there was a sexually abused youth facilitation certification course offered at the Forsyth Public Safety Training Center. He stated in the past he has asked if someone can make a presentation about the national problems of sexual abuse in youth detention facilities and in Georgia. Mr. Kelly asked if the Board can receive a description of the certification course can be incorporated into that future presentation.

Chairman Shuman called for the next item on the agenda, Budget Update.

## **Budget Update**

Jeff Minor, Deputy Commissioner  
Department of Juvenile Justice

Mr. Minor greeted the Board. He stated the two documents that were distributed to the Board are a wrap up of things that have been discussed for the past year. He stated the first document is a FY2010 and FY2011 summary. He said it consolidates some of the things under common items. Mr. Minor said the second document gives more detail listing the FY2011 budget cuts.

Mr. Minor said this has been an extremely long process that started in July 2009. He said he presented the cuts to the Board in August and then the cuts were submitted to the Governor's Office in September. He stated DJJ has been working with the Governor's Office for the FY2010 amended budget and FY2011. Mr. Minor recalled DJJ had to submit a number of plans for both the FY2010 and FY2011 budget and it was quite a complicated process. Mr. Minor said the General Assembly session ended in April. He stated hard decisions had to be made by DJJ, the Board, Governor's Office and the General Assembly.

Minor said the DJJ 2010 amended budget was reduced by \$18.5 million. Mr. Minor recalled for both fiscal years, DJJ had to deal with an approximately \$7.5 million structural deficit because of federal Title IV E and Medicaid earnings that DJJ no longer receives. Mr. Minor said in addition to the \$18.5 million, DJJ had to cover the \$7.5 million deficit as well. He stated the actual cut to DJJ is \$26 million and represents about 9% of DJJ's current year budget.

Mr. Minor said for the last session of the General Assembly, DJJ's 2010 budget was reduced by \$27 million in the base budget and \$28 million for stimulus funds. He stated the \$28 million in state funds were gone, but were replaced by stimulus funds. Then there was the \$27 million base budget cut, and another \$26 million on top of that in one fiscal year. That's \$81 million.

Mr. Minor said DJJ reduced bed capacity by 324 beds. He said most of that came with the closing of the Bill Ireland YDC which represents \$9.5 million this fiscal year. He made reference to the hand out and stated the closure of the Bill Ireland YDC is \$19 million for the full year for FY2011.

Mr. Minor said DJJ also reduced 24 beds at Macon YDC in FY2010 and will reduce an additional 20 beds in FY2011.

Mr. Minor said DJJ was supposed to take 12 furlough days but DJJ ended up taking 9 days. Mr. Minor said the last budget cuts came late. DJJ was already taking 9 furlough days when most agencies were not so they decided to find another way to cover those additional cuts which were \$1.6 million. He stated DJJ did that by continuing to hold vacancies and hiring freezes and said he believes DJJ will make it through the current fiscal year. Mr. Minor said the furlough days started 1 day a month in October 2009 and will end in June 2010. Mr. Minor said that totals \$5,128,064 million. Mr. Minor said DJJ streamlined 50 positions. He stated most of the positions were in administration but some of the positions were in the community.

Mr. Minor said the moratorium on motor vehicle purchases totaled \$344,044 in cuts.

Mr. Minor said DJJ replaced state funds with federal stimulus funds to retain 24 JPPS staff.

Mr. Minor also stated DJJ took some additional budget cuts to redirect a portion of its budget cuts to replace 50% of the \$7.5 million federal fund deficit.

Mr. Minor stated the FY2011 budget was reduced by \$21.5 million. He stated these are base budget which are permanent cuts. He said the \$7.5 million added to that makes the actual cuts to DJJ \$29 million, which represents a 10% budget cut.

Mr. Minor said his budget director was out and mentioned a few corrections to his handout. He stated the capacity reduction on the handout indicates the closure of 324 beds and that number is actually 344 beds, with the extra 20 beds at Macon. The positions count at the Bill Ireland YDC was about 385.

He stated the additional 20 beds at the Macon YDC will be cut effective July 1, 2010. He said that represents a loss of 29 positions which included 22 Juvenile Correction Officers, 1 Juvenile Detention Counselor, 4 General Education Teachers, 1 Special Education Teacher, and 1 Social Service Provider II.

Mr. Minor stated next year DJJ deficit should only be around \$1.6 million instead of \$7.5 million.

Mr. Minor stated the Governor changed his revenue projection late in the session and asked for additional budget cuts. He stated DJJ submitted \$3.5 million and what the Governor's Office took was \$1.7 million. He stated the personnel services reduction was about \$1 million which was spread across the programs and basically requires DJJ to hold more positions vacant. He stated this is part of DJJ's lapse factor which is \$11 to \$12 million.

Mr. Minor said one assistant principal position at the Sumter YDC was eliminated totaling \$148,625.

Mr. Minor said class sizes at the YDCs were increased and 6 teaching positions were eliminated. This reduction totals \$600,024.

Mr. Minor said \$457,252 came from the idea of changing regular education teachers to GED instructors. He said all the positions would have been lost. Some of the teachers would have been rehired if they wanted to at a much lower salary as a GED instructor. That was part of the extra cut because so many youth there are now in need of GED instruction. He said that change would have taken away 15 great teachers that taught in very difficult environment. These teachers give DJJ the flexibility as its population changes to go back and forth between regular education and GED instruction. Mr. Minor said DJJ thought long and hard about this decision and discussed it with a representative from that area. DJJ was able to find another alternative to these cuts and those teachers were not affected.

Mr. Minor said 3 teachers decided to retire and those positions will be cut. Mr. Minor said the loss of those three positions and the addition of some Title I money allowed them to change the class size at Eastman, which would have resulted in those three positions being cut anyway, without anyone losing their job at the facility.

Mr. Minor said budget cuts that were on the table but was not taken included DJJ's proposal to go to 190 calendar days at RYDC facilities for the teachers and away from year round school. He stated that cut would have been around \$2 million.

Mr. Minor said the Senate at the last minute decided to add \$1 million in administrative cuts even though DJJ's administrative budget was already cut by \$2 million. DJJ was successful in getting those cuts removed as well.

Mr. Minor thanked the Board for their support during the session and budget process. He said he knows many of them made calls and were concerned about the last minutes cuts. He said even though he knows the budget cuts are staggering, he believes the cuts were strategic, and DJJ will be able to continue to push forward with its mission and get the job done.

Mr. Minor said DJJ is anticipating instructions from the Governor's Office within the next month about the amended FY2011 and FY2012 budget. Mr. Minor said at this point no one is happy with the revenue collections in Georgia. In addition to that non-growth, there are about \$1.9 billion in stimulus funds in the state budget that represents about 10% of the state budget that will go away in FY2012. Mr. Minor said he is not looking forward to those instructions because he believes the Governor's Office will be asking for additional budget cuts. Mr. Minor said he hopes things change so there will be no additional cuts. Mr. Minor asked the Board for their support during this difficult process.

Mr. Minor concluded his report and asked if there were any questions.

Board Member Pastor Rowland said he really appreciated all the work that Mr. Minor is doing for DJJ by approaching these necessary cuts in a strategic way to minimize the impact for the department. Pastor Rowland said he is very concerned that DJJ is going down a dangerous road. He said positions are being cut that are resulting in fewer resources and more responsibilities. He said revenues will be different for a long time and things will not just turn around and bounce back in a year or two. He said the way DJJ conducts business is going to have to change. Pastor Rowland asked what DJJ is doing to evaluate those things that will match future resources.

Mr. Minor said DJJ is trying look at this from a strategic point of view. Mr. Minor said some of the budget cuts that were taken have been coupled with legislation that relieved some of the impact of the budget cuts. As DJJ moves away from the 60 days STP program to 30 days, DJJ was able to close beds and make an adjustment there and take budget cuts and manage the population. Mr. Minor said there is still a secure beds sentence option similar to the Probation Option Management Program this year. The legislation includes credit for time served. Mr. Minor said in Amy Howell's presentation she will discuss those provisions that will help DJJ manage its population because of lost beds. He stated with the closure of the Bill Ireland YDC the mission at the Savannah River Challenge was shifted and all the STP kids were moved to

RYDCs. Mr. Minor said DJJ is forced into making difficult decisions about what to do with regular committed youth. He stated that YDCs are crowded with designated felons, and that the credit for time served provision may relieve enough pressure to allow DJJ to put a few more regular committed youth in YDCs. Mr. Minor said DJJ continues to lobby to be able to open the Larimore YDC because the beds are desperately needed. Mr. Minor said if DJJ is asked for significant budget cuts they will have to look at what they are statutorily required to do as a state agency.

Judge Gilbert asked if the 60 days detention was still under the sunset provision.

Jeff Minor replied yes and stated it has been extended for a couple years.

Judge Gilbert said there will be no more stimulus funds and the projections are that revenues will not be recovered by that time. She said she knows why the sunset provision is in place but in Bibb County the youth are not getting any better. Judge Gilbert said the youth are committing more serious crimes. She stated she has been getting a lot of designated felons and said something else will have to happen. Judge Gilbert said Bibb County doesn't have the community resources to deal with what's going on.

Mr. Minor said DJJ will have to look at its partners for help. Mr. Minor said difficult decisions will have to be made and DJJ will try to include the Board as much as possible.

Board member Sandra Taylor said she is concerned that DJJ is looking at serious policy changes. She asked if the Senate has a committee of legislators that the Board can start working with. She stated serious crimes are being committed by the youth and policy makers need to look at how DJJ is going to handle the juvenile offender problem.

Mr. Minor said there are groups that DJJ works with and will continue to work with. Mr. Minor said one key group is the Appropriations Committee that deals with public safety. Mr. Minor said DJJ also works with the Juvenile Code Rewrite Group. Mr. Minor said it is becoming critical that some decisions be made about where Georgia needs to go in juvenile justice. He stated some of those are major policy changes and some will have a huge budget impact. Mr. Minor said it is becoming more important that DJJ examine that code and determine where they need to be.

Ms. Taylor said Jeff Minor has done an amazing job through the last four or five years of projecting as it happens and making the budget cuts in a fashion that held the agency to the things that are required. She said she doesn't know how much longer he will be able to do so. Ms. Taylor said she read an article in the press about the percentage of Georgians incarcerated as juveniles and adults. She said it is much higher than the state's population would indicate. Ms. Taylor said the legislature has got to start thinking about that and DJJ needs to educate them about the problem they are facing. She stated this will not only help the State but also the juvenile offenders as well.

Pastor Rowland asked if DJJ knows the point in terms of budgetary financial resources that the agency will no longer be able to carry out its statutory responsibility and mission.

Mr. Minor said he thinks if DJJ is asked for certain budget cuts and had to put certain things on the table, DJJ would probably be able to determine what cuts concerns them the most. Mr. Minor said he can't tell the Board that DJJ is at that point because they have not seen the impact of legislation.

Pastor Rowland asked if DJJ can target or project what that point is.

Mr. Minor said based on population projections, DJJ can probably predict that point for secure facilities. Mr. Minor said it is trickier for community and how community programs are done. He stated there is not a good picture of what that capacity should be.

Pastor Rowland said if DJJ doesn't know where the point is then it can easily pass it and not know it. He said he doesn't want DJJ to look up one day and find they are at that point. He stated DJJ needs to determine what that breaking point is so they don't go beyond that.

Mr. Minor said once DJJ puts those ideas and cuts on the table they will be able to determine what that point is. He stated feels DJJ is not far from that point.

Board member Michael Baugh told Mr. Minor that he is doing an outstanding job. He said in the next six months everyone will know how bad the economy will be. He said if things change towards the end of the year people may start buying but he said if the wrong set of circumstances happen the economy and crime will get worse. He encouraged the Board to talk to legislators in their area.

Mr. Minor said he wish the State would take the same attitude that DJJ has taken about looking at what they are responsible to do and set some priority strategically. Mr. Minor said the across the board budget cuts are wearing thin on him. He said DJJ is a child serving public safety agency and if anything needs to be important to the state of Georgia, DJJ ought to be.

Mr. Kelly stated he feels it's important for the Board to use this opportunity with the transition of a new commissioner to examine the role of the Board and the information flow that comes to the Board and the venue for that. He stated Jeff Minor can come before the Board and talk about budget cuts and the Board can clearly see what's going on within DJJ but the Board never hears the horrible news as to how the budget cuts are negatively impacting DJJ. He stated he is not particularly looking to hear bad news about how the budget cuts are impacting DJJ, but he can't imagine with all the cuts that everything is just hunky dory. Mr. Kelly said it is important for the Board to know what the national trends are. He said the DJJ Board needs to be plugged into national conferences and be informed of them so that they can be part of that thinking. Mr. Kelly said he is not particularly interested in hearing news when it is too late and DJJ has passed the point of too many budget cuts. Mr. Kelly said DJJ Board should have more inclusion in the strategic planning process and asked Chairman Shuman and Rob Rosenbloom to talk to Commissioner Hunt so the Board can have that dialogue with him in the near future.

Judge Gilbert said she can give Mr. Kelly a lot of bad news. She stated she committed a youth in March that was back in the community in April that became a designated felon in May. Judge

Gilbert said this is happening every day and the Board may need some figures as to other things like that. Judge Gilbert said she has been working as a juvenile court judge for 13 years. She stated last year is the first time she has had a motion to transfer a case to superior court. Judge Gilbert said she has already had 3 so far for 2010 because the youth are coming back and it is an ongoing process. She stated the charges are getting more serious. Judge Gilbert said this is happening because the youth are returned to the community to soon without any types of meaningful treatment. Judge Gilbert said the Board needs to know if there is a way to measure that.

Board member Van Herrin said some public school systems are looking into 4 days weeks and 10 furlough days. These decisions will allow youth to be home unsupervised. He said DJJ will see an escalation in their population. Mr. Herrin said the ball is rolling downhill and it is getting larger and larger and is being created by the budget cuts throughout the state. Mr. Herrin said he also concerned DJJ's breaking point.

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

### **Legislative Update**

Amy Howell, Deputy Commissioner  
Department of Juvenile Justice

Ms. Howell stated her presentation will be brief since she has given the Board a number of updates about the legislative session.

Ms. Howell said she is pleased to announce HB1104, which included provisions that DJJ had previously been pursuing in separate legislation, passed. She stated HB1104 includes provisions for credit for time served that the agency was pursuing along with seeing 30 days STP Sunset Provision extended to 2013. HB1104 also includes language regarding a graduated sanctions program and includes secure sanctions programs. Ms. Howell said the information in the handout gives more details.

Ms. Howell said youth that are charged with SB440 offenses and sit in a DJJ facility for some time before their case is transferred to juvenile court would not spend additional time in a facility. She said the youth are getting the benefit of DJJ's services while they are in detention and getting treated as adults do in terms of credit for time served.

Ms. Howell said SB250 was a bill in relationship to unlawful disruption of interference; operation of public schools or public school buses. She said it added intent and recklessness which was not previously in the bill.

Ms. Howell said SB299 has to do with zero tolerance provisions in the designated felon statues concerning weapons in school. Ms. Howell said it will now require a second offense under certain circumstances for a weapon in school to be a designated felony. The exception would automatically be if the weapons were used in an assault or if it is a firearm or dangerous weapon.

Ms. Howell said DJJ added some provisions that will impact its staff regarding texting while driving. SB360 prohibits a person 18 years or older from using wireless telecommunications devices from sending or receiving text messages while operating a motor vehicle.

Ms. Howell said with the close of the legislative session she had lots of supports from many staff at DJJ. She stated it truly was a team effort. She stated she has picked up the legislative responsibilities and is in the planning stages for next year legislative session. She said during the off session when the legislators have a little more time she plans to go out and meet with many of them in their district and give them more information about how DJJ operates.

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

Chairman Shuman called for the next agenda item and asked for a motion from the Board to close the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and open the DJJ Board of Education meeting.

Board member Sandra Taylor called for a motion to close the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and open the DJJ Board of Education meeting. The motion was seconded by Judy Mecum. 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 Jeff Minor and staff for helping the teachers turn back from GED instructors to regular teachers. He stated he knows that Mr. Minor went through a lot of hoops to get that done and it is very important to the future of education at DJJ. Dr. Catrett also thanked the Board who made calls on behalf of DJJ's Education Department.

Dr. Catrett announced the last day of the spring semester is June 4. The summer semester starts on June 9 and the last day of the summer semester is June 27.

Dr. Catrett said there was graduation at the Savannah River Challenge on May 26, where eight young men received their GEDs.

Dr. Catrett said the Macon YDC graduation will be on June 3. Two will receive their high school diplomas and five with GEDs. The ceremony will start at 9:30. Dr. Catrett encourages the Board to attend.

The Augusta YDC graduation will be on June 4 with 8 GED graduates and 2 high school graduates.

Dr. Catrett announced there will be one graduate at the Bob Richards RYDC graduation on June 9. The staff identified a child that had a chance to do credit completion. His transcript from his previous school was pulled and he was awarded the credits that he needed. Dr. Catrett said his graduation will take place before his release.

The Eastman YDC graduation will be on June 30. Dr. Catrett said he is still waiting on some high school test results to come back to know how many will be graduating.

The Sumter YDC graduation will be July 9.

Dr. Catrett said DJJ received notification that they will be receiving a \$3 million grant for three years to work with the New Mexico and Oregon DJJ. Dr. Catrett said the group will work together to develop a national model on positive peer behavior support in the classroom. Dr. Catrett said they will try to determine ways for youth in a positive manner using positive reinforcements. Dr. Catrett will give DJJ a chance to share with other teachers in the other states and have that as a model for others who offers alternative schools in the nation.

Dr. Catrett said DJJ also received notification that its after school program has been enlarged and extended. Dr. Catrett said DJJ will be adding the Macon YDC to the after school program. He said it joins the Muscogee and Augusta YDC.

Dr. Catrett said from April 12-22, DJJ administered 508 CRCT tests at RYDC and YDC facilities.

Dr. Catrett said on May 11 DJJ received all the electronic test results back to determine which students will be moved up and who will need remediation. Dr. Catrett said DJJ should receive the hard copy of the test results along with the analysis within a few weeks.

Dr. Catrett said DJJ received the latest results of the high school graduation test which was administered to 58 students in March. He stated 36 students that took the English language arts test passed with proficiency. He said 34% of the students that took the test passed with advanced proficiency. Dr. Catrett said the students that passed with advanced proficiency will be exempt in the technical schools and colleges from taking any remediation work. He stated 71% of the students scored pass or pass plus on the mathematics high school graduation test. Dr. Catrett said 73% of the students scored proficiency or advanced proficiency on the science high school test.

Dr. Catrett said only 40% of the students scored proficiency or advanced proficiency in social studies. Dr. Catrett said only 3% of the students scored at the honors level. Dr. Catrett said the teachers will work with the students to increase those numbers.

Dr. Catrett said the curriculum report will be given at the Board training at the Metro RYDC. Dr. Catrett said he will talk about how DJJ integrates character based education into DJJ's curriculum.

Dr. Catrett said DJJ has one teacher vacancy at the Macon RYDC and one at the DeKalb RYDC. Dr. Catrett said those positions will be held so that teachers whose position were eliminated would have an opportunity to apply.

The school improvement plan at the Eastman YDC will include new class and teachers master schedules. Dr. Catrett said he will give a report on that at a later Board meeting.

Dr. Catrett stated the Board will have the opportunity to go on a tour of the Metro RYDC. He thanked Rob Rosenbloom for allowing him to make the Board training at the Metro RYDC possible.

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

Dr. Risler asked with the class size being increased at the facilities what exactly did it translate into.

Dr. Catrett said DJJ class size changed from 15:1 to 20:1 in regular education. He stated in special education the ratio is 12:1 and that is set by the state. Dr. Catrett said he will not know how the classroom size change will affect the DJJ testing scores. He stated there was a disruption with the students that were moved from the Bill Ireland RYDC and at the Eastman YDC with the teachers who thought they were going to lose their jobs. Dr. Catrett said by the end of next year DJJ will be able to compare the scores from where the class size ratio was changed.

Mr. Kelly asked if the electronic results of the CRCT came in May 11.

Dr. Catrett said yes.

Mr. Kelly asked if any analysis were done on the results.

Dr. Catrett said the state will send the results to DJJ.

Mr. Kelly asked what results were received on May 11, versus the hard copies that will be received later.

Dr. Catrett said DJJ has received individual test scores for the youth. DJJ will not get a school summary, state, or system summary until later. He stated the information they received allowed them to look at each individual youth and determine who could be passed to the next grade.

Board member Larry Barnes asked if DJJ teachers were under the Teachers Retirement System (TRS) or Employee Retirement System (ERS).

Dr. Catrett said it goes both ways. He stated some DJJ teachers had the option to be under TRS or move their retirement plan from TRS to ERS. He said the new teachers that come in that have less than 4 years of experience have to come in under the new plan under ERS.

Mr. Barnes asked if DJJ lost any teachers due to the fact that they are not getting credit for the furlough days.

Mr. Minor said for the number of furlough days DJJ employees took this fiscal year will not count against their calculations for retirement. He stated the retirement calculation is based on a person's salary. He stated he believed if it is more than 30 days within a calendar or fiscal year it will begin to have an impact.

Hearing no further questions, Chairman Shuman called for the next agenda item and asked for a motion from the Board to close the DJJ Board of Education meeting and resume the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. Board Member Pastor Rowland made the motion. The motion was seconded by Elaine Snow. The motion carried.

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 everyone.

Mr. Hayes stated the next Governor's Quarterly Customer Service awards ceremony will be July 15. The deadline for nominations will be June 15. Mr. Hayes said he hopes one of DJJ employees or teams will be honored at the ceremony.

Mr. Hayes stated the Board presentations are being planned. He stated Mr. Kelly requested a presentation be made to the Board on PREA standards. He said that presentation was pushed back due to some scheduling conflict. Mr. Hayes said that presentation will be made by Shirley Turner at the July Board meeting.

Mr. Hayes told the Board an agenda for the Board training along with driving directions were in their folder.

Mr. Hayes said the training was originally schedule to start at 1:30 but it will probably begin at 1:00 and last approximately 3 hours.

Mr. Hayes said he appreciates all the board member being able to attend and stated it is a cost saving measure to have the Board training at the Metro RYDC.

Board member Pastor Rowland said he was not aware of the change in time for the Board training and stated he will be teaching a bible study class that will finish at 1:00 and may be a few minutes late for the training.

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

Chairman Shuman asked if there was any unfinished business. Hearing none he asked if there was any new business. Hearing none, Chairman Shuman announced that the next DJJ Board Meeting will be at the central office on June 24, 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 Van Herrin made the motion, and Board Member Michael Baugh made the second.

The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

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J. Daniel Shuman, Chair  
Board of Juvenile Justice

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Garland R. Hunt, Esq.  
Commissioner

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Daniel A. Menefee, Secretary  
Board of Juvenile Justice