

**Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, September 23, 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 September 23, 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 Garland R. Hunt, Esq.; Rob Rosenbloom; Ronnie Woodard; Jeff Minor; Scheree Moore; Nathan Cain; Cherecia Kline; Sharon Starks; Bill Parks; William Amideo; Dr. Michelle Staples Horne; Dr. Jack Catrett; Dr. Rufus Johnson; Coy Satterfield; Rafael Rosado-Ortiz; Rick Harrison; Joe Lee; Shirley Turner; Breda Hammonds; Victor Roberts;

Others: Destiny Washington (Attorney's General Office); Angelique McClendon (Attorney's General Office); Taylor Dudley (Emory/Barton Center); Lauren Greer (SBEO); Aaron Estis (The Estis Group); Taylor Menefee; Eva Lou Shuman

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

William Amideo stated that Destiny Washington has been DJJ's representative in the Attorney's General Office for several years. He said Ms. Washington has represented DJJ in several actions. Mr. Amideo said Ms. Washington has recently accepted a position as an Assistant General Council at the City Council Office. The Board, staff and visitors applauded Ms. Washington for her hard work. Mr. Amideo introduced Ms. Angelique McClendon and stated she has worked in the same division with Ms. Washington for the past two years and will be DJJ's new representative in the Attorney General's Office.

Chairman Shuman announced that Elaine Snow is now the new Chief of Police in Rome. The Board congratulated Ms. Snow.

The Chairman asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation by Bruce Garraway.

Roll Call

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

Board Members Present: Larry Barnes; Bruce Garraway; Perry McGuire; Judy Mecum; Daniel Menefee (after roll call); Dr. Ed Risler; Pastor Dexter Rowland; Chairman Daniel Shuman; Stephen Simpson; Elaine Snow; Sandra Taylor (after roll call)

Advisory Council Members Present: Judge Quintress Gilbert; Judge Steven Teske (late)

Noting the presence of a quorum of the Board, Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the September 23, 2010 Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education meeting.

Stephen Simpson moved to approve the agenda for the September 23, 2010 Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education meeting. Judy Mecum seconded the motion. The Chairman called for the vote and the motion was carried.

Chairman Shuman asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 26, 2010 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and the DJJ Board of Education and asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Elaine Snow moved to approve the minutes from the August 26, 2010 of the Board of Juvenile Justice and the DJJ Board of Education meeting. Pastor Dexter Rowland seconded the motion. The Chairman called for the vote and the motion was carried.

Commissioner's Report

Garland R. Hunt, Esq., Commissioner

Commissioner Hunt said good morning to members of the Board, Chairman Shuman and staff. He welcomed everyone to the September DJJ board meeting. Commissioner Hunt stated he will keep his remarks brief and asked the Board to refer to their board packets for more detailed information about the initiatives and progress of DJJ employees.

Commissioner Hunt stated since the last meeting, he along with Deputy Commissioner Rosenbloom, and Communications Director Scheree Moore, visited the Eastman YDC. They toured the facility and spoke with a number of youth and staff. He stated due to his concerns about Eastman, he convened a taskforce of his Executive Team, Direct Reports and field representatives to set out an action plan to address the needs, problems and concerns at this facility.

Commissioner Hunt stated DJJ is proposing a reduction of capacity at Eastman from 300 to 170 as part of its budget reduction. They are uncertain of the final budget and have begun planning for possible reduction. He said he met with the full management team at the Eastman YDC to discuss strategies for a new vision and better results for Eastman. This effort is also a part of an overall strategy and review of the use of all its secure beds, and Deputy Commissioner Rosenbloom will be reviewing the Stratification Committee process with the Board later in the meeting.

The Georgia School of Addiction Studies in Savannah was a great success. Commissioner Hunt stated he, along with Commissioner Frank Shelp from the Department of Behavioral Health and

Developmental Disabilities and Pardons and Parole Chairman James Donald, welcomed the 600 attendees to the school on August 30. The training event offered a unique opportunity for professional development, information exchange, and networking for state agency and private substance abuse treatment professionals across the state. Overall, 18 DJJ staff members were in attendance.

Commissioner Hunt said Deputy Commissioner Rosenbloom will review later in the meeting will be the Juvenile Justice Forum recently held with all DJJ partners in the juvenile system. Over 100 participants working together to prioritize the system's issues now and into the future. Commissioner Hunt stated it was a great opportunity for him to interact with judges, prosecutors, public defenders and other agency staff to hear their perspectives. Rob and his staff played a major role in the planning for this event under the sponsorship on the First Lady's Children's Cabinet.

Commissioner Hunt said in these uncertain times, collaboration between agencies is essential, and he hopes this conference will bring about some workable solutions to the challenges that all of us who are involved in caring for children face. Commissioner Hunt also stated he hoped this conference will be the beginning of a productive dialogue between all parties involved.

He also stated he is looking to establish a statewide Juvenile Justice Council to include judges, prosecutors and those involved in serving youth throughout the state.

On Thursday, September 16 DJJ held its first Central Office staff meeting. Commissioner Hunt said he wanted to emphasize to the staff that they are an invaluable asset to the team. He stated it is important that DJJ accomplish the mission as a dedicated, devoted team that is impassioned to perform its duties for the youth, their families and the citizens of Georgia.

Commissioner Hunt stated he spoke to the staff about values and standards that are required of us all and how they must work together through these difficult economic times. Commissioner Hunt said he personally thanked staff for their willingness to endure and continue to produce and perform exceptionally, and that their sacrifice was not going unnoticed.

Senior staff were also on the agenda and spoke to the staff about the ongoing processes in their divisions and offices. He shared with them that mediocrity is our enemy. Average is unacceptable. Excellence is our goal. Commissioner Hunt stated together DJJ will be the best agency in the State of Georgia and the model of Juvenile Justice in the U.S.

Commissioner Hunt stated he was the guest speaker for the BJCOT Class #156 on Friday, September 3. He said he was able to speak with the graduating cadets and congratulated them on a job well done. He also offered them encouragement to go even farther and look at their future and set another goal as they settle into their jobs. He also encouraged them to look around at other positions that are available in DJJ facilities and also other parts of the agency. Commissioner Hunt said his sincere hope is that the graduating cadets will look at their work as a JCO as not just a job, but a first step on a long, successful career path with DJJ.

Commissioner Hunt said he has also been invited to speak with the District Attorney's Association of Georgia at Brasstown Valley Resort in Young Harris. This is their fall meeting and he will be providing basic details about DJJ's legislative and budgetary proposals that the agency has submitted. Deputy Commissioner Rosenbloom and Legal Director Bill Amideo will be accompanying him on this trip.

Commissioner Hunt said training on how to implement House Bill 1104 has been completed. There will be a follow up session in Forsyth for any employees who may have missed earlier scheduled dates.

Commissioner Hunt concluded his report and asked if there were any questions; there were none.

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

Board member Stephen Simpson 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 Bruce Garraway. The motion carried.

Education Update

Dr. Jack Catrett, Associate Superintendent
Department of Juvenile Justice

Dr. Catrett greeted everyone. He thanked the Board members who had already committed to attending the SACS and CEA meetings.

Dr. Catrett said September has been a very busy month for testing at DJJ. On September 13-17, they administered the retest of the High School Graduation test. Dr. Catrett said 51 tests were administered and they hope to receive the result in late October 2010.

On September 29, 2010, they will be giving the main administration of the Georgia High School Writing Test. This test will be given to all new 11th, and 12th graders who did not pass the test.

Dr. Catrett said at the DJJ Office of Education workshops will be at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth, GA. The workshops will be for all school testing coordinators and will include information on the new CRCT-M Math test.

Dr. Catrett said October 12 and 13, 2010, will be fall in Service Training at the Ramada Inn in Forsyth, GA. He stated it will be a great opportunity for the Board to express what they think about education and share their ideas. He stated that emphasis will be on whole group instruction, response to intervention, behavior management, and best practices for DJJ GED instructors. Dr. Catrett also encouraged the Board to attend.

Dr. Catrett said DJJ received an afterschool grant for the Muscogee YDC and decided to partner with the Columbus YMCA. The afterschool program will start at the Muscogee YDC on October 27, 2010.

Dr. Catrett said they will be looking for other grants to assist the Eastman YDC with after school activities.

Dr. Catrett said DJJ also received its award letter for its Title I Part D, and Title VI Part B special education money.

On Saturday October 16, 2010, Pen Pal Mentors in partnership with the DJJ will have a Convening of Stakeholders for Successful Youth Transition event at Mercer University. The theme will be “The Turning Point.” Commissioner Hunt will make opening remarks, but the keynote speaker will be Judge Glenda Hatchett. Dr. Catrett encouraged the Board to attend.

Dr. Catrett said through this program, they were able to find jobs for the last two youth that were released from the Eastman YDC within five days of their release. The youth found jobs at Peachtree Movers and at McDonald’s.

Dr. Catrett said he lost twelve teachers at the RYDCs due to the budget cuts. He stated with the help of Jeff Minor and Deborah Moore they were able to find other positions within DJJ for ten of those teachers.

Dr. Catrett asked Dr. Rufus Johnson to come before the Board to talk about SACS.

Dr. Johnson said SACS will be coming to DJJ for a visit and there will be two accreditation process going on at the same time. He stated the curriculum that is being taught at DJJ ties into SACS and the work students do will transfer back to their home school.

He asked the Board to refer to the AdvancEd Quality Assurance Review Team schedule in their Board packet. He stated on Monday, October 4, school board interviews will take place with the DJJ Board from 11:25 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. He thanked the Board members who committed to attend the meeting in person or via conference call.

Dr. Johnson said on October 5 there will be school site visits. The Regional Principals will transport the team to the following DJJ locations:

Augusta RYDC/Augusta YDC
DeKalb RYDC/Metro RYDC
Macon RYDC/Macon YDC
Muscogee YDC/Aaron Cohn RYDC

On October 6 there will be follow-up interviews, standards verification and oral exit interview with the Board. There will be a special called board meeting at 3:00 p.m. where SACS and CEA will give the Board their findings.

Dr. Johnson asked if there were any questions.

Board member Perry McGuire asked if the QAR team were volunteers.

Dr. Catrett said the team is appointed by SACS and CEA and it is based on the expertise and experience. Dr. Catrett said he along with Dr. Johnson have served on other SACS team in alternative school setting.

Board member Dr. Risler said it will be helpful to the Board to receive a brief bio on the QAR team members.

Dr. Catrett agreed.

Dr. Johnson said two of the SACS committee members are principals from Luella High School in Henry County and Kennedy Road Middle School in Griffin.

Board member Elaine Snow said she has a legal obligation to attend another meeting and will not be able to attend the SACS and CEA interviews. She asked Dr. Catrett to send the Board a follow-up report of their findings. Dr. Catrett said SACS and the CEA Team will send out a written report within 30-45 days. That information will be presented to the Board and will be published on DJJ website.

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. Sandra Taylor made the motion. Elaine Snow seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chairman Shuman called for the next item on the agenda; Amended SFY2011 and SFY2012 Budget Update.

Amended SFY2011 and SFY2012 Budget Update

Jeff Minor, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Mr. Minor stated he did not have a lot to update the Board on because they are still early in the process. He stated the Georgia Department of Revenues numbers came in for August 2010 and there has been an increase \$133.4 million since August 2009. He stated that is a 12.7 increase in revenues and is the largest increase in a long time.

Mr. Minor said DJJ conversation with OPB has been positive and will continue to advocate against a 10% budget cut.

Mr. Minor said the media reaction to the potential budget cuts has been favorable in understanding DJJ's point of view. A few news articles came out within the past few weeks which have discussed issues such a public safety and transportation. Mr. Minor read a quote

from a news article, "It is almost not worth it for tax payer dollars to be spent transporting juvenile for minor offenses." He said the news article went on to say that sheriffs across Georgia will have to travel a bit further to get to the juvenile detention centers. Mr. Minor said what about the cost to the State of Georgia of over \$200 a day for locking up that minor offender.

Mr. Minor said there have also been some reactions from legislators. DJJ staff have met with a number of legislators and partners in the House and Senate committees and officers. Mr. Minor said Lauren Greer is present at the board meeting. She is an analyst at Georgia Senate Budget Office. He DJJ will be working with her moving forward and will be bringing her up to speed so that she understands their issues.

Mr. Minor said DJJ gave OPB a heads-up that they may be going in direction that might close RYDC beds. He said OPB seems very concerned about the impact of that and the public policies involved. He stated there will be no way for DJJ to take these proposed budget cuts without some policy changes.

Mr. Minor said Governor Perdue has worked very hard over the past eight years to get DJJ in a position to be out of the MOA and as he leaves, it will probably be very difficult for him to put DJJ in a position that might put them back under the MOA.

Mr. Minor stated Commissioner Hunt, along with the Executive Management team will be meeting with Governor Perdue on October 5, 2010 to talk about DJJ's proposed budget. He stated they will have to schedule a meeting with the Governor elect prior to January 2011.

Governor Perdue is working on a plan to present to the new governor about what he thinks about the proposed budget from each agency.

Mr. Minor said he will keep the Board updated.

Mr. Minor asked if there were any further questions.

Perry McGuire asked if the OPB discussed the potential impact of Department of Revenue hiring new collection officers.

Mr. Minor said, no, OPB did not discuss that with him. He said in 2009 those employees were furloughed and there was a lot of debate surrounding that. He stated there are a lot of taxes in Georgia that needs to be collected. Governor Perdue and the Commissioner of the Department of Revenue are focused on this so more revenue can be available. Mr. Minor said he will forward the Board some data so they can see in which categories the increases and decreases in revenue are.

Chairman Shuman called for the next item on the agenda; Division of Youth Services Update.

Division of Youth Services Update
Rob Rosenbloom, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Mr. Rosenbloom greeted everyone.

Mr. Rosenbloom said he will give a presentation on the DJJ's YDC bed stratification committee process and the Juvenile Justice Forum. Mr. Rosenbloom said DJJ wants to determine the best use of its YDC beds and look at suggestions and practices for how best to place youths and utilize bed capacity. He stated DJJ is looking across the system of YDC beds in order to distribute the youth into the best programs and situations. Mr. Rosenbloom said over the years DJJ has taken a more generic approach to placing youths in beds based on age and risk level. He said there are some specialty centers and programs, but the options as they lost capacity in the YDCs, have decreased.

Mr. Rosenbloom said they had a joint committee meeting with the facility directors and Commissioner Hunt. A lot of comments came out of that meeting from the directors about how the youths were being moved from one facility to another and some of the challenges that come from that. Mr. Rosenbloom said the first meeting was held on July 15, 2010 and they meet every two weeks and has been very productive.

Mr. Rosenbloom said they have collected a fair amount of data from the JTS system. After review of the data, there are specific areas of interest that were identified:

- Average age in a YDC
- Average length of stay in a YDC
- Education level
- Youth who are actively on the mental health caseload

He stated they are concerned about the basic safety at the facilities and youths that have incidents whether it is youth on youth fights or other things that cause problems at the facilities. He said the CRN is a risk and need assessment that they use on youths prior to them coming into the facility that gives DJJ an idea about their overall risk level.

He said the Troubled Index looks at the number of incidents a youth have been involved in and the severity of those incidents. Mr. Rosenbloom said the committee has looked at the data in other ways to determine which youth are the riskiest and what the best ways to manage them.

Mr. Rosenbloom said the average age of a youth at DJJ's YDC facilities are 15 ½ to 16 years of age. He stated the older male youths are at the Eastman YDC. The average length of stay is 827 days, which is a little more than two years. He said the youth at the Eastman YDC stay around three to four years. The average grade level on entry was eighth grade.

Mr. Rosenbloom said 38% of all YDC youths have a mental health diagnosis. He also said 77% of the females at the Macon YDC have a mental health diagnosis.

Mr. Rosenbloom said the Augusta YDC is the facility where DJJ houses their more severe mental health youth. The older and chronic males are at the Eastman YDC. The Muscogee YDC is a 60 bed facility with a special program where they place their lower risk designated felon youth and sex offenders. He said that leaves general population at the Sumter YDC. He also said DJJ has a transition program at the Savannah Youth Challenge.

Mr. Rosenbloom said they want to make sure they are utilizing the beds in the best way. He stated DJJ knows mental health and youth behavior are a main issue and they need to maximize its general population and have a consistent approach across the board for youth behavior at the YDC facilities.

Mr. Rosenbloom completed the first part of his presentation and asked if there were any questions.

Mr. McGuire asked for a copy of the statistics to be sent to him. He stated he was at a meeting with Superior Court Judge Harris Hines and stated the Judge said the number one predictor for youth entering DJJ's system was the absence of a two parent family. Mr. McGuire asked if DJJ was thinking about partnering with any groups to address that issue.

Mr. Rosenbloom said not specifically but he would be willing to get some of the contexts from that conversation with Judge Hines.

Mr. Rosenbloom moved to the next portion of his presentation: The Juvenile Justice Forum.

Mr. Rosenbloom said Commissioner Hunt, along with Judges Gilbert and Teske attended the Juvenile Justice Forum. The limited attendance forum was sponsored by a grant. He stated in the juvenile justice system, there are a diverse range of opinions about what are the best solutions as youth enter the system. He said one of the main things DJJ has discovered in trying to have this dialogue, is that they never had a forum where they can sit down with everyone that is a part of the juvenile justice system and thrash out the things they don't agree about. Mr. Rosenbloom said the prosecutors, judges, public defenders, and DJJ have different responsibilities. He stated he hopes the forum can open up dialogue with these individuals that will translate into a regular forum where they can continue to have these conversations.

Mr. Rosenbloom said the juvenile justice system is under attack from a budgetary standpoint. Intelligent use of its resources is important in order to make progress.

Mr. Rosenbloom said five years ago they had a similar conference. The conference was sponsored by the Children and Youth Coordinating Council that was in existence then but was morph into the Governor's Office of Children and Families Services. He said there was no follow up to the first conference five years ago.

Mr. Rosenbloom said the Juvenile Justice Forum consisted of eight jurisdictional teams that were lead by juvenile court judges that were selected through a process that involved the Council of Juvenile Court Judges. The Council of Juvenile Court Judges picked their local team which

consisted of the prosecutors, public defenders, DFACS, law enforcement, mental health, DJJ, and educators.

Mr. Rosenbloom said the main speakers for the Juvenile Justice Forum were Judge R. Michael Key, who is the President of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and Judge Bill Byers from South Carolina. Mr. Rosenbloom said South Carolina has gone through the same kind of budget cuts and reduction in capacity that DJJ has and stated it was very interesting to hear his perspectives and ideas.

Mr. Rosenbloom said there were a lot of issues that were brought up but they had to narrow them down to three top primary issues that are important to the juvenile justice system in Georgia.

The issues included:

- A better approach to multi-system youth; using a multi-agency approach. Mr. Rosenbloom said if a youth is in DJJ's system then they are most likely in DFACS or the mental health system. He stated there are already cross responsibilities. He asked how DJJ on the local level can collaborate to do good case management around those youth.

A subgroup of that was discipline continuum within education and school. Mr. Rosenbloom said it was interesting to note that across the regional groups, one of the main things that came up is the idea that schools needed to work longer with the youth that was causing discipline problems in school. He said DJJ needs to help to find a way to do that without the youth entering the juvenile justice system.
- More effective policies and legislation that favor the acceptance of use of evidence based practices that are in the best interest of the youth with rehabilitation and community safety with a strong view towards prevention. Mr. Rosenbloom said in order for DJJ to manage the proposed budget cuts at a certain levels, they need to have a change in public policies. There were discussions about there being policies within DJJ that need to be changed so that everyone can work together better.
- There seems to be a lack of understanding about the issues of juvenile justice in the public. Mr. Rosenbloom said there needs to be a framework or protocol in solving these juvenile justice issues and bringing to the forefront the challenges that DJJ faces. He said that led to a lot of conversation that Commissioner Hunt been talking about in establishing these ongoing groups.

Mr. Rosenbloom said at the end of the conference the regional teams were targeted to come up with action plans, and timelines on one of the three critical issues going forward. They will do it on a regional level and they will invite new stakeholders as they go to their hometown to involve and try to make plans. Mr. Rosenbloom said they will hold regional forums and be involved in some additional technical system training with the idea that they will be able to get grants from the Governor's Office Children and Families as they go forward to initiate some of their ideas. They will also look to identify other critical issues in their areas.

Mr. Rosenbloom said it was a very positive experience and there were a lot of comments from the participants. He said DJJ may be seeing a new day and new opportunities to communicate better to get better outcomes.

Mr. Rosenbloom concluded his report and asked if there were any questions; there were none.

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.

Board member Pastor Rowland stated he received a letter from Chairman Shuman about his resignation from the DJJ Board. He stated he appreciated the wonderful job Shuman has done as chairman of the DJJ Board. He asked what were the procedures and timetable for the DJJ to find a new chairperson.

Chairman Shuman stated the December 9, 2010 Board meeting will be his last meeting.

Amy Howell said in the DJJ Board Bylaws, if a member steps down from an officer position then the department can go through the process of having a special election. Ms. Howell said now that they have notice the process can begin.

Communications Director Ms. Scheree Moore said she researched the information and stated the DJJ Board Bylaws state they will need to wait until Chairman Shuman is actually out of the officer position before the process can begin.

Chairman Shuman announced that the next DJJ Board meeting would be at the Central Office on October 28, 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 Stephen Simpson made the motion, and Board Member Sandra Taylor made the second.

The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

J. Daniel Shuman, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Garland R. Hunt, Esq.
Commissioner

Daniel A. Menefee, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice