



OFFICE OF LEGAL SERVICES
Cindy Wang, General Counsel
3408 Covington Highway
Decatur, GA 30032
Telephone: 404-508-7243 Fax: 404-508-5108

**Board of Juvenile Justice &
Board of Education / Joint Board Meeting
Thursday, April 24, 2025
Board Meeting Minutes
(In-Person and Zoom Conference)**

Opening Remarks:

Call to Order: On Thursday, April 24, 2025, Chair Sandra Taylor called the joint board meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education to order at approximately 10:02 AM. The meeting was held in-person and by Zoom.

DJJ Staff Present: Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, DJJ Executive Team Members, and various DJJ Staff Members.

Other Attendees: Senior Assistant Attorney General Amy Radley. Guests in the audience and on Zoom.

Invocation: Chaplain Emily Kelly

Pledge of Allegiance: Board Member Michael Murphy

Roll Call: Conducted by Secretary Adam Kennedy (virtual), Chair Sandra Taylor (in-person), Vice-Chair Willie Bolton (in-person), Judge Lisa Colbert (virtual), Senior Judge Quintress Gilbert (in-person), Timothy McCulley (virtual), Michael Murphy (in-person), and Fred Stephens (in-person). A quorum was declared after the Commissioner's Report.

Commissioner's Report:

- Commissioner Reynolds-Cobb thanked the staff and acknowledged their good work.
- There were some organizational changes at DJJ:
 - o Assistant Commissioner/Chief of Staff Hill's promotion left the Deputy Commissioner of Secure Facilities position open.
 - o Deputy Commissioner of Professional Development Latera Davis transferred to the Department of Corrections.

- After reviewing Department operations, the decision was made to merge the Divisions of Secure Facilities and Treatment & Care under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Lisa Mantz.
 - The units under the Division of the Professional Development & Standards have been moved to different divisions. Training and internships are now with the Division of Administrative Services. Emergency Management has been moved to the Division of Investigations and Special Operations. The Office of Continuance Improvement has moved under the Director of Audits.
- The Stretch Program has been launched. This program will allow eligible, internal staff members to work towards being placed in hard-to-fill positions or positions with a high turnover rate.

Approval of Amended Meeting Agenda – A motion was made to approve the meeting agenda after it was amended to move up the Commissioner's Report while waiting for a quorum. The amended agenda was moved for approval by Board Member Stephens and seconded by Vice-Chair Bolton. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of February 27, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes – A motion was made to approve the minutes by Board Member Gilbert and seconded by Board Member Stephens. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Divisional Updates:

Education: (Dr. Letunya Walker, Deputy Superintendent)

- The 2025 DJJ School System will have a graduation ceremony on May 20th at 1:00 pm. The ceremony will be held in Macon.
- Presentation of the 10-year milestones of the LEAP Program (Logistics, Education and Pathway).
- Chatham ETC and the Georgia Tech Leap Partnership Overview.

Divisional Updates:

Legislative Update: (Margaret Cawood, Legislative Liaison)

2025 Legislative Session Final Report

- | - <u>Bills that passed</u> | - <u>Bills that did not pass</u> |
|--|----------------------------------|
| HB268 – Comprehensive School Safety Bill | SB28 |
| SB12 | SB29 |

SB46
SB99

HB56
HB138
HB384
HB460
HB464
HB549

Secure Facilities: (Pamela Hill, Assistant Commissioner/Chief of Staff)

- Recap of the Youth Development Campus
- Overview of the Regional Youth Detention Centers
- Challenges
 - o Aging Infrastructure
 - o Alignment with best practices
 - o Rising Admission and Increase in specialized populations
 - o Youth Spotlight

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Survey Development

Chair's Comments:

- Chair Taylor appreciated the Board's cooperation on the survey development. Commended Deputy IT Director Max Tran's work on formatting the survey.
- There was a suggestion made to meet more around the state at the facilities. The June meeting will be held at the Augusta YDC, and she hopes that all board members can attend.
- There is a Leadership conference from 9/9 to 9/11, and they will try to plan a training session during that time to coincide with the leadership conference.
- The Commissioner explained the various focus groups in DJJ and would like the Board to feel free to attend any of the employee engagement meetings.


The next Board meeting will be held before the graduation ceremony in Macon on May 20, 2025. The June board meeting will be held at the Augusta YDC.

A motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chair Bolton and seconded by Board Member Gilbert. Meeting Adjourned.


Board Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2025

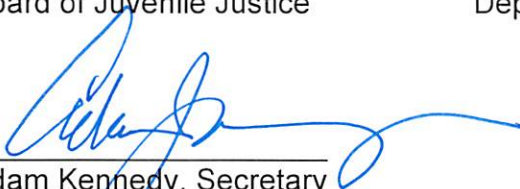
4



Sandra H. Taylor, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice



Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice



Adam Kennedy, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice