



Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, August 24, 2017
Decatur, GA
10:00 AM

Opening Remarks

Vice-Chair Sandra Taylor called to order the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice at 10:03 am. The meeting was held at DJJ Central Office Decatur, GA.

DJJ Staff Present: Commissioner Avery D. Niles, Assistant Commissioner Keith Horton, Chief of Staff Joe Vignati, Associate Superintendent Jean Lee, Deputy Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, Acting Deputy Commissioner John Pearson, Deputy Commissioner Catina Martin-Fenner, Director Scott Mall, Deputy Director Harold Cooper, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Pamela Johnson, Deputy Commissioner Sean Hamilton, Edith E. Darden, Director Allyson Richardson, Director John T. Smith, Director Virginia Phifer, Mary Catherine Heard, General Counsel Cindy Wang, Chaplain Danny Horne, Chief Financial Officer Kelly Dudley, Tomika Grigsby, Andrew McGee, Director Latera Davis, Director Scott Cagle, Cathy Dravis, Assistant Director Commissioner Theo Carter Jr., Carrie T. Hamilton-Shavers, Drew Townsend, Andrew Laarhoven, M C Heard, Herman Oglesby Jr., Rebecca Bouras, Brian Harrelson, Royal Godfrey, Carolene Maddox, Deputy Commissioner Margaret Cawood, Melissa Cannon, Assistant Director Chris Wood, Deputy Commissioner Sean Hamilton, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Victor Roberts, John R. Gee, Steven Williams, Director Joan Quinn-Cannon, Dana Phillips, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Michael McNeely, Tracy Cassell, Kim Todd, Dr. Christy Doyle

Others Present: Helen Sloat, Youth Villages/Nelson Mullins; Amy Radley, Attorney General's Office, Ashley Larrow, Office of Planning and Budget, Schnavia Bronson, Total Youth Outreach; Margaret Standifer, Hits Newsletter

Secretary's Report: Secretary Adam Kennedy conducted the Roll Call. The following members were present: Penny Penn, Willie C. Bolton, Adam Kennedy, Julia Neighbors, Dr. Thomas Coleman, Sandra Heath-Taylor, Angie Holt, Judge Lisa Colbert and Judge Quintress Gilbert (by telephone)

Vice-Chair Taylor asked for a motion to approve the current agenda. A motion was made by Board member Holt and seconded by Board member Coleman. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chair Taylor asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2017 Board Meeting. A motion was made by Board Member Holt and seconded by Board Member Colbert. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner's Report

The Commissioner Report was previously submitted to the Board via email and it was included in the Board materials.

The following topics were discussed:

Deputy HR Director Harold Cooper awarded Employee Faithful Service Award to DJJ Employee Legal Counsel Cindy Wang.

Office of Investigations Director Michael Barton recognized employee SSP II Rebecca Bouras for rescuing a CSEC victim. The Board members commended her. Commissioner Niles awarded her with the Commissioner's Challenge Coin and a Certificate of Appreciation.

Chief Financial Officer Kelly Dudley gave a financial update **(Addendum A)**. Secretary Kennedy asked what percentage of funds is dedicated to salary and services to youth out in the community. Vice-Chair Taylor commended the Commissioner for advocating for and obtaining increased appropriations from the legislature to provide more services to DJJ youth. The Commissioner mentioned his focus on proper classification of youth and providing the appropriate services.

Vice-Chair Taylor requested a breakdown of the offenses committed by the youth, and Board Member Bolton asked how DJJ measured program workloads. Vice-Chair Taylor suggested adding this topic for the next board training. Board Member Bolton would like to talk directly to the program directors and discuss pertinent policies and procedures.

Deputy Commissioner of Support Services Margaret Cawood and Office of Behavioral Health Director Dr. Christy Doyle presented on the Department's efforts in reducing the use of isolation and the positive results **(Addendum B)**. Dr. Doyle also presented on trauma specific intervention training for staff and the full continuum of services provided to the youth. Board member Bolton inquired about mental health training with JCO's. Board members Coleman and Colbert commended the Commissioner and staff for the research, implementation, and outcome measurement. Dr. Doyle also mentioned the upcoming training by renowned trauma expert Dr. Marrow. Board members would like to be informed of the trauma training dates.

Commissioner announced that Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Community Services Theodore Carter, Jr. was leaving DJJ for another state agency; and HR Deputy Director Cooper also leaving for another job opportunity.

Vice-Chair Taylor asked for a motion to adjourn from the regular DJJ Board Meeting and reconvene as the DJJ School Board. A motion was made by Board Member Colbert and seconded by Board Member Kennedy. The motion carried unanimously.

Board of Education

During the DJJ Board of Education meeting, the following topics were discussed:

Associate Superintendent Jean Lee introduced recently promoted staff members. She also informed the Board regarding the waivers DJJ received for the certification of technical/vocational skills instructors and expanding the eligibility requirements for youth to apply for GED. She also talked about broadening adult education opportunities.

Vice-Chair Taylor asked for a motion to adjourn from the DJJ School Board and reconvene as the regular DJJ Board. A motion was made by Board member Kennedy and seconded by Board member Colbert. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

No old business

Comments:

Vice-Chair Taylor gave an update on Board member Dick Yarbrough's health. Vice-Chair Taylor reminded the Board of future events.

New Business

No new business

Comments:

Vice-Chair Taylor and the Commissioner provided dates of upcoming DJJ events. Board Member Bolton commended the engineering team for their work on the Wilkes facility.

Office of Planning and Preparedness Director Scott Cagle talked about the youth's art exhibit at the High Museum of Art and DJJ's partnership with the museum in providing art classes and supplies to the youth in the facilities.

Board Member Neighbors would like to know of any upcoming exhibits at the museum involving DJJ youth's art. Director Cagle also mentioned that the museum is working with a DJJ youth to enroll him at the Savannah College of Art.

The Commissioner discussed the importance of art in rehabilitating youth and incorporating art into the school's curriculum.

Vice-Chair Taylor thanked the Board Members in attendance and participating via telephone. Judge Gilbert would like a picture of the art exhibited at the meeting.

Vice-Chair Taylor announced that the next Board Meeting would be held on Thursday, September 28, 2017 at DJJ Headquarters, 3408 Covington Highway, Decatur, GA 30032 at 10:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned.

Sandra Heath-Taylor, Vice-Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Adam Kennedy, Board Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice