



BOARD MEETING SUMMARY August 24, 2017

Members Present: Vice-Chair Sandra Taylor (presiding), Secretary Adam Kennedy, Willie C. Bolton, Julia Neighbors, Angie Holt, Penny Penn (via telephone conference), the Honorable Lisa Colbert, and Dr. Thomas Coleman. Judicial Advisory Committee Member the Honorable Quintress Gilbert participated via telephone conference.

Motions and Other Business:

1. Vice-Chair Taylor called the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice to order on Thursday, August 24, 2017, at 10:02 AM in the Central Office Board Room at 3408 Covington Hwy, Decatur, GA 30032.
2. A motion to approve the August 24, 2017 agenda and the minutes of the July 27, 2017 meeting was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.
3. Vice-Chair Taylor commended Commissioner Avery D. Niles and staff for the leadership conference. She and Chair Elaine Snow were impressed with the content and participation.
4. Commissioner Niles had previously submitted his written report (included in materials).
5. Office of Human Resources Deputy Director Harold Cooper awarded an Employee Faithful Service Award.
6. 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.
7. Chief Financial Officer Kelly Dudley gave a financial update. Secretary Kennedy asked what percentage of funds is dedicated to 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 fidelity. 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.
8. 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. Dr. Doyle also presented on trauma specific intervention training for staff and the full continuum of services provided to the youth. 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.
 9. 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.
 10. A motion to adjourn the Board of Juvenile Justice and to reconvene as the Juvenile Justice Board of Education was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.
 11. 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.
 12. A motion to adjourn the Juvenile Justice Board of Education and to reconvene as the Board of Juvenile Justice was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.
 13. Old Business: No old business. Vice-Chair Taylor gave an update on Board member Dick Yarbrough's health condition.
 14. New Business: No new business. 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.
 15. 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.

16. With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting will be on September 28, 2017, at 10 AM in the Central Office Board Room.

Cindy Wang, General Counsel