



**Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, August 26, 2021
Decatur, GA
Board Meeting Minutes
DJJ Central Office and via Audio/Zoom Conference**

Opening Remarks

On Thursday, August 26, 2021. Chair Sandra Taylor called the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice to order at 10:03 AM. The meeting was held at DJJ Central Office and via audio/Zoom conference for those who could not attend in person.

DJJ Staff Present: Commissioner Tyrone Oliver, Deputy Superintendent Zane Shelfer, DJJ Executive Team Members, and various DJJ Staff Members.

Attendees included: Assistant Attorney General Amy Radley (in person) and public guests (remote attendance).

Invocation: Chaplain Danny Horne

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Secretary Adam Kennedy.

Roll Call: Members present were Chair Sandra Taylor (in-person), Vice-Chair Willie C. Bolton (in-person), Secretary Adam Kennedy (in-person), Angie M. Holt (via Zoom), Judge Lisa Colbert (via Zoom), Chief Gary Yandura (in-person), Penny Penn (via Zoom), John Edwards (via Zoom), Thomas Coleman (in-person), Joyette Holmes (in-person), Kathryn Powers (in-person), and Timothy McCulley (in-person). Judicial Advisory Member Judge Quintress Gilbert participated (via Zoom). Quorum was declared.

Agenda approval: Chair Taylor called for a motion to approve August 26, 2021 agenda. The motion was made by Vice-Chair Bolton, seconded by Board Member Colbert, and approved unanimously.

Minutes approval: Chair Taylor called for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2021 board meeting. The motion was made by Board Member Yandura, seconded by Board Member Holmes, and approved unanimously.

Chair Taylor opened the meeting by welcoming newly appointed Board Members Kathryn Powers and Timothy McCulley. Chair Taylor also congratulated Commissioner Oliver on receiving the 2021 Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators (CJJA) President's Award.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Oliver welcomed Board Member Powers and Board Member McCulley.

COVID-19 Update

Commissioner Oliver updated the Board regarding the number of DJJ staff members and youth who have tested positive for COVID-19. He advised that vaccines are being administered to eligible youth (voluntarily), and rapid tests are being provided daily as well. He thanked the DJJ staff members for continuing to follow safety protocols to minimize exposure risk.

American Correctional Association (ACA)

Commissioner Oliver recognized the Wilkes Regional Youth Detention Center (RYDC) staff members for obtaining accreditation from ACA Conference. The conference was held in Nashville, Tennessee, on August 14, 2021. The secure facility for justice-involved youth underwent a robust audit of its operations and treatment services.

Divisional Report

Deputy Commissioner of Secure Facilities (DSF) Pamela Hill gave a brief overview of the secure facilities and the initiatives that have taken place within the division. She discussed the difference between the Regional Youth Detention Centers (RYDCs) and the Youth Developmental Campuses (YDCs) and the services offered at the secure facilities. She also provided population data for the facilities. The facilities are divided into four regions. Deputy Commissioner Hill introduced the Assistant Deputy Commissioner (ADC) for each region: Martha Dalesio (Region 1), Michael McNeely (Region 2), Susan Miller (Region 3), and Audrey Stokes (Region 4). Deputy Commissioner Hill also discussed DSF's challenges, such as staffing and the precautions taken in response to COVID-19.

Question/Comments (DSF)

Secretary Kennedy wanted to know more about the Shelter Care placement.

Chair Taylor asked Dr. Christine Doyle to explain more about the mental health treatment units and sex offender treatment at the YDCs.

Secretary Kennedy asked if other divisions in DJJ stepped in to assist with supervision due to staff shortage.

This concluded the Commissioner's Report.

Chair Taylor called for a motion to adjourn the regular DJJ Board Meeting and reconvene as the DJJ School Board. A motion was made by Board Member Colbert to adjourn the Board of Juvenile Justice and reconvene as the Board of Education. The motion was seconded by Board Member Coleman and approved unanimously.

Board of Education

Deputy Superintendent Zane Shelfer shared information about the education data dashboard, including the percentage of the student body with special education needs. DJJ is currently in the process of setting up interviews to fill vacant positions.

Deputy Shelfer presented the DJJ School System newsletter that discussed the 2021-22 school year open house schedule, the Annual Title-1 meeting, and DJJ School System Strategic Plan.

Deputy Shelfer introduced Career Technical & Agricultural Education (CTAE) Coordinator Lorissa Edwards. She gave an overview of CTAE to include the pathways programs that are currently offered, technical colleges partnerships, and the types of credentials that could be obtained once the program is completed.

Questions/Comments (CTAE)

Secretary Kennedy asked if the youth at the RYDCs have a chance to get exposure to CTAE.

Board Member Colbert asked if technical programs such as plumbing and electrical work would be offered in the future. She also commended Edwards for her enthusiasm and great presentation.

Board Member Holmes asked if her team ever considered a partnership or sponsorship with corporations to build labs for trades such as plumbing. She also wanted to know the average timeframe of the pathway programs and how the school system determines what program would be offered.

This concluded the Deputy Superintendent's report.

Chair Taylor called for a motion to adjourn from the DJJ School Board and reconvene as the regular DJJ Board. A motion was made by Secretary Kennedy to adjourn the Board of Education and to reconvene as the Board of Juvenile Justice. It was seconded by Vice-Chair Bolton and approved unanimously.

Comments: Chair Taylor expressed her condolences to Board Member Kaiser for the passing of her husband, Eric. Chair Taylor also requested that the new board members introduce themselves to the current board members and vice versa.

Old Business: No old business

New Business: No new business.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting will be September 23, 2021, at 10:00 AM, DJJ Central Office, Decatur GA, and via audio/Zoom conference.

The motion to adjourn was made by Board Member Holmes and seconded by Vice-Chair Bolton and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:29 AM.

Sandra H. Taylor, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Tyrone Oliver, Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Adam Kennedy, Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice