



Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, February 23, 2017
DJJ Headquarters
10:00 AM

Opening Remarks

Chair Elaine Snow called to order the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. The meeting was held at the DJJ Headquarters, 3408 Covington Highway, Decatur, GA 30032.

DJJ Staff Present: Commissioner Avery D. Niles, Assistant Commissioner Keith Horton, Director Scott Cagle, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Theodore Carter, Jr., Chaplain Danny Horne, Deputy Commissioner Sarah Draper, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Margaret Cawood, Asst. Deputy Commissioner Lisa Mantz, Deputy Commissioner Sean Hamilton, Deputy Chief Financial Officer Kelly Dudley, Director John T. Smith, Deputy Commissioner Joe Vignati, Director Allyson Richardson, Dr. Rufus Johnson, General Counsel Cindy Wang, Janssen Robinson, Matthew Montgomery, Director DeBaja Coleman, Asst. Deputy Commissioner Debbie Carter, Christy Jos, Lewanna Jones, Director Lisa Casey-Bryson, Joi Bryant, Maleia Wilson, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Catina Martin-Fenner, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Michael McNeely, Director Virginia Phifer, Deputy Director Harold Cooper, Meagan Terry, Jim Shuler, Director Scott Mall, Dr. Ron Koon, Mary Shepherd, Teri Farrow, Tamara Middlebrooks, Royal Godfrey, Mary Elliott, Irene Sanders, Tomika Grigsby, Asst. Director John Pearson, Chevene Slocum, Director Dr. Christy Doyle, Henry Walker, Andrew Foy, Director Andrew Laarhoven, Jajuana Dewberry and Director Joan Quinn-Cannon

Others Present: Tim Carey, Barton Child Law & Policy Center; Amy Radley, Attorney General's Office; Brian Lawler, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget

Secretary's Report: Secretary Adam Kennedy conducted the Roll Call. The following members were present: Elaine Snow, Richard Ambrose, Willie C. Bolton, Lisa Colbert, James Valbrun, Dick Yarbrough, Adam Kennedy, Julia Neighbors, Kelly Stewart, Angie Holt, and Sandra Heath-Taylor. Also present was Advisory Council Judge Steven Teske and Judge Quintress Gilbert.

Chair Snow asked for a motion to approve the current agenda. A motion was made by Board Member Colbert and seconded by Board Member Holt. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Snow asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2016 Board Meeting. A motion was made by Board Member Colbert and seconded by Board Member Holt. 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:

Commissioner Avery D. Niles had previously submitted his written report (included in materials). Deputy Director of Human Resources Harold Cooper presented employee recognition awards to DJJ staff who have achieved 15 plus years of state service.

Commissioner Niles announced that Director of the Office of Investigations Ricky Rich is now the Deputy Commissioner at the Georgia Department of Driver Services. He also announced that Catina Martin-Fenner is the Deputy Commissioner of Community Services (effective March 1, 2017), and he introduced Lisa Mantz as the Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Support Services.

Commissioner Niles also mentioned the drivers program graduation, and Board member Bolton commented on the BJCOT graduation. The Commissioner commended Board member Bolton on his support of the graduations. The next BJPOT graduation will be held on March 17, 2017.

Commissioner Niles announced that the law enforcement appreciation program will begin on April 12, 2017 in Glennville, GA, with the Board meeting scheduled for April 13, 2017, in Statesboro, GA.

The Commissioner asked the Board to vote on a resolution to transfer the closed Albany RYDC facility to the University System. A motion was made by Board member Taylor, seconded by Board member Kennedy. The Board approved the resolution unanimously.

Judge Teske updated the Board on the Criminal Justice Reform bill recommendations and gave an overview.

Director of Behavioral Health Services (OBHS) Dr. Christy Doyle presented on the mental health programs provided to the youth as well as the mental health training that is provided to the staff (**Addendum A**). The Training Academy Director Debaja Coleman will present on the curriculum at the next board meeting. Board member Valbrun asked about percentage of youth on psychotropic medication. Secretary Kennedy commended the OBHS staff for the training provided to DJJ facility staff. He would like to see expanded training provided to community staff. Deputy Commissioner Martin-Fenner and Director Coleman will look at the training curriculum.

The Commissioner concluded his report with updates on the work of the Criminal Justice Reform Council.

Chair Snow 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 Holt and seconded by Board Member Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

Board of Education

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

Dr. Rufus Johnson asked the Board to approve the school calendar. A motion was made to approve the calendar by Board member Colbert and seconded by Board member Holt. It was adopted unanimously.

Dr. Johnson informed the Board that the next student graduation will be held on May 26, 2017. He then distributed samples of the laminated Georgia Preparatory Academy diplomas.

Director of the CTAE Mary Shepherd presented on the vocational skills curriculum (**Addendum B**). Board member Yarbrough inquired about the selection of programs

Chair Snow asked for a motion to adjourn from the DJJ School Board and reconvene as the regular DJJ Board. A motion was made by Judge Teske and seconded by Board Member Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair's Comments

Chair Snow turned comments over to Commissioner Niles.

Old Business

No old business

Comments:

Commissioner Niles recognized Board Member Neighbors for attending the recent Commissioner's Youth Council (CYC) meeting. Board member Neighbors was encouraged by the youth. Deputy Commissioner of Secure Facilities (RYDCs) Sean Hamilton spoke about the communications with staff regarding youth concerns. Deputy Commissioner of Secure Campuses (YDCs) Sarah Draper also praised the youth in the Council.

The Commissioner and Board discussed invited community youth to participate in the CYC meetings. Director of Classification and Transportation Lisa Casey Bryson informed the Board regarding how the agency came together and donated needed food and supplies to the victims of the tornadoes in Albany.

New Business

No new business

Comments:

Judge Colbert would like a presentation on recruitment and retention at the next Board meeting. The Commissioner and the Board talked briefly about the issues. Vice-Chair Taylor and Judge Teske introduced guests in the audience.

Chair Snow announced that the next Board Meeting would be held on Thursday, March 23, 2017 at DJJ Headquarters, 3408 Covington Highway, Decatur, GA 30032 at 10:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned.

Elaine P. Snow, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Adam Kennedy
Board Secretary