



Board of Juvenile Justice  
Thursday, February 25, 2016  
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, Chief of Staff J. Mark Sexton, Assistant Commissioner Keith Horton, Sharon D. Starks, Director Jim Shuler; Janssen Robinson, Deputy CFO Drew Townsend, Amber Miller Byrd, Star-Jabrea Farrington, Tonya Hagins, Denise Haney, Todd Bentley, Ryan Phagan, S. Michael Johnson, Cathy Sells, Donna Lowe, CFO Sonja R. Allen-Smith, Crystal Teasley, Jonathan McMichael, Deputy Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, Director Nadine Crocker, Sabrina Davis-Fuller, Harold Cooper, Special Assistant Carl Brown, Regional Administrator Victor Roberts, Sarah Serluco, Deputy Commissioner Miguel Fernandez, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Diana Aspinwall, Benita Cange, Deputy Commissioner Sarah Draper, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Theodore Carter, Jr., Deputy Commissioner Dwayne Orrick, Director Catina Martin-Fenner, Dr. Letunya Walker, Director Andrew Laarhoven, Director Allyson Richardson, Bryant Sims, Luisa Calderon, Associate Superintendent Audrey Armistad, Chaplain Danny Horne, Director John T. Smith, Deputy Commissioner Joe Vignati, Chief Investigator John Pearson and General Counsel Cindy Wang.

**Others Present:** Amy Radley, Attorney General's Office; Kaitlyn Barnes, Barton Child Law & Policy Center and Brian Lawler, Office of Planning and Budget.

**Secretary's Report:** Secretary Adam Kennedy conducted the Roll Call. The following members were present: Willie C. Bolton, Thomas Coleman, John B. Edwards, Angie Holt, Adam Kennedy, Julia Neighbors, Elaine Snow, Fred Stephens and Dick Yarbrough. Advisory Council Member Quintress Gilbert was present as well.

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

Chair Snow asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2016 Board Meeting. A motion was made by Board Member Holt and seconded by Secretary Kennedy. The motion carried unanimously.

## Commissioner's Report

The following topics were discussed or presented during the Commissioner's Report:

- Special Assistant Carl Brown's retirement in May 2016
- Manager Harold Cooper presented the following Employee Recognition Awards
  - Safety Award – Officer Luisa Calderon Savannah RYDC
  - Extra Mile Award – JPPS II Tonya Hagins, Hall/Dawson CSO
  - Customer Award – JPPS II Star-Jabrea Farrington Hall/Dawson CSO
  - Teamwork Award – District 2 JPMs: Sidney Michael Johnson, Cathy Sells, Donna Anderson-Lowe, Jonathan McMichael, Crystal Teasley, Ryan Phagan, Amber Miller Byrd, Christopher Ayers and Denise Haney
- Director John T. Smith updated the Board on legislation that the agency is tracking which includes:
  - SB367 – Georgia Council on Justice Reform, charters schools, and QBE funding for DOC and DJJ
  - SB279 – POST Council including Commissioners of DJJ and DNR as voting members
  - HB730 – POST Council adding DJJ Commissioner as a voting member
  - HB915 – changes the oversight of RBWO beds
  - FY17 Budget – 1.5% increase for RBWO beds

Secretary Adam Kennedy moved to go into an Executive Session to discuss litigation matters. Board Member Bolton seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

At the conclusion of the Executive Session, Secretary Adam Kennedy moved to reconvene as the regular DJJ Board Meeting. Board Member Edwards seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Coleman recommended that the Advisory Council Members be included in the Board's Executive Sessions. Chair Snow stated she would have the legal team to research the matter and advise the Board at a later time.

## Board of Education

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

Associate Superintendent Armistad discussed the following topics during the School Board Meeting:

- Approval of the 2016-2017 School Calendar. A motion was made by Board Member Bolton to approve the calendar and seconded by Board Member Coleman. The motion carried unanimously.
- The AdvancEd accreditation schedule for April 18-20, 2016. **(Addendum A)**

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 Board Member Coleman and seconded by Secretary Kennedy. The motion carried unanimously.

## Chair's Comments

- The April 2016 Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00PM. This is a change from our regular date due to the AdvancEd (SACS) Accreditation evaluation.
- DJJ Board Member Training will be held on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, and the Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. The location will not be at the DJJ Headquarters. The Board will be updated once the location has been determined.
- The Law Enforcement Appreciation Cookout will be held on Thursday, April 14, 2016 in Glennville, Georgia. The DJJ Board will not attend this year as a group because of the AdvancED evaluations. However, individual members are welcomed to attend.
- Marietta RYDC had an Officer to pass away.
- Commended the Office of Health Services Staff on their community service project at Open Hands Atlanta.

## Old Business

There was no Old Business before the Board.

## New Business

No new business; however, Board Member Julia Neighbors informed the Board that April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, which promotes the healthy development of children.

A request for an update on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) was made by Advisory Council Member Gilbert. This will be discussed at a later meeting.

Chair Snow announced that the next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 24, 2016, at DJJ Headquarters, 3408 Covington Highway, Decatur, GA 30032 at 10:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned.

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Elaine P. Snow, Chair  
Board of Juvenile Justice

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Avery D. Niles, Commissioner  
Department of Juvenile Justice

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Adam Kennedy  
Board Secretary