



Board of Juvenile Justice  
Thursday, January 25, 2018  
Decatur, GA  
10:00 AM

### Opening Remarks

Vice-Chair Sandra Heath-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, Deputy Commissioner John Pearson, Deputy Commissioner Catina Martin-Fenner, Director Scott Mall, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Pamela Johnson, Deputy Commissioner Sean Hamilton, Edith E. Darden, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Allyson Richardson, Director John T. Smith, Mary Catherine Heard, General Counsel Cindy Wang, Chaplain Danny Horne, Tomika Grigsby, Director Latera Davis, Director Scott Cagle, Director Mary Shepherd, Carrie T. Hamilton-Shavers, Chief Financial Officer Andrew Laarhoven, Deputy Commissioner Margaret Cawood, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Victor Roberts, Director Joan Quinn-Cannon, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Michael McNeely, Tracy Cassell, Kim Todd, Chief Audit Executive William Smith, Director Mike Barton, Kristi Johnson, Ombudsman Herman Archie, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Lisa Mantz, Interim HR Director Charmaine Johnson, Deputy Chief Financial Officer Bakia Parrish, Glenda McClendon, Brian Harrelson, Andrew McGee, Hilroy Wilson, Royal Godfrey, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Renee McClanahan, Deputy Director Maria L. Pease, Director Lisa Bryson, Assistant Director Chris Wood, Lauren Gean, Stephanie Henesy, Dr. Letunya Walker, Chris Saxton, Cathy Dravis, Dr. Christy Doyle, Tammonla Jordan, Kodasha Thomas, Wendy Owens, Alisea Mascio, Denise Digby, Harold Farmer

**Others Present:** Amy Radley, Attorney General's Office

**Secretary's Report:** Secretary Adam Kennedy conducted the Roll Call. The following members were present: Penny Penn (teleconference), Willie C. Bolton, Adam Kennedy, Dr. Thomas Coleman, Sandra Heath-Taylor, Kelly Stewart (via teleconference), Elaine Snow (teleconference), Richard Ambrose, Lisa G. Colbert, Angie Holt, Fred Stephens (teleconference), James K. Valbrun (teleconference), and Quintress Gilbert

Vice-Chair Taylor asked for a motion to amend the current agenda to state that Vice-Chair Taylor would be presiding over the Board meeting instead of Chair Snow. 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. Commissioner Niles presented his report to the Board.

The following topics were discussed:

Ms. Kristi Johnson, HR Employee Relations Manager, presented the Employee Faithful Service Awards.

Vice-Chair Taylor asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2017 Board Meeting. A motion was made by Board Member Bolton and seconded by Board Member Thomas. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Christy Doyle, DJJ Director of Office of Behavioral Health Services, presented on the different treatment services provided to youth in the facilities and a percentage breakdown of the mental health caseload per facility. She discussed an increase in the mental health caseload and staff being more educated regarding trauma-centered treatment services. Secretary Kennedy wanted to make sure that community services staff was also receiving mental health services training. Judge Colbert commended Division of Support Services staff. Commissioner Niles mentioned providing to the Board a report on validation/fidelity of programming services.

Commissioner Niles stated to the Board that the HR department will present at the next board meeting on staff retention.

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 Holt and seconded by Board Member Colbert. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Board of Education**

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

Associate Superintendent Jean Lee discussed the state of some of the youth education records (e.g. incomplete records) that DJJ receives. Board Member Ambrose and Secretary Kennedy expressed concerns about the issues mentioned by Ms. Lee. Board member Stephens discussed needing a mechanism to correspond with other school districts. Board Member Bolton suggested ways that Superintendent Niles can continue to reach out to other school superintendents to discuss education issues for DJJ youth (e.g. school records, re-entry into the local school system, etc.). Superintendent Niles discussed the strides that DJJ-GPA has already made with community outreach, and he reminded the Board regarding the origin of the

Education Transition Centers. Ms. Lee also spoke about the literacy grant and schools developing literacy plans.

Pathway to Success Specialist Holly Cannon discussed additional vocational and workforce development opportunities for DJJ youth, and DJJ-GPA Teacher of the Year Harold Farmer of Rockdale RYDC was recognized. Mr. Farmer addressed the Board.

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 Colbert and seconded by Board member Ambrose. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Old Business**

Dr. Coleman commended DJJ staff Assistant Deputy Commissioner Victor Roberts and Director Latera Davis for representing the agency well at a recent community event. Judge Gilbert asked for an update on the Paulding CSEC facility at the next board meeting.

### **New Business**

No new business

### **Comments:**

Vice-Chair Taylor announced that the April board meeting will be held in South Georgia in conjunction with the annual statewide Law Enforcement Appreciation events.

Vice-Chair Taylor announced that the next Board Meeting would be held on Thursday, February 22, 2018 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