



**Board of Juvenile Justice  
Thursday, July 22, 2021  
Decatur, GA  
Board Meeting Minutes  
DJJ Central Office and via Audio/Zoom Conference**

**Opening Remarks**

On Thursday, July 22, 2021. Chair Sandra Taylor called the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice to order at 10:00 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 Cristina Correia (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 Taylor (in-person), Vice-Chair Willie C. Bolton (in-person), Secretary Kennedy (in-person), Danny Blackmon (in-person), Angie M. Holt (via Zoom), Judge Lisa Colbert (via Zoom), Chief Gary Yandura (in-person), Penny Penn (in-person), Fred Stephens (via Zoom), John Edwards (via Zoom), Thomas Coleman (in-person), and Joyette Holmes (in-person). Judicial Advisory Member Judge Quintress Gilbert (in-person) participated. Quorum was declared.

**Agenda approval:** Chair Taylor called for a motion to approve July 22, 2021 agenda. The motion was made by Vice-Chair Bolton, seconded by Board Member Blackmon, and approved unanimously.

**Minutes approval:** Chair Taylor called for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2021 board meeting. The motion was made by Board Member Stephens, seconded by Vice-Chair Bolton, and approved unanimously.

Chair Taylor opened the meeting recognizing newly appointed Board Member Joyette Holmes. Chair Taylor thanked her for her time and service.

### **Board Officer Election**

Board Member Coleman moved to adopt full slate of board officers: Taylor as Chairperson, Bolton as Vice-Chair, and Kennedy as Secretary. The motion was seconded by Board Member Blackmon, and adopted unanimously.

### **Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Oliver welcomed new Board Member Holmes. He also congratulated the re-appointed Board members: Yandura, Stephens, Coleman, Bolton, and Penn.

### **Fiscal Year Budget Overview**

Commissioner Oliver gave a brief update on the FY2022 budget and how it affects the agency, stating that most of the funds will be used towards significant bond projects.

### **Special Recognition**

Commissioner Oliver recognized Medical Director Dr. Michelle Staples-Horne, Director of Health Care Services (Augusta University [AU]) Ben Harvill, and Chief of Nutrition and Food Services Stephanie Henesy. They received recognition for their service with distinction during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chair Taylor also thanked the three staff members for helping keep the youth and DJJ staff members safe.

### **Divisional Report**

Deputy Commissioner of Community Services Victor Roberts introduced the Division of Community Services presenters: Assistant Deputy Commissioner Rusty Rodgers, Director of Residential and Community-Based Services Racquel Watson, Director of Re-Entry Services Cathy Smith-Curry, and Operations Director Tricia Phillips. Each team member discussed the day-to-day operations within their division along with data, services their unit provides, and challenges they may face.

### **Question/Comments (Residential & Community)**

Secretary Kennedy asked how many youth currently need placement.

Board Member Edwards wanted to know if there is any data available of the youth outcome once they leave the residential setting. And how many youths have been denied services.

Board Member Colbert asked whether they work with contracts to express what their division needs. She also inquired whether DJJ employee attends the residential facilities for quality control purpose.

### **Questions/Comments (Re-Entry Services)**

Secretary Kennedy asked whether it is challenging working in the rural areas in Georgia.

Board Member Colbert asked if the current partnerships are only limited to the Atlanta Metro area. She also asked how the PSN Credible Messengers (group mentoring/gang intervention) are being recruited and who is training them.

Board Member Edwards asked if the partnerships were sharing data of the outcome of their referrals with DJJ, whether it's positive or negative.

### **Questions/Comments (Division of Community Services)**

Secretary Kennedy asked Deputy Commissioner Roberts how are salaries affecting the division.

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 Penn to adjourn the Board of Juvenile Justice and reconvene as the Board of Education. The motion was seconded by Board Member Colbert and approved unanimously.

## **Board of Education**

### **Summer Arts Program Presentation**

Deputy Superintendent Zane Shelfer highlighted community partners Kennesaw State University (KSU) (Dept. of Theatre and Performance Studies) and the Alliance Theatre. Both partners collaborated to provide arts programming at the Metro Regional Youth Detention Center. Deputy Superintendent Shelfer introduced Margaret Baldwin (KSU) and Rodney Williams (Alliance Theatre). They discussed the purpose of the workshop called the "Metro Collision Program." Baldwin introduced KSU peer mentor Lance Brown to help recite the selected youth projects. Selected youth videos were also presented.

### **Questions/Comments (BOA)**

Secretary Kennedy asked whether the workshops are being conducted in the community or at the facility.

Chair Taylor commended the community partners for helping the youth express themselves and find their voices.

Board Member Colbert also commended the partners for their great program, hoping that the youths will find hope for their future.

Board Members Edwards asked if the youth will retain copyrights of their work.

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 Board Member Holmes and approved unanimously.

**Chair Comments:** Chair Taylor encouraged the board members to communicate with Commissioner Oliver about challenges that the agency faces.

**Old Business:** No old business.

**New Business:** No new business.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned. (The motion to adjourn was made by Board Member Blackmon, seconded by Board Member Holmes, and approved unanimously.) The next scheduled meeting will be August 26, 2021, at 10:00 AM, DJJ Central Office, Decatur GA, and via audio/Zoom conference.

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 AM.

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Sandra H. Taylor, Chair  
Board of Juvenile Justice

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Tyrone Oliver, Commissioner  
Department of Juvenile Justice

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Adam Kennedy, Secretary  
Board of Juvenile Justice