



Board of Juvenile Justice  
Thursday, March 28, 2019  
Decatur, GA

### Opening Remarks

Vice-Chair Sandra Heath-Taylor called to order the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice at 10:02 am. The meeting was held at the DJJ Central Office.

**DJJ Staff Present:** Commissioner Avery D. Niles, Chief of Staff Sean C. Hamilton, Associate Superintendent Jean Lee, Deputy Commissioner Pamela Johnson, Deputy Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, Edith E. Darden, Mary Catherine Heard, Deputy Commissioner Victor Roberts, Ombudsman Herman Archie, Chaplain Danny Horne, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Martha Dalesio, Director Scott Cagle, CFO Andrew Laarhoven, General Counsel Cindy Wang, Director Glenn Allen, Director Latera Davis, Andrew McGee, Assistant Commissioner Catina Martin-Fenner, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Victor Roberts, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Audrey Stokes, Deputy Commissioner Margaret Cawood, Helen Troutt, Director Joan Quinn-Cannon, Tricia Phillips, Director Dana Kilpatrick, Monaletto Irby, Kiara Williams, Robb Gilstrap, Michele Santamore, I. Grant-Bowen, Zane Shelfer, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Rusty Rodgers, Windy Hix, Tora Pierce, Todd Bentley, Dana Phillips, Cathy Dravis, Tracy Cassell, Teri Stripling, Tomika Grigsby, Julia Mazyck, Shyniece Howard, Joycelyn Evans, Assistant Director Chris Wood, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Michael McNeely, Lauren Gean, Larkin Cook, Edward Butler, Tamara Mays, Gail Smith, Koran Kanaifu, Melissa Cannon

**Others Present:** Amy Radley, Attorney General's Office, Jenna Breslin (Barton Center)

**Secretary's Report:** Secretary Adam Kennedy conducted the Roll Call. The following members were present: Willie Bolton, Adam Kennedy, Julia Neighbors, Fred Stephens, Sandra H. Taylor, Judge Lisa G. Colbert, Spurgeon Ambrose, Dr. Thomas Coleman, Penny Penn, Judge Quintress Gilbert, Judge Steven Teske

Vice-Chair Taylor asked for a motion to approve the current agenda. A motion was made by Board member Kennedy and seconded by Board member Ambrose. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2019 Board Meeting. A motion was made by the Board member Ambrose and seconded by Board member Coleman. The motion carried unanimously.

## Commissioner's Report

The Commissioner's Report was included in the Board materials. Commissioner Niles presented his report to the Board.

The following topics were discussed:

The Commissioner recognized Deputy Commissioner Margaret Cawood, Support Services for her work. He also provided staff updates, regarding Executive Team staff promotions.

The Faithful Service awards were presented by HR Director Dana Kilpatrick. There were four recipients.

Ms. Teri Stripling, Manager of Real Estate and Property Insurance, presented the board resolution to surplus and transfer the vacant Sandersville facility to the Washington County Board of Education **(Addendum A)**. Board member Coleman moved for its adoption, it was seconded by Board member Kennedy, and approved unanimously. Board member Coleman commented that he was glad the property was being utilized.

Deputy Commissioner Victor Roberts, Community Service, presented on community services **(Addendum B)**. Vice-Chair Taylor asked about the gang involved youth. Commissioner Niles discussed changing cognitive behavior and the research behind it. Board member Kennedy asked about RBWO data. Board member Stephens talked about building relationships between the school resource officers and the schools. The Board further discussed having probation officers at the schools.

Deputy Commissioner Margaret Cawood, Support Services, gave an update on program services **(Addendum C)**. Vice-Chair Taylor asked about the mental health caseload and Judge Teske commented on evidence-based practices. Judge Teske recommended reading the book on this subject by Dr. Mark Lipsey. Commissioner Niles presented the board with the evaluation report of the Georgia Juvenile Justice Incentive grant to read at their leisure **(Addendum D)**.

Chief Financial Officer Andrew Laarhoven presented on the appropriated funds **(Addendum E)**. Secretary Kennedy asked about salaries for community staff vs. law enforcement personnel.

Director of Office of Federal Programs Shyniece Howard presented on Title 4E funds and the impact of the Family First initiative **(Addendum F)**.

Commissioner Niles did a brief update on legislative updates and the Cadwell facility. He informed the board members of the DJJ Board member training to be held on May 7<sup>th</sup> – May 8<sup>th</sup> and possibly holding the May board meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup> (Friday) in Forsyth to allow the Board members to attend the GA Preparatory Academy graduation, instead of May 23<sup>rd</sup> (Thursday). A discussion was held concerning the Board training and next month's board meeting. The Board voted to have the meeting on Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> in Forsyth.

Commissioner Niles reminded the Board members of the Law Enforcement Appreciation event to be held in Statesboro and informed them that even though he will not be able to attend, they could attend on their own.

Commissioner Niles and Vice-Chair Taylor informed the board that nominations for new Board officers will be taken at the next Board meeting.

Commissioner Niles recognized Ms. Mary Catherine Heard for her work with Communications and wished her well on her new job endeavors.

This concluded the Commissioner's report.

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 Kennedy and seconded by Board Member Bolton. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Board of Education**

Associate Superintendent Jean Lee asked for approval of the school calendar. Board member Coleman moved for approval. It was seconded by Board member Kennedy and approved unanimously. New courses and events were discussed. Assistant Associate Superintendent Zane Shelfer discussed youth records and Infinite Campus. He also talked about meeting with various school districts to assist youth transitioning back into the community.

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 the Board member Colbert and seconded by Board member Coleman. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Old Business**

No old business

### **Comments:**

Vice-Chair Taylor asked for condolences to Chair Elaine Snow and her family. Board member Kennedy asked for a motion to amend the agenda and move into an Executive session. Board member Bolton seconded.

### **New Business:**

No new business

### **Comments:**

Commissioner Niles reminded the Board members of the Cadwell open house to be held on April 11<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm.

Vice-Chair Taylor announced that the next Board Meeting would be held on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 10:00 am, DJJ Central Office, Decatur, GA.

The meeting was adjourned.

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Sandra Heath-Taylor, Vice-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  
Board of Juvenile Justice