



Board of Juvenile Justice  
Thursday, September 25, 2014  
10:00 AM

Department of Juvenile Justice  
3408 Covington Highway  
Decatur, GA 30032

### Opening Remarks

Chair Elaine Snow called to order the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. The meeting was held at the Department of Juvenile Justice Headquarters in Decatur, GA.

**DJJ Staff Present:** Commissioner Avery D. Niles; Assistant Commissioner Mark Sexton; Staff Attorney André Charles Castaing; CFO Sonja R. Allen; Deputy Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb; Deputy Commissioner Michael McNeely; Deputy Commissioner Carl Brown; Deputy Commissioner Jeffrey Chandler; Deputy Commissioner Miguel Fernandez; Director Ricky Rich; Director John T. Smith; Deputy Commissioner Sarah Draper; Associate Superintendent Audrey Armistad; Chaplain Danny Horne; Director Latera Davis; Director Nadine Crocker; Deputy CFO Drew Townsend; John Pearson; Shawn Swain; Director Theodore Carter, Jr.; Ombudsman Debbie Alexander-Carter; Director Lisa Casey Bryson; Assistant Deputy Commissioner Diana Aspinwall; Shanelle Best; Sonya Love; Director David Schwartz; Janssen Robinson; Sharon Starks; Director Jim Shuler; Tara Lindsay; Ryan Lohnes; Elizabeth Newcomb; Director Allyson Richardson; Dee Bell; Deputy Director Andrew Laarhaven and Edith Guilford.

**Others Present:** Mindy Park, Attorney General's Office; Claire Sherburne, Emory Law; Tanya Jackson, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget; Matthew Ralston, Troutman Sanders; Helen Sloat, Nelson Mullins; Polly McKinney, Voices for Georgia's Children; Alan Mackie, G & D

**Secretary's Report:** Chair Snow asked Secretary Kennedy to conduct the Roll Call. The following Members were present: Spurgeon Ambrose, Willie C. Bolton, Thomas Coleman, John Edwards, Adam Kennedy, Julia Neighbors, Danny Porter, Franklin Rozier, Elaine Snow, Kelly Stewart, Sandra Taylor and Dick Yarbrough. Advisory Council Member Quintress Gilbert was present as well.

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

Chair Snow asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2014 board meeting. A motion was made by Board Member Bolton and seconded by Board Member Ambrose. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Niles discussed the following topics during his report:

- Progress at Bill Ireland YDC
- Terrell and Wilkes projects
- Update on the program in the Division of Operations and Compliance
- Appointment to the GA State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision
- Biennial BJCOT Graduation
- Award of the Re-Entry Grant
- New Employees
- Vice Chair Taylor's reappointment to the DJJ Board

Deputy Commissioner Sarah Draper updated the Board on the launch of the DJJ Citizen's Academy. The Citizens' Academy will provide an opportunity to see and experience DJJ's commitment to young offenders and their families, to enhanced juvenile reentry programs, and to DJJ's non-negotiable mission to promote safer communities for all Georgians by holding juvenile offenders accountable. The Inaugural Citizens' Academy will begin October 23, 2014. A statewide schedule for future sessions of the DJJ Citizens' Academies is under development.

Deputy Commissioner Carl Brown and Deputy Commissioner Miguel Fernandez updated the Board on Juvenile Justice Reform. For additional details, see **Addendum A**.

Deputy Commissioner Michael McNeely gave an update on Officer Certifications. For additional details, please see **Addendum B**.

Chair Snow asked for a motion to adjourn from the Regular DJJ Board Meeting and reconvene as the DJJ Board of Education Meeting. A motion was made by Vice Chair Taylor and seconded by Board Member Bolton. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Board of Education**

Superintendent Niles thanked the Board Members for supporting the Fall Open Houses that have taken place thus far.

Associate Superintendent Armistad discussed the following topics:

- Overview of Federal Grants
- Education Transition Center
- New Initiatives

For additional information on these topics, please see **Addendum C**.

Chair Snow asked for a motion to adjourn from the DJJ Board of Education Meeting and reconvene to the Regular DJJ Board Meeting. A motion was made by Board Member Yarbrough and seconded by Board Member Bolton. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Chair's Comment**

Chair Snow encouraged every member that able to participate to attend one of the Fall Open Houses across the state. Commissioner Niles encouraged the Board Members to visit any facility in their area.

Commissioner Niles recognized Program Coordinator Dee Bell on her retirement.

### **Old Business**

There was no Old Business before the Board.

### **New Business**

There was no new business before the Board.

The next meeting will be Thursday, October 23, 2014 at 10:00 AM at the Department of Juvenile Justice Headquarters.

The meeting was adjourned.

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Elaine P. Snow, Chair  
Board of Juvenile Justice

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Avery D. Niles  
Commissioner

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Adam Kennedy  
Board Secretary