



Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, September 26, 2019
Decatur, GA

Opening Remarks

Chair 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, Decatur, GA.

DJJ Staff Present: Commissioner Tyrone Oliver, Assistant Commissioner Sean C. Hamilton, ADC Allyson Richardson, Chief of Staff Mark Mitchell, Chaplain Danny Horne, DC Margaret Cawood, AC Catina Martin-Fenner, Zane Shelfer, Interim Asst. Associate Superintendent Dr. Rufus Johnson, Doris Patterson, Carolene Maddox, Ombudsman Herman Archie, Stephanie Henesy, DC Victor Roberts, ADC Rusty Rodgers, Tomika Grigsby, Director Latera Davis, William Smith, Cathy Dravis, Tracy Cassell, Chris Wood, Dr. Ron Koon, DC Pamela Johnson, ADC Audrey Stokes, Sophia Thomas, Shanna Buchanan, Tamara Mays, Dr. Christy Doyle, Dr. Letunya Walker, Racquel Watson, Director Scott Cagle, Brandon Bristol, Director Glenn Allen, Tasha Williams, Director Zach Louis, Marissa Durkin, Jajuana Dewberry, , Cathy Smith-Curry, Barry Ogletree, Doricia Thompson, Robbin Dickerson, Ira Collymore, Sabrina Scott, Janssen Robinson, Teri Farrow, Aaron Howard, Kim Todd, J. Brookins, Brian Harrelson, Jesse Floyd, Director Dana Kilpatrick, Steven Carter-Williams, Stephanie L. Smith, Monaletto C. Irby, Azibo Dixon, Director Montrail Mitchell, ADC Gary Tolar, Andrew McGee, Lauren Gean, Susan Miller, Terry Lee, Edward Butler, Kiara Williams, Pansy Bryant

Others Present: Becky Dobras, Attorney General's Office; Sam Marticke, Nelson Mullins; Suman Malempat, Barton Child Policy center; Rani Reddy, Barton Child Policy center

Secretary's Report: Secretary Adam Kennedy conducted the Roll Call. The following members were present: Danny Blackmon, Sandra H. Taylor, Judge Lisa G. Colbert, Angie Holt (teleconference), Adam Kennedy, Dick Yarbrough, Dr. Thomas Coleman, Penny Penn (teleconference), Fred Stephens, Judge Quintress Gilbert, John B. Edwards (teleconference), Willie C. Bolton

Chair Taylor asked for a motion to approve the current agenda. A motion was made by Board member Yarbrough and seconded by Board member Colbert. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Taylor asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2019 Board meeting. A motion was made by Board member Stephens and seconded by Board member Yarbrough. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner's Report:

The Commissioner's Report was included in the Board materials. Commissioner Tyrone Oliver presented the report to the Board.

The following topics were discussed:

Commissioner Tyrone Oliver updated the board on recent staffing changes. He introduced the new Chief of Staff, Mark Mitchell. Announced the resignation of Andrew Laarhoven, Chief Financial Officer, and the appointment of Pamela Johnson as the Interim Deputy Commissioner of Secure Campuses, thus making her responsible for both the Division of Secure Campuses and the Division of Secure Detention. The Divisions will now be combined into Division of Secure Facilities.

Senior Human Resources Manager Tamara Mays presented the Faithful Service Awards. Assistant Deputy Commissioner Gary Tolar presented an award to SMRT Officer Teri Farrow for his actions during a recent car accident involving a fellow law enforcement officer's family.

Director of Human Resources Dana Kilpatrick presented an update on the Division of Human Resources. Human Resources is currently piloting an exit interview questionnaire that is sent to only employees who resigned. The exit interview questionnaire is currently being provided to former staff via email and mail to the last known address. There are plans to develop a version of the form that can be answered via cell phone text messages. Chair Taylor asked about holding former employee's final paycheck to ensure the exit interview is completed. Vice-Chair Bolton would like to know if the Department can hold an employee's benefits (e.g. leave payout) to encourage completion of the exit interview. Board member Edwards inquired about the tracking process and using the tool as part of the performance management process. Judge Colbert would like to see the entire form, including the available responses on the various dropdown tabs.

Deputy Commissioner of Administrative Services Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb presented a video on the recent job fair event held at a local church. **(Addendum A)**

Deputy Commissioner of Community Services Victor Roberts presented an update of the number of DJJ youth currently placed in residential facilities. Director of the Office of Residential and Community-Based Services Raquel Watson provided additional information regarding the audit process, audit tool used for residential programs, and the average daily number of DJJ youth in placement. Ms. Watson provided the additional details about items covered in the audit process.

Secretary Kennedy expressed his appreciation for Commissioner Oliver's attendance at the evacuation location during the August storm impacting Coastal Georgia. Secretary Kennedy stressed that he is not opposed to ACA accreditation, he wants DJJ to use the best practices for the agency.

Commissioner Oliver presented the staffing report. Discussions were held regarding low facility retention rates, particularly POST trained staff leaving DJJ for other law enforcement agencies. Commissioner Oliver mentioned possible having a 24-month contract that would require staff to reimburse the Department if they resigned prior to the contract's expiration. Judge Colbert suggested that DJJ review job satisfaction as a means of maintaining staff. Secretary Kennedy would like to explore how DJJ can utilize the resources gained by reduced community caseloads. Board member Yarborough would like to see an improvement on staff retention.

Commissioner Oliver gave a brief discussion into the FY20 budget. Budget cuts were met without an impact on staff and expecting the same for FY21 budget cuts.

This concluded the Commissioner's report.

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 Coleman. The motion carried unanimously.

Board of Education:

Interim Associate Superintendent Dr. Rufus Johnson presented on teacher retention, student achievement data, professional development, CTAE, Education vacancies, AdvancED, and plans for parent engagement. A new curriculum guide is being developed and will be ready by for the October board meeting.

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 Kennedy and seconded by Vice-Chair Bolton. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair's Comments:

Chair Taylor commended Commissioner Oliver on conducting the board meeting and the introduction of Chief of Staff Mark Mitchell.

Old Business:

No old business

Comments: None

New Business:

No new business

Comments:

Vice-Chair Bolton commended Commissioner Oliver and the staff on their efforts with the recent Hurricane and thanked Commissioner Oliver for including the families to travel with the employees that assisted.

Chair Taylor announced there will not be a board meeting in the month of November. The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, October 24, 2019, at 10:00 am, DJJ Central office, Decatur, GA.

The meeting was adjourned.

Sandra H. Taylor, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Tyrone Oliver, Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Adam Kennedy, Board Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice