

# Directions

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**DJJ Schools  
Achieve Dual  
Accreditation**

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Department of Juvenile Justice is to protect and serve the citizens of Georgia by holding youthful offenders accountable for their actions through the delivery of treatment services and sanctions in appropriate settings, and by establishing youth in their communities as productive, law abiding citizens.

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# Looking to the Future:

## Child Welfare Agencies Come Together to Map out a Future for Juvenile Justice In Georgia

Just the use of the term "The System" can conjure up an image of a bureaucratic maze where the right hand often does not know what the left hand is doing. In the child welfare system, there are many stakeholders including educators, social workers, judges, probation officers, public defenders and prosecutors, all of whom are working to help ensure the safety of Georgia's youth and the community, although they may have different perspectives on how to achieve those goals.

Bringing together people from all of the various parts of Georgia's child welfare system was the driving idea behind the Juvenile Justice Forum, held September 14-15 at Lake Lanier Islands. The forum was sponsored by the Governor's Office of Children and Families. Representatives from The Department of Juvenile Justice, the Division of Family and Children's Services (DFCS), juvenile court judges, juvenile prosecutors, public defenders, educators, and law enforcement officials from across the state attended the invitation only event.

The goal of the forum wasn't just talk. It was action. Deputy Commissioner of Youth Services for the Department of Juvenile Justice Rob Rosenbloom said the conference was meant to foster a regional approach to juvenile justice as opposed to a statewide one because people in the community are the ones who know what resources are available, and are in a position to coordinate their efficient use.

"We recognize that it's at the local level where the rubber meets the road," said Rosenbloom. "It's the front line staff that has the potential to work together to ensure an efficient use of resources and best outcomes for youth."

The conference was organized with the aim of facilitating local collaboration. Instead of lumping everyone together for a large brainstorming session, participants were put in affinity groups where they worked together to identify what they saw as the three biggest issues facing the juvenile justice system in the next five years. After reaching consensus, the groups visited each other and listened to one another's ideas. Later, they voted on the collected ideas to come up with the three top issues. The next day, they broke into regional groups to begin the planning process, with the goal of coming up with ideas to address the issues in their communities.



**Clayton County Juvenile Court Judge and DJJ Judicial Advisory Council Member Steven Teske speaks at the Juvenile Justice Summit.**

Paulding County Juvenile Program Manager (JPM) Terry Isaac said he liked the way the conference was run.

"It was definitely very productive," Isaac said. "It was an opportunity for grass roots workers to be heard at a higher level."

In the end, the group of approximately 100 participants identified the three issues they thought needed addressed in order to be more successful at delivering services to juveniles and ensuring public safety.

## Commissioner's Corner

Education is the greatest service we can offer the youth entrusted to our care. Education opens the door to success, and helps youths realize that there is another path for them to travel other than the one they are on. Merely locking youths up would accomplish very little. Every youth who gets a diploma or GED, or earns a certificate of credit takes a big step down the path toward becoming a productive member of society.

We have reason to celebrate this year. In October, representatives from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) as well as the Correctional Education Association (CEA) recommended that the DJJ school system should receive full accreditation. This announcement marked the culmination of a two year process led by Regional Principal Dr. Rufus Johnson and other education staff in Central Office and throughout the state.

The accreditation team visited the Metro, DeKalb, Macon, Aaron Cohn, and Augusta RYDCs as well as the Macon, Muscogee, and Augusta YDCs. In all, the team spoke to over 100 people, including board members, educators, administrators, students, parents and members of the community before announcing their decision at a special called board meeting. This is only the second time that both agencies have conducted a dual accreditation tour, and I am certain that having dual accreditation will not only help the youth we serve, but also spur us on as we strive for continuous improvement.

We do not have the luxury of resting on our laurels. As you well know, the recession has hit all state government hard, and that has resulted in cuts to vital programs, including education. Do not be discouraged, though. We must face our challenges head on with discipline and resolve. We cannot expect to impress upon youth the importance of resilience in the face of adversity unless we demonstrate it for them.



**Garland R. Hunt Esq.**  
Commissioner

## Daniel Shuman Retires as DJJ Board Chairman

**J. Daniel Shuman** of Tattnall County retired from his seven year tenure as chairman of the Board of the Department of Juvenile Justice on Thursday, Dec. 9, 2010. Shuman was first appointed to the Board in 2003 by Governor Sonny Perdue. He represented the 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. He was elected acting Chairman in 2004, and elected to a full-term in 2005. He was reelected chairman in 2007. Shuman had agreed to serve on the board for the duration of Perdue's term in office, and he announced his retirement after the 2010 gubernatorial election.

During his tenure on the board, the Department of Juvenile Justice emerged from 11 years of monitoring by the United States Department of Justice. The end of federal oversight was marked by a press conference at the Capitol where Governor Perdue announced the accomplishment.

Department of Juvenile Justice Commissioner Garland R. Hunt, Esq. said Shuman was instrumental in guiding the agency through a difficult time, and helping to turn it into the national model of a juvenile correctional department that it is today.

"Chairman Shuman's leadership will be missed," Hunt said. "He took on a difficult job at a difficult time for the agency, and he did it well. His tenure as chairman is something of which he should truly be proud."



**Commissioner Garland Hunt presents Chairman Daniel Shuman with a plaque and resolution commemorating his years of service on the Board of Juvenile Justice.**

## Turning Point Event a Success

### Transitioning Youth Back Into the Community Continues to be a Priority

**Former Fulton County Juvenile Court Judge** and current television celebrity and author Judge Glenda Hatchett was the keynote speaker at The Turning Point Conference held at Mercer University in Atlanta on Saturday, October 16. The event, held in conjunction with Pen Pal Mentors for Incarcerated Youth, was focused on helping youth who are in the juvenile justice system transition successfully back to the community where they can become law abiding citizens.

Hatchett urged those present to try and understand the points-of-view of youth who are coming from the criminal justice system.

"We can't help them carve out a new road unless we understand the road they're on," she said.

The event focused on the need for employers and members of the community to extend a second chance to young people who come out of the criminal justice system, whether through offering them an opportunity at a job, or through mentoring.

Speakers included Commissioner Garland R. Hunt, Esq., Deputy Commissioner of Programs and Support Services Amy Howell, Associate Superintendent Dr. Jack Catrett, as well as DeKalb County Commissioner Lee May, DeKalb County district attorney candidate and former solicitor-general Robert Hale, and Schnavia Bronson, founder of Pen Pal Mentors.

**"We can't help them carve out a new road unless we understand the road they're on."- Judge Glenda Hatchett**

Johnson said that Pen Pal Mentors came about when she, through her seven years of volunteer efforts at the Macon Youth Development Campus (YDC), DJJ's all female facility, realized that the youths there were hungry for contact with successful adults who could guide them onto the straight and narrow.



**Commissioner Garland Hunt speaks with former Fulton County juvenile court judge and television personality Glenda Hatchett.**

"I didn't create Pen Pal Mentors," Bronson said. "The young people did."

Former DJJ students were also present at the event, and they spoke candidly about the challenges they faced trying to reintegrate into the community. The students said that strained family relationships and limited resources pose a real challenge to youths who come out of a facility and want to further their education or find work.

The event was part of DJJ's ongoing efforts to reintegrate formerly incarcerated youth back into the community so that they have the opportunity to lead productive adult lives as contributing members of society.

Coy Satterfield, who organized the event and is responsible for the creation of DJJ's Youth Transition Board, said transitional services are crucial to the mission of DJJ. When budget cuts hit the Office of Education's youth reentry program, Satterfield said, it became imperative to find new ways of providing those services, which are key in helping to reduce recidivism among youth. If youth come into the system and don't see any sort of future, they are unlikely to take the idea of rehabilitation seriously, he said.

"You don't want youth to come into the system without hope," he said.

# Going the Extra Mile

## Bob Richards RYDC Educators Help Youth Earn his High School Diploma



Cole Hollander receives his high school diploma during a ceremony at the Bob Richards RYDC.

**Y**ouths at the Bob Richards Youth Detention Center (RYDC) come and go, usually not staying for very long, but that does not mean the staff there won't go above and beyond to help them.

Just how much the staff their care was evident when Cole Hollander received his high school diploma at the facility during a ceremony on Wednesday, June 9 at the facility. When Hollander was sent to Bob Richards, he lacked only two credits for graduation. At the facility, awaiting placement, Hollander decided to buckle down and earn the credits needed before he left the facility.

All of his hard work paid off when, in front of family and facility staff, DJJ Associate Superintendent Dr. Jack Catrett handed Hollander his diploma and declared him a high school graduate. Hollander is the third student to graduate from one of the department's short-term facilities.

Catrett said the work done by the staff to help Hollander reach his goal proves how much they care about the youths sent to stay with them.

"If they care enough to do this," Catrett said, addressing the youths directly, "then they care about what you need."

Hollander's situation was not the first time Bob Richards employees have gone the extra mile to help a youth graduate. In 2001, a young man from Alabama named Aaron Kelly was sent to Bob Richards. Staff at the facility, including lead teacher Elizabeth Stafford, arranged for Kelly to receive his assignment from his home school and arranged to have his work sent there for evaluation by his teachers. Kelly completed his graduation requirements while at Bob Richards, and then went on to enlist in the Army.

Kelly returned to Bob Richards RYDC for Hollander's graduation as a staff sergeant, to give a commencement

address at the ceremony.

Kelly said he recognized a lot of old faces at the facility, and that he had never forgotten what the staff there did for him. Without the guidance he was provided at the Bob Richards RYDC by the caring individuals that work there, he said, his life would have probably gone down a different, darker path.

"It was an honor to return to the facility under the circumstances," Kelly said. "That young man has a lot of potential."

# Galyon Named DJJ's Teacher of the Year

## Urrutia Honored for Child Advocacy

**DJJ Teacher of the Year** for the 2011-12 school year, Dewayne Galyon, almost didn't become a teacher. Right out of high school he thought about going into teaching, but ended up being talked out of it by his old elementary school principal.

Instead, after getting an associate's degree, the Tennessee native ended up working as a reporter for a small

until the wee hours of the morning and trying to raise a family weren't working out, so Galyon went back to school at Tennessee Wesleyan, and turned back to his original career choice.

After spending five years in the Tennessee Public School System as a social studies teacher and assistant coach for basketball and baseball, Galyon

Shaw Jr. RYDC). He didn't get the job the first time, but a year later he got called again. This time he got the job, starting in November 1999. In 2001, Galyon became the lead teacher, in charge of overseeing a staff of two teachers, a records clerk, and an instructor.

Elbert Shaw Director Bobby Hughes said Galyon is very dedicated to his job, and is often the first to arrive and the last to leave. Galyon is also always eager to help in the facility's programs outside the classroom, Hughes said. Galyon is involved with the facility's dog kennel and greenhouse programs, and also stays abreast of the latest educational developments, so that he can introduce cutting edge educational techniques, Hughes added.

"Perhaps the biggest, and most simple compliment you can pay Mr. Galyon is that he cares," Hughes said.

Galyon, who teaches a little bit of everything at the 30-bed facility, said that working with kids is the best part of his job.

"Most of our kids are, at heart, pretty good kids, and I enjoy being around them," he said.

While some of the kids can be challenging, and it can be hard to really reach kids who know that they are likely only going to be in the facility for a day or two, the goal is to "plant a seed," Galyon said.

"Every kid you reach is a victory," said the married father of three.

Galyon expressed no regrets about changing careers, which has allowed him to spend time coaching his son's soccer team and engaging in outdoor activities that he enjoys. He feels lucky to have found both professional and personal fulfillment.

"Teaching's not for everybody," he said. "But I've found through the years I relate to the kids pretty well. I think that's one of my biggest strengths."



Commissioner Garland Hunt congratulates DJJ Teacher of the Year Dewayne Galyon.

daily newspaper for a couple of years. From there he moved on to the Knoxville Journal, where he worked for three years, primarily covering sports. While he loved the work, he said, the hours eventually got to him. Working from late afternoon

applied for a job with Whitfield County Schools in Georgia. He ended up getting a call from The Department of Juvenile Justice, who were looking for a teacher for the Dalton Regional Youth Detention Center (later renamed the Elbert



Coweta County Juvenile Probation and Parole Specialist III (JPPS III) Jean Urrutia was honored by the State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division for her outstanding advocacy for youth during the Young Lawyers Division's annual Child Advocate Awards. She has since been promoted to Coweta County Juvenile Program Manager.

Urrutia received the award on June 16, at a ceremony at the State Bar headquarters in Atlanta. She is the agency's liaison to the local juvenile court and serves as an advisor on delinquency matters to the Coweta County Board of Education Special Education Teacher Training Program. She also serves as the agency's Spanish translator for District Four as well as the local juvenile court. She is a member of the Parent and Children Coalition, and the Children and Family alliance and participates in LIPT. In addition to all her extra work, she carries a caseload of committed youth.

"I love what I do. I love who I work for. I believe in our mission," Urrutia said.

# Mapping the Future Continued

Continued from page 3

They are:

- **A need for more effective policies and legislation that favor and promote the use of evidence based juvenile justice practices that are in the best interest of youth, rehabilitation and community safety with a strong view toward prevention.**
- **A lack of understanding, a framework, protocol and will for solving juvenile justice problems.**
- **A better approach to multi-system youth.**

## Building Relationships

Michael Key, juvenile court judge in Troup County and president of the National Council of Family and Juvenile Court Judges said relationships are essential if juvenile justice workers are going to improve service delivery to youths. Key said that between 2003 and 2006 Troup County reduced use of secure confinement for juveniles by over 50 percent without compromising public safety.



**Regional Administrator Carl Brown writes out ideas during a brainstorming session.**

“We did not compromise public safety by doing that,” he said.

“In my county the success we have enjoyed has been because of relationships,” he said.

Judge Bill Byars, director of the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice addressed the conference. Before coming to South Carolina’s DJJ, Byars served as Director of the Children’s Law Office at the University of South Carolina School of Law and as Family Court Judge for the Fifth Judicial Circuit from 1989 to August 1999.

Byars urged those present to focus more on the community end of juvenile justice rather than the back end, or secure facilities. He concurred with Keys that building relationships is key to success in improving the juvenile justice system. Byars outlined how South Carolina’s Department of Juvenile Justice spent 13 years engaged in a federal lawsuit regarding conditions of confinement in its facilities. Change, he said, was a slow process. The suit was dismissed in 2003. That outcome would not have been possible

without community support Byars said. Byars said that when he took over South Carolina’s juvenile justice system it was in bad shape, with minor offenders lumped in with serious offenders in one overcrowded, urban facility. A key point of reform, Byars said, was focusing on the front end of the system, and moving youths out of secure facilities and into more appropriate settings.

Byars said this effort involved hiring more juvenile probation officers and partnering with Clemson University to offer services that were previously unavailable.

“If you really want to change the system, you have to move to the community,” Byars said.

## Continuing Efforts

The Juvenile Justice Conference was a beginning, and not an end. Each of the regional teams is now going to take their ideas back to their respective communities and continue the planning process, said Rosenbloom. A similar conference was held five years ago, he said, but no follow up was done. This time, there is grant money available from the Governor’s Office of Children’s and families to help continue the process. The result should be better coordination in communities that result in better outcomes for youth, Rosenbloom said.

“Juvenile justice should be local,” he said.

# Macon and Augusta YDCs Hold Summer Graduations

The Department of Juvenile Justice had two Youth Development Campus (YDCs) celebrate graduations in June.

Twelve youths at the Augusta YDC and five youths at the Macon YDC, DJJ’s only long-term facility for females, received either a high school diploma or a General Equivalency Degree (GED).

In Macon, five students received a high school diploma or General Equivalency Degree (GED) during a ceremony on June 3.



**Graduates at the Augusta YDC listen to commencement speaker Senator Hardie Davis.**

**“With a diploma in your hand, the world is at your feet. You can dream.”-Cheryl Banks**

Cheryl Banks, with the Dublin Judicial Circuit District Attorney’s Office, delivered the commencement address. Banks is a Senior Assistant District Attorney in the office. She told the graduates that her slogan of “dream it, believe it, and achieve it,” applies to them. Banks said, “With your diploma in your hand, the world is at your feet, you can dream.”

Macon YDC School Principal Jerry Jones had a message for both the students and family members at the graduation. He said, “We can’t give up on them. If we believe in them, they will believe in themselves, eventually.”

In Augusta, two youths received their high school diplomas and 10 received their GEDs at a ceremony on June 4 in at the Augusta YDC campus.

The commencement speaker was State Senator Hardie Davis. Davis is also a pastor and spent 17 years as an electrical engineer. Davis congratulated the youths on their accomplishments and encouraged them to find something they were good at and work diligently toward developing their talent.

“Every single one of you has something to offer,” he said.

The Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice is Georgia’s 181st school district and has accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. All DJJ teachers are certified. Students in short-term RYDCs and long-term YDCs both receive 330 minutes of instruction each day year round.



**Graduates at the Macon YDC wait to receive their diplomas.**

# Making History

**A**s the culmination of a two year process, both the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and the Correctional Education Association (CEA) each recommended the Department of Juvenile Justice's school system be accredited with their respective organizations.

The decisions came after delegates, in a rare joint inspection, visited eight DJJ facilities, interviewed over 100 people involved with the agency's education efforts, and inspected voluminous documents relating to DJJ's school system.

At a special called board meeting held on Oct. 6, representatives from both agencies announced that they would recommend accreditation at the upcoming meetings of their respective accrediting bodies. Previously, each of DJJ's 28 schools had been individually accredited by SACS, but this is the first time the system as a whole has undergone scrutiny. This is also the first time the agency has undergone a CEA evaluation.

The entire process was led by Regional Principal Dr. Rufus Johnson, who chaired the accreditation committee that did the hard work of preparing for the visit.

"His dedication has been remarkable and his work has been excellent," said Dr. Jack Catrett, associate superintendent of DJJ schools.

Dr. Tom Wellman, chair of the CEA accreditation commission, said he was impressed by all of the effort that went into preparing for the audit as well as by the field staff with whom he visited.

"What we found was a dedicated, enthusiastic staff at all the facilities we visited," he said.

Joint accreditation teams visited the Metro, DeKalb, Aaron Cohn, Augusta and Macon Regional Youth Detention Centers (RYDCs) as well as the Macon, Augusta and Muscogee Youth Development Campuses (YDCs).

Johnson said he was very pleased with the outcome of the review.

"I'm relieved," he said. "Not that I didn't think we wouldn't be successful, but because it validated the work that we have done."

In citing reasons for recommending accreditation, both teams cited:

- Expediency in meeting Memorandum Agreement requirements;
- DJJ's pre-service training program;
- An associate superintendent and staff who are highly regarded, and
- A secure, accurate records system and quality support services.

Dr. James Brown, chairman of the SACS accreditation committee praised DJJ, and said his committee found the school system met all standards.

"The evidence we have received indicates that the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice should be fully accredited," Brown said.

DJJ Commissioner Garland R. Hunt Esq. said he was proud of DJJ's education team, and appreciated how much work they had put in to the accreditation process.

"I know that all of our staff, especially our accreditation chairman Dr. Rufus Johnson worked very hard over the last two years to reach this goal," Hunt said. "We know that the youth in our care can achieve, and receiving these accreditations will help them, and it will also help us as we strive to make our school system even better."



**Dr. Muriel Coles, DJJ regional principal, assists inspectors from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Correctional Education Association as they review documents.**

## Promotions and Appointments

**Anthony Minnigan** has been appointed as the new **assistant director** of Programs and Services at the Aaron Cohn Regional Youth Detention Center (RYDC). Minnigan recently retired from the United States Army at the rank of Command Sergeants Major after more than 30 years of active duty service. He started his military career as a Military Police Officer at Fort Benning. His last assignment was with the Recruiting and Retention School at Fort Jackson, SC where he served as the chief enlisted instructor. He has a bachelor's degree in human resources from Ashford University.

**Todd Weeks** has been appointed as the **director** of the Eastman Youth Development Campus (YDC). Weeks began his career in state government with the Georgia Department of Corrections in 1986, where he served in various positions through 1996. In 1996 he came to DJJ as a sergeant at the Eastman YDC. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in 1997 and continued in that role until his promotion to captain at the Wrightsville YDC in 2000. In 2001, Weeks was promoted to unit manager and returned to Eastman YDC where he served in various roles. In 2009, he was temporarily assigned to the Macon YDC, where he was instrumental in their successful MOA audit. In November of 2009, he was promoted to associate director at Eastman YDC. Then in April 2010, he was appointed as the acting director of the facility.

**Candice Morrison** has been selected as the **director** of the Albany RYDC. Morrison most recently served as the assistant director of Programs at the Macon RYDC and prior to this held various positions with the agency, including social service provider II (SSP II) at Muscogee YDC, counselor at Griffin RYDC, and juvenile probation and parole specialist (JPPS II) and juvenile detention counselor at Sumter YDC. Morrison has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Clark Atlanta University and a master's degree in counseling and psychology from Troy University.

**Jean Urrutia** has been selected as **juvenile program manager** for the Coweta County Court Services Office (CSO). Ms. Urrutia began her career with the Department of Juvenile Justice in 2002 as a program assistant. In 2004, she was promoted to a JPPS II position in the Fayette Office. In January of 2007, she was once again

promoted to the JPPS III position in Coweta County. Urrutia has a bachelor's degree in communication from the Universidad del Sagrado Corazon in Santurce, Puerto Rico.

**Billy Wicker** has been selected as **director** at the Augusta Youth Development Campus (YDC). Wicker has over 20 years of experience in corrections. He began his career in 1987 at Georgia State Prison as a correctional officer and has held numerous positions within the Georgia Department of Corrections, including sergeant, unit manager, chief of security, deputy warden and acting warden. Mr. Wicker has served as assistant director at Sandersville Regional Youth Detention Center (RYDC) since 2007.

**Ken Nash** has been selected as **budget director** for DJJ. He was formerly budget director for the Department of Corrections. Prior to his position with DOC, he has served as Policy Analyst 3 and Budget/Policy Coordinator with the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB), Budget Officer and Budget Administrator with DOC, and Budget Analyst 1 and 2 with Georgia Technology Authority and Department of Human Resources (DHR). Nash also has served as a Project Director and Planner with DHR. Nash received his B.A. and M.A. from Bob Jones University and also completed his Master's of Public Administration at Valdosta State University.

**Angela Cosby** has been appointed as the **director** of the Office of Continuous Improvement. Cosby has been in state government for 26 years and with DJJ for 24 years. She has served as district director for District 7 since 2005. She has also served as a juvenile detention counselor, juvenile detention assistant director, and juvenile detention director. She has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice with a minor in corrections from Fort Valley State University, and a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from the same institution.

