



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

AVERY D. NILES, COMMISSIONER

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner

Jim Shuler, Director
Office of Communications



DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

3408 Covington Highway ▪ Decatur, Georgia ▪ 30032-1513
Telephone: (404) 508-7147 ▪ Fax: (404) 508-7341

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2, 2015

CONTACT:

Jim Shuler, Director
DJJ Communications
(404) 508-7238

JimShuler@dj.j.state.ga.us

1ST Macon Faith & Community Alliance Meeting Establishing a “Station of Hope” for DJJ Youth & Their Families

(MACON - GA) Department of Juvenile Justice Commissioner Avery D. Niles is pleased to announce the kick-off of DJJ's first **Faith and Community Alliance** meeting in Macon, Georgia this October. The Faith and Community Alliance is DJJ's community platform for building support among local stakeholders and Macon faith partners to help the Department of Juvenile Justice better serve youth in the Macon – Bibb county area.

Under the direction of DJJ's newly appointed Assistant Commissioner Keith Horton, the October 8th Faith and Community Alliance meeting is planned to develop new faith-based partnerships while strengthening existing community commitments. At the Department of Juvenile Justice, Assistant Commissioner Horton is responsible for the divisions of Support Services and Community Supervision. With AC Horton's guidance, the Community Alliance leadership will facilitate discussions and work sessions from 10:00am - 12:00pm at the Buck Melton Community Center, 2015 Felton Avenue, Macon, Georgia, 31201.

The mission with local faith partners will be to help establish a “Station of Hope” in Macon for DJJ youth and their families, along with these other priorities of juvenile justice reform:

- Developing mentorship programs for DJJ youth at local churches and community organizations
- Providing counseling and parenting skills classes for youth and parents
- Establishing re-entry assistance for youth returning to the Macon-Bibb county area following their release from secure confinement
- Providing instructional sessions on character development within local DJJ secure facilities
- Assisting the DJJ Team with the newly founded Macon Education Transitional Center for youth expelled from local schools, recently released from secure confinement, or challenged by mainstreaming back into a traditional classroom setting

(MORE MORE MORE)

(PAGE TWO TWO TWO)

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Georgia Juvenile Justice Assistant Commissioner Keith Horton invites local clergy, community leaders and anyone with an enduring interest in positive youth change to participate. "This is a great hands-on opportunity to help develop effective strategies for increasing youth success and for creating safe communities where we live," said Assistant Commissioner Horton.

For additional information about the October 8th Macon Faith and Community Alliance meeting, contact DJJ Chaplain Danny Horne at 404-508-6515 (O) or at 404-295-0057 (C).

(END RELEASE)

The Department of Juvenile Justice provides supervision, detention, and a wide range of treatment, educational and reentry services for youth referred by the Juvenile Courts. More than 50,000 youth are served each year by DJJ, including youth placed on probation, sentenced to short-term incarceration, or committed into custody by the Juvenile Courts.

In addition to the DJJ Central Office in Decatur, there are more than 100 DJJ court offices and secure facility locations throughout Georgia. For more information about special programs at the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice, join us on the web at <http://www.djjnewsandviews.org/>.

Jim Shuler
DJJ Director
Office of Communications
Communications: 404-508-7147
Direct Line: (404) 508-7238
Email: jimshuler@djj.state.ga.us

