



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF **JUVENILE JUSTICE**

AVERY D. NILES, COMMISSIONER

A MESSAGE FROM THE

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner

Jim Shuler, Director
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DJJ Badge Ceremony Highlights Staffing Transition at Crisp Regional Youth Detention Center

(CRISP COUNTY – GA) Department of Juvenile Justice Chief-of-Staff Mark Sexton presented state enforcement badges to Juvenile Corrections Officers at the Regional Youth Detention Center in Crisp County this week. The badge presentation ceremony formally marked the transition of operations at the Crisp RYDC from a contractor-controlled facility to a DJJ-staffed facility beginning this month.

Although the secure facility and property in Crisp County is state-owned, the youth detention facility has been run under contract with the State of Georgia by Youth Services International, a privately operated corrections company also known as “YSI”.

The YSI agreement at Crisp RYDC expired at the end of March 2015, but Youth Services International agreed to extend their contracting responsibilities for facility operations until the complete transition to DJJ state-run operations on May 1st, 2015.

“Ceremonies like this are a vital component for building a modern agency’s sense of pride and an outward symbol of integrating these staff members into the DJJ Team,” said DJJ Chief-of-Staff Mark Sexton. “This badge pinning event was planned to recognize the continued commitment and dedication of our team of correctional and law enforcement professionals serving the Crisp RYDC.”

DJJ Commissioner Avery D. Niles said eligible YSI staffers at the southwest Georgia facility were invited to apply for available positions under DJJ’s management. Commissioner Niles noted there was no break in youth services as the Crisp facility transitioned this month to staffing by DJJ state personnel.

“Badge ceremonies are a vital component for showing our agency’s sense of pride, while meeting the many challenges of our 21st century mission,” Commissioner Niles said.

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(PAGE TWO TWO TWO)

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Commissioner Niles said the department carefully planned and accomplished a smooth transition of juvenile detention operations with no interruption of appropriate health, education or nutrition programs for DJJ youth. Just as importantly, the Commissioner's priority for Safety and Security was carefully preserved. "The Crisp facility completed this transition seamlessly while maintaining normal security, school, medical, programming, and food service operations," said Niles.

The Commissioner assured that DJJ youth will continue to receive the same level of quality care and educational opportunities they have previously accessed at Crisp RYDC.

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