



Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, July 27, 2017
Decatur, GA
10:00 AM

Opening Remarks

Vice-Chair Sandra Taylor called to order the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice at 10:05 am. The meeting was held at DJJ Central Office Decatur, GA.

DJJ Staff Present: Commissioner Avery D. Niles, Assistant Commissioner Keith Horton, Associate Superintendent Jean Lee, Deputy Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, Acting Deputy Commissioner John Pearson, Director Mike Barton, Deputy Commissioner Catina Martin-Fenner, Director Scott Mall, Deputy Director Harold Cooper, Director Lisa Bryson, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Pamela Johnson, Deputy Commissioner Sean Hamilton, Edith E. Guilford, Director Allyson Richardson, Director John T. Smith, Director Virginia Phifer, Mary Catherine Heard, General Counsel Cindy Wang, Chaplain Danny Horne, Chief Financial Officer Kelly Dudley, Tamara Middlebrooks, Tomika Grigsby, Jessie Mincey, Todd Beatten, Arisha Dancy-Mattox, Andrew McGee, Hilroy Wilson, Carol Spurgeon, Renee McClanahan, Director Latera Davis, Director Monaletto Irby, Director Scott Cagle, Director Chris Thomas, Cathy Dravis, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Theo Carter Jr., Jerry Jones, Tamara Barber, Winifred Pierce, Barbara Franklin, Cheryl Sallee, Carrie T. Hamilton-Shavers, Leslie Stroud, Dr. LeTunya Walker, Doricia Thompson, Drew Townsend, Jim Shuler, Angela Daly, Waralene Hopkins, Andrew Laarhoven, Lahune Prescott, Nikki Tucker

Others Present: Helen Sloat, Youth Villages/Nelson Mullins; Rebecca Dobras, Attorney General's Office; Ashley Larrow, Office of Planning and Budget

Secretary's Report: Secretary Adam Kennedy conducted the Roll Call. The following members were present: Penny Penn, Richard Ambrose, Willie C. Bolton, Adam Kennedy, Julia Neighbors, John Edwards, Dr. Thomas Coleman, Sandra Heath-Taylor, Angie Holt, James Valbrun (by telephone), Judge Lisa Colbert and Judge Quintress Gilbert (by telephone)

Vice-Chair Taylor asked for a motion to approve the current agenda. A motion was made by Board member Bolton and seconded by Board member Holt. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chair Taylor asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2017 Board Meeting. A motion was made by Board Member Coleman and seconded by Board Member Kennedy. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner's Report

The Commissioner Report was previously submitted to the Board via email and it was included in the Board materials.

The following topics were discussed:

Commissioner gave an update on Board member Yarbrough's health and recognized the birthday of Board member Dr. Coleman.

Deputy HR Director Harold Cooper awarded Employee Faithful Service Awards to DJJ employees.

The Commissioner gave an update on the successful family engagement event at the Atlanta YDC and mentioned the upcoming event at Rockdale RYDC.

Office of Training Director Chris Thomas (Master Instructor) presented on the training Curriculum **(Addendum A)** and recognized Board Member John Edwards's impressive implicit bias training. Commissioner Niles presented Board member Edward's with a poster as a token of the agency's appreciation.

He also informed the Board regarding the upcoming leadership training to be held in Macon 8/9-8/11th and other special training projects, such as the online training library.

Board Member Bolton inquired about the number of waivers requested, and Secretary Adam Kennedy and Board Member Colbert expressed concerns about the proliferation of law enforcement training. Commissioner informed them that the Department's officers are mandated to be POST-certified.

Board Member Colbert would like to see more programs geared towards youth development. Deputy Commissioner of Support Services Margaret Cawood will present at the next board meeting regarding youth programming services.

Vice-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 Holt and seconded by Board Member Colbert. The motion carried unanimously.

Board of Education

During the DJJ Board of Education meeting, the following topics were discussed:

Associate Superintendent Jean Lee introduced the Teacher of the Year, Ms. Arisha Dancy-Mattox from the Aaron Cohn facility. Ms. Dancy-Mattox is a Language Arts teacher and took a moment to address the Board. Ms. Lee also gave a brief update on the school calendar and

teacher vacancies. Board Member Neighbors asked about how the agency was accommodating the vacancies. Ms. Lee stated that DJJ is operating as necessary.

Vice-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 Board member Kennedy and seconded by Board member Colbert. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair's Comments

Vice-Chair Taylor thanked the board members who attended for their input and attendance to the meeting. Vice-Chair Taylor reminded the Board of future events.

Old Business

No old business

Comments:

Secretary Kennedy gave a brief update on the independent courts' meeting regarding CHINS cases. He also recognized Deputy Commissioner of Community Services Catina Martin-Fenner and her team.

The Commissioner presented the DJJ Digest and Annual Report. The Office of Communications was recognized for their work. Board Member Colbert would like to know what is happening to the youth who leave DJJ. The Department will try to provide statistics on a quarterly basis. DJJ's website will also have a dashboard containing the statistics.

New Business

No new business

Comments:

No other comments

Vice-Chair Taylor announced that the next Board Meeting would be held on Thursday, August 24, 2017 at DJJ Headquarters, 3408 Covington Highway, Decatur, GA 30032 at 10:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned.

Sandra Heath-Taylor, Vice-Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Adam Kennedy, Board Secretary
Board of Juvenile Justice