



BOARD MEETING SUMMARY June 22, 2017

Members Present: Chair Elaine Snow, Vice-Chair Sandra Taylor, Secretary Adam Kennedy (via telephone conference), Willie C. Bolton, Julia Neighbors, Richard Ambrose, John Edwards (via telephone conference), Penny Penn, Fred Stephens, Dick Yarbrough, the Honorable Lisa Colbert (via telephone conference) and Dr. Thomas Coleman. Judicial Advisory Committee Member the Honorable Steven Teske was also present.

Motions and Other Business:

1. Chair Snow called the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice to order on Thursday, June 22, 2017, at 10:02 AM in the Central Office Board Room at 3408 Covington Hwy, Decatur, GA 30032.
2. A motion to approve the June 22, 2017 agenda was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.
3. A motion to approve minutes of the May 25, 2017 meeting was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.
4. Commissioner Avery D. Niles had previously submitted his written report (included in materials). Commissioner requested a moment of silence for the GA Department of Corrections Officers killed in the line of duty in Putnam County.
5. The Commissioner mentioned reorganization of the Department's leadership for Secure Facilities.
6. Deputy HR Director Harold Cooper awarded Employee Faithful Service Awards to DJJ employees.
7. Board Member Yarbrough commended the Commissioner and staff regarding the Commissioner's Youth Council. He was also impressed with the youths.
8. Commissioner mentioned Assistant Commissioner/Chief of Staff Joe Vignati's testimony before Congress in Washington, DC, regarding juvenile justice reforms.

9. The Commissioner stated that a legislative summary will be distributed to the Board via email as well as the 1998 DOJ MOA and outline. He also mentioned that the AU contract going into effect on July 1, 2017.
10. DJJ will host a Family Day on July 8, 2017, as part of its family engagement efforts. The focus will be on education. The Commissioner mentioned that one of the issues affecting family involvement is transportation difficulties.
11. Board Member Yarbrough asked about destruction of DJJ property by youth. Board Member Colbert mentioned her visits to other states' juvenile justice systems and the different models. The Commissioner discussed culture changes and other trauma treatment based training. Board Member Neighbors agreed that trauma-informed services are important. Board Member Edwards discussed the prior contract home program. Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Community Services Victor Roberts provided a historical background regarding the program. Commissioner mentioned the different opportunities that are available now. Judge Teske discussed looking at the data. Board Member Neighbors would like to see what other states are doing. Board Member Ambrose expressed some concerns regarding the contract home program.
12. Board Member Bolton wanted a Wilkes facility update. The facility is on schedule.
13. A motion to adjourn the Board of Juvenile Justice and to reconvene as the Juvenile Justice Board of Education was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.
14. Curriculum Director Keishia Douglas presented on the summer education program. Associate Superintendent Jean Lee gave an update of the Education Summit as well as the status of the STEM teacher position and reaching out to the technical schools. Board Member Yarbrough would like the teachers recognized for their outstanding performance to be present at board meetings.
15. A motion to adjourn the Juvenile Justice Board of Education and to reconvene as the Board of Juvenile Justice was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.
16. Old Business: No old business.
17. New Business: No new business. Chair Snow recognized the work of the Commissioner and staff.
18. With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting will be on July 27, 2017, at 10 AM in the Central Office Board Room.

Cindy Wang, General Counsel