

**Board of Juvenile Justice  
Thursday, January 27, 2011  
10:00 a.m.**

**Department of Juvenile Justice  
3408 Covington Highway  
Decatur, Georgia 30032-1513**

**Opening Remarks**

**J. Daniel Shuman, Chair**

Vice Chairman Dr. Edwin Risler called to order the January 27, 2011 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education. He noted the time as 10:00 a.m. Vice Chairman Dr. Risler asked that all attendees stand and state their name and organization affiliation.

**DJJ Staff Present:** Commissioner Amy Howell; Rob Rosenbloom; Jeff Minor; Richard Harrison; Michael McNeely; Diana Aspinwall; Victor Roberts; Scheree Moore; Cherecia Kline; Nathan Cain; Janssen Robinson; William Amideo; Dr. Jack Catrett; Coy Satterfield; Martha Patton; Joe Lee; Latera Davis; Miguel Fernandez; Fabienne Tate; Jackie Kelsey; Ronnie Woodard; Erica Seamon; Bill Parks

**Others:** Cheryl Dresser (Georgia Alliance of Therapeutic Services); Shoshana Elan (Barton/Emory Center); Michael Sanders (Nelson Mullins); Tina Piper (Attorney General's Office); Michelle Carter; Peter Kirkland (EmpowerMent)

The Chairman asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation by Board member Bruce Garraway.

**Roll Call**

Chairman Shuman asked for the roll to be called. Cherecia Kline conducted the roll call of attendance.

**Board Members Present:** Larry Barnes; Michael Baugh; Bruce Garraway; James Kelly; Elizabeth Lindsey (after roll call); Perry McGuire; Daniel Menefee; Dr. Ed Risler; Pastor Dexter Rowland; Stephen Simpson; Elaine Snow; Sandra Taylor

**Advisory Council Members Present:** Judge Quintress Gilbert

Noting the presence of a quorum of the Board, Vice Chairman Dr. Risler asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the January 27, 2011 Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education meeting.

Sandra Taylor moved to approve the agenda for the January 27, 2011 Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education meeting. Elaine Snow seconded the motion. The Chairman called for the vote and the motion was carried.

Vice Chairman Dr. Risler asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2010 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and the DJJ Board of Education and asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Daniel Menefee moved to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2010 meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and the DJJ Board of Education meeting. Stephen Simpson seconded the motion. The Chairman called for the vote and the motion was carried.

Vice Chairman Dr. Risler stated the minutes from the January 10, 2011 Special Called Board meeting will be available at the February Board meeting.

## **Commissioner's Report** Amy Howell, Commissioner

Commissioner Howell greeted everyone. She stated it was an honor and she was grateful to Governor Nathan Deal for giving her the opportunity to become the Commissioner of DJJ. Commissioner Howell said she is certain when she started with DJJ, she never imagined sitting in this seat. She said the possibilities and opportunities for DJJ and its youth are limitless. Commissioner Howell also stated she is grateful to have had the opportunity for the past five years to get to know the Board and to work with them. Commissioner Howell said the transition is going well, and it is nice to be able to hit the ground running and to be able to look around the table and call the Board members her friends.

Commissioner Howell said she believes in the mission of the agency. She stated she has been part of the leadership team for the past several years and believes in the work that the agency is doing and the leadership team that she has compiled. Commissioner Howell said she is excited about her new role because DJJ has been a model for juvenile justice since the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) started. She also stated she thinks about the future and how DJJ can continue to be a model that will grow and exceed standards. Commissioner Howell said she looks forward to working with DJJ's leadership team to develop a very solid vision.

Commissioner Howell said she is committed to making sure that DJJ has safe communities. She said if DJJ expects the youth to excel and to make better decisions then DJJ needs to help build better communities where they can do that.

Commissioner Howell said she is focused on where DJJ is right now in the current legislative session with the budget and implementing the changes and the cuts that the agency has had to make. Commissioner Howell said DJJ needs to continue to operate well and efficiently. She stated she believes deeply in efficiency and she knows looking for areas to improve will be challenging. She said that is why she is focused on the future and how DJJ can challenge itself.

Commissioner Howell said if DJJ expects the youth that they work with to grow then they need to grow as well.

Commissioner Howell said she is also focused on the leadership team and staff. She stated it is not about operating the facilities but it is about the staff. Commissioner Howell said she wants DJJ to be a place where hard working people strive, the standard is excellence and quality is what they are focused on. She also said she wants to focus on lifting up staff so that they can achieve as well.

Commissioner Howell introduced her executive management team to the Board.

Rob Rosenbloom – Deputy Commissioner of Youth Services

Jeff Minor – Deputy Commissioner of Fiscal and Administrative Services

Michael McNeely – Deputy Commissioner of Support Services. Within his division will be the Office of Investigations, Classification and Transportation and Criminal History. Mr. McNeely is new to DJJ and is a native of Georgia. He graduated from Georgia Southern University where he obtained a degree in criminal justice. Mr. McNeely has about 14 years in law enforcement working as a police officer in South Fulton County and a school resource officer. Mr. McNeely has been very active in Georgia politics and the tracking of various legislation. Mr. McNeely is also a deacon at his church and lives in Douglas County with his wife Jennifer. Commissioner Howell said she is excited to have him on her team.

Rick Harrison – Deputy Commissioner of Programs and Education. Mr. Harrison was the Director of DJJ Office of Behavioral Health. His division will include the Office of Education, Behavior Health, Medical and the Training. Mr. Harrison has 30 years of experience in direct services and management. Mr. Harrison also serves on a number of state service agencies and task forces.

Commissioner Howell also introduced the staff in her office.

Erica Seamon – Confidential Secretary to the Commissioner

Diana Aspinwall – Assistant to the Commissioner

Scheree Moore – Director of the Office of Communications

Joe Lee – Acting Director of the Office of Continuous Improvement

Commissioner Howell said she also made a few other changes due to some vacancies.

Victor Roberts – Assistant Deputy Commissioner. Mr. Roberts will be working under Rob Rosenbloom. Mr. Roberts has been with DJJ for a long time and will bring a wealth of expertise, leadership and management experience to the position.

Margaret Cawood – Regional Administrator

Commissioner Howell said it was hard to make some of these decisions because there are a great wealth of managers and leaders within DJJ who are very talented.

Commissioner Howell concluded her report and asked if there were any questions; there were none.

### **Election of Board Interim Officers**

Dr. Ed Risler, Board Vice Chairman  
Department of Juvenile Justice

Board Vice Chairman asked Board member Elizabeth Lindsay to present the election of Board officers that will serve until a permanent election in June 2011.

Elizabeth Lindsey asked for a motion that the slate of officers be approved by the Board. The motion was seconded by Board member Michael Baugh. The board unanimously approved the slate of candidates.

Dr. Ed. Risler – Chair  
Daniel Menefee – Vice Chair  
Sandra Taylor – Secretary

Chairman Dr. Risler called for the next agenda item and asked for a motion from the Board to close the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and open the DJJ Board of Education meeting.

Board member Elaine Snow called for a motion to close the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and open the DJJ Board of Education meeting. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Lindsey. The motion carried.

### **Education Update**

Dr. Jack Catrett, Associate Superintendent  
Department of Juvenile Justice

Commissioner Howell said she was grateful to have Dr. Catrett's leadership as superintendent for DJJ's schools. Commissioner Howell said she had the opportunity during the organizational change to get to know Dr. Catrett very well and stated he is very committed to the excellence of

DJJ's education programs, youth and employees. Commissioner Howell said she looks forward to continuing to work with Dr. Catrett in this role.

Commissioner Howell said she, along with Daniel Menefee, attended a mural unveiling at the Muscogee YDC on January 26, 2011. The mural is entitled "The Spirit of Education." She stated it is a partnership through the Office of Education. Commissioner Howell said the project will supply art supplies with learning opportunities. Commissioner Howell stated the mural was put in the gymnasium and is truly outstanding. Nineteen students at the Muscogee YDC along with renowned artist Emanuel Martinez spent a month working on the mural. Commissioner Howell said she hopes the Board will get a chance to see the mural. Commissioner Howell said artist Emanuel Martinez is from Colorado and had a history of being in the juvenile system. Commissioner Howell said that was part of his interest in doing a program like this. Mr. Martinez really connected with the youth at the Muscogee YDC and talked to them how he turned his life around.

Dr. Catrett said he appreciated Commissioner Howell comments.

Dr. Catrett greeted everyone. He stated the second semester/winter semester started on January 5, 2011.

Dr. Catrett stated DJJ is down to two regional principals; north and south. He stated they are using YDC principals to supervise those RYDCs that are in their area. Dr. Catrett also said they had to use some Central Office employees. Dr. Catrett said they have had outstanding support from the YDC and RYDC directors.

Dr. Catrett discussed the curriculum report and stated DJJ's teachers are trained in whole group instruction. He stated whole group instruction is up and running and the report back is that everything is good. Dr. Catrett said they use the Georgia Performance Standards now that go across the grades through the curriculum. It allows DJJ teachers to have a more direct contact and engagement with the youth.

Dr. Catrett said DJJ's anti-bullying curriculum is up and out at the schools. Dr. Catrett thanked the curriculum department for their hard work.

Dr. Catrett said the end of course test was administered from December 1-13, 2010 to 220 students who earned Carnegie Units. Dr. Catrett said the test was administered in 9<sup>th</sup> grade Literature, American Literature, Physical Science, Biology, United States History, Economics, Math 1 and Math 2. Dr. Catrett stated on January 27, 2011, they will be administering the 8<sup>th</sup> grade writing test.

Dr. Catrett said he is very happy that DJJ was able to do the Emanuel Martinez Art For Kids project. Dr. Catrett said they were trying to do this project for over a year. He stated not only did they do the mural but each YDC classroom will receive \$500 in art supplies. Dr. Catrett stated in the future they will have the opportunity to provide a youth who is good in art with a scholarship after they leave one of DJJ's facilities. He stated this project allowed DJJ to expand and look for other alternatives to transition.

Dr. Catrett said the Positive Behavior Support Grant is a \$3 million grant that will be given to DJJ over 3 years. It will focus on studying how to help youth in a positive way. Dr. Catrett said Coy Satterfield is in charge of this project and will be available after the board meeting to answer any questions.

Dr. Catrett said Coy Satterfield was able to form a partnership with Atlanta Urban League to enroll 30 DJJ YDC youth who have been released to go to their school to work program. The students will receive free assessment, skill training, computer courses, and job readiness skills. The project will also provide students with mock interviews. If the youth are successful in this project, they will be matched up with potential employers that will schedule them for interviews.

Dr. Catrett said he signed two high school diplomas from the Macon YDC.

Dr. Catrett said the Sumter YDC had a car show for the youth that are enrolled in the automotive technical courses. He stated it was a really good education experience. Dr. Catrett said Chairman Dr. Risler attended the event. Dr. Catrett said he, along with the staff and the youth at the Sumter YDC, really appreciated Chairman Dr. Risler's attendance at the event.

Dr. Catrett also thanked the Board for their support.

Dr. Catrett concluded his report and asked if there were any questions.

Board member Stephen Simpson said he was glad that DJJ was addressing bullying. He asked if Dr. Catrett can send the Board a link to DJJ's anti-bullying policy via email. Stephen Simpson also asked if the Board can receive more information on the Art for Kids Project.

Dr. Catrett said he will get that information to the Board right away.

Commissioner Howell said they actually put together a complete package to include training material for the staff. The anti-bullying policy is also included in the DJJ's orientation to the youth.

Board member Larry Barnes asked there was a language barrier at the facilities and asked if DJJ had EOSL teachers?

Dr. Catrett said DJJ does not have an EOSL instructor at their small facilities. He said fortunately at the YDC facilities there is someone at each facility that speaks Spanish. Dr. Catrett said a few years ago they developed their introduction CAPS in Spanish so that the youth that come in who don't understand English have this available for them. Dr. Catrett said he does not perceive a language barrier at the facilities. Most of the Hispanic youth that are at DJJ facilities speak English well enough to understand what is going on.

Board member Elaine Snow asked if the anti-bullying policy was at the all the YDC and RYDC facilities?

Dr. Catrett said yes.

Chairman Dr. Risler said in the future, he would like the Board get a presentation on DJJ's anti-bullying policy.

Chairman Dr. Risler thanked Dr. Catrett for inviting him to the Sumter YDC Christmas Automotive Show. Dr. Risler stated he was very impressed with the Sumter YDC automotive show.

Chairman Dr. Risler asked the Board to refer to their packet for a write up on supporting DJJ academic programs. He asked the Board use the document to address legislators in their area.

Judge Gilbert said it was a wonderful write up and stated it underscored the positive aspects of the type of services that DJJ has with education in the Department of Juvenile Justice. Judge Gilbert said the article was written by Chairman Dr. Risler.

Dr. Catrett said they are in the process of choosing new textbooks for Health and Social Studies and invited board members who are involved in that committee to give their input.

Judge Gilbert asked if there were any thoughts into providing promethean boards at DJJ's facilities.

Dr. Martha Patton said the Office of Education uses federal funding to provide resources for their classrooms. She stated they first looked at the basic technology in their classrooms first before looking into purchasing the promethean board. They decided to put into every classroom new laptops, monitors, projectors and printers. Dr. Patton said the technology is being used every day with the whole group instruction. Dr. Patton said it is the responsibility of the teacher to allow the students to be engaged with the new technology. She stated the youth are fascinated with the fact that they have the ability to sit in a classroom and the teachers are able to take them anywhere. Dr. Patton said it is DJJ's answer right now for the promethean or smart board. She said she hopes in the future that they will be able to put that kind of technology in every classroom. She stated right now they are using a white screen that is very similar to the promethean or smart board. Their whole group curriculum is on a website. The teachers are able to go to the website, bring up their lesson plans and go to other links that are going on in association with what is going on in the classroom.

Dr. Patton stated the teachers felt there might be some resistance from the students because they got so accustomed to using CAPS. She said before the fall teacher training, they had the youth at the Augusta YDC put together a Power Point presentation so that they could engage students. That Power Point presentation was shown to all DJJ youth around the state. The students got an opportunity to see what they were in for and were very excited.

Dr. Patton said at some point they would like give the presentation to the Board.

Hearing no further questions, Chairman Dr. Risler called for the next agenda item and asked for a motion from the Board to close the DJJ Board of Education meeting and resume the regular

meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice. Daniel Menefee made the motion. Bruce Garraway seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chairman Shuman called for the next item on the agenda; Legislative Update.

### **Legislative Update**

Scheree Moore, Director of Communications

Scheree Moore greeted everyone. Ms. Moore said she was in training and apologized for missing the past several board meetings.

Ms. Moore stated she will give the Board a brief update on the legislation this session.

Ms. Moore reminded the Board that DJJ is currently working on legislation on Designated Felon Modification, Interstate Compact and the Detention Assessment Instrument (DAI). Ms. Moore said DJJ is in talks with the Governor's Office and his staff about clarity surrounding each step of their proposed legislation.

In addition, DJJ is in the process of securing sponsors for the bills that coincide with Governor's staff's recommendations.

Ms. Moore gave a brief recap of the legislation:

Designated Felon Modification would allow judges to modify the sentences of designated felons who have been rehabilitated and have successfully completed education and program requirements.

Ms. Moore said Georgia is one of a few states that are not included in the Interstate Compact. She stated DJJ wants to make sure that their youth that go to other states are getting services.

DAI legislation would be used to provide information to juvenile court judges or to the juvenile court when making decisions about how to sentence youths or decisions to detain the youth and where they should go.

Ms. Moore stated it is now day 6 of the legislative session. She said she has been going to the Capitol to talk to the different legislators and setting up appointments for Commissioner Howell.

Ms. Moore reminded the Board to fill out the Personal Financial Disclosure form. The Board will be able to access their information online. The State Ethics Commission will provide the pin number and they will be able to access the information online. Ms. Moore said any board members who don't have a pin number, will need to fill out the form and her office will forward it to the State Ethics Commission. The State Ethics Commission will email the board members

their pin numbers. Ms. Moore said any board members who remember their pin number can use that same number to log into the State Ethics Commission website.

Board member Jim Kelly said he would like to see an executive summary on DJJ's three pieces of legislation.

Commissioner Howell said DJJ just received final modification as to what they can and cannot proceed with and is in the process of making some final decisions about the language. Commissioner Howell said at the Legislature, they will have some actual language. She stated at the next board meeting they will have a copy of the language of each bill along with the executive summary and the talking points they will be utilizing.

Ms. Moore said she is working to get the approval through the Governor's Office. She stated DJJ is waiting on clarity on some of the things the Governor's Office wants handled. The Governor's Office is concerned about the language and wants to make sure DJJ is on the same page with them.

Ms. Moore reminded the Board they will be able to go online and view the bills. She said she is in the process of taking care of that and will send out an email once that information is available. She stated everything will be included and the Board will be able to see what legislation is being tracked.

Chairman Dr. Risler said he would also like Ms. Moore to include any upcoming committee meetings.

Commissioner Howell said once DJJ receives the final word about how the legislation should be worded and what it is, the Board will be fully informed.

Board member Perry McGuire asked if there will be new business. He stated he did not see it on the agenda.

Chairman Dr. Risler said he will cover new business in his report.

Ms. Moore concluded her report.

Chairman Risler called for the next item on the agenda; Budget Update.

**Budget Update**  
Jeff Minor, Deputy Commissioner

Jeff Minor said it was a pleasure to come before the Board. He stated he will bring the Board up to date on the differences between what DJJ had to submit all the way up to the 10% level and what the Governor has actually recommended in his budget.

Mr. Minor said DJJ is now representing the Governor's budget. He said it is real balance between supporting the Governor's position on where he thinks Georgia needs to go as state and what the budget needs to be for juvenile justice. He said linked with that is the Governor's willingness to support legislation to help DJJ manage the budget cuts he proposed. Mr. Minor said legislators need to be fully aware of the impact of the budget cuts and the only way DJJ will manage any secure beds cut is with accompanying legislation and change in policy or practice that is reasonable. Mr. Minor said from the Governor's position and from the budget cuts he is proposing, he is taking the more reasonable course rather than the worst case scenario. Mr. Minor said Governor Deal was not willing to for DJJ to take on some of the more controversial avenues of legislation.

Mr. Minor asked the Board to refer to their handout. He stated the first two sheets shows the percentage requirements that DJJ had to submit, 4%, 6% and 8% in FY2011 and 6%, 8% and 10% in FY2012, and the Governor's recommendation.

DJJ proposed six furlough days that would have started January 2011 through June 2011. Mr. Minor said Governor Deal's budget recommendation for amended FY2011 does not include any furlough days for DJJ.

DJJ proposed the closure of number of facilities that included three (3) 30-beds facilities, one (1) 49-bed facility, changes to the Eastman YDC facility, and a budget cut related to that. Mr. Minor also stated there would have also been a mission change at the Paulding RYDC to handle the YDC youth.

Mr. Minor said the Governor's recommended budget calls for the closure of two (2) 30-bed RYDCs. Any bed closures would have a July 1, 2012 implementation date. Mr. Minor said for FY2011 amended budget, there will be no bed closure. The impacts of these reductions can be mitigated in significant ways with legislative changes and policy changes. Without reductions in juveniles entering the system or new strategies in managing length of stay in facilities, the proposed cuts will cause crowding in secure facilities.

Mr. Minor reminded the Board that DJJ has had to cut its budget every year for almost four years. He stated DJJ has survived fairly well with the budget cuts it had to take. He said since 2009, DJJ's state fund budget has been reduced by \$76.5 million. Mr. Minor said 88% of those budget cuts have come in personnel services and services that benefit children. He stated from the personnel services side DJJ's employee positions have decreased by 623 during that three year time frame. Administrative positions have been cut by approximately 50. Mr. Minor said this is 20% of DJJ's work force in administration.

He stated DJJ has lost 30% of its YDC bed capacity. He said that includes the 300 bed closure at the Bill Ireland YDC in 2009 as well as the 44 bed reduction at the Macon YDC. Mr. Minor said DJJ closed 404 beds over the 3 years since the budget cuts started.

Mr. Minor said these budget cuts have impacted almost every aspect of business. Mr. Minor stated there continues to be concern about the growth of the designated felon population and the amount of space they are taking up in YDC beds. Regular committed youth on a regular two years commitment are being served another way. He said there is no room for them in YDC beds. DJJ is below 35 regular committed youth that are in a YDC bed. Mr. Minor said DJJ is managing those youth successfully in the community with residential programs, therapeutic programs, high intensity supervision levels, and services. He said that has tested the resources of the community and the community staff. He stated youth that are at the lower end of the risk scale and lesser offenders may not be receiving quite the attention they used to receive. He said that is a concern for DJJ because obviously they want to steer these youth in the right direction quickly.

Mr. Minor said DJJ's main focus in the future will be to repair some of the budget cuts and the options they need to have available for the regular committed youth in the community.

Mr. Minor said they have not named the 2 RYDC facilities that will be closing in July 2012.

Mr. Minor said the personal services budget cuts are \$5.6 million the first year and \$5.2 million the next. This includes the hiring freeze or the lapse factor that will allow DJJ to hold more positions vacant.

Mr. Minor said 11 administrative and 11 education positions were cut. He stated the education positions were cut due to the class room size change at the RYDCs. He said this has already been done at the YDCs.

Mr. Minor said DJJ also eliminated paid overtime. He said DJJ historically paid very little overtime and uses the Fair Labor Standards Act comp-time.

Mr. Minor said DJJ terminated residential bed contracts with Project Adventure, Bakers Ferry and Augusta A&D. He said the youth that were at these facilities have been transitioned out over the past several months.

Mr. Minor told the Board as they look at the budget, they will see some state wide changes that the Governor's office and OPB put into DJJ's budget. He said money will come into every department around retirement and employer contributions to retirement as well as worker's compensation increases.

Mr. Minor said the Governor's recommendation replaces the loss of fiscal stabilization funds from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This replaces a total of \$28.9 million in ARRA funds with state funds.

Mr. Minor said Georgia's economy has been improving and stated revenues have risen for five consecutive months. He said things are beginning to turn, but with the challenges of the loss of the ARRA money the issues that the Governor faces with the Hope Scholarship are the reasons why DJJ will have to continue to cut at this level.

Mr. Minor said if DJJ receives operations money they will be able to open the Atlanta YDC. He stated there is ongoing construction at the Rockdale 60-bed RYDC that will be finished by the end of this fiscal year. He also said the 20-bed expansion at the Clayton RYDC is completed. Mr. Minor said as soon as things change with the economy, some attention needs to be paid to DJJ and its infrastructure.

Jeff Minor concluded his report and asked if there were any questions.

Board member Jim Kelly said when the Board approved the last budget proposal; it was done with the understanding that DJJ would be pursuing certain pieces of legislation. He asked if it was safe to say that that legislation would no longer be pursued, and he needed the clarity as to whether or not that was true. Mr. Kelly asked where DJJ was in terms of the legislation and if they even relate to the three that are in the package that was discussed?

Mr. Minor said they do. Mr. Minor said as DJJ discussed closing beds that there were a number of ideas around what needed to change. He said with the concept of the DAI, this would be the third time DJJ has gone after legislation related to this. This would free up bed space because it is best practice, but it will not have a tremendous impact bed space. He said if DJJ coupled the DAI proposal with that language that would prevent certain types or status offender, non violent misdemeanor; this would allow DJJ to free up even more beds.

Mr. Minor said the DAI is on the list of legislations that DJJ will pursue.

Mr. Kelly said he wants to see the talking points on the three pieces of legislation DJJ is trying to pursue.

Mr. Minor said he would be more than happy to provide that information to the Board.

Board member Sandra Taylor said in regards to the DAI, will the Board be able to track that legislation.

Mr. Minor said yes.

Commissioner Howell said because of what the Governor included in the pieces of legislation that DJJ will be moving forward with are less focused on really controlling population. She stated the DAI has an override and these pieces will help judges make better informed decisions when it comes to detention.

Commissioner Howell said what DJJ is trying to do with legislation is to guide good policies that help DJJ maintain a well run system. The DAI would have a bar admission but will have the ability to help the decision making for the courts. She stated the DF modification in terms of credit for good behavior or for a youth obtaining their degree is an idea that may not open up as many beds as DJJ anticipates, but they hope that it will let those youth that have received the benefit transition to the community. She said this would create some incentive within the facility that would help DJJ.

Commissioner Howell said none of the pieces that DJJ is pursuing are really going to have the impact of helping the agency manage population.

Commissioner Howell said DJJ is managing what it has now but is looking forward to the future about what the system should be, and the population growth that is coming. Commissioner Howell said they will also be looking at how the changes they have made due to the budget cuts will impact how they provide service now.

Mr. Kelly said he needed some clarification because Mr. Minor said DJJ is fine, but based on Commissioner Howell's comments none of the legislation that DJJ is pursuing now will have the effect of reducing its population. He said he thought DJJ would be pursuing legislation that will reduce the population. He stated he would like to see a handout of what DJJ was pursuing when they passed the last budget and what they are not pursuing now. Mr. Kelly stated he is hearing two different things and wants to know if DJJ will be reducing the population or not.

Commissioner Howell said it will not have a dramatic impact on reduction of DJJ population.

Mr. Kelly said he would like to see what DJJ hoped to happen legislatively, and what will happen legislatively. He would like the Board to get an assessment of what DJJ did or did not get when the Board passed a budget. He said it is important for the Board to know how much of their wishes and desires as a Board are being heard or considered by the legislature and the Governor's office.

Chairman Dr. Risler said it is a question of management either to control population on the front end or back end. He said he did not think it would necessarily reduce it as much as it would manage it.

Elizabeth Lindsey said the legislative intent of DJJ going in and trying to manage is to give judges discretion with some kind of assessment tool that will hopefully be tied to best practices and not the budget expense. She said one question she would have as a legislator is if we give these judge discretion to keep youth on the low level in do we have any data that shows they have less contact with the system going forward? Ms. Lindsay asked how that will be measured.

Mr. Minor said it will be hard to measure that, but there have been attempts to look at youth similarly with crime types, history and social and economic issues and determine who went to detention and who did not.

Rob Rosenbloom reminded the Board that the DAI is a measurement tool and risk assessment for youth who are going into detention. It measures risk to reoffend prior to going to court and it looks at the risk of them not showing up for court. He said it is risk tool for those purposes only.

Judge Gilbert said she spoke to Nathan Deal's wife when Commissioner Howell was being sworn in, and she reminded her that Governor Deal was a juvenile court judge. She said DJJ will see a management style change because of that because he has been in the system and knows what is going on in juvenile justice and what judges need.

### **Chairman's Comments**

**Chairman Dr. Ed Risler  
Board of Juvenile Justice**

Chairman Risler asked if there was any unfinished business. Hearing none, he asked if there was any new business.

Vice Chairman Daniel Menefee thanked the DJJ staff that came to work after the ice storm.

Bruce Garraway said he wanted to give kudos to the Office of Communications for the new design of the DJJ newsletter.

Chairman Dr. Risler said he was humbled and thankful and appreciated the Board vote of confidence. He requested the Office of Communications to update the laminated DJJ executive team contact list. He said one should be developed not only for the DJJ executive team but also the Board members.

Chairman Dr. Risler encouraged the Board to visit a facility in their area. He said it would mean a lot to the staff if the Board show their support.

Chairman Dr. Risler said he will meet with Daniel Menefee and Sandra Taylor to develop a survey that will be sent out to the Board. He said the survey will consist of questions about how the board is working, what they would like to see more of and how they would like to participate. He said based on those results, they will use that information to develop some baseline strategies moving forward.

Chairman Dr. Risler announced the next DJJ Board Meeting will be at the Central Office on February 24, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Chairman Risler asked for a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice.

Board Member Bruce Garraway made the motion, and Board Member Sandra Taylor made the second.

The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

---

Dr. Ed Risler, Chair  
Board of Juvenile Justice

---

Amy V. Howell,  
Commissioner

---

Sandra Taylor, Secretary  
Board of Juvenile Justice