



Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, June 22, 2017
Decatur, GA
10:00 AM

Opening Remarks

Chair Elaine Snow called to order the meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice at 10:02 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, Royal Godfrey, Brian Harrelson, Acting Deputy Commissioner John Pearson, Director Joan Quinn-Cannon, Melody Stanfield, 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, Kim Todd, Edith E. Guilford, Director Allyson Richardson, Director John T. Smith, Director Virginia Phifer, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Lisa Mantz, Mary Catherine Heard, John Gee, General Counsel Cindy Wang, Chaplain Robbie Passmore, Harold Farmer, Chief Financial Officer Kelly Dudley, Director Keisha Douglas, Assistant Director Chris Wood, Tamara Middlebrooks, Tomika Grigsby, Lila Brady, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Michael McNeely, Cherecia Kline, Regional Administrator Audrey Stokes, Summer Sanders

Others Present: Helen Sloat, Youth Villages/Nelson Mullins; Olivia Frank, Southern Center for Human Rights; Amy Radley, Attorney General's Office

Secretary's Report: Secretary Adam Kennedy conducted the Roll Call. The following members were present: Elaine Snow, Penny Penn, Fred Stephens, Dick Yarbrough, Richard Ambrose, Willie C. Bolton, Adam Kennedy (by phone), Julia Neighbors, John Edwards (by phone), Dr. Thomas Coleman, Sandra Heath-Taylor, Judge Steve Teske, and Judge Lisa Colbert (by phone)

Chair Snow asked for a motion to approve the current agenda. A motion was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Snow asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2017 Board Meeting. A motion was made by Board Member Yarbrough and seconded by Board Member Bolton. 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 requested a moment of silence for the GA Department of Corrections Officers killed in the line of duty in Putnam County.

The Commissioner mentioned reorganization of the Department's leadership for Secure Facilities.

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

Board Member Yarbrough commended the Commissioner and staff regarding the Commissioner's Youth Council. He was also impressed with the youths.

Commissioner mentioned Assistant Commissioner/Chief of Staff Joe Vignati's testimony before Congress in Washington, DC, regarding juvenile justice reforms.

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.

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.

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.

Board Member Bolton wanted a Wilkes facility update. The facility is on schedule.

Chair Snow 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 Taylor and seconded by Board Member Coleman. The motion carried unanimously.

Board of Education

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

Curriculum Director Keishia Douglas presented on the summer education program (**Addendum A**). 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 Teacher of the Year recognized at the next Board meeting.

Chair Snow 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 Coleman and seconded by Board member Ambrose. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair's Comments

Chair Snow thanked the board members who attended for their input and attendance to the meeting.

Old Business

No old business

New Business

No new business

Comments:

No other comments

Chair Snow announced that the next Board Meeting would be held on Thursday, July 27, 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