

Board of Juvenile Justice
Thursday, September 22, 2011
10:00 a.m.

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

Opening Remarks

Dr. Edwin Risler, Chair

Chairman Risler called to order the September 22, 2011, meeting of the Board of Juvenile Justice and DJJ Board of Education. He noted the time as 10:00 a.m. Chairman Risler asked that all attendees stand and state their name and organization affiliation.

DJJ Staff Present: Commissioner Amy Howell; Rick Harrison; Jeff Minor; Carl Brown; Michael McNeely; Victor Roberts; Martha Dalesio; Tina Piper; Diana Aspinwall; Emily Gest; Scheree Moore; Cherecia Kline; Latera Davis; Nathan Cain; Janssen Robinson; Dr. Jack Catrett; Coy Satterfield; Dr. Rufus Johnson; Deborah Moore; Vita Jordan; Ed Cook; Harold Cooper; Dr. Audrey Armistad; Jeff Alligood; George Smith; Coretta Green; Relus Lucear, Jr.; Cami Stokes; April Eason; Tim Suddreth; James Sanders; Betty Miller; Debbie Alexander; Carrie Hamilton; Cheryl E. Williams

Others: Ashley Culberson (Attorney General's Office); Alexander Bissell (Barton Child Law & Policy Center)

Chairman Risler asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance led by a DJJ youth, followed by the invocation by Pastor Garry "Pearl" Pierce.

Roll Call

Chairman Risler asked for the roll to be called by the secretary of the Board. Secretary Sandra Taylor conducted the roll call of attendance.

Board Members Present: Larry Barnes; Michael Baugh; Bruce Garraway; Elizabeth Lindsey (late); Perry McGuire; Daniel Menefee; Dr. Edwin Risler; Pastor Dexter Rowland; Stephen Simpson; Elaine Snow; Sandra Taylor

Noting the presence of a quorum of the Board, Chairman Risler asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the September 22, 2011, Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education meeting.

Vice-Chairman Menefee moved to approve the agenda for the meeting.

Board Member Snow seconded the motion.

Chairman Risler called for the vote.

The motion carried.

Chairman Risler asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 25, 2011, Board of Juvenile Justice and Board of Education meeting. Chairman Risler asked if there were any corrections to the minutes.

Board Member Simpson moved to approve the minutes.

Vice-Chairman Menefee seconded the motion.

Chairman Risler called for the vote and the motion carried.

Commissioner's Report
Amy Howell, Commissioner

DJJ was successful in obtaining a grant under PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act). Over two years, DJJ will receive \$560,000. Commissioner Howell acknowledged the efforts of Sarah Draper, Latera Davis, Martha Dalesio and others for their hard work in putting together the components of the grant proposal.

The DJJ direct reports meeting on September 17 was held at the Macon YDC. The direct reports meeting were followed by a YDC directors meeting.

Commissioner Howell attended the Annual Legislative Black Caucus Conference and spoke on a panel discussion about criminal justice, recidivism and the work and future of DJJ. She stated it was a good opportunity to discuss what they have accomplished thus far.

At an upcoming Board meeting, the Board will get a presentation on a mapping initiative. This will allow the Board to see where incidents are taking place. It will give them an opportunity to look at communities and how they are utilizing their resources

At the October 2011 Board meeting, there will be a presentation on DJJ's asset management plan. The department has undertaken a study that looks at all of DJJ's resources in terms of their facilities. Commissioner Howell said the Board will find the report to be very helpful because it shows where the department is making some of their decisions about their resources in an effort to better manage assets.

Emily Gest was hired as DJJ's new director of communications. She has a wealth of experience that will be a great asset to the department. Gest was a vice president of large public relations firm in New York and was a writer at the *New York Daily News* and the *New York Times*. Gest also has a background in working with a similar agency to DJJ in New York. Commissioner Howell said her experience will complement the overall DJJ team.

Scheree Moore is DJJ's new director of the legislative affairs. Commissioner Howell said the juvenile code rewrite is a major initiative for DJJ. DJJ will have two bills in the legislature and a complete overhaul of the juvenile code can have a very big impact on the agency. Moore will be working closely with Tina Piper who is the director of the legal services to ensure DJJ is present in the conversations at the capitol and is making clear what the impact of proposed changes could be.

Commissioner Howell concluded her report and asked if there were any questions.

Vice-Chairman Menefee announced Judge Aaron Cohn of Columbus will be retiring at the end of September and asked if DJJ was going to do anything in his honor.

Commissioner Howell said there will be a retirement ceremony for Judge Cohn on September 27 and Deputy Commissioner Carl Brown and other DJJ staff will attend. She reminded the Board a DJJ facility is named after Judge Cohn and stated DJJ will continue to celebrate him well beyond his retirement.

Chairman Risler said he sent a letter on behalf of the Board thanking Judge Cohn for his service.

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

Board Member Rowland made 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 Board Member Lindsey.

The motion carried.

Education Update

Commissioner Amy Howell, Superintendent
Richard Harrison, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Juvenile Justice

Commissioner Howell said she has been focused on operations at the Eastman YDC. A number of students have completed their education and received a high school diploma or GED. She stated there was a need to find a way for them to remain active and engaged in campus life. She said they will focus more on the development of a graduate education program at the Eastman YDC, and Dr. Catrett will get that up and running.

Deputy Commissioner Richard Harrison said they have spent a lot of time planning the graduate education program. There is a need to promote successful transition and provide youth with tangible things they can take with them back to the community.

Fall training will be held at Forsyth at the Georgia Public Safety Training Academy on October 17-18. The theme of the event is “Unlocking Academic Potential through Effective Student Engagement.”

Dr. Rufus Johnson said parent/teacher conferences are valuable and will provide parents with the truth about what is going on in DJJ schools. Parents will have the opportunity to meet with their child’s teacher. He said he hopes that this will improve communication between parents, teachers, and administrators. Dr. Johnson encouraged the Board to attend an open house in their district.

Board member McGuire asked if the Board could see a breakdown of the custodial parent or guardian of each child in DJJ custody.

Dr. Johnson said he can provide the Board with that information.

Board member Garraway said he will attend the open house at the Gwinnett RYDC on October 26, 2011.

Dr. Jack Catrett gave a breakdown of the year 2010 – 2011 school year:

<u>Awarded</u>	<u>Number of Diplomas and Certificates</u>
• High School Diplomas	51
• GED’s	125
• Work Ready Certificates	66
• Technical Certificates	66

Dr. Catrett also gave a breakdown of the current school year 2011-2012:

<u>Awarded</u>	<u>Number of Diplomas and Certificates</u>	<u>School Sites</u>
High School Diplomas	2	1 Eastman RYDC
GEDs	5	1 Aaron Cohn RYDC 4 Eastman YDC
Work Ready Certificates	5 (1 Bronze, 3 Silver, 1 Gold)	1 Aaron Cohn RYDC 4 Savannah River Challenge YDC
Technical Certificates	4 (2 Auto Tech, 1 Auto Body, 1 Horticulture)	1 Augusta YDC 4 Eastman YDC

Dr. Catrett said Aaron Cohn RYDC had their first graduation where two youth graduated.

Dr. Audrey Armistad shared a new initiative that will be started by the Office of Education Services and Behavioral Health Services. Dr. Armistad said Commissioner Howell and the executive team challenged the Office of Education Services to widen the spectrum of tools that they were offering. They looked at the success they had seen with Emanuel Martinez and the Arts for Kids Emanuel Project and decided they would use that particular project as a

springboard to start their own initiative to infuse art across the curriculum in all subject areas in all facilities.

The initial training for the teachers for infusing art across the classroom will begin at the education training.

Emanuel Martinez will work on a mural project at the Augusta YDC from October 3 – 19. Dr. Armistad made reference to a flyer that was sent out to art agencies, local colleges and universities in the Augusta, GA area for a “Meet and Greet” event on October 12, 2011 with Martinez. They hope to gain some volunteers from the art community to continue art programs with the youth long after Martinez is gone.

Deputy Commissioner Harrison said ethics training will take place in October 2011. The training will be based on the American Association of Education Educators Code of Ethics.

Harrison concluded his report.

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

Board Member Simpson made the motion

The motion was seconded by Board Member Snow.

The motion carried.

Milan YDC Update

Carl Brown, Deputy Commissioner
George Smith, Milan YDC Director
Department of Juvenile Justice

Deputy Commissioner Carl Brown introduced Youth Services International staff to talk about Milan YDC.

Milan YDC Director George Smith said YSI and the Milan YDC staff are committed to providing the best service possible. Smith said they have made every effort to ensure management is in place to meet their goals.

Smith said his assistant director is Earnest Baukmon. Smith said Coretta Green was a social service coordinator at Eastman YDC, and she is now assistant facility director for programs at Milan YDC. He stated Relus Lucear, Jr. is the regional principal at the Milan YDC and was also a principal, teacher, and education supervisor at a state facility.

Coretta Green discussed the Milan YDC facility programming.

Relus Lucear provided an education overview.

Smith discussed the volunteer services at the Milan YDC.

Smith concluded his report and asked if there were any questions; there were none.

Chairman Risler called for the next item on the agenda; juvenile code rewrite.

Juvenile Code Rewrite

Tina Piper, Director of Legal Services
Department of Juvenile Justice

Tina Piper said the process of the juvenile code rewrite began around 2004, and the first bill was introduced in 2009. The bill is currently HB641.

Piper asked the Board to refer to their handout and gave a brief overview of all the articles and proposed revisions.

Piper discussed the two articles that will impact DJJ:

Article 6: Children in Need of Services (CHINS)

- New approach, replaces “unruly” cases
- Process:
 - Complaint
 - Mandatory multidisciplinary conference
 - Voluntary plan
 - Possible extension
 - Petition if voluntary plan fails
 - Adjudication and disposition
 - Incorporation of ASFA (Adoption and Safe Families Act)
 - Also includes comprehensive services plan for children un-restorably incompetent to proceed in delinquency cases
 - Currently, Department of Children and Family Services (DFCS) is listed as the responsible agency

A Closer Look: Agency Responsible for CHINS

- DJJ, DFCS, and Department of Behavioral Health (DBHDD) in agreement that the CHINS model is a better approach to unruly children
- All three agencies are involved with the CHINS population in different ways, but no agency gets dedicated funding for this group
- The model requires collaboration between all children-servicing entities
- Case management is the key to success. Today, DFCS has the most developed case management expertise

Article 7: Delinquency

- No waiver without consultation with counsel
- Guidance on continuances
- Protests statements made during intake, screening, treatment or evaluation
- Incorporation of ASFA (Adoption and Safe Families Act)
- Requires detention assessment instrument
- More flexibly on dispositions in designated felonies (six months restrictive custody options)
- Keeping transferred kids in juvenile facilities until 17
- Requirement for prosecuting attorney in all cases

Impact on DJJ

- Positive – CHINS population – can mean a reduction of unruly children.
- Positive – clarity in the law – There has been some tentative agreement to take out a provision that would require separation if a CHINS is brought into a DJJ facility. Piper said she believes that will get taken off the table.
- As written – some negative – issues with STP an sight and sound separation
- As written – possible fiscal impact for new job responsibilities (i.e. intake officer)

Piper concluded her report and asked if there were any questions.

Board Member Lindsey asked if there were prosecutors at all juvenile proceedings.

Commissioner Howell said in some courts they have a solicitor or a prosecutor, but the way the code is written they are invited at the pleasure of the court.

Chairman Risler called for the next item on the agenda; resolution to approve the sale of general obligation bonds to fund DJJ maintenance and construction activities.

Resolution to Approve the Sale of General Obligation Bonds to Fund DJJ Maintenance and Construction Activities

Ed Cook, Director of Engineering and Construction
Department of Juvenile Justice

Cook brought before the Board a resolution to approve the sale of bonds to fund continuing maintenance repair and improvement activities.

Chairman Risler asked for a motion to approve the resolution. A motion was made by Board Member Simpson. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Menefee.

The motion carried.

Chairman Risler called for the next item on the agenda; second quarter employee recognition.

Second Quarter Employee Recognition

Deborah Moore, Director of Human Resources
Department of Juvenile Justice

Moore announced the first recipient for the Team Player Award is Betty Miller who is a food service supervisor at the Sandersville RYDC.

Moore announced the second recipient for the Above and Beyond Performance Award is Carrie T. Hamilton who is a volunteer resource coordinator from the Metro RYDC.

Chairman's Comments

Chairman Dr. Ed Risler
Board of Juvenile Justice

Chairman Risler thanked the youth for leading the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance, and he thanked Pastor Pierce for giving the Board an inspirational invocation.

Chairman Risler announced the next Board meeting will be at the Central Office on October 27, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.

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

Chairman Risler said he put together a draft for the Board Innovation Awards. He said Vice-Chairman Menefee and Secretary Taylor looked at the draft. He said he forwarded it to Commissioner Howell for her review and approval. He said it will be a way for the Board to recognize field staff.

Chairman Risler encouraged the Board to attend one of the open houses being sponsored by the Office of Education Services.

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

Board Member Lindsey made the motion, and Board Vice-Chairman Menefee seconded the motion.

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