



TEXAS
JUVENILE JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT

TRANSFORMING YOUNG LIVES AND CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES

Board Meeting

11209 Metric Boulevard, Building H, Ste. A
Lone Star Conference Room

Austin, TX 78758

Thursday, June 23, 2016 – 11:00 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott W. Fisher, Chairman

The Honorable John Brieden III

Scott "David" Matthew

Riley Shaw

The Honorable Jimmy Smith

The Honorable Laura Parker (by video-conference from Ayres Halfway House, San Antonio)

Calvin W. Stephens (by video-conference from Cottrell Halfway House, Dallas)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dr. Rene Olvera

The Honorable Carol Bush

The Honorable Becky Gregory

Jane King

MaryLou Mendoza

EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT:

David Reilly, Executive Director

Chelsea Buchholtz, Chief of Staff

Roland Luna, Chief Inspector General

Luther Taliaferro, Superintendent of Education

Rebecca Walters, Director of Youth Placement &
Program Development

Elaine Mays, Chief Information Officer

Alan "Chip" Walters, Director of Operational Analysis &
Facility Support

Tushar Desai, Medical Director

Eleazar Garcia, Chief Internal Auditor

Jim Hurley, Communications Director

Carolyn Beck, Governmental Relations Specialist

Mike Meyer, Chief Financial Officer

Jeannette Cantu, Executive Assistant

Jim Southwell, Deputy Chief Information Officer

OTHER GUESTS PRESENT:

Fred Meinke, TJJ

Vivian Cohn, TJJ

Xavier Casares, TJJ

Karen Kennedy, TJJ

Steve Rehberg, TJJ

Victor Villeareal, TJJ

Stephanie Melot, TJJ

Jerome Williams, TJJ

Marie Welsch, TJJ

Elizabeth Moreno, TJJ

Hannah Matthew

Lester Brown, TJJ

Angela Isaac, LBB

Matthew Segura, TJJ

Call to order

Chairman Fisher called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m.

Prayer

Lester Brown opened the meeting with a prayer.

Pledge

The Pledge of Allegiance and Pledge to the Texas Flag were recited.

Discussion, consideration, and possible approval regarding excused absences (Action)

The following board members were absent: Carol Bush, Rene Olvera, Jane King, Rebecca Gregory, MaryLou Mendoza. Mr. Shaw moved to excuse the absences. Judge Brieden seconded. The motion passed.

Public comments

There were no public comments.

Discussion, consideration, and possible approval regarding the request to exceed appropriation transfer limitations for Parole Programs and Services

Mike Meyer, Chief Financial Officer, thanked the Board for assembling today for this time sensitive matter. The finance staff has identified that planned transfers would exceed General Appropriations Act (GAA) limitation in Strategy C.1.2, Parole Programs and Services. The Article IX limit is \$290,857 (20%), while staff proposes to transfer an estimated \$375,000 (25.8%). The elevated population in state programs and facilities creates significant budgetary pressure, which the agency has successfully managed for fiscal year (FY) 2016 primarily through access to "MAP" funds, cost cutting measures such as a hiring freeze, and transfers between appropriation items (excluding probation grant strategies). Deferral of this transfer would impact the agency's ability to address challenges associated with the elevated residential population in FY 2016, as well as hamper efforts to lessen a projected operating budget shortfall in YF 2017. Staff is currently exploring and implementing options to decrease that shortfall in order to minimize a likely supplemental appropriations request during the upcoming legislative session. This request is time sensitive because the approval could take a number of weeks.

In response to a question by Judge Brieden regarding how funding follows the residential population projections, Mr. Meyer stated that the funds he was talking about are 2016 dollars. Looking forward to 2017, there will be other projections based on what is expected to happen with the population. The agency will most likely have to pursue a supplemental appropriations request for 2017. There are some mitigating circumstances such as commitment diversions through the Regionalization Program, but also complicating factors such as the increase in violent referrals.

In response to a question by Judge Brieden regarding placing non-violent offenders in halfway houses, Mr. Reilly stated that staff are reviewing those cases very carefully. If it is found that this is not working, they will be moved directly into secure facilities. Judge Brieden commented that the agency is taking some pretty drastic measures to stay within the guidelines and the agency cannot do that on a continuing basis.

Mr. Reilly commended Mr. Meyer for his work in taking the appropriate measures to reduce costs for the agency. They have been well thought out and responsible steps for the agency to reduce costs. Mr. Meyer described some of the steps the agency has taken such as a current hiring freeze for non-direct care staff positions and a zero based budgeting process for several divisions within the agency. Mr. Reilly stated that the agency will not gut itself to the point where staff cannot do their jobs.

In response to Mr. Matthew's comment regarding the hiring freeze, Mr. Reilly restated that the hiring freeze does not affect Juvenile Correctional Officers.

Mr. Matthew moved to approve the Board Chairman to submit a request to exceed agency discretionary transfer appropriation limitations to the Office of the Governor and the Legislative Budget Board. Mr. Shaw seconded. The motion passed.

Discussion and consideration of potential exceptional item appropriations requests for the 2018-2019 biennium

Mr. Meyer explained that the list of the agency's exceptional item request is a first draft and the executive management team is working to finalize this list of priority items. Mr. Meyer did point out that under Probation Programs and Services, he inadvertently left off an item for compensation of Juvenile Probation Offices and Juvenile Supervision Officers.

In response to a question by Judge Brieden regarding the case management system, Mr. Meyer explained that the agency's in-house case management system for the state programs side needs to be updated.

Chairman Fisher commented that the need to address the agency's information technology system and fleet management system should be looked at as priorities as well as the capital maintenance responsibilities to facilities. The agency is definitely behind the curve in these items.

Mr. Meyer asked that the board review the list and send any feedback directly to him. The final list will go before the Board for consideration at the August meeting.

Chairman Fisher called for a recess to convene in a closed session.

Closed Session – Executive Session

- a. **§551.071 Consultation with attorney (see footnote)**
- b. **§551.072 Deliberation regarding real property (John C. Wende and Parrie Haynes trusts)**
- c. **§551.074 Discussion regarding personnel matters**
- d. **§551.076 Deliberations regarding security devices or security audits**

The Board entered a closed session at 11:45 a.m.

Reconvene in open session, discussion, consideration, and possible approval regarding matters deliberated in closed executive session, if applicable (Action)

The Board reconvened in open session at 12:12 p.m. No action was taken.

Adjourn

Chairman Fisher adjourned the meeting.