



TEXAS
JUVENILE JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT

Virtual Board Meeting

<https://www.tjjd.texas.gov/index.php/board#board-meetings>

Friday, April 09, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.

1. Call to order

Chairman Ritchey called the meeting to order.

2. Prayer

Chairman Ritchey led the prayer.

3. Pledge

Chairman Ritchey led the Pledge of Allegiance and the pledge to the Texas flag.

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

Melissa Martin and Judge Pat Henry were absent. Scott Matthew moved to excuse the absences. Judge Jarrett seconded. The motion passed.

5. Discussion, consideration, and possible approval regarding the January 29, 2020 Board meeting minutes (Action)

This item was tabled.

6. Report from the chairman

Chairman Ritchey turned it over to James Castro to say a few words about Child Protection Awareness Month. Chairman Ritchey thanked the Executive Team for their work during the winter storm. In addition, to our facility staff came in a slept at the facilities during this time, thank you. We will be having an in person meeting in June and also take a tour of the Evins facility.

7. Public comments

There were no public comments.

8. Report from the executive director

Camille Cain gave an update on Covid-19 and the vaccination process, the winter storm and in person visitation. We conducted secondary intake at Mart in addition to our usual intake location at Ron Jackson. Mart still remains an option, but we have cleared the backlog of youth waiting for intake and are now on a much more regular schedule. Ms. Cain provided an update on legislative bills affecting TJJD and also gave an update on incidents at secure facilities. Ms. Cain shared some of the results from the Texas Model survey. On Wednesday, the Commission for Women within the Office of the Governor named Shandra Carter, our deputy executive director for state programs the Outstanding Woman in State Government for Leadership.

9. Report from the chief inspector general

Chief Forrest Mitchell provided the board with an OIG update. In the second quarter of the fiscal year, OIG continued to see a large number of calls being received at the Incident Reporting Center. More than 4,600 of those calls were for complaints entered regarding state facilities, and programs. Approximately 5,500 of those calls were for other state business, including calls regarding COVID-19 tests, exposures, and incidents. Nearly 700 of those were calls regarding allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation at county facilities. The OIG opened 164 investigations of assaultive behavior against staff in this quarter as compared to only 128 in the previous quarter. OIG Security Intelligence Officers opened more gang intelligence investigations, with 68 in the second quarter as compared to only 31 in the first quarter. OIG referred a total of 87 investigations to the Special Prosecutions Unit (or SPU) in the second quarter. Of the 87, 42 of those investigations were for PREA allegations. OIG also received notice that SPU had obtained 34 indictments and 21 convictions or adjudications in cases that it had referred to them. The number of arrests or charges filed was down in the 2nd quarter as compared to the 1st quarter of this fiscal year, but also as compared to this time last year.

Chief Mitchell provided the board with a summary of OIG operations for fiscal year 2020. This two-page summary is designed to provide the board and readers with an overview of the number, type, and dispositions of the administrative and criminal investigations that OIG conducts. Importantly, this summary includes the types of staff discipline from the OIG administrative investigations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Finally, he provided the committee with a few updates about OIG operations. In support of the restoration of TJJD in-person visitation, OIG Criminal Analyst Brent Beloch did a tremendous job for the team by conducted more than 1,200 background checks in a short amount of time. These background checks are required by statute, and had not been regularly updated with the suspension of in-person visitation during the COVID-19 pandemic. OIG is also continuing to work with IT on the implementation of the new visitor management system at each of the secure facilities as well.

Chief Mitchell let the Safety and Security Committee know that based on the current TJJD lease situation, he has made arrangements with the Texas Department of Public Safety and my TDCJ – OIG counterpart, Inspector General Cris Love, to move the 24-hour incident reporting center to his offices in Austin until such time as a new TJJD lease is available or we can be relocated into a state-owned office building. That move will occur next week. Because of the nature of the Incident Reporting Center's work, and our 24-hour parole warrant confirmation requirement, this is not an easy transition.

10. Report from the Trust Committee

Jimmy Smith provided an overview of the items discussed at the Trust Committee virtual meeting.

11. Discussion, consideration, and possible approval regarding the renewal of the lease with Matt Jones, Solid Rock Ranch, the current lessee of the Parrie Haynes Trust Milam County property, and to authorize the Board Chairman, on behalf of the Board, to take action regarding the lease (Action)

Linda Arriguci, staff attorney, presented the terms of the lease. Staff recommendation is to support the renewal of the lease. Jimmy Smith moved to renew the lease. Judge Jarrett seconded. The motion passed.

12. Discussion, consideration, and possible approval regarding the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Landowner Agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and to authorize the Board Chairman, on behalf of the Board, to take action regarding the Partners Agreement (Action)

Linda Arriguci, staff attorney, presented the agreement with the USFWS. Staff recommendation is to support the agreement. James Castro moved to approve the agreement. Chief Hencerling seconded. The motion passed.

Linda Arriguci responded to questions Ms. Chambers had regarding the Capital Credit Union account and the John C. Wende trust educational assistance program. Linda confirmed that there is a spreadsheet that tracks the funds issued for the educational assistance program.

13. Report from The Advisory Council on Juvenile Services

Chief Ed Cockerell provided an overview of the last meeting of the Advisory Council on Juvenile Services. Scott Matthew and Chairman Ritchey thanked the council for putting in the time and work.

14. Report from the Finance and Audit Committee

Scott Matthew provided an overview of the items discussed at the Finance and Audit virtual meeting.

15. Discussion, consideration, and possible approval regarding the TJJD Probation Basic State Aid Funding Formula (Action)

Amy Miller, Director of Probation Services, presented a summary of the proposed formula. She thanked Ed Cockerell and the Advisory Council and the probation field for their input in putting together the proposed funding formula. Several of the board members stated their appreciation for the hard work of the staff, advisory council and the field. Chief Matthew moved to approve the funding formula. Chief Hencerling seconded. The motion passed.

16. Discussion, consideration, and possible acknowledgement of gifts (Action)

- a. Epiphany Ministries of Texas, Inc.
- b. Spring Creek Stables
- c. Elizabeth Espitia

Emily Anderson, Chief Financial and Operating Officer, presented the three gifts. Staff recommends public acknowledgement of these gifts.

Epiphany Ministries of Texas, Inc. – Commissioner Morales moved for approval. Jimmy Smith seconded. The motion passed.

Spring Creek Stables - Judge Jarrett moved for approval. Chief Hencerling seconded. The motion passed.

Elizabeth Espitia – Chief Barnes moved for approval. Commissioner Morales seconded. The motion passed.

17. Report from the Programs Committee

James Castro provided an overview of the items discussed at the Programs virtual meeting.

18. Report from the Safety and Security Committee

Judge Jarrett provided an overview of the items discussed at the Safety and Security virtual meeting.

19. Discussion, consideration, and possible approval regarding the discipline of certified officers- Agreed Orders (Action)

- a. Dante Baker Certification #: 35880, 21-35880-210024
- b. Rosa E. Garcia Certification #: 12589, 21-12589-200249

- c. Broderick Davis Certification #:29870, 20-29870-200146
- d. Erik Esquivel Certification #:35747, 20-35747-200211
- e. Andranique Henderson Certification #:33449, 21-33449-200260
- f. Brandel May, Certification #: 34450, 21-34450-200210
- g. Jamal Towns Certification #: 35064, 20-35064-200122
- h. Olawale Rotimi Certification #: 22613, 21-22613-200250

Ashley Dewese, Staff Attorney, presented the agreed orders of officers who responded within the given timeline. Staff recommends the board approved the agreed orders.

A, B – Allision Palmer moved to approve. Chief Matthew seconded. Judge Jarrett abstained. The motion passed.

C – James Castro moved to approve. Ms. Palmer seconded. Ms. Chambers and Chief Barnes abstained. The motion passed.

D – H – Chief Matthew moved to approve. Jimmy Smith seconded. The motion passed.

20. Discussion, consideration, and possible approval regarding the discipline of certified officers- Default Orders (Action)

- a. Jonathan Herrera Certification #: 35171, 21-35171-210008
- b. Ernest Hallman Certification #: 35571, 21-35571-210052
- c. Melvin Manning Certification #: 31738, 21-31738-170151
- d. Dewayne Shepard Certification #: 34524, 21-34524-210022
- e. Donald Shingleton Certification #: 35139, 21-35139-210003
- f. Victor Smith Certification #: 23619, 21-23619-210016
- g. Roy Reyes, Jr. Certification #: 35707, 21-35707-210047
- h. Edward Chambers Certification #: 29265, 21-29265-210061
- i. Kaytlin Satterfield Certification #: 36120, 21-36120-210061
- j. Heather Ward Certification #: 28258, 21-28258-210061
- k. Rocky Garcia Certification #: 31579, 21-31579-210074
- l. Higinio Porras Certification #: 33220, 21-33220-210041
- m. Christopher Brown Certification #: 25109, 21-25109-210027
- n. Ryan Conley Certification #: 30632, 21-30632-200250
- o. Christian Maduewesi Certification #: 12011, 21-12011-200150
- p. Chanel Patty Certification #: 30445, 21-30445-210025

Chelsey Oden, Staff Attorney, presented the default orders for those officers that did not respond in a timely manner.

A – Chief Hencerling moved to approve. Chief Barnes seconded. Judge Jarrett abstained. The motion passed.

B- E – Jimmy Smith moved to approve. Judge Jarrett seconded. Chief Barnes and Ms. Chambers abstained. The motion passed.

F – P – Judge Jarrett moved to approve. Mr. Castro seconded. The motion passed.

21. Closed Session – Executive Session

- a. Government Code §551.071 Consultation with attorney regarding litigation (see footnote)
- b. Government Code §551.072 Deliberation regarding real property (John C. Wende and Parrie Haynes trusts)
- c. Government Code §551.074 Discussion regarding personnel matters

22. Reconvene in Open Session – 10:54 a.m.

23. Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding agenda items discussed in Executive Session (Action)

There were no items discussed in executive session that require board action.

24. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.