

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S  
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE  
HELD ON THE 7TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2023

The Caddo Parish Juvenile Justice Committee met in legal session on the above date at 1:00 p.m., in the Government Plaza Chambers Conference Room, with Mr. Jackson, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Blake, Burrell, Jackson, and Young (4). ABSENT: Commissioners Chavez, Gage-Watts, and Jones (3).

Mrs. Blake gave the invocation, and Mr. Young led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE RULES**

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that the following committee rules be adopted:*

- *Presentation not to exceed 10 minutes (if applicable)*
- *Q&A, members will be allowed to ask questions after the presentation is finished*
- *Non-committee member and staff will be allowed to ask questions after all standing committee members have asked questions*
- *No public comments will be allowed outside of the Public Comments section, unless the rules are suspended*

At this time, Mr. Young's motion carried by acclamation.

There were no Agenda Additions or Public Comments, so the Committee moved forward to New Business

**NEW BUSINESS**

- *Make recommendations regarding emergent issues in juvenile justice related to the closing of Johnny Gray Jones*
- *Make recommendation for Caddo Juvenile Justice needs in response to external changes that may impact Caddo needs*

Mr. Jackson explained that Johnny Gray Jones has closed their doors on November 30, 2023. In the absence of Johnny Gray Jones, there is the Jewell House and Restoration Crisis Center for young ladies. There isn't a place for young men, he said. Mr. Jackson also mentioned that they looked at several facilities, but those were not a good fit.

Judge Ree Casey Jones explained that there is pre-adjudication (pre-sentencing) and post-adjudication (post-sentencing). Those populations of youth cannot be mixed together, she said. Currently, there is not a place in the Parish of Caddo to house boys on a temporary basis. If there is an issue, and the Juvenile Detention Center is overcrowded, there needs to be options so that they do not have to let children go who do not need to be let go.

Judge Jones further explained that the pre-adjudication children need a place to go if they cannot go home and they do not qualify to be removed through DCFS custody. She said that these are not long-term placements. The only place in Caddo Parish for boys to go is the Rutherford House, which is under contract with the Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ). The Rutherford House does not accept pre-adjudicated children nor do they hold children on a temporary basis.

Mr. Burrell asked about the Caddo Correctional Center (CCC). Judge Jones said that all juveniles who are 18 years old are sent to CCC. She also said that the Sheriff does not want youth at CCC, but there are some children who cannot be at the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC).

Answering a question from Mrs. Blake regarding a Bossier location for the Caddo Parish children to be housed, Judge Jones said that there is the Ware facility, but they have a limited number of beds and do not have space for the Caddo Parish children.

Mrs. Blake pointed out that Johnny Gray Jones houses children from all over. Judge Jones agreed. Mrs. Blake then wanted to know if the foster program is available to accept children who are runaways. Judge Jones said that children in need of care is separate from runaways. Those children are there due to neglect and abuse. The Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ) is there for the rehabilitation of children who are delinquent and ungovernable.

Mrs. Blake asked about CASA. Mr. Randall said that CASA is for children in need of care, and not necessarily for OJJ children. Mrs. Blake understood.

Mr. Jackson interjected and said that the Brandon House has offered services to house boys who would typically go to Johnny Gray Jones.

Mr. Young wanted to know the level of security for this facility. Judge Jones said that it would typically be a non-secure facility. She also explained that the children housed here would not be serious crimes such as rape, murder, armed robbery, gun charges, etc. Mr. Young then wanted to know the number of children who were normally housed at Johnny Gray Jones. Mr. Randall said that there were twenty admissions for the year of 2023. He then wanted to know the average length of time for a child at Johnny Gray Jones. Judge Jones said approximately ninety days.

Mr. Young then wanted to know the number of beds at the Brandon House. Judge Jones said that there are twenty beds on the non-secure side.

Mr. Young asked about the funding amount for the children at the Brandon House. Mrs. Bryant said that the Parish of Caddo is only going to be responsible for the children assigned by the judge.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know how would the pre-adjudicated and post-adjudicated children be housed at the Brandon House. Judge Jones said that there are two separate wings, and the children would be completely separated. She said that they share a lunchroom, but it would be timed, i.e. A Shift and B Shift. Mr. Jackson mentioned that July 1, 2024, OJJ will be licensing all facilities.

Mrs. Blake wanted to know how this would be funded. Mr. Walker said that there is a line item of \$90,000 for all residential placement. She then said that this is a short-term solution and would need to come back to the table for a long-term solution.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

  
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Michelle Nations  
Assistant to the Commission Clerk