

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 22ND DAY OF MAY, 2025

The Caddo Parish Juvenile Justice Committee met in legal session on the above date at 12:00 p.m., in the Government Plaza Chambers Conference Room, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Jones, Thomas and J. Young (7).
ABSENT: Commissioners

Mr. Thomas gave the invocation, and Mr. Cothran led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance. There being no Agenda Additions, so the Committee moved to Citizens Comments.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Jon Glover came before the Committee and gave the following comment:

Looking over the agenda for the past couple of days, it does not have any attachment whereby we would get some in depth information as to what is going to be address of the entire document and title information. Is it at all possible in the future, maybe you can give us something to look at if we could have those comments based on the information provided. Thank you.

There being no other Citizens Comments, the Committee moved onto New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Report from Director of Juvenile Services, Andrew Randall*

Director Randall reported on the positive state of the Juvenile Services Department. Key statistics on the youth in the detention center were presented, along with upcoming community engagement events, such as the Safe Summer Programs.

Mr. Cothran wanted to know if the situation with OJJ and the number of juveniles in their custody staying at the Juvenile Detention Center. Mr. Randall said that they are working with their partners to alleviate extended stays for OJJ Juveniles. Mr. Cothran then wanted to know how long is a juvenile supposed to stay at the detention center if they're in OJJ custody. Mr. Randall said that within 30 days, the juveniles should be in the state facility. Mr. Cothran wanted to know if this costs the Parish additional money. Mr. Randall said that OJJ pays for their stay at the detention center.

Mrs. Gage-Watts wanted to know what would happen if the detention center reached its capacity. Mr. Randall said that they have protocols in places, along with intervention programs, as alternatives to detention.

Ms. Valarie Jamison provided updates on the three juveniles justice bills under consideration with the legislature. House Bill 445 regarding juvenile records was passed favorably by the House and sent to the Senate.

Ms. Jamison said that Senate Bill 74 was debated and deferred. Mrs. Bryant said that the Legislature gave them an opportunity to put in a fiscal note regarding this bill. She said that this would be a cost factor for the Parish due to the juveniles being a district court. It would have to be an additional section with additional personnel, and this would be an unfunded mandate. This bill was deferred with a 5-5 vote.

She then talked about Senate Bill 95, as it relates to electronic monitoring, and it awaits feedback on who would be financially responsible.

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that it is advantageous for the Commission to pass resolutions to send to the Legislature.

- *Fathers on a Mission*

More information will be forthcoming.

- *Children & Youth Services Board*

Mr. Jones said that he would like this board to be active. He also explained that the Commission has appointed its seven members to the board and is waiting on the governing bodies to appoint them members. He would like to establish a deadline to have this completed.

The Clerk of the Commission, Mr. Everson, mentioned that there is an upcoming intergovernmental meeting where the discussion can continue. He also explained that the resolution could be amended allowing the Caddo Parish Commission to appoint more members to the board.

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that the deadline for appointing members to the Children & Youth Services board be July 15, 2025.*

Mr. Thomas said that this is a mandate, and the board should have all positions filled in a timely manner. Mr. Jones and Mrs. Gage-Watts agreed.

Mr. Cothran wanted to know what would happen if the positions weren't filled by July 15, 2025. Attorney Frazier explained that the State would have to change the members and the makeup of the board. Mr. Everson also mentioned that the State did allow for the Commission to appoint members to the board, as long as the nature of the position is not changed.

At this time, Mr. Thomas' motion carried unanimously by the members who were present with Commissioners Blake and J. Young being absent (2).

- *General Discussion of current Juvenile Justice*

Judge Courtney thanked the Committee for inviting him today.

At this time, there was no further discussion to come before the Commission, so the Commission adjourned at 12:38 p.m.


Assistant Commission Clerk