

State of Alabama



Department of Youth Services

Annual Report

FY
2007

I HAVE A MILLION FACES
WHICH DO YOU WANNA SEE?
ANYONE YOU LIKE
I'LL BE WHO YOU WANT ME TO BE!
ONE MINUTE I SHOW LOVE
THE NEXT MINUTE I SHOW HATE
TODAY I THINK I'LL BE EARLY
TOMORROW I'LL BE LATE!
DO I REALLY CARE?
AM I REALLY YOUR FRIEND?
DO I REALLY LIKE YOU
OR DO I JUST PRETEND?
A FEW PEOPLE CAN REALLY TRUST ME,
MOST ARE MAKING A MISTAKE,
SOMETIMES I GIVE
SOMTIMES I TAKE!
IF YOU LOOK DEEP INSIDE ME
YOU WILL SEE THE REAL ME
IF YOU DON'T LOOK DEEP ENOUGH
I'M JUST WHO YOU WANT ME TO BE!

APW

MY SPECIAL PLACE IS IN MY GRANDMA'S ARMS THIS IS WHERE I FEEL SAFE AND AWAY
FROM HARM. I CRY MOST OF MY TEARS THERE AND TELL OF MY PAIN. MY EMO-
TIONS FLOODING OUT LIKE A POURING RAIN. THOSE BROWN ARMS HAVE

HELD MANY YOUNG KIDS FULL OF FEAR BECAUSE OF THE THINGS
THEY DID. THOSE BROWN ARMS HAVE LIFTED MANY BABIES

AND GIVEN A HELPING HAND TO LITTLE OLD LADIES.

IN THOSE ARMS I FEEL SPECIAL AND UNIQUE UNTIL

I HAVE TO LEAVE THEM AND STAND ON MY

TWO FEET. THOUGH WE'RE SEPERATED

I CAN STILL FEEL HER ARMS AS

I WALK THROUGH EACH

DAY FEELING SAFE

FROM HARM.

C.C.M

I
SIT IN
MY ROOM
NO BIGGER
THAN A BATH-
ROOM STALL. I SIT IN
MY ROOM, NOTHING TO DO
AT ALL. EVERY TIME I LOOK IN
MY MIRROR I SEEM TO GET TALL.
NOTHING TO DO AT ALL BUT READ
AND PRAY, HOPING TO MAKE IT
THROUGH THE NEXT DAY.

THAT IS ALL I DO IN

MY ROOM.

J.A.W.

SHE IS

LIKE A LIGHT THAT

SHINES ONLY IN DARK

PLACES AMONG THE GANG BANGERS,

THIEVES, MURDERERS, AND CONFUSED FACES.

SHE GUIDES WHOM SHE CAN, JUST LIKE AN EVERLASTING

TUNNEL OF LIFE. SHE TEACHES US THAT BRAINPOWER IS BETTER

THAN THE GLORY OF FIGHTS. SHE IS LOVED LIKE A MOTHER BY THOSE WHO

NEVER HAD A MOTHER. SO YOU CAN NEVER HATE HER, BUT ALWAYS LOVE HER. SHE

TEACHES US THINGS THAT WILL ALWAYS HELP OUR SOUL; THAT IS WHY I CALL HER

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD.

C.A.



D

ear Governor Riley:

The Department of Youth Services is pleased to present you its 2007 annual report detailing the activities of the department during the fiscal year. Several significant achievements were realized during the year, including the reaccreditation of several of our facilities. Four facilities, the Montgomery Group Home, Troy Group Home, Autauga Campus and the North Alabama Group Home achieved perfect scores in the process. The fifth facility, the Thomasville Campus, passed its reaccreditation with a score of over ninety-eight percent.

Additionally, we celebrated our tenth anniversary of the creative writing program entitled Writing Our Stories, a collaborative effort with the Alabama Writers' Forum. This curriculum has been so successful that many other school districts throughout the nation have adopted similar creative writing programs of their own.

We also continue to have excellent working relationships with other agencies and organizations involved in juvenile care and development, including the Boys and Girls Clubs and the YMCA.

As always, we are appreciative of the support and encouragement of your administration, as well as that of the Legislature, our Board, members of advisory committees, our departmental staff, and the numerous volunteers who give so freely of their time.

We anticipate continued success in our programs and activities in the coming fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Walter Wood, Jr.
Executive Director

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Alabama Department of Youth Services

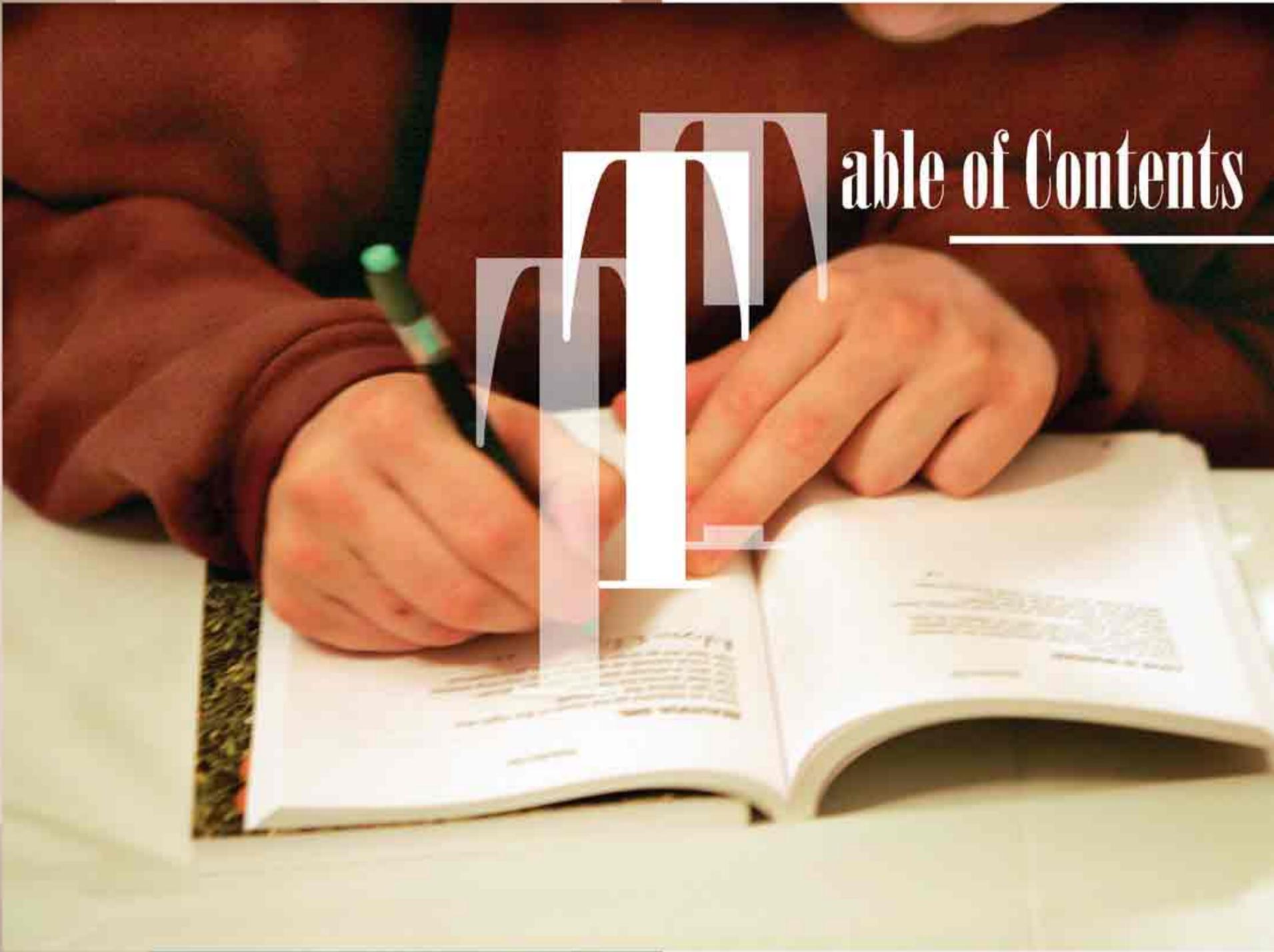


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Mt. Meigs, Alabama 36057



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For the Quarter Beginning

October 2006 – December 2006



Chairman Vice

At the December 1, 2006 meeting, the Board elected its officers for the 2007 fiscal year. Chairman Roy P. (Pat) Vice was unanimously re-elected to his fifth term as Board Chairman. Mr. Vice, a Board member since 1996, represents the Seventh Congressional District.



Vice-Chairman Johnson

Dr. Eddie Johnson was also unanimously re-elected Vice-Chairman of the Board at the December 1, 2006 meeting. Dr. Johnson has represented the State Superintendent of Education on the Youth Services Board since 1989, and is also beginning his fifth term as Vice-Chairman of the Board.



Secretary-Treasurer Lovell

At the same meeting, Judge Terri Bozeman Lovell was unanimously elected to her first term as Secretary-Treasurer of the Board. Judge Lovell was appointed to the Youth Services Board on January 1, 2004, and represents the Alabama Juvenile Judges' Association.

Report of the Board



For the Quarter Beginning

January 2007- March 2007

Report of the Board

At the March meeting, the Director welcomed and introduced the Board's newest member, Representative Priscilla Dunn. Representative Dunn was elected to office in 1998 and represents the 56th District Jefferson County. She earned her B.S. from Alabama State University and her M.A. from the University of Alabama. Representative Dunn is the Homeless Education Coordinator for Bessemer City Schools, and is a Trustee and Sunday school teacher for Shady Grove Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. She also serves on the Board of the State Democratic Executive Committee and the Advisory Board for the Jefferson/Shelby Counties American Cancer Society.



Representative Priscilla Dunn

The Director also recognized the reappointment of Senator Bradley Byrne and Representative Mac Gipson to the Youth Services Board. Also discussed, was the success of the Writing Our Stories program, a creative writing curriculum, beginning its tenth year of existence at the Department of Youth Services. In fact, it has been so successful that many other school districts throughout the nation have adopted this curriculum. Speakers included Congressman Artur Davis at Mt. Meigs Campus, Rev. Thomas Miller at Vacca Campus, and Ms. Kathy Yarbrough at Chalkville Campus.



For the Quarter Beginning

April 2007 – June 2007

Report of the Board

During the third quarter of the fiscal year, three facilities were reaccredited by the American Correctional Association. The Montgomery Group Home and the Troy Group Home passed their reaccreditation with a perfect score. The Thomasville Campus passed its reaccreditation with a score of over ninety-eight percent.

In March, Curriculum and Federal Programs Coordinator, Tracy Smitherman, received her Doctorate in Educational Leadership, Policy and Law from Alabama State University. As Coordinator for the Alabama Department of Youth Services School District, her responsibilities include curriculum, academic programming, Federal programs, financial operations, and assisting with the management of personnel information, accreditation, data collection and analysis. She is also liaison to the Alabama Writers Forum, Alabama Public Library Services, Alabama Humanities Foundation and Motherhead.



Thomasville HIT Program

Montgomery Group Home

Troy Group Home

Dr. Smitherman has been employed with the DYS School System since June 1997, and has previously served as principal of Eufaula and L.B. Wallace schools. She also holds a B.S. in Human Environmental Sciences from the University of Alabama, a M.Ed. in Administration and Supervision from Northwestern State University, and an Ed.S in Educational Leadership.



Dr. Tracy Smitherman

For the Quarter Beginning

July 2007 – September 2007

Report of the Board

In the fourth quarter of the fiscal year, Board member Senator Bradley Byrne accepted an appointment as Post Secondary Chancellor, and tendered his resignation as Youth Services Board member. Chief Probation Officer Tom Wright also tendered his resignation to the Youth Services Board after accepting a position with the Administrative Office of Courts.

On August 28, 2007, the Chief Probation Officer Association appointed Montgomery County Juvenile Court Administrator and Chief Probation Officer Bruce Howell as its representative on the Board. Mr. Howell holds a B.S. degree in Law Enforcement and a M.S. degree in Criminal Justice, both from Jacksonville State University. He worked for over three years at the Gadsden Police Department and was Chief Probation Officer for over eight years at Etowah County.

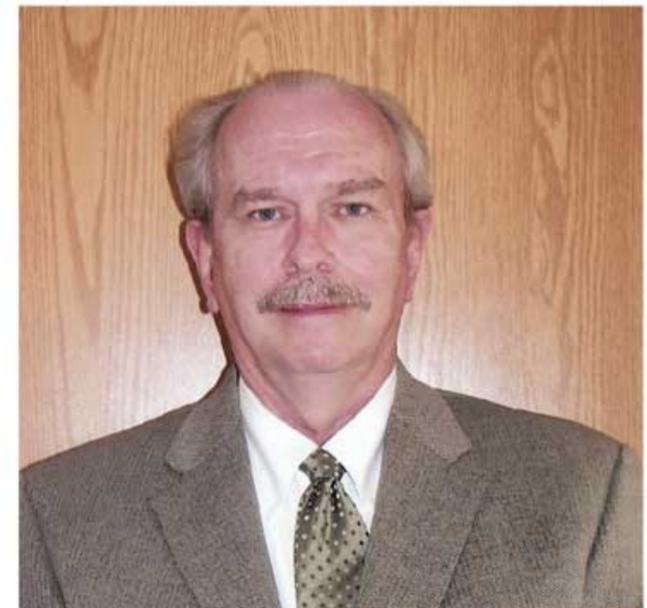
Mr. Howell has spent the last 24 years as Chief Probation Officer/Court Administrator in Montgomery County. Mr. Howell is married to Jennie Helms Howell, Child Support Supervisor at the Montgomery County Department of Human Resources. He has one son, Chris Howell, an attorney in Prattville, and is the proud grandfather of three beautiful grandchildren.



Chancellor Bradley Byrne



Mr. Tom Wright



Mr. Bruce Howell

The Youth Services School District continues to provide progressive and innovative career and technical education that will lead students to success in high-skill, high-wage and high-demand careers. This is accomplished in several different ways.

The Agriscience program begun at Vacca last year continues to expand and has spurred a renewed effort to beautify the campus. In addition to the coursework, which teaches students how to plant and care for flowers and shrubs, practical experience is also gained by actually pruning and trimming neglected plants and bushes. As a result of their efforts, the entire campus has shown a remarkable improvement in appearance.

At the Chalkville Campus, a College/Career Day was attended by more than seventeen local professionals who spoke with the girls about careers as diverse as licensed funeral morticians, dieticians, legal services, and independent sales consultants. This provided the girls with the opportunity to discuss some of the college and career choices that interest them, and to learn the amount and type of education required for each career.

Also at Chalkville, the “Girls At Work: Power Tools for Power Moves” building construction program was in the last stages of planning. Implementation of the gender-responsive career and technical program is scheduled for 2008. The training will include classroom and worksite competencies, and will prepare the young women for apprentice level roles in non-traditional fields such as electrical, carpentry and welding.



Career Fair at Chalkville



Students Adding Pine Straw at Vacca

Greenery at Vacca

Featured Programs



Strawberry Patch Irrigation



Renovation of Older Building



Generic Girls At Work Brochure

At Mt Meigs, the horticulture program has been expanded to include Plasticulture and Aquaculture. Both are fairly new growing methods for Alabama. Plasticulture attempts to minimize effects of extreme weather events through the use of plastic and irrigation. At Mt. Meigs, a strawberry patch was developed to utilize this new technology. Aquaculture raises aquatic species under controlled conditions. The students at Mt. Meigs are raising Tilapia, will harvest their waste, and use it to fertilize gardens. Fish waste is an excellent source of nitrogen and provides an alternative to commercial fertilizers because it is eco-friendly.

Mt. Meigs ABSOP students also gained practical experience in masonry when they assisted their instructor with the renovation of an older concrete block building on campus. The building will be used as a career/technical education multi-purpose facility for the ABSOP program.

Aquaculture at Mt. Meigs



Strawberries at Mt. Meigs

Youth Services Board Members



Governor

Honorable Bob Riley
 State Capitol
 600 Dexter Avenue
 Montgomery, AL 36130

Term Expires

Continuous
 as Governor

State Department Heads

Name and Address

John Houston, Commissioner
 Ala. Dept. of Mental Health
 100 N. Union Street
 Montgomery, AL 36130

Dr. Donald E. Williamson
 State Health Officer
 Ala. Dept. of Public Health
 RSA Tower Suite 1010
 Montgomery, AL 36130

Dr. Page Walley, Commissioner
 Ala. Dept. of Human Resources
 50 N. Ripley Street, Suite 2218
 Montgomery, AL 36104

Bill Johnson, Director
 Ala. Dept. of Economic &
 Community Affairs
 401 Adams Avenue
 Montgomery, AL 36103

Dr. Joe Morton
 State Superintendent
 Ala. Dept. of Education
 P.O. Box 302101
 Montgomery, AL 36130

Proxy

Steve Lafreniere, Director of the
 Office of Children's Services
 100 N. Union Street
 Montgomery, AL 36130

Kathy C. Vincent
 Staff Asst. to State Health Officer
 Ala. Dept. of Public Health
 RSA Tower Suite 1552
 Montgomery, AL 36130

Margaret Bonham, Director of Inter-
 Agency Planning and Collaboration
 50 N. Ripley Street
 Montgomery, AL 36104

Robert Pruitt, Acting Div. Director
 Law Enforcement Traffic
 Safety Division
 401 Adams Avenue
 Montgomery, AL 36103

Dr. Eddie Johnson
 Deputy State Superintendent
 Ala. Dept. of Education
 P.O. Box 302101
 Montgomery, AL 36130

Term Expires

Continuous as
 State Dept. Head

Youth Services Board Members

Congressional District Appointments

Name and Address	Congressional District	Term Expires
Vacant	1st Congressional District	9/02/2005
Willie R. Jones, Executive Director Cleveland Avenue YMCA 1201 Rosa Parks Avenue Montgomery, AL 36108	2nd Congressional District	9/02/2008
Charles Smith 1280 Sweetwood Court Auburn, AL 36830	3rd Congressional District	9/02/2006
Frankye H. Underwood P.O. Box 2144 Jasper, AL 35502	4th Congressional District	9/02/2007
William A. McDowell Second Mile Development P.O. Box 2531 Huntsville, AL 35804	5th Congressional District	9/02/2009
David C. Wilkinson 2504 Iverness Point Drive Birmingham, AL 35242	6th Congressional District	9/02/2011
Roy P. (Pat) Vice 408 Croy Lane Linden, AL 36148	7th Congressional District	9/02/2008

Alabama Juvenile Judges' Association

Name and Address	Appointed	Term Expires
Judge Terri Bozeman Lovell District Court P.O. Box 455 Hayneville, AL 36040	Appointed 1/01/2004	1/01/2010

Youth Services Board Members



Chief Probation Officer Association

Name and Address		Term Expires
Tom Wright, Chief Probation Officer Calhoun County Courthouse 25 West 11th Street, Suite 120 Anniston, AL 36201	Appointed 9/01/2003	9/02/2009
Bruce Howell Montgomery County Juvenile Ct. P.O. Box 9219 Montgomery, AL 36108	Appointed 8/28/2007	9/02/2009

Legislative Appointments

Senator Bradley Byrne Ala. State House 11 South Union Street Montgomery, AL 36130	Alabama Senate	Concurrent with Legislative Term
Senator Quinton Ross Ala. State House 11 South Union Street Montgomery, AL 36130	Alabama Senate	Concurrent with Legislative Term
Representative Priscilla Dunn 460 Carriage Hills Drive Bessemer, AL 35022	Alabama House of Representatives	Concurrent with Legislative Term
Representative Mac Gipson 507 Cook Road Prattville, AL 36067	Alabama House of Representatives	Concurrent with Legislative Term

Officers

Roy (Pat) Vice, Chairman

Dr. Eddie Johnson, Vice-Chairman

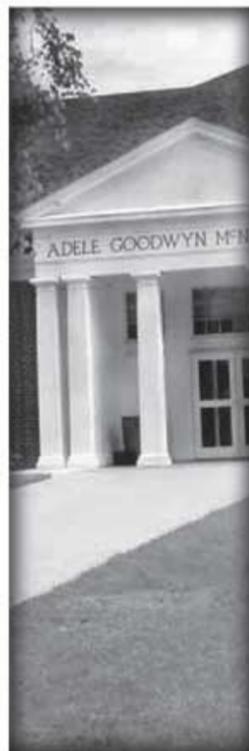
Hon. Terri Bozeman Lovell, Secretary-Treasurer

Representative of the Governor

Ken Wallis, Esq.
Governor's Legal Advisor
State Capitol
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130

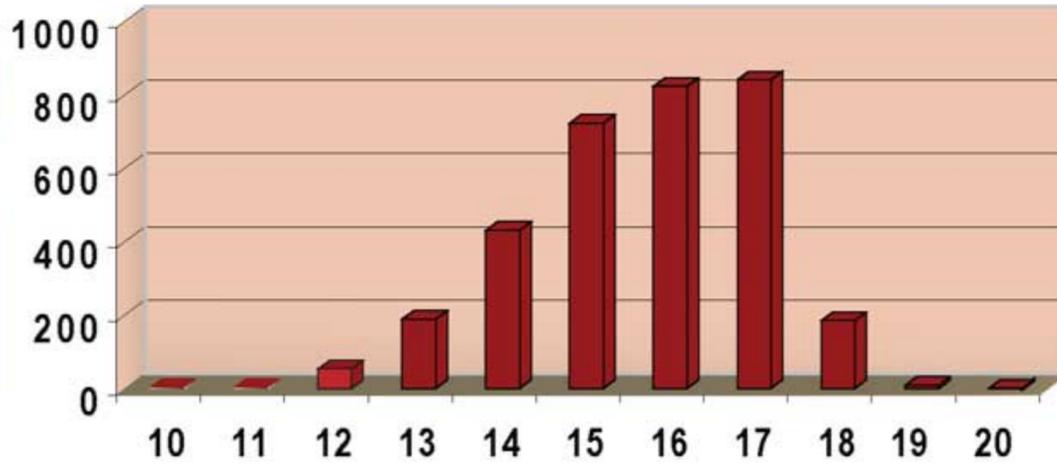
Facility	County	Acreage
Autauga Campus	Autauga	63.07 ± (1)
Birmingham Lots	Jefferson	.36 ± (2)
Chalkville Campus	Jefferson	575.16 ± (3)
Jemison Group Home	Chilton	38.46 ± (1)
Colbert County Lots	Colbert	8.10 ± (2)
Gadsden Group Home	Etowah	.14 ±
Montgomery Group Home	Montgomery	6.17 ±(1)
Mount Meigs Complex	Montgomery	780.53 ± (4)(5)
Troy Group Home	Pike	1.04 ± (1)
Vacca Campus	Jefferson	178.06 ± (2)
Total Acreage		1,651.09 ±

- (1) 1991 Survey by Robert Meadows, Alabama Department of Conservation
- (2) 1998 Report of the Alabama Department of Conservation
- (3) 1997 Survey by Sain & Associates and Robert Meadows
- (4) 1997 Survey by Larry Speaks
- (5) 2002 Land sale to DOT

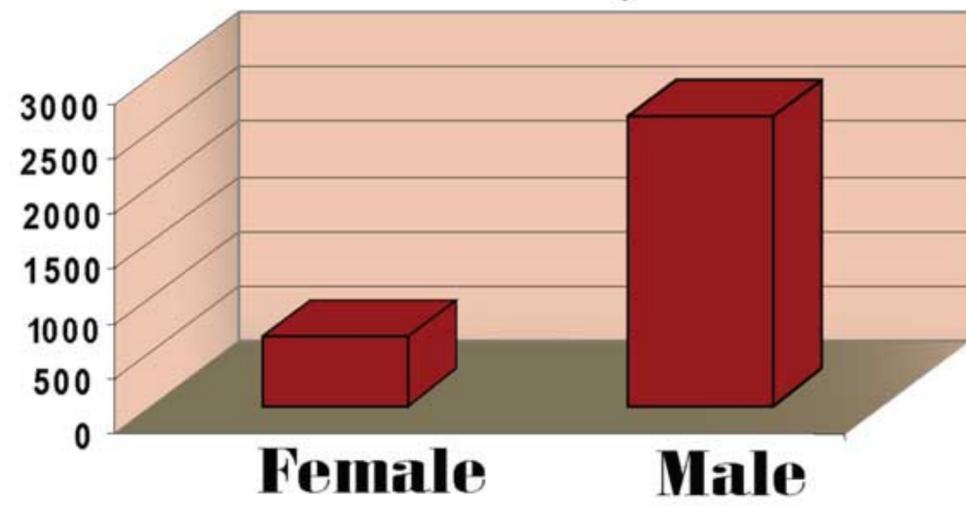




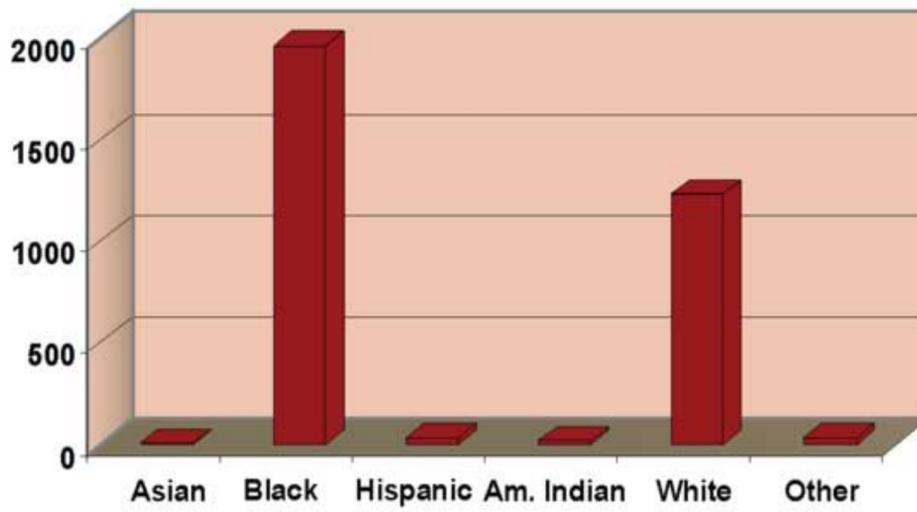
Youth by Age



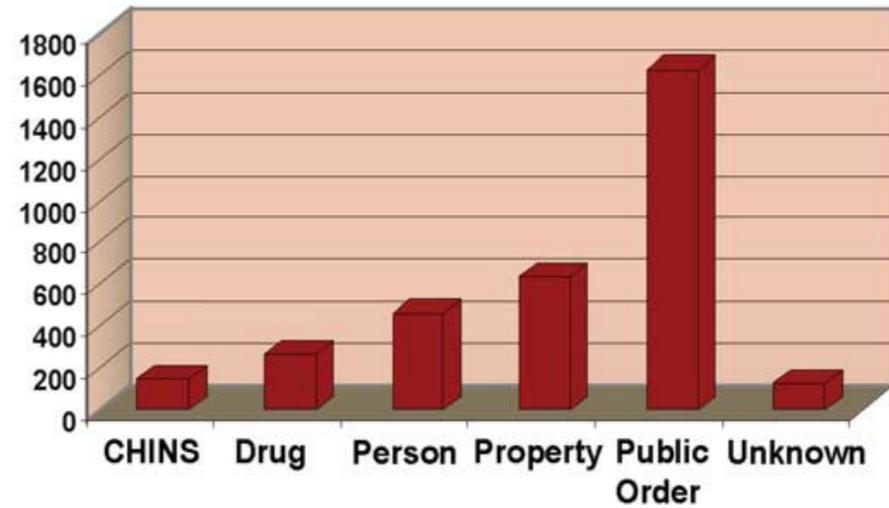
Youth by Sex



Youth by Race



Youth by Offense



Private Providers

BLOUNT COUNTY

Alabama Youth Homes
Oneonta Girls

Alabama Youth Homes
Oneonta Boys

DALE COUNTY

Heritage House

ELMORE COUNTY

Alabama Youth Homes
Wetumpka

ETOWAH COUNTY

The Bridge:
Wilderness Program
About Face
Reach A & D

HALE COUNTY

West Alabama Youth Services
CHANCES

West Alabama Youth Services
Girl's Group Home

HOUSTON COUNTY

Big Brother's Home
Away From Home

Laurel Oaks Behavioral
Center

JACKSON COUNTY

Three Springs Choices:
Boy's Wilderness

LEE COUNTY

J & M Manor
Lee County Youth
Development Center
STARS
BEAMS

MACON COUNTY

Three Springs Tuskegee

MADISON COUNTY

Three Springs Madison

MOBILE COUNTY

The Bridge - Step A & D Program
The Bridge - Camp Cobia
The Bridge - GEMS

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

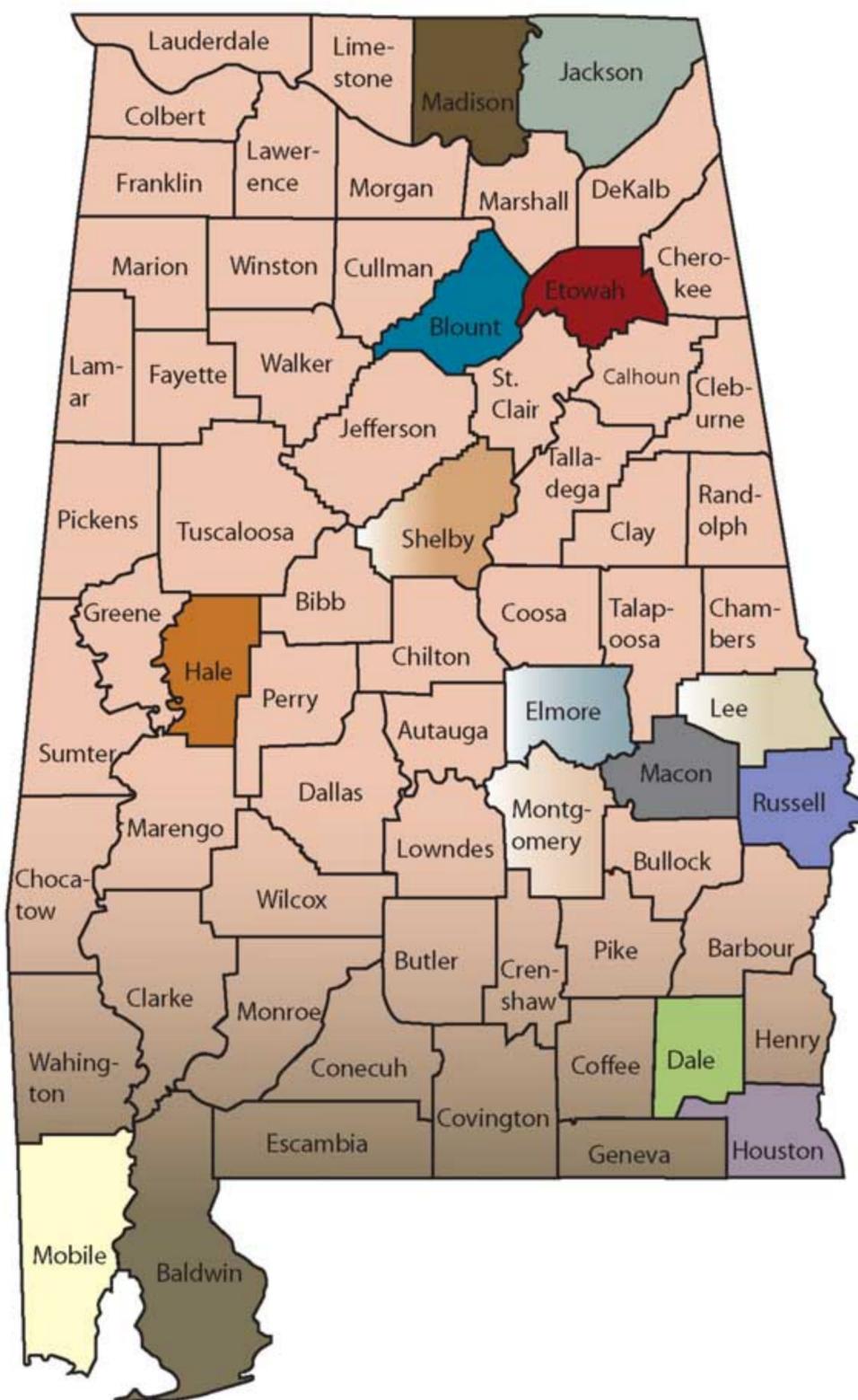
Group Homes for Children
New Horizons

RUSSELL COUNTY

New Life Center for Change

SHELBY COUNTY

Alabama Youth Homes
Westover
The Bridge - Pelham



Financial Statement



	Fiscal Year 2003	Fiscal Year 2004	Fiscal Year 2005	Fiscal Year 2006	Fiscal Year 2007
REVENUES					
General Fund	17,105,629	16,493,129	16,540,233	16,254,316	17,204,464
Children First Trust Fund	8,747,878	11,642,836	12,582,884	11,707,550	8,159,573
Al Special Education Trust Fund	44,365,131	43,874,364	43,781,969	46,803,585	53,403,655
Special Revenue	5,233,611	6,368,391	9,102,626	10,364,564	10,501,460
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	75,452,249	78,378,720	82,007,712	85,130,015	89,269,152
EXPENDITURES					
Personnel Costs	22,615,485	22,151,322	22,119,128	23,460,554	25,059,853
Employee Benefits	6,819,110	7,435,841	8,503,293	8,850,316	10,199,600
Travel In-State	282,816	276,963	314,529	312,047	282,917
Travel Out-of-State	14,943	28,862	32,217	48,770	46,087
Repairs and Maintenance	512,823	1,317,512	598,381	394,648	1,104,658
Rentals and Leases	196,400	184,767	173,592	176,098	192,299
Utilities and Communications	1,558,457	1,616,785	2,324,018	1,863,007	1,726,485
Professional Services	21,121,323	22,649,076	21,875,939	25,406,112	27,390,381
Operating Expenses	1,828,952	1,873,813	2,116,253	2,129,884	2,555,903
Transportation Equip Operations	129,698	126,310	168,257	187,009	224,990
Grants and Benefits	13,938,904	15,254,372	17,236,431	17,878,823	19,858,876
Capital Outlay	613,668	-	-	-	-
Transportation Equip Purchases	54,775	48,423	65,850	83,500	113,350
Other Equipment Purchases	326,244	254,578	329,639	199,963	243,065
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	70,013,598	73,218,624	75,857,527	80,990,733	88,998,464
LESS SPECIAL REVENUE CARRIED OVER	3,891,876	4,975,679	6,143,963	4,000,068	231,839
UNALLOCATED APPROPRIATION	1,185,507				
LESS REVERSIONS	361,268	184,417	6,222	139,214	38,849
BALANCE UNENCUMBERED	-	-	-	-	-

Financial Statement

	Fiscal Year 2003	Fiscal Year 2004	Fiscal Year 2005	Fiscal Year 2006	Fiscal Year 2007
REVENUES					
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Al Special Education Trust Fund	6,648,596	6,720,663	6,715,712	7,248,800	7,510,855
Special Revenue	603,311	711,644	739,596	512,545	677,400
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	7,251,907	7,432,307	7,455,308	7,761,345	8,188,255
EXPENDITURES					
Personnel Costs	4,669,391	4,298,483	4,400,283	4,609,928	4,859,361
Employee Benefits	1,119,352	1,141,685	1,316,934	1,378,142	1,562,828
Travel In-State	17,802	21,737	24,705	22,031	33,614
Travel Out-of-State	-	2,850	-	2,850	6,568
Repairs and Maintenance	557	266,948	2,809	3,766	26
Rentals and Leases	14,895	18,059	16,756	13,779	16,842
Utilities and Communications	54,048	301,312	353,274	471,004	118,658
Professional Services	458,020	423,410	335,573	383,912	520,769
Operating Expenses	261,735	251,725	328,605	267,251	388,369
Transportation Equip Operations	3,027	2,305	1,883	2,638	4,406
Grants and Benefits	398,650	509,928	509,928	523,723	543,276
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation Equip Purchases	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment Purchases	88,309	173,123	161,555	80,124	126,383
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	7,085,786	7,411,565	7,452,305	7,759,148	8,181,099
LESS SPECIAL REVENUE CARRIED OVER	-	-	-	-	-
UNALLOCATED APPROPRIATION	74,632				
LESS REVERSIONS	91,489	23,592	3,003	2,197	7,156
BALANCE UNENCUMBERED	-	-	-	-	-

Mission Statement

The mission of the Alabama Department of Youth Services is to enhance public safety by holding juvenile offenders accountable through the use of institutional, educational, and community services that balance the rights and needs of the victims, communities, courts, and offenders.

Goals

ADMINISTRATION

- Promote public trust and confidence through the efficient stewardship of public funds
- Recruit, select and train employees at all levels to be positive role models for juveniles
- Promote the efficient use of resources by providing the least restrictive environment for the juvenile while protecting the community
- License local juvenile justice programs in order to protect the welfare and safety of youth placed in these programs

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES

- Provide juvenile services within the framework of professional juvenile justice standards, legislative intent and available resources
- Hold juveniles accountable and responsible for their actions and teach them the consequences of their behavior
- Provide juvenile offenders opportunities to change behaviors based on an assessment of individual needs
- Place all juvenile offenders in a clean and safe environment that promotes dignity, responsibility, self-esteem, respect and a positive educational experience
- Promote the efficient use of resources by providing the least restrictive environment for the juvenile while protecting the community

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Provide juvenile services within the framework of professional juvenile justice standards, legislative intent and available resources
- Hold juveniles accountable and responsible for their actions and teach them the consequences of their behavior
- Provide juvenile offenders opportunities to change behaviors based on an assessment of individual needs
- Place all juvenile offenders in a clean and safe environment that promotes dignity, responsibility, self-esteem, respect and a positive educational experience
- Promote the efficient use of resources by providing the least restrictive environment for the juvenile while protecting the community

COMMUNITY SUBSIDY

- Forge partnerships within the juvenile justice system, the community and the public and private sectors

16

BOOT CAMP

- Subsidize 266 licensed community boot camp beds
- Provide timely and accurate payments to 8 boot camp programs

SCHOOL DISTRICT INSTRUCTION

- Increase Youth Services School District communication
- Increase the effectiveness of school programs in safety, student activities and professional development
- Provide juvenile offenders opportunities to change behaviors based on an assessment of individual needs
- Place all juvenile offenders in a clean and safe environment that promotes dignity, responsibility, self-esteem, respect and a positive educational experience

SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY EDUCATION

- Provide alternative academic program services and training for students with behavior and/or academic problems as means to deter commitment to DYS

Directory

Executive Director

J. Walter Wood, Jr.

Executive Assistant to the Director

Marcia Calender

Deputy Director for Administration

Allen L. Peaton

Deputy Director for Programs and Client Services

Tim Davis

Treatment Coordinator

Alesia Allen

General Counsel

William J. Samford, II

Deputy Attorney General

Dudley Perry

Community Services Division

Anita Boswell, Administrator

Institutional Services Division

G. Wayne Booker, Administrator

Superintendent of Education

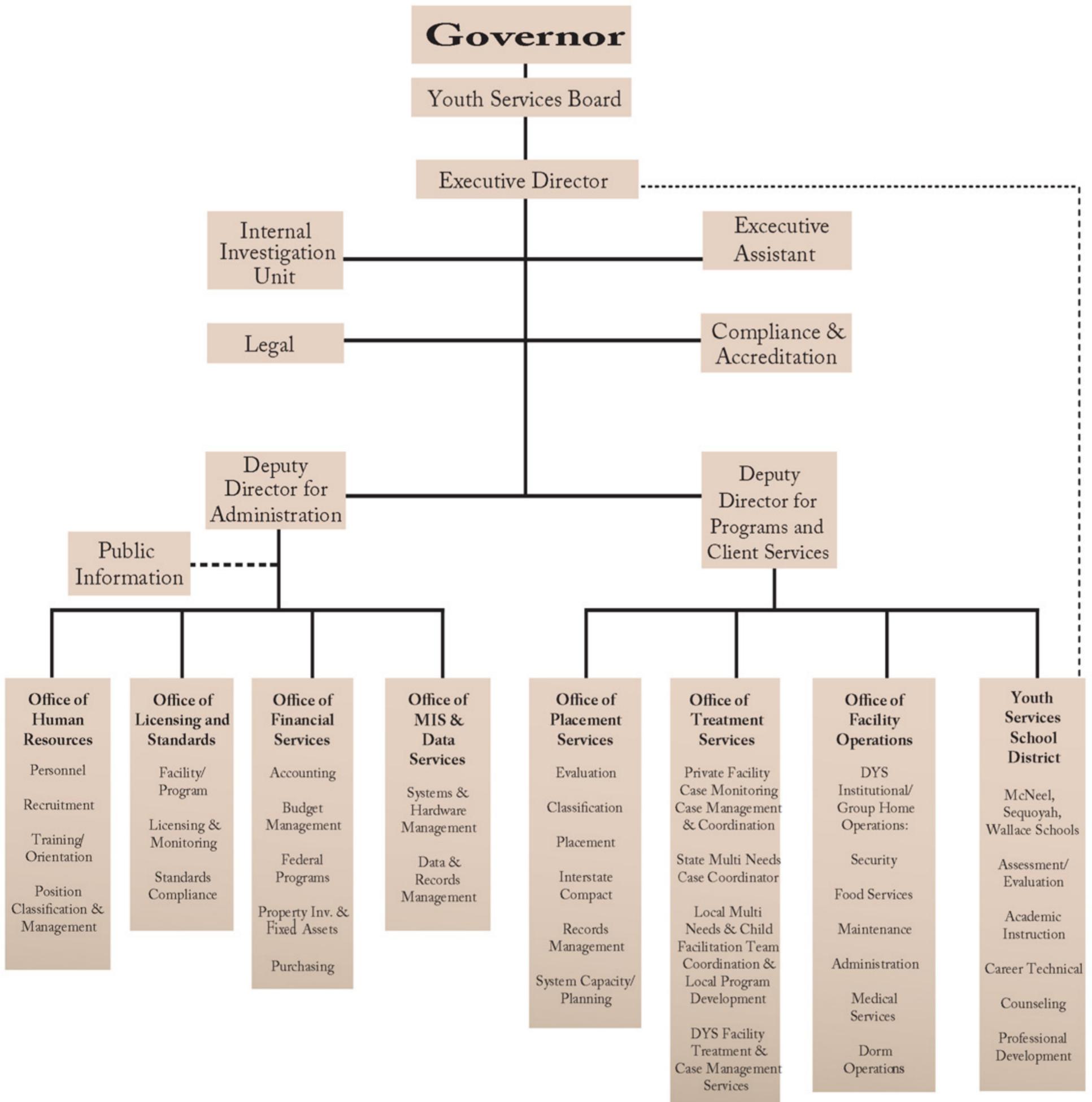
John C. Stewart, Ed. D.

Licensing and Standards

Robert Matthews, Administrator

Screening and Placement

Patrick J. Pendergast, Administrator



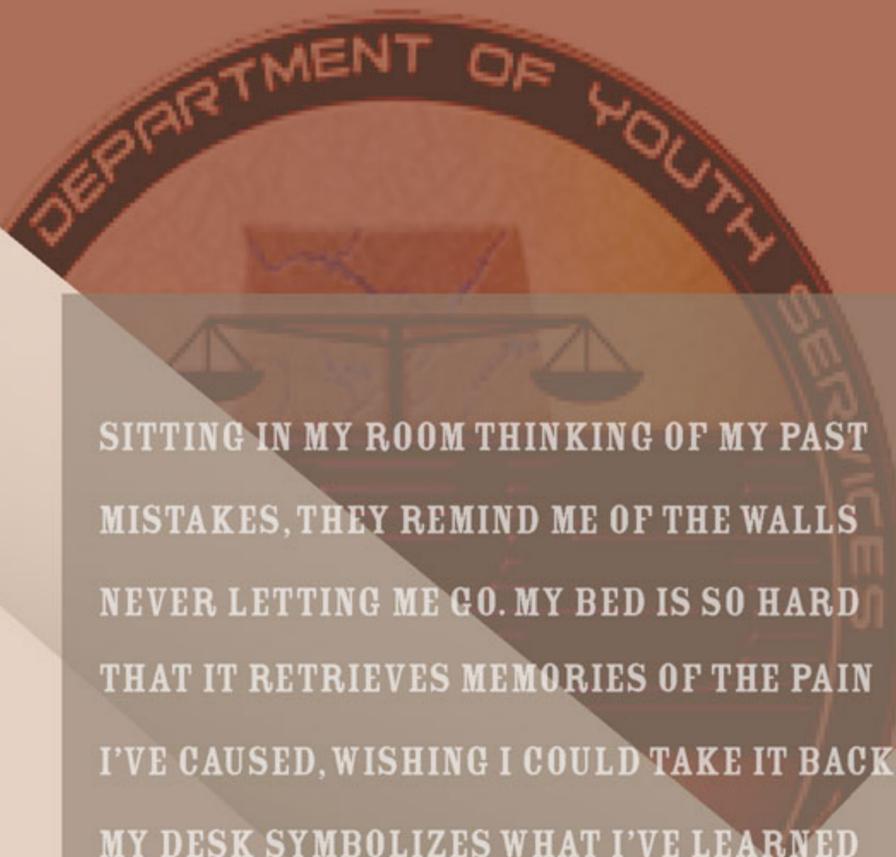
MY DADDY LEFT US ALL ALONE BEFORE THE AGE OF TEN. HE TOLD US HE'D BE BACK TO SEE US AGAIN. HE TOLD US THAT HE LOVED US, BUT IT WASN'T WORKING OUT BETWEEN HIM AND MY MOTHER. HE STARTNG DOING DOPE AND SELLING DRUGS, GOT ON THE STREETS AND TRIED TO BE A THUG. BUT THAT DIDN'T WORK EITHER, IT ONLY MADE MATTERS WORSE. I'M GLAD HE GOT LOCKED UP, BEFORE WE SAW HIM IN A HEARSE. - HE GOT OUT- I GOT IN- JUST WHEN MY NEW LIFE WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN. SO A I'M TRYING MY BEST TO GET OUT OF THIS PROGRAM, TO MAKE THINGS WORK, TO BE THE BEST THAT I CAN BE, TO GET OUT OF THIS CAGE AND FLY FREE.

I.K.R

I'M A
CAGED
BIRD WANTING
TO BE FREE CURIOUS
TO FIND OUT WHAT THE
WORLD HAS IN STORE FOR ME. I'M
A CAGED BIRD, YOUNG AND BRIGHT
READY TO BRING TO THE DAY WHAT I DREAM
ABOUT AT NIGHT. I'M A CAGED BIRD CHIRPING OUT
PAIN HUMMING MY WAY TO FREEDOM WHILE GOING
INSANE. I'M A CAGED BIRD WHOSE WINGS HAVE BEEN
REPAIRED. I'M READY TO LOOK INTO THE WORLD WITH A BRAND NEW
STARE. I WAS A CAGED BIRD, NOW I AM FLYING FREE. I'VE REALIZED THAT
THE CAGE WASN'T FOR ME.

J.A.T.

I
BE-
LIEVE
THE
WORLD IS
NOT FAIR.
PEOPLE ARE
CRUEL AND DO
NOT CARE. I BELIEVE
WE ARE ALL BORN OF
ONE RACE, JUDGE NOT BY
THE COLOR OF OUR FACE. I
BELIEVE IN THESE THINGS, BUT
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE COM-
PLICATED WAY OF GOD'S GREAT
PLAN. I BELIEVE IF I CHANGE SOME
THINGS IN MY LIFE I COULD
AVOID ALL THIS WORRY AND
ALL OF THIS STRIFE. I
BELIEVE MY MISTAKES
CAN BE FORGIVEN,
AND ONLY I CAN
CHANGE THE
WAY I'M
LIVING
J.M.



SITTING IN MY ROOM THINKING OF MY PAST MISTAKES, THEY REMIND ME OF THE WALLS NEVER LETTING ME GO. MY BED IS SO HARD THAT IT RETRIEVES MEMORIES OF THE PAIN I'VE CAUSED, WISHING I COULD TAKE IT BACK. MY DESK SYMBOLIZES WHAT I'VE LEARNED FROM MY PAST MISTAKES. THE STALE AIR CONSTANTLY BREATHES ON ME, REMINDING ME THAT I CAN'T CHANGE WHAT I'VE DONE. I CAN ONLY TRY TO MAKE IT BETTER. THIS IS THE ROOM I HATE. THIS IS THE ROOM I STAY IN.

L.S.



I DON'T OFTEN LOOK INTO MY SOUL BECAUSE I'M SCARED OF WHAT I MIGHT FIND LIFE ON THE STREETS AND IN THE GHETTOS HAS HARDENED ME SO I'M NOT AFFECTED LIKE I SHOULD BE WHEN I HEAR A BABY'S CRY DON'T GET ME WRONG, I STILL CARE BUT I DON'T FEEL THINGS AS DEEP ANYMORE THE REAL AND PASSIONATE ME IS IN HERE SOMEWHERE BEHIND THE THOUSAND WALLS, I HAD TO CONSTRUCT AROUND MY HEART JUST TO KEEP FROM GOING INSANE IT'S GONNA TAKE A LOT OF LOVE AND PATIENCE TO KNOCK THESE WALLS DOWN BUT IT'S NOT AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK PLEASE DON'T GIVE UP.

M.H.J