

MINUTES OF MEETING DATE February 10, 2026

DALLAS COUNTY  
JUVENILE BOARD

TIME: 5:00 p.m.

PLACE: Henry Wade Juvenile Justice Center  
2600 Lone Star Dr.  
Dallas, TX 75212

MEMBERS PRESENT: Judge Cheryl Lee Shannon, Chairman  
Judge Andrea Plumlee, Vice-Chairman  
Judge Clay Lewis Jenkins  
Judge Veretta Frazier  
Judge Elizabeth Frizell  
Judge Sandra Jackson  
Judge Andrea Martin  
Commissioner Andy Sommerman  
Corp. Robert White, YSAB Chairman

**I. Call to Order**

Judge Cheryl Lee Shannon, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m., noting there were enough Board members and a quorum.

**II. Approval of Minutes for December 8, 2025, Meeting**

Commissioner Andy Sommerman moved, seconded by Judge Andrea Martin, to approve the meeting minutes from the December 8, 2025, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. Public Comment (Limited to 3 minutes per individual or organization)**

Commissioner John Wiley Price, District 3

Rev. Dr. Michael Waters, Abundant Life A.M.E Church

Amy Moore, North Park Presbyterian Church

**IV. Discussion Item - Juvenile Department**

**A. Director's Updates**

Mr. H. Lynn Hadnot, Director for the Dallas County Juvenile Department, greeted the Board. He provided his director's report in the packet for each Board member.

Department Highlights are as follows.

- Emergency Management Personnel and the facility Department staff were proactive and planned to spend the night at the facility due to inclement weather and to ensure coverage in case of an emergency.
- There were no program hourly deviations due to the inclement weather. In the past, the Department has struggled with providing coverage; we had no interruption in services for the youth. The youth received a normalized schedule for programming during this winter weather event.
- Michael Fronsh was instrumental in terms of engagement with Chief Hadnot, operational guidance on how to respond to issues and challenges during the inclement weather.
- Dr. Ronica Watkins, Budget Department, special thanks to her and the budget team for creating a sound plan to deal with any required assistance needed during the inclement weather event.

- Darryl Martin, Budget, made himself available to be contacted at any time by Chief Hadnot if there were any issues with power outages during the winter weather event.
- Mr. Erving Taylor, Assistant Deputy Director, was at the forefront in coordinating the emergency plans and getting the right people in place for a great outcome in all facilities. There were emergency plans to move the youth in case of a power outage.
- During the office closures, there was only one call-in at the Lyle B. Medlock Detention Center.
- Mr. H. Lynn Hadnot, Director for the Dallas County Juvenile Department, celebrated his first work Anniversary on February 10, 2026.
- Violent incidents are down by 90% in detention.
- The 12-hour shifts executed in July 2025 have been successful.
- Amid the first anniversary of the Juvenile Justice Advocate and Annie E Casey detention facility assessment report, the department has worked to adopt operational policies and practices pursuant to those recommendations. Include practices governing meals and facility operations. A meeting for a follow-up assessment is in the works to review our progress. We're hoping to get grant money to pay for the assessment and not have to use taxpayers' money.
- An RFT/RFQ is being recommended for a food vendor for meals in detention facilities. The Department has had a conversation with Cook Chill (current food provider) regarding other food options. The department had had conversations with other Texas cities like Harris, Tarrant, Travis, Denton, and El Paso counties.

Mr. Hadnot's goal is to simply gather as much information as possible and make an informed recommendation to the Juvenile Board pursuant to all the variables. This will include cost, quality control, USDA participation, impacts, what is best for kids, the department, and Dallas County's bottom line.

- As discussed before, the current plight of the Juvenile Justice Department system commitment wait list for males is up to 90 days, and for females is up to 150-160 days. The youth can feel a sense of despair during the wait. The department is committed to not being passive and responding to those youths' needs. The detained males are receiving a very robust curriculum with DBT clinical services delivery, and it's proven to be extremely impactful. The detained females will have that same program model soon.
- Our participation in regionalization has been slow but ongoing. Educational stakeholders are the next critical item. The department is in transition to onboard the Deputy Director of Probation Services. Despite our slow transition in revitalization, the purpose for that is that last year we came in beneath the commitment target established by TJJD based on our felony eligible referral trends.

Mr. Hadnot explained that his first-year goal was to stabilize detention operation staffing and performance. He wanted to be intentional with stakeholder engagement and break barriers to communication and collaboration. He wants to work to restore public trust; he states that his one-year has been difficult and equally rewarding. The department's progress goes beyond the numbers with every interaction with youth, staff, families, and the community. As a team, everyone is committed to the job and doing right by kids. His motto is "let the work speak for itself."

Judge Cheryl Lee Shannon asked for a potential RFP and the funds for a food vendor. What's the anticipation of where those funds will come from? She also wanted to say that if, in the future, a new Juvenile Service facility were built, consideration for food services would be in-house.

Mr. Hadnot replied, it depends on the timing. Hopefully, everything will be out in March; if not, the department must be somewhat nimble. If the Board has already adopted a budget, it may need to be discussed at the Commissioners' Court level, working with the Office of Budget.

Judge Clay Lewis Jenkins stated that Mr. Hadnot's tenure has produced great measurable results.

That concluded the Director's report

**V. Action Items- Juvenile Department.**

- B. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Juvenile Board.

Judge Cheryl Lee Shannon yielded the chair to Judge Andrea Plumlee, Vice-Chairman for the chair vote.

### **Chairman**

Motion made by Corp. Robert White, seconded by Judge Veretta Frazier, to nominate Judge Cheryl Lee Shannon

Motion made by Judge Clay Lewis Jenkins, seconded by Judge Veretta Frazier, to elect Judge Cheryl Shannon

### **Vice-Chairman**

Motion made by Judge Andrea Martin, seconded by Commissioner Andy Sommerman, to nominate Judge Andrea Plumlee

Motion made by Commissioner Andy Sommerman, seconded by Judge Clay Lewis Jenkins, to cease nomination. Approved by acclamation.

Motion made by Judge Sandra Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Andy Sommerman, to elect Judge Andrea Plumlee

#### **C. Youth Service Advisory (YSAB) Re-Appointment**

- Sylvia Orozco-Joseph
- Dr. Walter L. Taylor

**Judge Andrea Martin moved, seconded by Commissioner Andy Sommerman, to re-appoint members of the Youth Service Advisory Board (YSAB). The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **D. Youth Service Advisory Board (YSAB) Appointment of the Chair**

- Dr. Sylvia Lopez

**Judge Andrea Martin moved, seconded by Commissioner Andy Sommerman, to the appointment of the Chair of the Youth Service Advisory Board (YSAB). The motion passed unanimously**

### **VI. Consent Agenda- Juvenile Department E-K**

**Judge Andrea Plumlee moved, seconded by Corp. Robert White, to approve consent agenda items E-I & K, pulling item J. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Item J- Discussion**

Judge Cheryl Lee Shannon asked for clarification about regionalization. She stated that it seems fluid regarding the terms. It is a concept meaning kids stay in a region and a part of the funding that TJJJ pays. The agreements that Dallas County approves will categorically state that these will be youth who would otherwise have gone to TJJJ. The youth coming in from Denton and Tarrant County could use HOPE as a regular placement. Or they can use us via Regionalization, and the funding will be reimbursed through TJJJ.

Mr. Hadnot replied that regionalization is a concept, public policy, format, and operational strategy to keep youth within regions to prevent them from entering state facilities. Some counties have their own local funds and can engage in regionalization conceptually and use their own county dollars. In Dallas County, for qualified youth, we will use the concept and the funding strategy. We want to ask TJJJ to pay for the daily cost for the youth. Mechanically, it's no different than our day-to-day operations.

Judge Andrea Martin stated that Dallas County facilities are wonderful, and as we see from the contracts, counties will want to send their youth to Dallas. She explained that lately, there have been so many high felony cases that they will have to be sent to TJJJ. What are other counties going to be able to do with Dallas County youth in a smaller county that doesn't have our resources? We have already decided that the youth cannot be successful in our facility.

Mr. Hadnot stated that the department will have to be very strategic and see what that program has to offer. If it needs to be addressed in Dallas County, we will. There are situations where we may have a cohort of youth, and they all need a similar level of care; we may keep those youth together. Also, youth may fail out of our programs, which is where those opportunities will be best leveraged. On the probation side, working with the District Attorney's office and articulating to the Court why this regionalization is needed.

**Commissioner Andy Sommerman moved, seconded by Corp. Robert White, to approve consent agenda item J. The motion passed unanimously.**

Recess as Juvenile Board

**Judge Andrea Plumlee moved, seconded by Corp. Robert White, to recess as the Juvenile Board. The motion passed unanimously.**

Convene as (AAE) Academy for Academic Excellence

**Judge Andrea Martin moved, seconded by Judge Andrea Plumlee, to recess as the Juvenile Board. The motion passed unanimously**

**VII. Discussion Items- Academy for Academic Excellence (AAE) Charter School**

L. AAE Charter School Update

Staff have continued to exhibit support for strong education for our youth. Deputy Director of Education, Karen Ramos, and her team have been very impactful in educating our youth. Special thanks to the District Attorney's office for working with the department and thinking outside the box for great outcomes.

That concludes with the Director's updates.

**VIII. Action Items-Academy for Academic Excellence (AAE) Charter School**

M. Consideration and Take Action on Senate Bill 11 School Prayer Within the School Day

Mr. Hadnot explained that he does not feel a policy needs to be implemented because the department has a strong history of making accommodations for youth to practice their religious liberties. He stated that it will be an ongoing commitment to allow those concessions. Not acting will satisfy the Senate Bill 11. That is his recommendation.

**Judge Andrea Martin moved, seconded by Judge Veretta Frazier, to approve the non-adoption of the act on Senate Bill 11. The motion passed unanimously.**

**IX. Consent Items- AAE Charter School**

**N. Approval of Annual Financial Audit**

**Judge Andrea Martin moved, seconded by Judge Veretta Frazier, to approve the Chairman, Judge Cheryl Shannon, to sign the financial audit report contingent on no findings to discuss with the Board. The motion passed unanimously.**

Recess as AAE

**Judge Andrea Plumlee moved, seconded by Corp Robert White, to recess as the Academy for Academic Excellence (AAE). The motion passed unanimously.**

Reconvene as Juvenile Board

**Judge Andrea Plumlee moved, seconded by Corp Robert White, to re-reconvene as Juvenile Board. The motion passed unanimously.**

**X. Executive Session- Juvenile Board**

Executive Session- Juvenile Department

For Purposes Permitted by Chapter 551, Open Meetings, Texas Government Code, Section 551.071 through Section 551.076

Subjects: Litigation: Security: **Personnel: 81910** Contracts:

Time out: **5:53 pm**

Time in: **6:15 pm**

Adjourned 6:15 p.m.

**Corp Robert White moved, seconded by Judge Veretta Frazier, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.**

Minutes prepared by Rochelle Ashford, Administrative Clerk