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## **DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE**

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### **Update on DJJ Partnership with AME Church**

In August, the Department of Juvenile Justice established a partnership with the Seventh Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church for the purpose of creating and enhancing DJJ services and programs. Since that time, the Department has placed Joe Benton as the full-time liaison to the AME church to plan and coordinate activities that will positively impact the lives of at-risk youth in the community. To date, the partnership has helped to recruit 30 new Auxiliary Probation Officers from AME churches in Charleston, Orangeburg, Greenville, York, Florence, and Richland counties. These officers will carry caseloads while working closely with Department staff. Progress is also being made in opening additional Teen Afterschool Centers at AME churches around the state. Mr. Benton is also developing an advisory council of AME and Department representatives.

### **Director Byars and Dr. Hayes Honored by Children's Law Office**

Director Byars and Chief of Staff Dr. Kathleen M. Hayes were honored as two of the founders of the Children's Law Office at the University of South Carolina during this year's Children's Law Conference. The conference was held October 13-14 at the University's Capstone Conference Center. It was 10 years ago that Judge Byars and Dr. Hayes joined a group of visionary leaders to respond to the need for an interdisciplinary training and resource center on children's law.

### **Dennis Burdette Elected to Chair Statewide Association**

Dennis Burdette, Inspector General for the Department of Juvenile Justice, has been elected to a two-year term as president of the South Carolina Juvenile Officers Association. The association is comprised of juvenile justice professionals, including law enforcement officers who have met the accreditation requirements for certification through the association. Four of the 12 certified law enforcement officers in the state are employed with the Department of Juvenile Justice.

### **DJJ Educational Services Receives Grants**

The Department's Division of Educational Services has been awarded several Education Improvement Act (EIA) grants to help fund professional development and implement technology in the classroom.

- Kathy Walker, director of Professional Development and Federal Programs for the Division, has received an \$11,100 grant. The grant will be used to fund professional development for teachers wishing to better link their lesson plans and instruction with the South Carolina Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT) standards.
- Teachers Edward Henderson and Patricia Livingston received a \$2,000 grant to fund two new computers and software for classroom language instruction (with the goal of helping students develop word usage, syntax, etc. needed for better employability upon release.)
- A \$6,000 grant will help implement a classroom behavior modification program at the Coastal Evaluation Center School. Teachers Elaine Walters, Mary Kay Lawley, and Michael Martin will travel to Philadelphia to be trained in the modification program curriculum.

### **Schedule**

October 18	Deliver Keynote Address at Youth Net Conference York Tech's Baxter Hood Center, Rock Hill, SC
October 19	Lights on Afterschool Program (SC Afterschool Alliance) State House Grounds (North Side)
November 3	Speech at Voices for South Carolina's Children Policy Forum Columbia, Location TBA
November 17	Alston Wilkes Annual Banquet Seawell's