
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

DJJ names Margaret Barber as Chief of Staff

Department of Juvenile Justice Director Bill Byars has named Margaret Barber, an employee with more than 30 years of service in the juvenile justice field, to fill the position of Chief of Staff for the agency. Barber previously served as DJJ's regional administrator for the Piedmont Region, where she was responsible for the supervision of staff in 12 county offices. She will begin her new position as Chief of Staff effective Monday, March 26, 2007. Barber fills the position left vacant by Kathleen M. Hayes, Ph.D., who has been appointed by the Governor as director of the Department of Social Services.

DJJ Forms Collaboration with the SC Baptist Woman's Missionary Union

On March 16, 2007, the Department of Juvenile Justice and the South Carolina Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) signed a Memorandum of Agreement focused on serving at-risk youth through volunteerism. The intent is to mobilize WMU members to create and enhance services and programs that provide at-risk youth, juvenile offenders, and families with skills and support. Under the partnership, the Baptist WMU will work with DJJ to improve services and support of youth through mentoring, tutoring, religious mentoring, internships and service as Auxiliary Probation Officers (APO's).

Youth Arbitration Program

The Department of Juvenile Justice and Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott have jointly organized a school-based Youth Arbitration Program that will be piloted in five schools in Richland County beginning in April. Arbitration programs now exist in all but three South Carolina counties. The highly successful Arbitration Program operates either as a school-based program or through Solicitor's Offices with volunteer arbitrators.

The Richland County program will be piloted at Columbia High School, Dutch Fork High School, Lower Richland High School, Richland Northeast High School, and Spring Valley High School. By August, the program is expected to be in all Richland County schools where a county Resource Officer is assigned.

The program focuses on non-violent crimes in schools committed by youths between the ages of 12 to 16 who are first-time offenders. Offending students must volunteer to participate in arbitration and must take responsibility for their offense by admitting their guilt. The intent of the program is to provide students with an alternative to the juvenile justice system.

Schedule

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| April 2 | Speak to James Leroy Belk American Legion Post (7 p.m.)
Camden |
| April 12 | Speak at Professional Colloquium on Child Maltreatment (9 a.m.)
Hyatt Regency, Greenville |
| April 16 | Library Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
Clemson Youth Development Center at Camp Long, Aiken |