

a newsletter of the

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Judges'  
Commission

# PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE

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## Phila- delphia Juvenile Court's Job Fair Draws 500 kids -

more than 20  
prospective  
employers come  
to the Family  
Court Building  
on May 16



Shortly after 1p.m. on May 16, 2000, more than 200 young people were lined up on the first floor of the Philadelphia Family Court Building, prepared to enter the waiting room of Courtrooms C & D for the Juvenile Court's first Job Fair. The brainchild of Administrative Judge Paul P. Panepinto, the Job Fair was organized by Julia Davis, Job Coordinator in the Victim and Community Services Unit, under the direction of Kenneth Hale, Chief Probation Officer.

The Job Fair resulted from months of discussions in Juvenile Court about different ways of promoting accountability on the part of adjudicated youth, and, in particular, providing employment possibilities for those offenders able to work, many of whom owe restitution. More than 20 prospective employers from both the private and public sectors

participated. Commerce Bank, Pep Boys, Advance Staffing, Redwood Airport Management Inc., Labor Local 33, United Parcel Service, Party Land, and Wendy's represented private business. Present from the public & non-profit sectors were City Year Philadelphia, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Greater Philadelphia Federation of Settlements, the Philadelphia Police Academy-Recruitment Unit, Philadelphia Free Library Career Development Program, the Census Bureau, Impact Services, Indochinese American Council, Parkside Association, Germantown Job Center, and the United States Army.

By the end of the afternoon, an amazing number of young people - more than 500! - had come. Some were accompanied by their parents, and all were assisted by the probation officers who had referred,

met, and assisted them during the fair, providing guidance and support. The young clients were advised to dress “ready for work” and to bring a resume, if possible. For many, this was their first real employment experience. The Job Fair was manned by a volunteer group of supervisors in the juvenile probation department, who wanted it to be a worthwhile experience for all involved.

In addition to the Job Fair process, which involved interviews and other interactions with the prospective employers, attendees were given a packet of information about filling out a job application properly, personal appearance, punctuality, attendance, and positive attitudes.

The employers in attendance were extremely pleased, not only with the attendance but also with the level of interest and competency of the attendees. Coordinator Julia Davis followed up to ensure communication between employers and job applicants.

Philadelphia Juvenile Court’s first Job Fair proved to be a success in several critical areas. The levels of interest and attendance were astounding. In addition, bringing together employers and court-supervised youths for the first time accomplished two other major ends: it was an opportunity for young offenders, possibly for the first time, to go through a professional, well-organized, job-related experience that could result in positive employment; and just as critical, the Fair enabled employers to see court-involved young people as resources, individuals whom, if given a chance, could become valuable employees and valued members of their community.

This publication is produced monthly at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research at Shippensburg University.

Guest articles are always welcome; please submit them by email or on a disk. We particularly enjoy your photographs, but we ask that these be mailed - we will be happy to return them to you.

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## Act 18 Includes Significant Juvenile Act Amendments

Senate Bill 380 (1895) was signed into law by Governor Ridge as Act 18 of 2000 on May 10, 2000, and became effective on July 10.

Among the provisions of Act 18 are amendments to The Juvenile Act that provide for a new 42 Pa.C.S. §6311 “Guardian ad litem for child in court proceedings,” and amendments to 42 Pa.C.S. §6341 that establish timeframes for findings in delinquency cases. These provisions are summarized below.

### Guardians ad litem in dependency proceedings

Act 18 creates a new 42 Pa.C.S. §6311 “Guardian ad litem for child in court proceedings,” which provides that when a proceeding has been initiated alleging a child to be a dependent child under paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), or (10) of the definition of “Dependent child” in 42 Pa.C.S. §6302, the court is required to appoint a guardian ad litem to represent the legal interests and best interests of the child.

The guardian ad litem, who must be an attorney at law, is charged with representation of the legal interests and best interests of the child at every stage of the proceedings.

The guardian ad litem shall:

- Meet with the child as soon as possible following appointment, and on a regular basis thereafter, in a manner appropriate to the child’s age and maturity;
- On a timely basis, be given access to relevant court and county agency records; reports of examination of the parents or other custodian of the child pursuant to The Juvenile Act; and medical, psychological and school records;
- Participate in all proceedings, including hearings before masters, and administrative hearings and reviews to the degree necessary to adequately represent the child;
- Conduct such further investigation necessary to ascertain the facts;
- Interview potential witnesses, including the child’s parents, caretakers and foster parents; examine and cross-examine witnesses; and present witnesses and evidence necessary to protect the best interests of the child;

- At the earliest possible date, be advised by the county agency having legal custody of the child of: any plan to relocate the child or modify custody or visitation arrangements, including the reasons therefor, prior to the relocation or change in custody or visitation; and any proceeding, investigation or hearing under 23 Pa.C.S. Ch. 63 (relating to Child Protective Services) or The Juvenile Act, directly affecting the child;
- Make specific recommendations to the court relating to the appropriateness and safety of the child's placement and services necessary to address the child's needs and safety;
- Explain the proceedings to the child, to the extent appropriate given the child's age, mental condition and emotional condition;
- Advise the court of the child's wishes to the extent that they can be ascertained, and present to the court whatever evidence exists to support the child's wishes; and
- When appropriate because of the age or mental and emotional condition of the child, determine, to the fullest extent possible, the wishes of the child and communicate this information to the court.

Act 18 specifically provides that a difference between the child's wishes and the recommendations presented to the court by the guardian ad litem, relating to the appropriateness and safety of the child's placement and services necessary to address the child's needs and safety, shall not be considered a conflict of interest for the guardian ad litem.

§6337 "Right to counsel" is amended to provide that a party is entitled to representation by legal counsel at all stages of any proceedings under The Juvenile Act and if he is without financial resources or otherwise unable to employ counsel, to have the court appoint counsel for him, except as provided in §6311 (relating to guardian ad litem for child in court proceedings).

### **New timeframes in delinquency proceedings**

Act 18 of 2000 amends 42 Pa.C.S. §6341 "Adjudication" to provide that, within seven days of hearing the evidence on a delinquency petition, the court must make and file findings as to whether the acts ascribed to the child were committed by him.

This time limitation may only be extended pursuant to the agreement of the child and the Attorney for the Commonwealth. The court's failure to comply with the time limitation shall not be grounds for discharging the child or dismissing the proceeding.

Act 18 also amends 42 Pa.C.S. §6341(b) "Finding of delinquency" to provide that, following a determination that a child alleged to be delinquent committed the acts alleged, the court shall enter such finding on the record and, if the child

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## **Michael W. McCalpin Joins CJJT&R Staff**

CJJT&R is pleased to announce that Michael McCalpin joined its staff on June 26 as the Detention Monitoring Specialist. He will be responsible for monitoring compliance with the standards for secure detention and providing technical assistance to county probation departments and detention facilities regarding these standards and alternatives to detention. McCalpin replaces Marcella Szumanski who accepted a position with PCCD.

McCalpin began his career with Blair County in 1973 and most recently served as the administrator of their juvenile probation, children and youth services, and costs and fines agencies. He has been active with the Chief's Council for many years, and serves as a member of the Juvenile Advisory Committee for PCCD. McCalpin holds both a bachelor's and a master's degree in criminal justice from Eastern Kentucky University.

He will be based at Shippensburg University and can be reached at 717-477-1188; e-mail him at [mwmcca@wharf.ship.edu](mailto:mwmcca@wharf.ship.edu)

# Norwegian Approach to the Prevention of Bullying

By Jane Riese, Bullying Prevention Coordinator, Family-Child Resources, Inc., York, PA



Jane Riese of Family-Child Resources, Inc., and Dr. Dan Olweus, Psychologist and professor at the University of Bergen, Norway.

We are all fortunate to be living in such an exciting era of juvenile and restorative justice. With each new opportunity to read and to network with other justice professionals, my interest grows by leaps and bounds. There are more and more unique ways in which we can work with young people, and it's refreshing to see trends toward early, preventative measures. I have been very fortunate, as these growing interests of mine culminated into a delightful, meaningful, and productive trip to Scandinavia.

On April 26, I had the unique opportunity to travel to Europe as a trainer, an opportunity I'd dreamed of for years. I was first asked by Danish victim/offender mediation colleagues, Dagmar Rasmussen and Hans Boserup, to present a one-day workshop to a collective group of their mediators on a number of topics from my growing areas of interest: victim offender mediation in America, victim sensitivity, "transformative" mediation, and finally, my newest undertaking, the prevention of bullying, or peer abuse, in schools. Rasmussen directs the victim/offender mediation program through The Crime Prevention Council and Boserup is an attorney, a mediator, and a VOMA board member who founded Danish Mediation. Both are national organizations which had previously done little work together.

The audience was appreciative and interested, in spite of my feeble attempts to speak a bit of Danish throughout the day! I was fascinated to learn of cultural differences. Their crime rate seems much lower, their country much cleaner, (and absolutely gorgeous) and their sense of national pride is admirable. I was particularly interested in discovering their lack of services to crime victims. They had never heard of a Victim Impact Statement, and since my trip, I've sent materials about Pennsylvania's successes, in addition to the well-known OVC document called "Victim Impact Statements: A Victim's Right to Speak-- A Nation's Responsibility to Listen." The Danes couldn't have been more warm or welcoming.

Norway was also on my agenda, as world-renown bullying author, Dr. Dan Olweus, psychologist and professor at the University of Bergen, Norway, has written the Blueprints for Violence Prevention program that we at Family-Child Resource are implementing. Since I would be heading to Denmark, it was a great opportunity to travel to Norway to consult with the "master." And what a marvelous experience that turned out to be.

I was first privileged to meet Erling Roland, the director of the Norwegian national Behavioral Research Center, where bullying is also a central focus. Roland and Olweus conducted the first national research on the problem back in 1983, months after three young Norwegian boys independently committed suicide in circumstances of acute bullying. I spent half a day with Erling and his staff, learning about his new three-year national anti-bullying project, his latest theories of program implementation and his beliefs regarding the connection between bullying and mediation. Roland believes in delivering 2-3

“pro-social,” positive messages to students about relationships and communication for every negative message about inappropriate, bullying behavior.

Dan Olweus, a researcher, has been studying the issue of bullying in schools since the late 60s. He graciously offered to spend time with me, inviting me to his research office at the University of Bergen for meetings on each of my days in Bergen. I also met with his doctoral research assistant, who was responsible for training local teachers. This was a very practical learning experience, as teacher training is one of our program responsibilities. Perhaps most useful of all were the meetings he arranged for me at a wonderful school where his program is being implemented. There, I visited with the principal, a classroom teacher, and a classroom of children. I discovered what are the most practical aspects of program implementation. The teachers in Norway say that the key to success is meaningful, respectful, one-on-one relationships between teachers and students, clear rules against bullying, and consistent application of those rules. The program has dramatically changed the daily life in their schools, and Olweus is highly respected in his own city for his significant contributions.

Olweus’ work is also of tremendous significance in the areas of juvenile crime and service to victims, given that studies reveal that 60 percent of identified bullies go on to have an arrest record in their 20s. Clearly, the time to intervene is early on, in the elementary years. His program is not based on a magic curriculum, but rather, on a paradigm shift in schools, so

similar in philosophy to restorative justice principles.

Being a victim advocate for more than 11 years, I became interested in bullying for three reasons: first, victims of bullying, a chronic stressor and form of abuse among young people, may be one of the most underserved populations of American victims to date. We have finally reached that pivotal moment in history when victims of juvenile offenses are getting the attention and support that they deserve, and it’s time to look even more closely at this often silent, hidden population. Second, I was fascinated and concerned about the possibilities of victim/bully meetings or conferences, and I felt that I may be able to contribute to the development of safe strategies which may be useful to both bullies and victims. And finally, as I mentioned earlier, this is a prevention effort. Why not put a proven, effective program into our schools and start to make them safer places, with children who receive guidance and support in the areas of social and behavioral development, mutual respect, acceptance of differences, communication skills, and assertiveness training? All of these are skills for a healthier life, which can’t begin too early.

Travelling to Europe was fascinating and enlightening. There is so much to share, and so much to learn. I can’t wait to return!

## Governor Signs 2000-2001 Budget

Governor Tom Ridge signed Act 21A1 of 2000 on May 24, thereby enacting the Commonwealth’s FY 2000-01 Budget.

The budget includes \$13,267,000 for the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission to support Specialized Probation Services, an increase of \$3,267,000 over last year. The Specialized Probation Services appropriation includes \$10 million to support previously funded positions, as well as a \$267,000 cost of living increase for those school-based probation, intensive supervision, aftercare, and community-based probation positions previously supported by the JCJC. The remaining \$3 million was allocated to counties based upon a competitive solicitation process that will support 70.5 additional specialized probation officer positions.

The JCJC grant-in-aid appropriation that supports traditional probation services was increased to \$5,779,000, enabling the Commission to approve a 3 percent cost of living increase in this appropriation to counties.

The JCJC federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) appropriation was continued at \$2 million. County allocations for TANF funding are based upon a five-year average of informal adjustment, consent decree, and probation dispositions.

All three appropriations will provide \$19,672,000 in financial support to counties.



## Bob Stillwagon Retires

**R**obert J. Stillwagon has retired from his position as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in Lawrence County after 33 years in juvenile justice, all of them as chief.

Stillwagon is a lifetime New Castle resident. After graduating from New Castle High School, he took a job making pottery with the Shenango China Corporation. After working all day, Stillwagon still found time to volunteer with the New Castle Police Department, counseling youth offenders.

In 1967 Stillwagon left the pottery business and accepted the job as Chief in Lawrence County. After 28 years with Shenango China, he was a little apprehensive because he wasn't quite sure what his new duties would demand. However, Stillwagon found a career that he loved and found difficult to leave. Stillwagon used to make up name cards and tape a dime to each of them that he would hand out to each juvenile under his supervision. He would encourage them to call him anytime, day or night, "because I'd rather help them out of the mess they got into."

As for retirement, Stillwagon has plans to travel, but that may not suffice. He's considering volunteering his time somewhere, but he'll wait for the right opportunity.

## Staff Development News

**T**he CJJT&R Fall 2000 Staff Development Schedule has been mailed. Registrations should be returned by August 25, 2000. The Center will continue to accept registrations on a *space-available basis* until the day prior to each program. Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. As several programs are expected to reach capacity on or before the August 25 due date, we suggest the early return of registration materials. Payment of registration fees may occur later.

A total of 18 programs is available this fall. The Center is pleased to announce a redesign of *Juvenile Justice Academy: Orientation for the New Professional*. This program will be piloted in Harrisburg on September 5-8, and October 4-6. While the program has not changed in length, some segments of the training have been changed to more accurately address issues facing today's new professional.

Several new topics are included in the schedule. *Fearless Leadership™*, a program specifically for females, will be held in State College on September 13-14. The trainer for this workshop, Ms. Rhonda Britten, is a highly sought-after speaker and has been a guest on Oprah, Sally Jesse Raphael, and Talk Radio.

For managers and supervisors, the Center is sponsoring *Creating New Visions*. This workshop addresses negativity in the workplace: how to break free from a negative culture, and how to focus on positive mental reframing. This program is in State College on September 14, and will be led by Stephen Holoviak. Dr. Holoviak presented a workshop for the Center earlier this year, and was rated very highly as a trainer.

On September 27-28, *Professional Codependence* will be offered in State College. This workshop addresses the emotional stressors placed upon workers in our profession in dealing with difficult, needy, and addicted clients. Patterns of communication that lead to codependence will also be presented. Dr. Violet Plantz, training facilitator, has led past Center-sponsored workshops, which have been well received.

One of the highlights of the fall training schedule is *Kids, Cults, Guns, Gangs and Violence*. This program will be held in State College on October 19-20. John Michalec, a watch commander with the Mt. Lebanon, PA, Police Department will lead this workshop. He is also Director of Ritualistic Crime Specialists, Inc., a consulting firm routinely sought after by police departments, private corporations, schools, and mental health facilities

throughout North America. Through extensive use of multimedia aides, lecture, and discussion participants will learn why some juveniles gravitate to violent behaviors, gangs, and the occult.

Bruce Schaffer, a frequent and highly regarded trainer for CJJT&R, will lead a workshop at our two regional locations. *Loss, Grief, Dying, Death, HIV Disease and Substance Abuse* will be offered north of Pittsburgh, in Mars, on October 12-13, and in Allentown on October 26-27. Participants will learn how the process of dying and death affects the at-risk or troubled adolescent on probation, living with an HIV infected or dying substance abusing parent or caretaker.

On November 9-10, *Options to Anger* will be presented in State College. Focusing on competency development, this workshop is best suited for those who work with violent youth. Options emphasizing simultaneous self-respect and respect for others will be taught. Trainers for this workshop are Dr. John Crumbley, John Aarons and Wade Frazer. They are juvenile probation officers in Oregon, and are faculty members at the University of Oregon and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

Also on November 9-10, *When Delinquents Need Mental Health Services* will be offered in Harrisburg. This workshop is ideal for juvenile justice practitioners looking for a basic understanding of services available in the mental health system. Participants will receive fundamental skills for recognizing and screening for mental health concerns in youth and matching appropriate referrals with identified concerns. Training will be provided by the CASSP Institute. Juvenile justice professionals who have successfully worked with the mental health system will serve as an additional resource during the training.

If by August you have not yet received a copy of the Center's training schedule, or if you have questions about any training or staff development opportunity, please contact Lisa Freese at 717-477-1411 or John Herb at 717-477-1185.

### ***SB 380 cont'd. from page 2***

is not in detention, hear evidence as to whether the child is in need of treatment, supervision or rehabilitation, and make and file its findings thereon within 60 days after adjudication.

(Note: The 20-day time frame remains unchanged for children who are in detention or shelter care.)

This time limitation may, likewise, only be extended pursuant to an agreement between the child and the Attorney for the Commonwealth. The court's failure to comply with this time limitation shall not be grounds for discharging the child or dismissing the proceeding.

Please contact Keith Snyder at [ksnyder@state.pa.us](mailto:ksnyder@state.pa.us) or 717-787-5634 if you have questions or need more information.