

a newsletter of the

Pennsylvania
Juvenile Court
Judges'
Commission

PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE

Volume 8, Number 9

www.jcjc.pa.state.us

September 2000

Annual Conference Offers Workshops on Thursday, November 2

This year's Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice will feature a series of workshops offered during three time slots on November 2. Registrants may choose to attend workshops about innovative and diverse juvenile justice programming from the following list:

10:15 – 11:45 a.m.

- **Ahtenshun! Pennsylvania's Juvenile Boot Camps—Current and Future Operations** Moderated by P.J. Verrecchia, this is a panel discussion of private providers offering this service in Pennsylvania. The present system and future role of boot camps will be addressed. Panelists include Gerry Fox and Jim Rowan of VisionQuest, Alan Tezak and Dan Derr of Northwestern, and Corby Myers and Keith Welsh of Cornell Abraxas.
- **The Ins and Outs of Working with Communities to Keep Their Youth** Cameron Ford, Director of Youth Development at Work Opportunities Unlimited, Inc. in Contoocook, New Hampshire, will present a community-based program in operation in New England. Through discussion, slides, and videos, the presentation will focus on matching at-risk youth with employment suited to their identified competencies. Program outcomes and community involvement will also be addressed.
- **Collaborative Intensive Community Treatment Program (CICTP)** This workshop, presented by Mark Amendola and Tom Antolik of Perseus House, Inc., and Bob Blakely, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer of Erie County, will provide participants with an overview of how their collaborative efforts in creating a community-based service within Balanced and Restorative Justice have benefited their community.
- **Residential Sex Offense Treatment—An Overview** Charles Sproule, Associate Director at Adelphoi Village, will discuss assessment, treatment, recidivism risk prediction, and aftercare for sex offenders.
- **Youth Violence Reduction Project: Reinventing Probation in Philadelphia** Through the cooperative effort of probation, law enforcement and community agencies, Philadelphia has targeted youth at risk of committing (or becoming a victim of) violent crime for a community-based effort to reduce violent crime. First year results of this program have shown a significant decrease in murder rates in targeted areas. Presenters are Brian Coen, Deputy Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Philadelphia County and James King, Director of the Youth Violence Reduction Project.
- **Collaborative Human Resource Development Between Juvenile Justice and Mental Health Services Systems: A New Partnership!** Marsali Hansen and Ann Litzelman of the PA CASSP Training and Technical Institute will address how these systems interface through a multi-faceted approach of training and educating professionals in both systems, with the ultimate goal of increased familiarity of best practice skills.
- **Community Justice/Youth Aid Panels** Participants will learn what community justice or youth aid panels are, and how to implement them in other jurisdictions. Presenters are Steve Bischof, Youth Aid Panel Coordinator in York County, Dan Rhoads, York County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Joe Martalucci, Impact Project, Inc., and Larry DeMooy,

Deputy Director, Delaware County Juvenile Probation.

- **Strategies to Reduce Minority Youth Involvement in the Juvenile Justice System** Participants will gain an understanding of the information available at various government levels regarding disproportionate minority involvement with a particular focus on substance abuse. Demonstration of The Easy Access to PA Court Dispositions software will also be provided. Presenters are Hunter Hurst, Jr. of the National Center for Juvenile Justice and James Allen of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Bureau of Drugs and Alcohol.
- **Justice Network and the Juvenile Tracking System** This presentation describes a technology system which will make it possible to share juvenile court dispositions among authorized agencies. County juvenile probation departments will have access to delinquency records of juveniles within their jurisdictions. Presenters are Linda Bender of the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research, and Linda Rosenberg, Director of Justice Network.
- **Prenatal and Infancy Home Visitation by Nurses: A Violence Prevention Strategy** Cheryl Guthrie and Barbara Werner of the Community Prevention Partnership of Berks County will discuss how this program was implemented, how it serves as a national model for delivery of services through a community-based organization, and short and long-term outcomes of the Berks County program and others in the United States.

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

- **Treatment for Adolescent Girls: Understanding and Treating Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (180 minutes)** This workshop will define PTSD and how to identify it. Prevalence in adolescent girls as well as treatment approaches will also be addressed. Girls with PTSD who are presently in treatment will be available. This workshop is presented by Eric Bonsall M.D., Psychiatrist, and Jane Knapp, Psychologist, for Alternative Rehabilitation Communities, Inc.
- **Bullying in Schools: A Blueprint for Violence Prevention** Mary Regal Burness and Jane Riese of Family-Child Resources, Inc. in York, will define the problem of bullying and how it is linked to future delinquent and/or criminal behavior. Family-Child Resources, Inc. is one of only six sites in the U.S. to receive training to implement this research-based violence prevention program.
- **Impact of Crime (180 minutes)** This workshop describes an 8 week program at North Central Secure Treatment Unit for juvenile offenders which addresses the emotional, physical, and financial impact of crime on society and specific victims. Presenters are Bruce Campbell and Melissa Walker, counselors at NCSTU.
- **CD2: Competency Development/Consent Decree** Jacquelyn Bishop and Dina Williams of the Delaware County Juvenile Probation Department will present a program in operation in Delaware County focusing on the development of competencies, a principle of Balanced and Restorative Justice.
- **JNET & the Juvenile Tracking System (repeat of earlier session)**
- **Juvenile Justice 101: An Orientation for New Juvenile Court Judges** This presentation will be offered for juvenile court judges, especially those recently appointed to hear cases of delinquency. It will focus on the history of the juvenile court in Pennsylvania, the unique role of the juvenile court judge, both in the courtroom and the community, and an overview of the resources available to the juvenile court in Pennsylvania.
- **The Alternative School as an Instrument of Delinquency Prevention** Peter Stollery, of Choctaw Ridge Academy in Doylestown, will provide an overview of a modified Therapeutic Community model adapted from both Guided Group Interaction and Positive Peer Culture concepts to create an atmosphere which holds juveniles responsible for behavior while challenging them to grow into responsible adults.

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.

P.J. Verrecchia is the editor. The address is CJJT&R, Shippensburg University, 1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299 or email pjverr@wharf.ship.edu

Please send additions or changes to the mailing list to Nina Weaver at the same address or email nsweav@wharf.ship.edu

- **Communities That Care and its Role in Balanced and Restorative Justice (180 minutes)**

This presentation will provide an overview of the CTC model and show how the juvenile justice system in Bucks County has interfaced with this movement. How this partnership enhances Balanced and Restorative Justice goals and objectives will also be addressed. Presenters are Maggie Marcopul and Rosemary Adiletto, CTC Trainers for Today, Inc.

- **The Role of the Prosecutor in Achieving Balanced and Restorative Justice** This workshop describes the prosecutor's role in offender accountability, community protection and the development of offender competencies. John P. Delaney, Jr. Deputy District Attorney, Juvenile Division, Philadelphia will be the presenter.

- **Creating Community-Based Programs in Rural Jurisdictions** This workshop provides an overview of a Balanced and Restorative Justice program in operation in rural PA. Male delinquent and dependent juveniles are identified and placed in this 10-month community-based program which focuses on the three BARJ principles. Presenters are Seth Bloomquist, Director of the Boondoc's Program, and Mark Caldwell, Director, McKean County Juvenile Probation.

3:15 – 4:45 p.m.

- **Treatment for Adolescent Girls (con't)**
- **Impact of Crime (con't)**
- **Communities That Care and BARJ (con't)**
- **Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies-Big Brothers/Big Sisters** This workshop describes how two "Blueprint" programs have worked together simultaneously in implementing their respective goals and objectives. Presenters are Dr. Mark Greenburg, Penn State University, and Norm Wilson, Mentor Coordinator, Big Brothers/Big Sisters in Harrisburg.
- **The Role of the Juvenile Court Judge in Achieving Balanced and Restorative Justice** This workshop is designed exclusively for judges. The panel will focus on the role of the judge in crafting dispositions intended to achieve the mission of Pennsylvania's Juvenile Act, and to discuss the role of the judge in developing community resources, setting expectations for residential service providers, and working with chief juvenile probation officers to assess programmatic needs within local juvenile courts. Presenters for this workshop are the Honorable Kenneth G. Biehn, Administrative Judge, Bucks County, the Honorable Arthur E. Grim, Administrative Judge, Berks County, and the Honorable John C. Uhler, Presi-

dent Judge, York County.

- **Partners in Crime Reduction** This presentation describes the collaborative approach among probation, schools, and community partnerships to reduce delinquency. Also addressed is how this approach has worked in both urban and rural areas, and how communities benefit. Presenters are Andrew DeAngelo and Paul Werrell, Lehigh County Juvenile Probation, Marshall Davis, Wyoming County Juvenile Probation, and Joseph Abraham, Director of the Impact Project, Inc.

- **Understanding and Effectively Counseling Serious and Violent Offenders** Dr. Arthur Eisenbuch, Treatment Director at Weaversville Intensive Treatment Unit, will present the "Eight Basic Thinking Errors" of violent juveniles, and will discuss strategies for more effective counseling interventions with violent offenders.

- **Understanding the Psychological Impact of Emotionally Traumatic Events in Juvenile Justice** Juvenile justice professionals are at risk of exposure to emotionally traumatic events which can effect job performance, relationships, and physical and emotional well-being. This workshop addresses the impact of such events and the importance of adequate support services. The presenter is Tom Moriarity, Director of Health and Emergency Services at Shippensburg University.

- **Conflict Resolution and Mediation Skills for Juvenile Justice Professionals** This workshop demonstrates several mediation models that have been proven effective, particularly within school settings. Activities based upon theory, reliable literature, and "real life" examples demonstrating that mediation can be effective both on the streets and in schools will be presented. Workshop presenters are Michele Curtze, Director of Conflict Resolution and Transformation, Edinboro, PA, and Dr. Chris Cooper, Director of St. Xavier University Center for Conflict Resolution.

- **Effectively Accessing Services and Obtaining Funding for Mental Health Treatment for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System** This workshop focuses on the problem of inconsistent collaboration between systems in providing adequate or appropriate mental health services to delinquent youth. Particular attention will be given to methods of accessing funding, and other state systems will be reviewed as well. Workshop presenters are Leo McLaughlin, Administrator, LodgeQuest, Inc., Ed Killian, Franklin County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, and Kelly Goshen, Administrator, Franklin/Fulton County MH/MR and Drug and Alcohol.

Master's Degree Program Application Deadline Extended

The deadline for applying for the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Weekend Master's Degree Program at Shippensburg University has been extended from September 1, 2000 to September 30, 2000. If you have an application which you have not yet returned, and you would like to be considered for the class starting in September of 2001, please mail your application to PJ Verrecchia, Director of Graduate Education, CJJT&R, 1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, PA 17257; or fax it to him at 717-477-1236. If you would like to receive an application, please call PJ at 717-477-1797, or download the application materials from the JCJC website at www.jcjc.state.pa.us

Judge Garb Completes Term as JCJC Chairman

Hon. Isaac S. Garb, Senior Judge, Bucks County, completed his term as Chairman of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission effective July 27, 2000. Judge Garb was elected as Chairman of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission on July 28, 1994 and was elected by the Commission to five additional one-year terms as Chairman. His six-year tenure as Chairman is the longest in the history of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. At the Commission's last meeting, members praised Judge Garb for the outstanding leadership he has provided during his tenure as Chairman. Judge Garb will continue to serve as a member of the Commission.

The Commission's officers for 2000-2001 include Chairman, Judge Carol K. McGinley (Lehigh County); Vice-Chairman, Judge Arthur E. Grim (Berks County) and Secretary, Judge John B. Leete (Potter County). Judges Grim and McGinley were each recently re-appointed to three-year terms by Governor Tom Ridge, as was Judge Fred P. Anthony (Erie County).

Computer Training Available

The Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) has released its Computer Learning Center's schedule. All Commonwealth law enforcement personnel, which includes juvenile probation department staff, are welcome to attend. The computer lab training facility offers an on-going series of programs on the following dates: Introduction to Personal Computers 10/11/00; Introduction to Operating Systems (Windows and Windows NT) held on 11/30/00; Introduction to Word Processing-Word 2000 held on 12/5/00; Word 97-Intermediate 11/9/00; Word 97-Advanced 11/21/00; Introduction to Database-Microsoft Access 2000 held on 11/8/00; Introduction to Spreadsheets-Excel 2000 held on 10/12/00; Intermediate Excel 10/31/00; Introduction to Presentations-Powerpoint 2000 held on 11/1/00; Powerpoint Intermediate 11/2-3/00; Advanced Powerpoint 12/6-7/00; Introduction to Outlook 98 10/10/00; Web Page Design for Law Enforcement 11/7/00; and several other specialized law enforcement computer-related topics.

The programs are held from 9 am to 3:30 pm at the computer lab located on the grounds of the Municipal Police Officers' Training Academy at 75 East Derry Road in Hershey. Course descriptions are available on MPOETC's website at: www.mpoetc.org

Class size is limited; each student learns through guided, hands-on instruction with a PC. The training is free to all law enforcement personnel, and classes fill quickly, so please register early. Recommendations for lodging: The Milton Motel, 1733 E. Chocolate Avenue, (within about a mile of the Academy) \$55-\$60 + tax; 717-533-4533; or, the Holiday Inn Harrisburg East, 4751 Lindle Road, (exit #1 off I-283-about 10 minutes from Hershey) \$55 + tax; 717-939-7841.

Registration information is available from Julie Gwinn at 717-533-5987, extension 222, e-mail at jgwinn@psp.state.pa.us or Vance Rosebush at ext. 206, e-mail vrosebush@mpoetc.org Dave Davis, 717-533-5987, ext. 210, is the manager of the Computer Lab Training facility. Registrations may be faxed to 717-787-1650.

School Law Q & A

#2: Suspensions and expulsions

This is the second in our series of columns on school law questions often encountered by juvenile probation officers. Our first column, “The Right to Attend School,” appeared last month.

These columns are written by the Education Law Center, and the views expressed here are ELC’s. Only a summary of the law is provided. For more detail, or for help with specific situations, call ELC directly at 215-238-6970 or 215-789-2650, Philadelphia, or 412-391-5225, Pittsburgh. A wide variety of ELC publications on school law can be found on ELC’s website, www.elc-pa.org.

ELC welcomes ideas for questions to be addressed in these columns. Contact Len Rieser, ELC, 1315 Walnut St., Suite 400, Philadelphia, PA 19107, at the above phone numbers, or by e-mail, lrieser@elc-pa.org.

Q: When can a student be suspended or expelled?

A: Students can be suspended or expelled for conduct that violates school rules, if the rules have been clearly stated in writing and distributed to students and their families. In general, the rules can cover misconduct that occurs *at* or *on the way to or from* school, or (although the law isn’t completely clear on this) that substantially affects what goes on in school. Schools cannot punish students for conduct that occurs in other settings and does not directly impact the educational process. There are also other exceptions; *e.g.*, students cannot be punished for exercising their constitutional right to freedom of speech and expression.

Q: What are the procedures and time limits for suspensions?

A: The maximum out-of-school suspension is 10 days, except in Philadelphia, where it is 5 days. (Any longer exclusion from school is termed an expulsion.)

For suspensions of 3 days or less, the students must receive notice of the reason for the suspension and be given an opportunity to respond. The parents must be notified immediately in writing. For suspensions of 4 days or more, the student and parents must receive written notice, and the school must hold an “informal hearing” within the

first five days.

Expulsion, *i.e.*, an exclusion from school for more than 10 days, can occur only after a formal hearing and decision of the school board. The student and family have the right to adequate notice of the time and place of the hearing, as well as the right to bring an attorney, to receive a list of witnesses and copies of their statements, to have a record of the hearing kept, and so forth. For more information, visit the ELC website or contact ELC.

Q: What arrangements must be made if the student’s and/or parents’ native language isn’t English?

A: Written notices must be sent in the native language, and translation must be available at hearings.

Q: Are there minimum or maximum terms for expulsions?

A: In general, there is no minimum length for an expulsion. Act 26, which prohibits students from bringing weapons to school, does say that, in weapons cases, the student must be expelled for at least a year. However, even Act 26 contains flexibility, since the superintendent is authorized to seek a lesser penalty in his or her discretion. The courts have held that this part of the law must be honored, *i.e.*, school districts may not enforce “zero tolerance” policies that preclude the superintendent from exercising any discretion.

There is no specific maximum term on expulsions. Thus, even permanent expulsions from school are possible. However, an expulsion that seems excessive in view of the child’s age, or the offense, or other factors, may be appealable.

Q: Can a student be kept out of school until the expulsion hearing is held?

A: As noted above, the student can be suspended for up to 10 days (5 in Philadelphia). After that, s/he must be allowed to return, even if an expulsion hearing is pending – unless the student has been found to be a threat to the safety of others.

Q: Can an expulsion be appealed?

A: Yes, to the court of common pleas, within 30 days of the expulsion decision.

Q: Do these rules apply to charter schools?

A: Yes.

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Q: How do these rules apply to students with disabilities?

A: For specifics, check the ELC website or contact ELC. (We also plan to provide more information on special education rights in subsequent columns.) As a general rule, a student with disabilities may not be disciplined for conduct that is a “manifestation” of his or her disability. Also, expulsions of students with disabilities must go through the special education hearing process – rather than just the school board. And even an expelled student with a disability retains his or her right to public education (see below).

Q: What if the student appears to have a disability, but hasn’t been identified as needing special education?

A: If there have been clear indications that the child may have a disability, and/or if a written request for evaluation is pending, the school may be required to continue to educate the child while the special education process goes forward.

Q: What rights does a student have after expulsion?

A: If the student is under compulsory school age

(17), and if the parents cannot arrange placement in another school, the school district must arrange an educational program for the child. While this program can be limited, a legal challenge can probably be brought if the program is grossly inadequate. Also, if the student is eligible for special education, s/he is entitled to a continued “full” educational program.

Q: Can a school district “honor” an expulsion from a prior district, or from a private school?

A: ELC’s opinion is that if a student is expelled from district A, and then moves to district B, district B may not “honor” the expulsion – but must allow the student to attend. The same rule applies if the prior expulsion was from a private school. However, if the expulsion was from a public school for an Act 26 (weapons) violation, district B can assign the student to an alternative school until the expulsion period has ended.

Once again, ELC welcomes questions and inquiries from juvenile probation officers concerning specific situations.