



Clay Yeager takes part in White House signing of the declaration for America's Promise

Director of Children's Partnership represents Pennsylvania at Rose Garden ceremony

Clay Yeager, Executive Director of the Governor's Community Partnership for Safe Children (Children's Partnership), was one of the community leaders from across the nation who stood with President George W. Bush in the Rose Garden at the White House on Monday, July 6, 2001, as the President signed a declaration to underscore his commitment to America's youth. "I am deeply moved and overwhelmed to be invited to join President Bush, Secretary Colin Powell, and others from around the nation in this White House ceremony to witness an event so vitally important to the future of our nation," Yeager said. "I am honored to represent Pennsylvania, particularly Governor and Mrs. Ridge, for their vision and leadership, and the thousands of citizens and community leaders who have joined us in changing the future for our youngest citizens."

At the 10 a.m. ceremony, President Bush signed a declaration pledging to uphold the five promises of America's Promise - the Alliance For Youth. America's Promise was founded at the Presidents' Summit for America's Future in Philadelphia in 1997, where Presidents George H.W. Bush, Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, and Gerald Ford, and former First Lady Nancy Reagan representing President Ronald Reagan, challenged the country to make children and youth a national priority. General Powell was the founding chairman. In the past four years, America's Promise has been mobilizing people from all sectors of American life to build the character and competence of youth by fulfilling the Five Promises:

- Ongoing relationships with caring adults
- Safe places with structured activities during non-school hours
- Healthy start and future
- Marketable skills through effective education; and
- Opportunities to give back through community service.

Yeager was invited to the White House ceremony because of his leadership with violence prevention and at-risk children, particularly in his role with the Children's

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Governor Signs Budget

On June 22, 2001 Governor Ridge signed Senate Bill 1 enacting the Commonwealth's FY 2001-02 Budget.

The budget includes an additional \$2,356,000 for Specialized Probation Services, increasing the appropriation from \$13,267,000 to \$15,623,000 (a 15 percent increase). The appropriation provides \$13,267,000 continued support and a \$356,000 cost of living increase for existing school-based probation, intensive supervision and aftercare services, and community-based probation services for juvenile offenders. The remaining \$2 million was allocated to counties based upon a competitive process requiring the submission of concept papers. These new funds will support 44 specialized positions.

The regular grant-in-aid appropriation has been increased from \$5,779,000 to \$6,033,000. This appropriation includes \$100,000 to reinstate the JCJC-sponsored Masters Degree Program at Mercyhurst College and a 2.66 percent cost-of-living increase.

The Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding is continued at the same level as the 2000-2001 fiscal year (\$2 million). County allocations for TANF funding are based upon a five-year average of informal adjustment, consent decree, and probation dispositions and the selected 2001 juvenile court dispositions.

These three appropriations, Grant-in-Aid, TANF, and Specialized Probation Services, will provide \$23,656,000 in financial subsidies to counties.

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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

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Partnership. As the director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research at Shippensburg University and a nationally-recognized violence prevention specialist, Yeager has been the keynote speaker at many national conferences and was asked to speak with officials in Littleton, Colorado, following the shootings at Columbine High School in 1999. In Pennsylvania, America's Promise and the Children's Partnership are working together to create better opportunities and healthier environments for young people. Governor Tom Ridge created the Children's Partnership in 1995 with one goal in mind: to reduce violence committed by and against Pennsylvania's children. The centerpiece of the Children's Partnership, which is chaired by First Lady Michele Ridge, is Communities That Care, a national violence prevention process that works with communities to identify the factors which place their youth at risk, then develops strategies to diminish those risks. The goal is to reduce substance abuse, teen pregnancy, delinquency, violence, illiteracy, and academic failure.

Through the Children's Partnership, young people across the state are participating in programs that have been proven effective in reducing youth violence, including substance abuse education, bullying prevention, life-skills development, parenting education, family counseling, home visitation by nurses to at-risk families, and mentoring. There are currently 107 Communities That Care sites in 55 counties. Like the Children's Partnership, America's Promise mobilizes communities to build and strengthen the character and competence of America's youth by fostering relationships between corporations, foundations, organizations, government agencies, and private individuals who are committed to making a positive impact on the children in their community. America's Promise and the Children's Partnership share common goals; both are dedicated to the healthy development of children.

Pennsylvania is home to 13 America's Promise "Communities of Promise." Of those, 10 also participate in Communities That Care. They are Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Erie, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Northampton, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties. These partnerships have resulted in numerous collaborations including teen websites, homework clubs, youth forums, and mentoring programs.



Kathy Hooven Joins Commission Staff

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission is pleased to announce that Kathy Hooven will join its staff as a Juvenile Court Consultant on July 30, 2001. Ms. Hooven will be responsible for providing on-site monitoring and evaluation of counties receiving Specialized Probation Services funding from the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission.

Ms. Hooven began her juvenile justice career in 1992 after graduating from Penn State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Administration of Justice. In addition to her employment with the Dauphin County Juvenile Probation Department, Ms. Hooven has experience working in residential programs, and with the Central Dauphin School District as a Home and School Visitor.

She obtained her Masters Degree in Administration of Justice from the JCJC-sponsored weekend program at Shippensburg University in 1998, and was presented with the "Outstanding Scholarship in Juvenile Justice Award" by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission for her exceptional work in the graduate program.

SB 818 Passed by Senate

Senate Bill 818(1239) passed the Senate (47-0) on June 21, 2001 and has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee. If enacted, this legislation would amend The Juvenile Act at 42 Pa.C.S. §6308(b) to revise the criteria governing public access to juvenile delinquency case information.

Under current law, the criteria which governs whether a juvenile delinquency proceeding is open to the public differs from the criteria which governs the release to the public of information concerning pending and disposed juvenile delinquency cases. Consequently, situations have arisen where the media was not provided with case outcome information regarding a juvenile who was adjudicated delinquent as a result of a hearing that was open to the public under the provisions of 42 Pa.C.S. §6336(e).

Under SB 818(1239), the public access provisions of 42 Pa.C.S. §308 would be triggered when a child is adjudicated delinquent as a result of an act or acts committed when the child was 14 years of age or older and the conduct would be considered a felony if committed by an adult; or when the child was 12 or 13 years of age and the alleged conduct would have constituted one or more of the designated felonies set forth at 42 Pa. C.S. §6336(e). In addition, the public access provisions of §6308(d) would be triggered by the filing of a delinquency petition involving an act or acts which would be subject to an open hearing under §6336(e) and the child has previously been adjudicated delinquent as a result of an act or acts committed when the child was 14 years of age or older and the alleged conduct would be considered a felony if committed by an adult; or when the child was 12 years or older and the alleged conduct would have constituted one of the designated felonies which triggers the open hearing provisions of §6336(e).

If the conduct of a child would meet the disclosure requirements proposed by SB 818(1239), the court or law enforcement agency, as the case may be, would be required to disclose the name, age and address of the child, the offenses charged and the disposition of the case. This is the same information required to be released under current law.

New Sites Accepted Into CTC Training

Twenty-one new communities were accepted into the Communities That Care training process by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). The sites represent the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth rounds of communities to be trained in the prevention strategy, bringing the number of CTC locations in the state to 128.

The groups will enter a year-long process of rigorous training and community planning to develop a strategic plan addressing adolescent problem behaviors of substance abuse, delinquency, teen pregnancy, school drop out and violence. Planning and implementation grants from PCCD will assist the communities with start-up funding for their projects.

Sites selected are: Adams County, Gettysburg Borough; Allegheny County, Beltzhoover/Knoxville Community and, McKeesport Area School District; Beaver County, New Brighton; Blair County, Claysburg-Kimmel School District; Cambria County, Keystone Economic Development Region Three; Chester County; Octorora Area School District; Clarion County, Clarion-Limestone Area School District; Columbia & Northumberland Counties, Southern Columbia School District; Columbia County, Bloomsburg Area School District; Dauphin County, Halifax Area School District, Lower Dauphin School District and Uptown Harrisburg; Delaware County, Trainer Borough; Franklin County, Waynesboro Area School District; McKean County, Otto Eldred School District; Montgomery County, Norristown; Northampton County, Penn Argyl School District; Schuylkill County; Westmoreland County, Monessen; York County, York Suburban School District.

For more information about CTC, contact Amy Zarefoss at the Center For Juvenile Justice Training and Research, Shippensburg University, at 717-477-1149. Communities interested in applying for CTC training are encouraged to call for technical assistance prior to making an application.

Staff Development News

The Center for Juvenile Justice Training & Research Fall 2001 Staff Development Schedule has been finalized. As in previous years, we anticipate distribution in late July, with registrations due to be returned by August 24. The fall schedule will commence with Orientation for New Probation Officers, which will begin on September 4-7 and continue on September 26-28 at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg West in Mechanicsburg. If you do receive the Staff Development Schedule and would like to review the fall offerings, please call Mike McCalpin, 717-477-1188, or John Herb, 717-477-1185.

We are sponsoring 18 programs this fall and we are continuing to experiment with regional workshop opportunities—offering two programs in the Allentown vicinity, and two programs outside Pittsburgh. The regional topics this fall include Skill Building to Combine Effective Brief Counseling and BARJ Assessment in Today's Juvenile Clients presented by Robert Hewitt, Ph.D., and Adolescents, Human Sexuality, and Substance Abuse, led by Bruce Shaffer.

With programs being held at four separate locations, and because of some confusion created during the spring training season, we are again encouraging individuals to make note of the details related to times, dates, locations, costs etc. when you register for a program. Providing registrants with a photocopy of the program description page is probably the simplest means to keep this information handy. All the needed information is included in the training booklet. We are also urging that the registration form be completed using individual's full name, as they would like it to appear on the certificates of completion.

Community-based Probation Officers are invited to attend a Forum to share ideas and learn about standards of sound practice on September 13-14 at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg West in Mechanicsburg. On September 19-20 at the Days Inn Penn State, a Supervisory Skills Training led by Todd Whitmer will precede the Chief's Council September general membership meeting.

In October, Ms. Rebecca Shaver, Ms. Valerie Bender and Mike McCalpin will lead the workshop Victim Impact Panels/Circle Sentencing Introduction on October 2-3 at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg West. On October 11-12, James Levin, Ph.D., and

John Shanken-Kaye, Ph.D. will return to present *From Disrupter to Achiever: Effective Management of Children and Adolescents* at the Days Inn Penn State. Also in State College, on October 24-25, Eliot Kaplan will lead a workshop titled *Defusing Time Bombs: Theory and Strategies to Provoke Free Will Behavior in the Impulsive and Volatile Adolescent*. This is another new offering in the Center schedule.

Based on the overwhelming demand, this fall we are repeating a new training opportunity that was very well received earlier this year. *How to Predict and Prevent Violence Using Threat Profiling*, led by Dale Yeager, will be delivered on November 8-9 at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg West. The workshop *Ethics as Values in Action*, led by Dr. Violet Plantz, will be held on November 14-15, preceding the November general membership meeting of the PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers. For those individuals who attended one of the introductory sessions this spring (or in earlier training seasons) on adolescent group counseling, Darla Henry, Ph.D., will present an *Advanced-Skill Practice* workshop on November 29-30 at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg West in Mechanicsburg.

Looking ahead, beginning in 2002, Center-sponsored training in the Harrisburg area will return to the Holiday Inn Harrisburg East, based on popular demand. Beginning in February we will utilize this hotel again, which was our training site in Harrisburg in 1997-1999. This hotel is located just off exit #1 of Route 283.

JCJC Endorses Mercyhurst College Class of 2004

With the increased funding in the 2001/2002 Commonwealth budget, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission reinstated their support of graduate education opportunities at Mercyhurst College for juvenile probation officers from northwestern Pennsylvania. Interviews were held at Mercyhurst College on June 20 and 21, and the following students were endorsed to be members of the class of 2004 at Mercyhurst College: Julie Baxter (Venango County), Robert Daugherty (Venango County), Dan Dudenhoefer (Erie County), Jamye Hartmanm (Mercer County), Sean Hayes (Erie County), Derek Miller (Crawford County), Brandi Niedzielski (Erie County), Sam Pendolino (Crawford County), Shawn Pugh (Butler County), John Shetler (Crawford County), Anna

Straughn (Mercer County), Julie Strickenberger (Erie County), Brian Swavey (Crawford County), Chris Thompson (Mercer County), and Mark Vargo (Crawford County).

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission congratulates these professionals and wishes them luck as they begin a rigorous graduate education program. Mercyhurst College offers a Master of Science degree in the Administration of Justice involving 33 credit hours. Classes are scheduled over three years with students taking 12 credit hours their first and second year, and 9 credit hours during their third year. Course work includes research, theory, policy, administration, counseling, ethics, and juvenile justice. Classes meet every Saturday during the fall and spring semesters.

Joe Markiewicz is Northwest Region CTC Consultant

Joseph H. Markiewicz began his role as the Northwest Regional "Communities That Care" (CTC) Consultant on July 2nd. He is a graduate of Mercyhurst College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice/Police Science. Markewicz has worked as a juvenile probation officer (1991-95), and as a program manager for a delinquency prevention program operated by Perseus House in conjunction with the Erie School District. He has been involved with the CTC process in Erie County since 1995. He lives with his wife and three children in Edinboro. He can be reached by phone at 814-734-3565 or fax 814-734-3735. E-mail him at markiewiczjoe@msn.com.

School Law #10

Suggestions for juvenile probation officers

To finish off our “School Law” series, we’ve put together some suggestions that we hope you’ll be able to use in your work. An index to the topics we’ve covered also appears in this issue.

1. Don’t hesitate to ask questions when a child is experiencing a long delay in getting into school. Generally, enrollment should go quickly - even if the student has special needs and even if some prior school records are missing.
2. Keep in mind that all school-age students, except those who have been expelled, are entitled to a full school program. The fact that a student has been in trouble, in or out of school, doesn’t justify his receiving a program that is “less equal” than that made available to other students. The fact that a child is (or was) in placement shouldn’t make a difference, either.
3. Remember that even students threatened with expulsion have rights - including the right to bring an attorney to the expulsion hearing (this can make a big difference), and to appeal an expulsion decision (so long as the appeal is filed within 30 days). Expelled students also have the right to continued educational services under some circumstances.
4. Be aware that there are some special rules applicable to kids with disabilities. For example, the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) of a student with a behavior-related disability should include proactive strategies for improving the child’s behavior and, if necessary, responding to behavioral incidents. A parent who is dissatisfied with his or her child’s special education program can seek help from the state’s mediation program, and can also request a special education hearing. A student with a disability cannot be excluded from school for behavior that’s a “manifestation” of his or her disability (for example, for a child with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), the failure to stay on task might be such a manifestation). And there are other special rules as well.
5. Encourage parents to obtain information about their child’s legal rights in such areas as school discipline, special education, alternative education, and other subjects. The Education Law Center,

among other agencies, provides information and advice free of charge. Have the parent call ELC at 215-238-6970 (Philadelphia), or 412-391-5225 (Pittsburgh); or visit the website, www.elc-pa.org.

6. Use your own advocacy skills to help ensure that students are treated fairly by school officials, and that legal requirements are followed. Schools often respond to serious expressions of concern by probation officers and/or their supervisors - especially if that concern is accompanied by an understanding of the legal rules involved. If that’s not enough, consider asking your agency’s solicitor to talk with the solicitor for the school district. If appropriate, suggest to the family that they obtain legal help as well.

7. Students should be held accountable for their school performance, but they shouldn’t be penalized for mixups or problems that are attributable to the school. If there’s a situation that the school should be helping to fix (for example, a delay in getting the child services that he or she needs), let the court know about it, and also tell the court what efforts the family and/or you are making to resolve it. The court may be willing to allow time for the problem to be solved. The court may also be willing to join in pushing for a solution.

Finally, there’s still time to provide feedback on our school law series! Your comments will help us decide whether to continue the series next year and, if so, in what form. Contact Len Rieser at the Education Law Center, 215-238-6970 ext. 307 or lrieser@elc-pa.org.

Workforce Investment Boards Provide Competency Development Opportunities

The 1998 federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) requires states to establish local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs). In February 2000, Governor Ridge re-named the previously existing Human Resources Investment Council as the Team PA Workforce Investment Board to provide statewide leadership for this initiative. There are currently 22 local WIBs across the Commonwealth that must identify and analyze community needs, and coordinate workforce investment activities.

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These WIBs are also required to establish local “Youth Councils” to develop the youth portion of their local comprehensive WIA plan. Required services for youth include individual assessment of skills and academic levels, tutoring/other help leading to high school completion, summer employment opportunities, paid and unpaid work experience, internships, job shadowing, and adult mentoring.

Eligible youth under the Workforce Investment Act are those who are between the ages of 14-21 who meet a low-income requirement and have at least one of seven identified “barriers” to employment. Individuals who are offenders are regarded as having one of the seven “barriers” to employment. At least 30 percent of Workforce Investment Act monies allocated to a local area for eligible youth must be used to serve out-of-school youth.

Please contact Toni Tynan, Director of Partnership Opportunities at the Team PA Workforce Investment Board, at 717- 705-8821 or at ttynan@state.pa.us, if you have any questions or need more information.

JCJC sponsors school-based probation forum

Seventy-six school-based probation officers and supervisors from across Pennsylvania recently met in State College for a two-day forum. The June 27-28 forum has been dubbed the first of its kind since the adoption of standards for JCJC funded school-based probation services. Participants spent time in breakout groups learning about the positive features of their respective school-based probation programs as well as the homogeneous and heterogeneous impediments to a healthy program. The primary medium of learning was guided group interaction, participation and conversation, with topical presentations by JCJC and CJJT&R staff, ranging from the history of school-based probation to a review of the JCJC Standards developed for school-based probation programs.

Additionally, the results of two school-based probation projects were presented. Marshall Davis, Chief Probation Officer from Wyoming County, presented the findings of a 1997 school-based probation study conducted by David Metzger of the

University of Pennsylvania. This was followed by a presentation highlighting results of current research being conducted by the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ). NCJJ researchers Carol Brooks and Ralph Ricci presented early findings of this research.

It is anticipated that such a forum will be conducted annually and include volunteers to serve on a committee to plan the agenda. In fact, a groundswell of participants volunteered to serve on committees, including a committee to help plan the agenda for the 2002 forum, a committee to identify and develop school-based training intrinsic to school-based probation, a school-based research committee, and a committee to identify creative alternatives for the documentation of chronological contacts by school-based probation officers with students on probation. Thanks to the participation of those in attendance, and the support of the PA Council of Chief JPOs, this training has served to inspire and enhance the perspective of officers and identify some possibilities for change and improvement.

Watch for future announcements of other Specialized Probation Services Forums.



Ralph Ricci, NCJJ consultant, presents findings of current Pennsylvania school-based probation research at June forum

Weekend Masters Degree Program applications for Shippensburg University Class of 2004 being accepted

Applications are now being accepted for the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission-sponsored Weekend Masters Degree program at Shippensburg University. This program will begin classes in the fall of 2002.

The Shippensburg University program offers students a Master of Science degree in the Administration of Justice, with a concentration in Juvenile Justice. This is a 36 credit hour program that includes courses in research methods, theory, administration, and policy analysis. Also featured is a summer internship where students will get an opportunity to develop, implement, and evaluate a program in their home county, or evaluate an existing program that serves juvenile offenders. Classes in this two (2) year program are scheduled every third weekend in the fall, spring, and summer, with no classes scheduled in the months of

July and August. This program is open to county juvenile probation officers who will have at least two (2) years of post-baccalaureate experience in the juvenile justice field prior to the start of classes. Applicants who have a grade point average of less than 2.75 must take and pass the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or the GRE.

The deadline for applying to the MSAJ program, class of 2004, at Shippensburg University is September 1, 2001.

Tuition costs, educational fees, and room and board are paid for by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission for all eligible students. If you would like more details or are interested in applying for the program, please call PJ Verrecchia at 717-477-1797, or send an email to pjverr@wharf.ship.edu