

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Governor Tom Ridge and First Lady Michele Ridge recently received the Society for Prevention Research's (SPR) 2001 Public Service Award for their efforts to reduce youth violence in Pennsylvania through the use of research-based programs and policies. "We are impressed by the efforts of Governor and Mrs. Ridge in bringing prevention science to practice in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We applaud their efforts in approaching violence-prevention from a scientific standpoint, using research-based practices; measuring the results in a scientifically sound way; and trying something different if the results are not favorable," said Dr. J. Mark Eddy, Chairman of the SPR awards committee. "The Ridges have helped to launch innovation in Pennsylvania that, if continued over the long run, should ultimately improve the public health of the state."

The Society recognized the Ridges' accomplishments with the Governor's Community Partnership for Safe Children (Children's Partnership), established by Governor Ridge in 1995 to reduce violence committed by and against Pennsylvania children. He appointed Mrs. Ridge to serve as its chair. "The Governor and I are deeply honored to have been chosen for this award," Mrs. Ridge said in accepting the award on behalf of herself and Governor Ridge.

"We recognize that it is a tribute to the thousands of Pennsylvania parents and community leaders who are involved in our Communities That Care initiatives. These are people who have volunteered their time, energy, and most of all, their love, to help all of us raise healthy, well-adjusted children. In Pennsylvania, we recognize that it's not enough to invest in programs that simply sound good. We must invest in programs that work, programs that have undergone scrutiny by scientists like those at

Governor Ridge, First Lady Michele Ridge receive national award for efforts to prevent youth violence through research-based programs

Society for Prevention Research recognizes work of Governor's Community Partnership for Safe Children

the Society for Prevention Research and have been proven to reduce violence."

Dr. Mark Greenberg, Director of the Prevention Research Center at the Pennsylvania State University and a member of both the Children's Partnership and SPR, presented the award to Mrs. Ridge.

The Children's Partnership seeks to reduce youth violence through Communities That Care, a national violence-prevention process developed by Dr. J. David Hawkins and Dr. Richard Catalano, social scientists at the University of Washington. Drs. Catalano and Hawkins synthesized 40 years of prevention research and identified 19 risk factors that, when present in the lives of children, can lead to violence and delinquency. These risks include the

availability of drugs and weapons, family conflict, academic failure, economic deprivation, alienation, and peer pressure.

Using the Communities That Care process, the Children's Partnership works with communities to identify the particular risks that affect their children, and then to implement strategies to reduce those risks. 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.

Currently, there are 107 CTC sites in 55 counties across Pennsylvania and another 21 communities will begin the process this summer. Governor Ridge has pledged to expand CTC to all 67 counties. The Ridge Administration so far has invested more than \$30 million for the Communities That Care initiative and research-based delinquency-prevention programs.

One of the Children's Partnership's current initiatives is the expansion of the Prenatal and Infancy Home Visitation by Nurses program. In the program, trained nurses visit the homes of pregnant and parenting women whose children are most at risk for health and developmental problems, helping the mother with obstetrical health, parenting skills and psycho-social development. In doing so, the program promotes the physical, cognitive and social-emotional development of the child and reduces the incidents of child abuse, neglect, welfare dependency and behavioral problems due to substance abuse. The Children's Partnership currently funds the nurse home visita-

tion program in seven counties: Berks, Dauphin, Erie, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne and York. Governor Ridge's 2001-02 budget proposal directs \$7.2 million in federal funds to expand the home visitation program to 20 additional communities.

The Society for Prevention Research is the premier organization for science-based prevention of problems of human behavior. It seeks to advance prevention programs and policies through empirical research and brings together scientists, policy makers and program leaders in an international multi-disciplinary scientific forum. It also provides a mechanism for advocating for prevention research and its application to policy and programs. Areas of prevention science and practice that are represented in the SPR include drug, alcohol and tobacco use and abuse; psychiatric disorders and mental health; crime, delinquency and violence; suicide; adolescent pregnancy; HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases; and marital and couple distress.

MPOETC Training Schedule

The following courses will be offered in the MPOETC Computer Learning Center, 75 East Derry Road in Hershey. Course descriptions may be found at www.mpoetc.org. The training is free for probation officers. Questions may be directed to Vance Rosebush, vrosebush@mpoetc.org. Classes are 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Advanced Access 2000	September 27
Advanced PowerPoint 2000	August 1-2
Advanced Word 2000	July 3
Digital Photo and Movie Editing	August 8
Excel Applications	September 20
Intermediate Access 2000	August 9
Intermediate Excel 2000	August 23
Intermediate PowerPoint 2000	July 10-11
Intermediate Word 2000	September 25
Internet Crime	September 18-19
Introduction to Access 2000	July 31
Introduction to Operating Systems	August 30
Introduction to Outlook 98	August 22
Introduction to Personal Computers	July 25
Introduction to PowerPoint 2000	September 26
Introduction to Excel 2000	July 26
Introduction to the Internet	September 5
Introduction to Word 2000	August 7
PowerPoint for Law Enforcement	August 28-29
Web Page Design for LE	September 6

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

Legislative update

SB 32(30), sponsored by Sen. Charles Dent (R-Lehigh), received second consideration in the Senate on February 5, 2001 and was tabled on March 19, 2001. This legislation would amend 18 Pa.C.S. §912 to classify “Possession of weapon on school property” as a felony of the third degree if the weapon possessed is a firearm, shotgun or rifle.

SB 224(230), sponsored by Sen. Stewart Greenleaf (R-Montgomery), was reported from the Senate Judiciary Committee on May 8, 2001 and re-referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 21, 2001. This bill would set forth the authority of juvenile probation officers to conduct warrantless searches and is adapted from the provisions of Act 35 of Special Session No. 1 of 1995, which set forth the authority of adult probation officers and state parole agents to conduct warrantless searches.

SB 818(1042), sponsored by Sen. Michael O’Pake (D-Berks), was reported from the Senate Judiciary Committee on May 22, 2001 and re-referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee on June 5, 2001.

This legislation would amend The Juvenile Act at 42 Pa.C.S. §6308 to bring the provisions of The Juvenile Act governing public access to information in delinquency cases into conformance with The Juvenile Act provisions governing public attendance at delinquency proceedings. Essentially, this legislation would require the disclosure of the name, age, and address of a child, the offenses charged and the disposition of the case in cases where the child was 14 years of age or older at the time of the alleged conduct and the conduct would be considered a felony if committed by an adult, or was age 12 where the alleged conduct would have constituted one or more of the designated felonies set forth at 42 Pa.C.S. §6336(e). The public access provisions would be triggered by an adjudication of delinquency as a result of one or more of these acts, or by the filing of a petition alleging that the child has committed one or more of these acts if the child has previously been adjudicated delinquent as a result of an act or acts which included the elements of one of the required crimes.

HB 1048(1993), sponsored by Rep. Beverly Mackereth (R-York), passed the House of Representatives unanimously on May 21, 2001. The bill was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee on May

24, 2001 and was reported from the Judiciary Committee on June 5, 2001.

This legislation is intended to ensure that the delinquency and violence prevention work of the Governor’s Community Partnership for Safe Children (Children’s Partnership) becomes a permanent mission of state government by expanding the duties of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). Rep. Mackereth is the former Deputy Director of the Children’s Partnership.

Among the highlights of this legislation are that PCCD would have the additional duty to:

- Define and collaborate with all state agencies on planning and programming related to juvenile delinquency prevention and the reduction and prevention of violence by and against children.
- Design and promote comprehensive research-based initiatives to assist communities and community-based organizations in reducing risks to and promoting the positive development of children and in preventing juvenile delinquency and youth violence.
- Provide support to law enforcement and community partnerships whose mission includes comprehensive, targeted crime prevention efforts and a planning process for the revitalization of high-crime and distressed communities.
- Define, develop and coordinate programs and projects and establish priorities for crime prevention and for improvement in law enforcement, in criminal justice, and juvenile justice throughout the Commonwealth.

HB 1048(1993) would also rename PCCD’s Juvenile Advisory Committee as the “Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee.” The Committee’s duties would also be expanded to include advising the PCCD in defining and collaborating with all state agencies on planning and programming relating the juvenile delinquency prevention and the reduction and prevention of violence by and against children; and advising and assisting the PCCD in designing and promoting comprehensive research-based initiatives to assist communities and community-based organizations in reducing risk to and promoting the positive development of children and in preventing juvenile delinquency and youth violence.

Amy Zarefoss named Acting Director of CTC Project

On May 21, 2001, Amy Zarefoss was appointed acting director of the Communities That Care (CTC) Project based at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research, Shippensburg University. Originally from Somerset, Zarefoss moved to Central Pa in 1999 to take a position as a CTC Technical Assistant. She has a wide variety of experience, including employment as a newspaper reporter, a caseworker, and seven years at Somerset County Children and Youth Services. Just prior to her employment at the Center, she was the CTC community mobilizer in Somerset County.

Zarefoss has a Bachelor of Science in journalism from West Virginia University and a Master of Business Administration from Frostburg State University. She and her husband, Christopher Bailey, were married in November, 2000, and live in the Chambersburg area.

We are pleased that Ms. Zarefoss has accepted this position and we wish her the very best in her new role. She can be reached at 717-477-1149 or adzare@wharf.ship.edu

Victim Offender Conferencing Roundtable

Representatives from six Pennsylvania counties convened in Harrisburg on May 16, 2001, for a roundtable discussion on their victim offender conferencing programs. Howard Zehr, Interim Director of the Conflict Transformation Program at the Eastern Mennonite University and author of *Changing Lens*, along with Lorraine Stutzman-Amstutz, Director of the Mennonite Central Committee Office on Crime and Justice, led the discussion.

When Act 33 of Special Session #1 of 1995 established a new mission for Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system, recognition of the underlying restorative justice principles spurred numerous counties to develop and implement victim offender conferencing programs within their jurisdictions. Several of these programs survived the rigors of program development and were invited to attend the roundtable to discuss the strengths and challenges they faced. The six participating counties

were Allegheny, Mercer, Montgomery, Lackawanna, Lancaster and York.

The roundtable provided the participants with the opportunity to share information about their respective programs and the wealth of information acquired over the past several years. Numerous ideas and resources such as software programs, policies, and implementation strategies were exchanged. The group developed a list of remaining challenges, but all agreed that the victim offender conferencing process results in a high satisfaction rate among the participants.

Several issues requiring further discussion include: the limited volume of referrals; recruitment and retention of volunteers; stabilized funding sources; stakeholder issues and the need for research. The lack of victim participation, and the dilemma of desired outcomes regarding restitution pose systemic challenges to several programs. York County agreed to pilot an approach that would send cases to conferencing, prior to establishing the restitution claim, to enable the conferencing participants to negotiate the reparative agreement. The results of this pilot will enable other programs to gain valuable information about the process and assist in the development of consistent practice regarding the outcomes of the conferencing process.

The consensus of the group was that the roundtable was a positive networking experience that should be continued in some fashion. It is anticipated that the results of this roundtable discussion will provide a strong foundation for further inquiry into the development and the success of victim offender conferencing programs for Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system.



Lorraine Stutzman-Amstutz and Howard Zehr lead the discussion at the Victim Offender Conferencing Roundtable.

House Children and Youth Committee holds public hearings on child welfare issues

The newly created Children and Youth Committee of the House of Representatives conducted public hearings on May 16 and 17, 2001 regarding the issues of child protection, foster care and adoption services. Under the leadership of Chairman Jerry Birmelin (R-Wayne/Pike) and Minority Chairman Michael Gruitza (D-Mercer) the Committee heard testimony from a variety of individuals in an effort to lay a solid foundation for their consideration of legislation affecting Pennsylvania's child welfare system.

The lead witness at the May 16, 2001, hearing was Wayne Stevenson, Acting Deputy Secretary for the Office of Children, Youth and Families in the Department of Public Welfare. Mr. Stevenson provided a comprehensive overview of Pennsylvania's child welfare system and the responsibilities of the Department of Public Welfare and the county children and youth agencies. Following Mr. Stevenson's testimony, the Committee heard from a panel comprised of Philip Durgin, Executive Director of the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LB&FC); David Hostetter, Executive Director of the Joint State Government Commission, and Elan Welter Lewis, Chair of the Children's Trust Fund Board.

Mr. Durgin summarized the findings of the performance audit on Pennsylvania's children and youth system performed by the LB&FC two years ago. Mr. Hostetter presented status reports on the Joint State Government Commission's Task Force on Adoption Law and the Task Force on Services to Children and Youth. The report on Adoption Law proposes a comprehensive revision of the present Pennsylvania Adoption Act. The proposed Adoption Act was introduced in the House of Representatives as HB 1471(1775) by Rep. Ed Krebs on May 1, 2001, and by Sen. Stewart Greenleaf, on May 7, 2001 as SB 859(988). Mr. Hosteter also summarized the work of the Commission's Task Force on Services to Children and Youth, which was created by SR 97 and adopted on December 1, 1999. This resolution directed the Joint State Government Commission to establish a Task Force to study issues relating to the Commonwealth's children and youth services delivery system in order to ascertain whether it is meeting the needs of at-risk children and families and to make recommendations to the General Assembly by December 1,

2001. A 48-member Advisory Committee was also created to assist the Task Force.

Ms. Lewis provided an overview of the Children's Trust Funds (CTF), which operates under the administration of a board of directors and is supported by the Department of Public Welfare. DPW's Deputy Secretary for Children, Youth and Families serves as Executive Director to the Children's Trust Fund Board. The major source of funding for the CTF is a \$10 surcharge on all applications for marriage licenses and divorce complaints. These surcharges are paid into a special non-lapsing fund that generates approximately \$1.3 million annually. Private donations, gifts and some federal funding also contribute to the CTF.

The hearing on May 17, 2001 began with a panel presentation by Hon. Carol K. McGinley, Chairman of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, Hon. John Cleland, President Judge of the 48th Judicial District (McKean County) and President of the Juvenile Court Section of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges, and Hon. Esther R. Sylvester, Administrative Judge of the Family Court Division of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. Judge McGinley provided an overview of the inter-relationship between The Juvenile Act, Child Protective Services Law, and the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act, while Judge Cleland provided a compelling description of the role of the judge in dependency proceedings. Judge Sylvester discussed a variety of critical issues in Pennsylvania's child welfare system and summarized her strategy for addressing these issues as the Administrative Judge of Philadelphia's Family Court.

Other witnesses at the May 17 hearing included Amy Rustin, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Court Appointed Special Advocate Association; Beth Bitler, State Program Director of Parents Anonymous; Chuck Songer, Director, Pennsylvania Children and Youth Administrators' Association; Patricia Burdon, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Foster Parent Association; Bernadette Bianchi, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Council of Children's Services; and Shelly Yanoff, Executive Director of Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth.

JCMS beta testing will begin in July

The Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, and the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research, are pleased to announce the beginning of beta testing for the new Windows-based Juvenile Case Management Software (JCMS). Counties have been selected as test sites based on their participation in development through membership on the Chief's Council Grants Management Committee. CJJT&R staff will begin installing the software in the beta counties in July and expect to be completed in August. Training for JCMS beta counties will be provided by CJJT&R on August 8-9 at the Days Inn Penn State in State College.

Beta testing is crucial in the research and development of the new software applications and the new version of the JCMS is dependent on these tests to work out most of the "bugs" in the package. Only through everyday use in real work situations can programmers become aware of defects and errors within an application and take appropriate corrective action. Because this is a test system, not a live system, the test counties will continue entering data into their current case management systems as well as the test system. The willingness, cooperation, and support of the counties to provide the test sites bode well for the effectiveness of the final product.

School Law Index

Here's an index to the School Law columns that appeared in Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice this year. If you're missing an issue, go to the "publications" section of the JCJC website, www.jcjc.state.pa.us.

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SEPTEMBER 4,5&6
2001

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The Rocky Mountain Restorative Community Justice Conference

For more information contact:
The Colorado Forum on Community & Restorative Justice
900 Auraria Parkway, Suite 129, Denver CO 80204
Phone: 720/904-2322 Fax: 720/904-2329
Email: arogers519@aol.com

KEYSTONE RESORT, COLORADO

Call for Presentations

The Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

October 31- November 2, 2001
Harrisburg Hilton and Towers

The sponsors of The Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice are requesting presentations for workshops to be offered on Thursday, November 1, 2001. Interested presenters should complete this form and return it by **July 31, 2001** to the address at the bottom of the other side.

- **Proposed title of workshop:** _____

- **Brief description of presentation:** (50 words or less)

- **This presentation is best suited as a :**

Full-day institute (presented in three consecutive 90-minute sessions)

180-minute training (presented in two consecutive 90-minute sessions)

90-minute workshop (presented in one 90-minute session)

• **This workshop is recommended for:** (check all that apply)

- Juvenile Court Judges
- Juvenile Court Masters
- Residential Program Providers
- Community Prevention Specialists
- Specialized Probation Officers
- Chief Juvenile Probation Officers
- Juvenile Probation Supervisors
- Victim Services Representatives
- Local and State Policy Officials
- Other (please specify) _____

Name(s) of proposed trainer(s): _____

Address and contact information: _____

Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

Please attach pertinent trainer information, including copy of biography, vita, and prior training experience, if applicable. Return this completed application by **May 30, 2001** to:

Clay Yeager, Executive Director
Governor's Community Partnership for Safe Children
3101 North Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17108

Phone: 800-692-7292 x 3105 or 717-705-0904 x 3105
Fax: 717-705-3698; email: cyeager@state.pa.us