

a newsletter of the

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Judges'
Commission

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The Pennsylvania Juvenile Delinquency Benchbook has been distributed by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) to juvenile court judges, masters, and chief juvenile probation officers throughout Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system. The Benchbook was made possible through funding from The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) to the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers as a component of the juvenile justice system enhancement initiative of PCCD's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee.

This new resource was developed by a committee chaired by Judge Arthur Grim (Berks County), who is the JCJC Vice-Chair and also a member of PCCD's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee. Other members of the committee included Senior Judge Emanuel A. Cassimatis (York County); Judge Sheldon Jelin (Philadelphia County); Judge Jolene Grubb Kopriva (Blair County); Judge John C. Uhler (York County); Jim Anderson, JCJC Executive Director; Susan Blackburn, Assistant Director of Training for the JCJC; Valerie Bender, Restorative Justice Consultant with the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers; Pat Torbet, Senior Research Associate with The National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ); and NCJJ Research Associate Patrick Griffin.

Following introductory chapters that describe the qualities and attributes of successful juvenile court judges, and which summarize the history and philosophical foundation of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system, the Benchbook tracks the processing of juvenile delinquency cases. Beginning with intake and diversion, and through adjudication, disposition, and aftercare, the Benchbook provides guidance regarding the key decision points of Pennsylvania's system. Valuable information is also included regarding issues of particular importance to juvenile court administrative judges.

In the introductory correspondence accompanying the Benchbook, Judge Grim explained that his committee was particularly indebted to Judge Cassimatis, who authored the first chapter of the Benchbook, entitled "The Juvenile Court

Benchbook, continued on page 2

Pennsylvania Juvenile Delinquency Benchbook: a new resource for juvenile court judges

Philadelphia Family Court sponsors job fair

by: Junious R. Stanton



Project Director Elaine McCray, Judge Myrna P. Field, Julia Davis, Employment Coordinator for the Juvenile Branch, and Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Kenneth E. Hale are pictured at the Job Fair held recently at the new West Philadelphia community-based probation office at 46th and Market Streets.

On March 11, 2003, the First Judicial District Family Court Community-based-West Probation Office at 46th and Market Streets held a mini job fair to facilitate the employment opportunities for probationers who reside in West and southwest Philadelphia. Seven agencies and companies were on hand to meet and take employment applications from young people who are on probation or court-ordered supervision. The Community-based Probation District is a satellite office that contains all the districts and specialized units within the Family Court that service southwest and parts of west Philadelphia.

Elaine McCray, Project Director, explained the genesis of the Job Fair. "We brought it here because of the large population of young people residing in west and southwest Philadelphia. It precludes them from having to travel downtown to 1801 Vine Street."

Julia Davis, the employment coordinator for the Juvenile Branch of Family Court, coordinated the fair which served more than 100 young people. The job fair enables probationers to meet prospective employers, hone their networking and interviewing skills, and, hopefully, secure employment so they can help pay off their court fines and costs and any restitution they may owe, and gain valuable work experience. The Family Court operates two decentralized probation service offices, one at 46th and Market Streets and another at "I" and Tioga Streets.

Benchbook, from page 1

Judge;" to the National Center for Juvenile Justice, for the development and printing of the Benchbook; and to the Benchbook's principal author, NCJJ Research Associate, Patrick Griffin.

The Benchbook was featured last month at the seminar entitled "The Role of the Judge in Achieving Balanced and Restorative Justice" at the 30th National Conference on Juvenile Justice in Philadelphia. Any judge, master, or chief juvenile probation officer who has not received a copy of the Benchbook should contact Monica Wernitz, 717-705-9004, at the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. The Benchbook is also available on the JCJC website www.jcjc.state.pa.us.

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.

Our address is CJJT&R, Shippensburg University, 1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299. (nsweav@wharf.ship.edu)

Please send additions or changes to the mailing list to Julie Bozich at Signal Graphics Printing, 1010 Wesley Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 (SigGraph60@aol.com)

Cherish the Child conference

On April 03, 2003, Franklin County Children & Youth Services and The Children's Aid Society of Franklin County sponsored a conference in recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The conference was attended by 170 judges, commissioners, caseworkers, juvenile probation officers, police officers, mental health counselors, and other juvenile justice professionals from Franklin and contiguous counties.

The keynote address, delivered by Wayne Stevenson, Deputy Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Office of Children, Youth, & Families, stressed the importance of collaboration among agencies, permanency planning, measuring outcomes, and prevention.

Training sessions were delivered by Dr. Earl Greenwald, M.D., and Ms. Debbie Bauer, LSW, of the Children's Resource Center. Topics included An Overview of the Children's Resource Center, the Detection of Child Abuse, and "Shaken Baby" Syndrome.

Michael W. McCalpin, Director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Training & Research, served as moderator of a panel comprised of Judge Carol L. Van Horn, Solicitor Cassandra L. Rahouser, C&Y Assistant Administrator Deborah Pheil, Assistant District Attorney Angela Krom, Det. Sgt. Diane Kelso of the Chambersburg Police, Grant McCormick of the Chambersburg Area School District, Susan Dooley from Chambersburg Hospital and Foster Care Coordinator Elizabeth Martin.

These Franklin County professionals discussed how child abuse referrals are made to children and youth services and "walked" a case through the system with input from all the panel members as to their role in a child abuse case.

Save the Date!
September 24-26, 2003

JDCAP 2003 Annual Conference
Silver Anniversary
A Quarter-century of
Detention Excellence

Seven Springs Mountain Resort
Champion, PA

For information
phone Susan Dibeler 717-526-1010

Third School-based Probation Forum planned

The third annual School-based Probation Forum is scheduled for June 19 and 20, 2003, at the Days Inn Penn State in State College. School-based probation officers from across the Commonwealth will have the opportunity to share their experiences and take advantage of the expertise of veteran school-based officers and several guest presenters. Participants will be provided with information from current research being conducted on school-based probation in nine Pennsylvania counties by the National Center for Juvenile Justice. A presentation on special education law is also being planned.

The target audience for this training program includes chief juvenile probation officers, school administrators, and school-based probation officers. There is no registration fee. Lunch will be provided on June 19 and breakfast on June 20. Opportunities will be afforded all participants to share their experiences and challenges.

Please plan to join us, and your colleagues from across the Commonwealth, in a forum designed to provide participants with an opportunity to learn from and challenge each other. Our goal is that you leave with renewed energy and a sense of purpose in your vitally important work with youth. Questions about the forum can be directed to Keith Graybill at 717-787-2860 or kgraybill@state.pa.us.

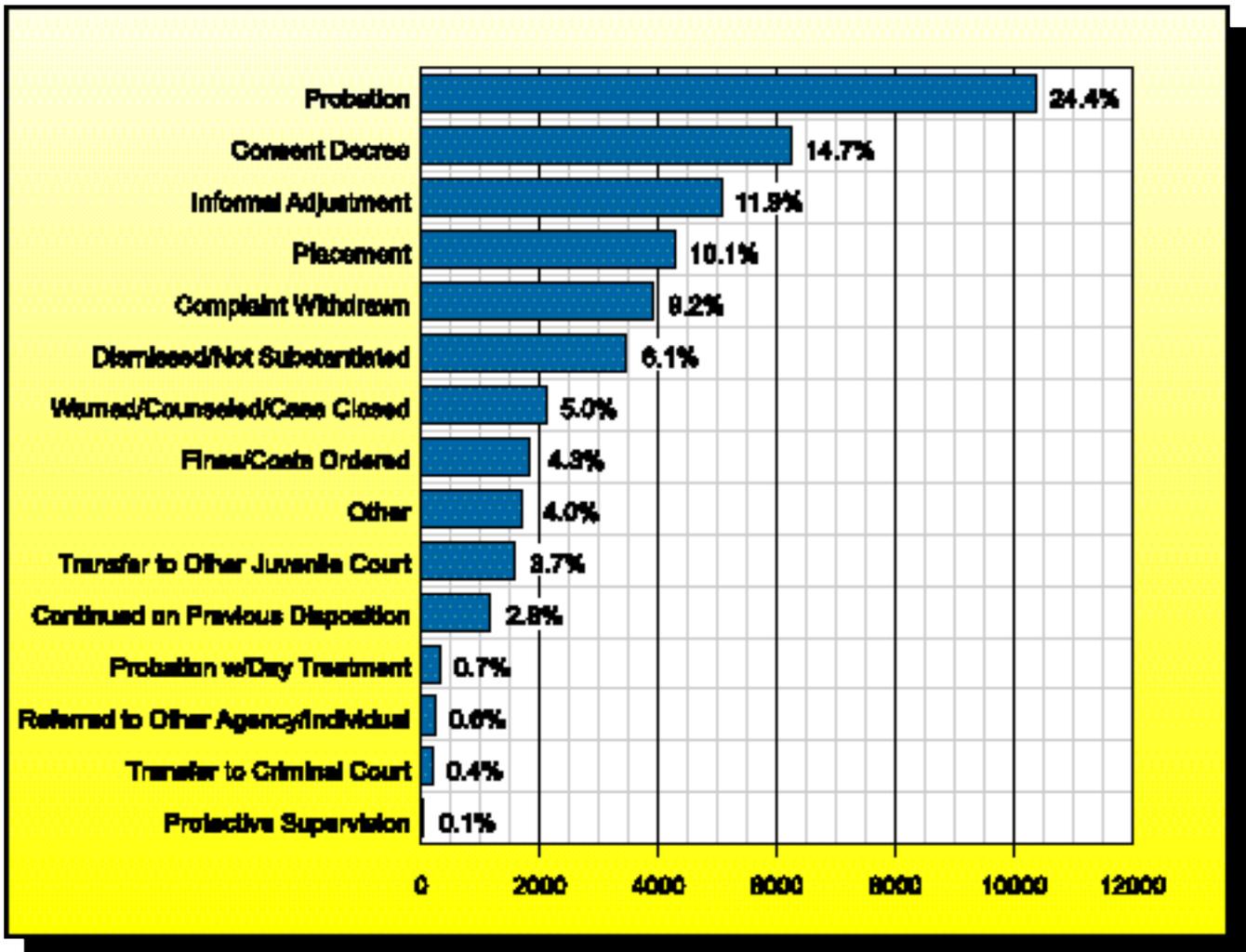
Frequency of Statewide Delinquency Dispositions, 2001

There were 42,486 delinquency dispositions in Pennsylvania during 2001, excluding disposition and placement reviews.

Probation was the most frequently utilized disposition (10,357) followed in descending order by Consent Decree (6,235), Informal Adjustment (5,073), Placement (4,296), Complaint Withdrawn (3,909), Dismissed/Not Substantiated (3,454), Warned/Counseled/Case Closed (2,105) and Fines/Costs Ordered (1,837). All remaining dispositions totaled 5,220. Probation with Day Treatment is listed as a separate disposition rather than being included in Probation.

PERCENT OF TOTAL DISPOSITIONS

NOTE: Does not include disposition and placement reviews.





Faith Erb-Elliot, Senior Supervisory Narcotics Agent at the Bureau of Narcotics Investigation and Drug Control in the Office of the Attorney General, explaining club drugs and dressing a probation officer as if she were preparing to attend a RAVE.

Intensive/Aftercare Probation Forum in State College

The second Intensive/Aftercare Probation Forum sponsored by the Juvenile Court Judges Commission was held in State College, April 10 and 11, 2003. Seventy intensive and aftercare probation officers from across Pennsylvania met in a 1½-day forum to discuss their intensive and aftercare probation programs.

Intensive probation officers and aftercare probation officers were separated into small groups. The intensive probation officers discussed supervision plans, effective strategies for documentation and innovative contact strategies. The aftercare probation officers discussed treatment plans, post-release plans, provider treatment plans, and progress reports. Participants also shared effective and innovative programs being utilized in their respective counties. Some of the programs mentioned were juvenile drug courts, peer juries, and a bicycle probation program.

Juvenile Court Consultant Greg Young provided the probation officers with information on probation

officer safety. The forum concluded on Friday with a presentation by Faith A. Erb-Elliot, Senior Supervisory Narcotics Agent, Bureau of Narcotics Investigation and Drug Control, Office of Attorney General. Agent Erb-Elliot provided participants with information on current trends in juvenile substance abuse.

It is anticipated that a subsequent forum will be conducted next spring. Thanks to the participants, the members of the Intensive-Aftercare Probation Forum Planning Committee, and the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers. This training served to bring together those officers whose responsibilities include the development and enhancement of quality intensive and aftercare programs throughout the Commonwealth.

MPOETC Schedule Homestead ONLY

The following courses will be offered in the MPOETC Homestead Computer Learning Center - the eastern center in Hershey will not be back in operation until late fall of 2003.

Course descriptions may be found at www.mpoetc.org. Please direct questions to Vance Rosebush, 800-342-0858, ext. 206, or email him at vrosebush@mpoetc.org. Enrollment forms are also available at the website. The form is a PDF file, and must be printed and mailed to the address listed on the form or faxed to 717-787-1650. Classes are 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Intermediate Excel	May 14
PA-LEMIS	May 20-22
Internet Crime Investigation	Jun 24-25
Excel Applications for Law Enforcement	Jun 26

Statewide regional training provided on the Protocol for Sharing Drug and Alcohol Information

Act 126 of 1998 amended the Juvenile Act to require that drug and alcohol treatment records or related information regarding a child who is alleged or who has been found to be dependent or delinquent, or the child's parent, shall be released to the children and youth agency, court, or juvenile probation officer consistent with applicable federal regulations. The purpose of Act 126 was to allow for better case planning and services to children and families in the child welfare, juvenile justice, and drug and alcohol systems.

The "Protocol for Sharing Drug and Alcohol Information" was developed to provide information and procedures to Single County Authorities (SCAs), licensed drug and alcohol treatment providers, juvenile probation departments, and county children and youth agencies on how to implement Act 126. The protocol is in compliance with federal and state law, consistent with best practice standards, and is respectful of the need to balance the issues of child safety, family and individual privacy, and the integrity of the therapeutic process.

Prepared by a workgroup of professionals from across the various disciplines, the protocol provides direction to all of those who come in contact with families whose children are in a situation of risk or who are in substitute care. It also encourages professionals to reach across their traditional service-delivery boundaries in order to achieve better outcomes for the entire family, not just the individual receiving services. While the individual case circumstances will shape the way the protocol is applied, the essential framework for information sharing and case planning should remain consistent.

Representatives from the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs, the Office of Children Youth and Families, the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, and the Division of Drug and Alcohol Program Licensure recently completed 18 separate training sessions in the six public health regions of the Commonwealth on the protocol.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding training, please fax your request to Gail Holloway, Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs, 717-787-2712, or Arlene L. Prentice, Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, at 717-783-7836.

Proposed Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure released for comment

The Juvenile Court Procedure Rules Committee has requested comments regarding proposed Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure. The proposed rules were published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on March 29, 2003 (Volume 33, Pennsylvania Bulletin, page 1580). The proposals are also available on the website of the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (www.aopc.org).

The Juvenile Court Procedure Rules Committee has requested that comments concerning the proposals be submitted, not later than May 14, 2003, to:
A. Christine Riscili, Esq., Staff Counsel
Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee
5035 Ritter Road, Suite 700,
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
e-mail
juvenile.rules@supreme.court.state.pa.us

