

a newsletter of the

Pennsylvania
Juvenile Court
Judges'
Commission

P E N N S Y L V A N I A J U V E N I L E J U S T I C E

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Edward G. Rendell, Governor

Volume 11, Number 10

www.jcjc.state.pa.us

October 2003

Kenneth Hale retires; James Sharp appointed Chief in Philadelphia



Kenneth E. Hale



James Sharp

Kenneth E. Hale, Philadelphia's Chief Juvenile Probation Officer since 1996, will be retiring on November 28, 2003. The Hon. Myrna P. Field, Administrative Judge, Family Court Division, appointed James Sharp as the new Chief. Mr. Sharp began his employment with Family Court on October 6, 2003. Hale will assist in the leadership transition during October and November.

Philadelphia Family Court will bid farewell to Ken Hale after more than 34 years of service. He began his career with the Family Court in 1969 as a juvenile probation officer. Mr. Hale worked 18 years in the intake department, where he held positions of increasing responsibility, including Intake supervisor. In 1989, he was promoted to Deputy Chief, a position he held for seven years until his appointment as Chief Probation Officer in 1996. Hale currently directs a department of more than 300 professional and support personnel.

Throughout his career, Ken Hale has served on numerous local and statewide committees aimed at improving the juvenile justice system. He served as a member of the Planning Committee of the federally funded Court Improvement Project. Under his leadership, the Police Probation Partnership Program and the Youth Violence Reduction Project in Philadelphia were developed and implemented. Hale also served on the Santiago Stakeholders Committee, as well as task forces

Ken Hale, continued on page 2

Ken Hale, from page 1

for statewide probation personnel policy and probation officer safety. Hale is a member of the Balanced and Restorative Justice Implementation Committee and the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers. He is a member of national organizations on probation, delinquency and crime prevention, gang violence, corrections, and violence in schools.

Ken Hale's successor, James Sharp, is a 1985 graduate of Mount Saint Mary's College in Emmittsburg, Maryland, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in psychology. In 1995, Mr. Sharp received a Master of Science Degree from Shippensburg University in Administration of Justice.

Sharp began his career in 1990 as a juvenile probation officer in Montgomery County, and worked for six years as a school-based probation officer. In 1996, he accepted a position with George Junior Republic, Grove City, Pennsylvania. He was the Eastern Regional Supervisor at George Junior until his promotion to Director of Admissions in 2001.

Sharp is looking forward to working with his new colleagues, as well as the challenges and responsibilities that await him in Philadelphia.

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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Governor Rendell creates Cabinet on Children and Families

On September 18, 2003, Governor Rendell signed an Executive Order establishing the Governor's Cabinet on Children and Families. Secretary of Public Welfare, Estelle Richman, will serve as Chair of the Cabinet. In addition, members of the Cabinet include the Secretary of Education, Secretary of Health, Secretary of Labor & Industry, the Insurance Commissioner, and the Secretary of the Budget. Additional Members include the Director of the Governor's Office of Health Care Reform, the Director of the Governor's Office of Policy, the Governor's Chief of Staff, the Chair of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and the Chair of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission.

The Cabinet has been empowered to review and evaluate state programs that provide services to children and families and to review and evaluate the policies of state government that affect the health and well-being of children and families and make recommendations to the Governor. All Commonwealth agencies under the direction of the Governor are required by the Executive Order to provide staff resources, information, records and materials as necessary for the Cabinet to carry out its responsibilities. In addition, state agencies are required to implement program improvements identified and adopted by the Cabinet, to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of management and productivity improvements, and to recommend areas of investigation to the Cabinet that could result in improvements to Commonwealth operations.

A Commission on Children and Families will also be appointed to assist and advise the Cabinet.

Governor Rendell named Lance Simmens as Executive Director of the Cabinet. Mr. Simmens has more than 25 years of experience in public service including service in senior-level positions in both the Carter and Clinton administrations with the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Commerce, and as senior advisor for the President's Commission on the Year 2000 Conversion. Mr. Simmens most recently served as national director of government relations for the Screen Actors Guild in Los Angeles.

JDCAP celebrates 25 years by honoring detention staff throughout Pennsylvania



Pictured left to right are Lisa Douple, Thomas P. Sosna, Kathleen Harrison, Wil Wilson (Assistant Director of the Schaffner Youth Center), Melissa Marinello, and Janelle Waldrop.

The Juvenile Detention Centers Association of Pennsylvania recently celebrated its 25th anniversary at the annual conference at Sevens Springs. This year's conference brought together administrators and detention staff members from across the commonwealth. The conference provided an excellent venue for training, and gave those who attended the chance to share innovative programs and new ideas with their colleagues.

The conference keynote speaker was Dr. Kevin Elko, author of "Nerves of Steel." Elko is also a motivational consultant to professional sports teams. He encouraged those in attendance to be introspective in finding their motivation to succeed and to reach for higher goals when working with the youth in their care. Audience members came away from the keynote address with a renewed dedication to the field and with a heightened commitment to the children they serve.

The highlight of the conference was the annual award dinner, which was an opportunity for Pennsylvania's detention centers to recognize the efforts of those who work hard to make a difference in the lives of young people. The Juvenile Detention Association of Pennsylvania and the County Commissioners

Association of Pennsylvania take great pride in honoring these outstanding individuals who have gone beyond the call of duty. This year's award winners are: Thomas P. Sosna (Montgomery County Youth Center) Distinguished Service Award within Detention; Lisa Douple (Public Defender, Bucks County Youth Center) Distinguished Service Award outside Detention Centers; Janelle Waldrop (Montgomery County Youth Center) Rookie Staff Person of the Year; Chris Charles Grothe (Herbert A. Schaffner Youth Center) Educator of the Year; Melissa Marinello (Montgomery County Youth Center) Staff Person of the Year; Kathleen Harrison, LPN (Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center) Nurse of the Year; The Community Service at Frey Village Nursing Home (Herbert A. Schaffner Center) Special Program of the Year.

2003 PCSA Conference a success

One hundred and thirteen people representing forty-one Pennsylvania counties attended the annual day-and-a-half Pennsylvania Community Service Association Conference at the Days Inn Penn State September 25-26.

The first day of the conference included nine individual two-hour workshop offerings, each catering specifically to either adult, juvenile, or combination programs. Topics included the best ways to communicate effectively with a work crew, basic elements of a successful community service program, the highlighting of innovative community service and juvenile restitution programs, creative community service alternatives for juveniles, what agency representatives need from community service programs, as well as ways for programs to form mutually beneficial relationships with the Department of Transportation.

The evening of the first day was topped off with a reception, which included door prizes, good food, and a program display contest judged by representatives from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. Erie's community service program walked away with the top honors.

The second day began with a buffet breakfast and was highlighted by a well-received keynote address by former Pennsylvania Attorney General Tomas Corbett Jr., who stressed the benefits of positive community involvement on the part of juvenile and adult probationers and parolees.

A membership meeting followed the keynote address. Jon Frank of Blair County juvenile probation will be taking over the reins of the PCSA Western Statewide Director-position from outgoing director, Georgia Hill of Erie County Adult Probation. Mrs. Hill will continue to serve the association as its treasurer. Laurie Kahler from York County juvenile probation will be taking over the position of Eastern Region Associate Director.

A full 89 percent of participant evaluations rated the overall conference as "above average to excellent." As community service and restitution programs have become an even more vitally important part of juvenile and adult probation services, the role of this association has become increasingly critical. PCSA has grown to be a great vehicle to support the coordinators of these programs and share state-of-the-art enhancements and program innovations. Both the juvenile and adult chief's associations have endorsed the PCSA and have encouraged their community service staff to become involved with the activities of this association.

If you are not already on the PCSA mailing and would like to receive information on upcoming regional meetings and next year's conference, contact Jason Stauffer, Corresponding Secretary, PCSA, P.O. Box 703 Lancaster PA 17608 or e-mail STAUFFEJ@co.lancaster.pa.us

Judge Elizabeth K. Kelly appointed to JCJC

On September 26, 2003, Governor Rendell appointed Judge Elizabeth K. Kelly as a member of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. Judge Kelly, from Erie County, was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the expiration of the term of Judge Fred P. Anthony, also from Erie County. Judge Anthony served as a member of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission for more than 30 years, having initially been appointed by Governor Milton Shapp in 1973 and subsequently re-appointed to successive three-year terms by Governor Shapp, Governor Dick Thornburgh, Governor Robert P. Casey, and Governor Tom Ridge. Judge Anthony will be honored at the Awards Program on November 6, 2003, in conjunction with the 2003 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice.

In addition to the appointment of Judge Kelly, Governor Rendell re-appointed Judge Carol K. McGinley and Judge Arthur E. Grim as members of the Commission. Judge McGinley, from Lehigh County, is currently serving as the Commission's Chairman and Judge Grim, from Berks County, as Vice-Chairman.

