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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

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On July 2, 2004, Governor Rendell signed SB 319 (1030) into law as Act 54 of 2004. This legislation, known as the "Interstate Compact for Juveniles Act," will authorize Pennsylvania to join a new Interstate Compact for Juveniles. Most provisions of Act 54 became effective immediately, with the exception of those that will repeal the current provisions of the Public Welfare Code containing the "Interstate Compact on Juveniles." This repeal would become effective on the date on which the new Interstate Compact becomes effective and operative between Pennsylvania and any other state. While the effective date of the Compact will be the date on which the 35<sup>th</sup> jurisdiction enacts the Compact into law, the Compact will become effective and operative between Pennsylvania and other states when the Governor executes the Compact on behalf of Pennsylvania and the Compact is ratified by at least 35 other jurisdictions.

As of July 10, 2004, 20 states had enacted the Compact and legislation was awaiting gubernatorial approval in New Jersey. The necessary legislation had been introduced in four other states and Puerto Rico. All states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Marianas Islands are eligible to become compacting states.

The new "Interstate Compact for Juveniles" is the result of a nationwide effort begun in 2000 as a joint initiative of the Council of State Governments, the Federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Association of Juvenile Compact Administrators.

By ratifying this Compact, the participating states and territories would create a governing body known as the "Interstate Commission for Juveniles." This Commission will consist of one commissioner from each member state or territory and will promulgate the rules to implement the purposes and obligations of the Compact and oversee, supervise and coordinate the interstate movement of juveniles subject to the terms of the Compact. Because the Compact would become effective upon enactment by the 35<sup>th</sup> state, it was a goal for Pennsylvania to be among the first 35 states to enact enabling legislation.

Each participating state is required to create a "State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision." The "State Council" will advise and exercise oversight and advocacy concerning the state's participation in the Compact. Act 54 provides that the Pennsylvania State Council

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## **ACT 54 of 2004 authorizes Pennsylvania to join new Interstate Compact for Juveniles**

# Westmoreland county hosts Victim Impact Panel

by Marjorie Bing Stanislaw

The Westmoreland County Juvenile Probation Department and the District Attorney's Victim/Witness Office hosted a Victim Impact Panel on April 22, 2004 at the Jeannette Senior High School. Jeannette is the home of Westmoreland County's "Jeannette Community Justice Project," a pilot program that is working to instill the philosophies and principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice in the community.

More than 200 people attended the event which began with music provided by Zion Hill Baptist Church Youth Mime Ministry. The introductions and an invocation were followed by three crime victims sharing their experiences with the audience. One victim spoke of her assault and battery at an area car wash; another recounted her sister's murder in Ligonier; and another spoke about the serious injuries and disabilities that he sustained from a hit-and-run accident on US Route 22.

Victim advocate Valerie Bender debriefed the audience after the victims finished speaking. A question-and-answer period followed, as well as a panel discussion. The panel included Hon. John J. Driscoll, the administrative juvenile court judge, criminal court Judge Rita Hathaway, Reverend Anthony Murray, Jeannette's police chief, Jeffrey Stahl, and District Attorney John Peck.

Two poster contests were sponsored in conjunction with the event. Juvenile probation's BARJ team sponsored a contest for all youth on probation with a theme of BARJ principles. The Jeannette Asset

Builders, a community initiative that has partnered with the BARJ team, sponsored a poster contest open to all youth groups in Jeannette. The posters had to be group efforts; the 13-18-year-old category was "Victim's Rights, America's Values." The 6-12-year-old category was "What I Like About Jeannette." Prizes were awarded during brief intermissions between speakers.

A musical interlude was provided by area youngsters, followed by a candlelight vigil with an open microphone where victims, families, and friends could honor those who had been victimized, touched by violence, or suffered a loss as a result of crime. The evening ended with the audience accompanying the Hopewell Baptist Church Youth Choir in singing "Amazing Grace."

## Community and media relations workshop to be held at the Sheraton Station Square Hotel in downtown Pittsburgh

There will be a "Community and Media Relations within the Pennsylvania Juvenile System" workshop held at the Pittsburgh Sheraton Station Square Hotel, Pittsburgh on September 30 and October 1. Participants will be afforded opportunities to develop detailed press releases, discuss community engagement and partnership initiatives, share current community and media projects, review public availability information relative to Pennsylvania's Juvenile Act, improve public speaking skills, and obtain information from the experiences of fellow professionals.

The workshop will be co-facilitated by: John Cookus, Juvenile Court Judges' Commission; Andrew DeAngelo, Lehigh County Juvenile Probation; Alison Delsite-Everett, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence; and Pat Yeager, VisionQuest. Look for this workshop to be offered in the fall 2004 training schedule. For more information, please contact John Cookus at 717-705-9006 or e-mail [jcookus@state.pa.us](mailto:jcookus@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.

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## **The Juvenile Justice Enhancement Training Initiative – (Balanced and Restorative Justice)**

**T**he Juvenile Justice Enhancement Training Initiative, developed through the collaborative efforts of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC), the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee (JJJPC), and the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, and funded through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency continues to make strides in the implementation of Balanced and Restorative Justice throughout the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice System.

The past year brought many changes to the project, including the transition of the project to the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research (CJJT&R) at Shippensburg University. Although the Chief's Council continues to house an infrastructure for implementation efforts, the project has broadened and become more stable with the addition of the University and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee of the PCCD as sponsoring entities.

The Balanced and Restorative Justice Committee and all associated committees and workgroups continue to meet and provide valuable feedback, insights, and products related to the implementation of the values and principles of the balanced and restorative justice model. The next Committee meeting will be held September 9, 2004.

The development of a balanced and restorative justice trainers network will be a focus for the latter half of this year. We anticipate that a cadre of trainers will subsequently be available throughout the Commonwealth to assist in various balanced and restorative justice-related training sessions. Technical assistance will continue to be provided through the JCJC.

The goal of competency development is under examination by a group of juvenile justice professionals participating in the Competency Development Workgroup along with the JJJPC and the National Center for Juvenile Justice. Pat Torbet is developing a white paper which will serve to describe the Pennsylvania definition of competency development as it pertains to juvenile justice.

CJJT&R continues to expand the training it provides to juvenile justice practitioners. Several innovative

and advanced training sessions have been held throughout the year with many more planned for the fall season. Please check the JCJC website for more on the fall 2004 training – [www.jcjc.state.pa.us](http://www.jcjc.state.pa.us).

We are planning to highlight promising practices and programs in future newsletter articles. If you can provide information or updates on the progress of your balanced and restorative justice implementation efforts, please forward information to [sblackburn@state.pa.us](mailto:sblackburn@state.pa.us), or fax them to Susan Blackburn, 717-477-1236.

### **Restorative Justice Training-for-Trainers**

**Florida Atlantic University  
Fort Lauderdale  
August 18-27, 2004  
(10-day training)**

**Registration fee \$250 per person**

**To download registration form, go to  
<http://www.barjproject.org/training.htm>**

**Sponsored by  
The Balanced and Restorative  
Justice Project of the  
Community Justice Institute**

## Staff development news

The CJJT&R fall 2004 staff development schedule is now available. If you would like to receive an electronic file copy, please e-mail nsweav@wharf.ship.edu. For a printed copy, or if you have any further questions, please contact John Herb at 717-477-1185 and press 3.

The schedule is available on the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission website, [www.jcjc.state.pa.us](http://www.jcjc.state.pa.us). Registrations, changes, confirmations, and cancellations should be made via e-mail to Nina Weaver, nsweav@wharf.ship.edu. If your office does not use e-mail, you may leave a message at 717-477-1448.

The Center will accept registrations on a space-available basis until the day prior to each program. Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Many programs reach capacity by late-August, so please register early.

The Holiday Inn Harrisburg West (Wanda's) in Mechanicsburg is the site of all Center-sponsored Harrisburg-area workshops. The hotel is located at 5401 Carlisle Pike (U.S. Route 11) at the intersection of I-581, and is accessible from both the Pennsylvania Turnpike and Interstate 81.

The fall schedule includes 26 programs. There are several new offerings combined with programs held in the past few years that received stellar evaluation feedback. There are also programs that always fill early, which we were asked to repeat. If you are interested in any of these, please register as soon as possible.

Several programs have non-traditional schedules, and there are six separate training sites, so we urge agency training coordinators to provide each registrant with a photocopy of the description for each program they will be attending, to serve as a reminder of the program's learning objectives, dates, times, and location.

The Juvenile Justice Academy for New Juvenile Probation Officers will be held August 30-September 3, and September 27-March 2. Karen Vadino will present "Skill Enhancement for the Health of It" September 16-17, at the Days Inn Penn State. Ms. Vadino is a nationally recognized motivational speaker known for her unique and humorous approach to life. This session is about problem solving, effective decision-making, time management, and stress reduction techniques, and is designed to

make us healthier and more effective.

Two management and supervisory workshops precede the PA Chief's Council's general membership meetings. On September 22-23 Mark Carey will present "Finding Leadership in the Wilderness: An Exposé of the Leadership Qualities of Lewis and Clark." This unique training will focus on three leadership themes—planning and preparation, singlemindedness and vision, and character.

November 17-18, Todd Whitmer will return to present "Strength-based Leadership" at the Days Inn Penn State, in State College. This workshop will operate from the premise that exercising and growing one's strengths is more effective than attempting to change one's weaknesses. This session will explore and enable participants to capitalize on the diversity of our own unique personal strengths and the strengths of our team members, that when tapped can make our organizations more productive.

## FY 2004 – 2005 state budget enacted

The General Appropriations Act of 2004 was signed by Governor Rendell on July 4, 2004.

The legislation appropriated \$15,326,000 for county Specialized Probation Services (SPS). This is the amount that was paid to counties in FY '03-'04. This appropriation supports school-based, intensive, aftercare, and community-based probation services provided pursuant to JCJC Standards. Also, the Improvement of Juvenile Probation Services grant-in-aid appropriation of \$5,918,000 is the amount requested in the Governor's proposed budget and equals the amounts received by counties in fiscal year 2003-04. This appropriation supports salaries for probation officers, training and graduate education programs for probation officers, and other statewide impact projects. The FY '04-'05 General Appropriation contains no TANFBG appropriation for JCJC. This is a \$2,000,000 decrease in federal funds that were disbursed to counties based upon a five year average of specified dispositions. FY '04-'05 would be the third year of a five-year contract period.

The appropriation for the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission operating budget is \$2,203,000 in state funds, an increase of \$54,000.

## CTC Youth Conference at Heritage Boy Scout Reservation

**A** Communities That Care® (CTC) Youth Conference was held May 21, 22, and 23, 2004, at the Heritage Boy Scout Reservation in Farmington, PA. The conference was sponsored by the 22 CTC organizations of Southwestern Pennsylvania and the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research.

Twenty-four youths aged 14-17 from Duquesne CTC (Allegheny County), McGuffey CTC (Claysville, Washington County), Monessen CTC (Westmoreland County), Tri-Boro CTC (Braddock, North Braddock and Rankin, Allegheny County) and McKeesport CTC (Allegheny County) participated in the weekend retreat along with community mobilizers and other chaperones.

The youth participated in workshops designed to increase their knowledge of the CTC process and enhance their ability to share with others key aspects of the CTC model. Teresa Seh, Monessen CTC Community Mobilizer, and youth from Monessen CTC led a workshop on risk factors in which participants matched risk factors to the proper domain.

Youth from the Tri-Boro CTC conducted a workshop on the dangers of using tobacco products. Lori Rue, Duquesne CTC Community Mobilizer and co-chair of the CTC Southwest Region, conducted a workshop on leadership styles.

At the end of each day, the teams completed planning worksheets. On the final day, the youth provided feedback to the adult advisors, sharing their thoughts on what they liked about the conference and what could be improved. They also discussed possibilities for holding regular quarterly regional youth events in an effort to keep the momentum going and to build capacity for this newly formed networking group.

During the weekend event the youth also had the opportunity to enjoy outdoor activities such as fishing, archery, basketball, and a presentation on wildlife. Several of the youth performed in a talent show, which was followed by a dance. The southwest region hopes to schedule a follow-up youth event this summer.

## Penndot driver history now available to criminal justice-level users

**C**riminal justice JNET users can now access PennDOT driver's history; criminal history access is no longer a prerequisite for access to this application.

PennDOT receives approximately 30,000 telephone requests for driver histories each month. Since the JNET certified driver history can legally be used for court purposes, information should be obtained via JNET. Connected agencies should make all requests for driver's history records via JNET. The PA driver history is accessed through JNET's PennDOT driver license information search.

Section 6328 of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code states that PennDOT can electronically certify documents to "authorized users" such as state and local police, district attorneys, and the Office of the Attorney General. The law further stipulates that documents electronically certified by the Department shall be admissible into evidence in any proceeding before the courts of administrative bodies of the Commonwealth. Effective January 17, 2004, the definition of "authorized users" was modified to include the following:

1. state and county probation and parole officers;
2. federal justice agencies;
3. state and county corrections departments; and,
4. county sheriff's departments.

If you do not have access to PennDOT driver history, please contact your agency sponsor. The sponsor determines whether or not the end-user has access to this application. Following each sponsoring agency's request, Administrative Offices of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) users will not have access to PennDOT driver history information; only criminal history-level users within the Department of Corrections (DOC) will have access to PennDOT driver history information.

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## New JCJC members

New members have recently been appointed to the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission by Governor Rendell. On May 13, 2004, Judge Kim Berkeley Clark, from Allegheny County, was appointed by Governor Rendell to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Cheryl Allen, also from Allegheny County. Judge Allen, who had served as a member of the Commission since July of 2002, recently transferred from the Family Court Division in Allegheny County.

On June 8, 2004, Governor Rendell appointed Judge H. William White, from Venango County, and Judge Rea Boylan, from Bucks County as members of the Commission. Judge White was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the expiration of the term of Judge John Leete, from Potter County, who had served as a member of the Commission since August of 1995. Judge Leete was recently appointed by Governor Rendell to the Governor's Commission on Children and Families, and he continues to serve as a member of Pennsylvania's Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Committee.

Judge Boylan was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the expiration of the term of Judge Isaac Garb, from Bucks County, who had served on the Commission since May of 1986. In addition to Judge Garb's 1986 appointment to the Commission, he was appointed to the Commission in the 1970s and served until 1983. Judge Garb served as Chairman of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission from July of 1994 until July, 2000.

The Commission will be honoring Judge Allen, Judge Leete, and Judge Garb during the 2004 Annual Awards Program on November 4, 2004.

## Juvenile probation IV-E administrative costs approved

In correspondence dated July 6, 2004, OCYF Acting Deputy Secretary Marilyn Eckley informed Chief Juvenile Probation Officers that the Department of Public Welfare has received final federal approval regarding the Title IV-E administrative claims process for juvenile probation offices. However, juvenile probation offices were instructed to not submit any claims until the invoice submission and payment processes are approved by the Commonwealth's Office of the Budget.

A total of 59 juvenile probation departments are participating in the IV-E claiming process through the July-September quarter of 2004.

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for Interstate Juvenile Supervision is to consist of 13 members, nine of whom are to be appointed by the Governor. At least two of the members are to be judges, and at least one is to be a county chief juvenile probation officer, a district attorney, a public defender, a representative from the Executive branch of government, a representative of victims' groups, and the Compact Administrator. In addition, there will be four members of the General Assembly on the State Council who are to be appointed, respectively, by the President Pro-Tempore of the Senate, the Senate Minority Leader, the Speaker of the House, and the Minority Leader of the House. Act 54 also provides that the Compact Administrator is to be appointed by the Governor and serve as a member of the State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision, as well as the Interstate Commission for Juveniles.

## Update on DJ web dockets

A person who has criminal history access wishing to utilize DJ Web docket sheets for work related purposes no longer needs to contact AOPC for a username and password. You need only log onto JNET and go to AOPC DJ web docket sheet.

