

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

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**Dr. Scott W.  
Henggeler will  
present keynote  
address at the  
Pennsylvania  
Conference on  
Juvenile Justice**

**D**r. Scott W. Henggeler will be providing the keynote presentation at this year's Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice on Thursday morning, November 4, 2004. He will be sharing the latest information regarding evidence-based treatment programs for juvenile offenders during his keynote address titled "Evidence-based Treatment Programs for Juvenile Offenders and Why They Work."

Henggeler received his Ph. D. in clinical psychology from the University of Virginia in 1977. Currently, he is Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina, and Director of the Family Services Research Center (FSRC). The mission of the FSRC is to develop, validate, and study the dissemination of clinically effective and cost-effective mental health and substance-abuse services for children presenting serious clinical problems and their families. As such, FSRC projects have included numerous community-based randomized trials with challenging clinical populations (e.g., violent and chronic juvenile offenders, youths presenting psychiatric emergencies, substance-abusing juvenile offenders, and maltreating families). Studies on Multisystemic Therapy and other evidence-based treatments are being conducted in multiple states and nations.

The FSRC has received the Annie E. Casey Families Count Award, CAINS National Achievement Award, and the Points of Light Foundation President's Award in recognition of excellence in community service directed at solving community problems. Dr. Henggeler has published more than 200 journal articles, book chapters, and books, and is on the editorial boards of nine journals.

## Clarion County Community Service Program

Clarion County has been very successful at involving the community in the everyday operation of its community service program. Judge James G. Arner, of Clarion County Juvenile Court, encourages the probation office to become involved with all aspects of the community. When it comes to community, the juvenile probation staff has displayed hard work and dedication in the creation of various successful community service initiatives.

Clarion County community-based juvenile probation officers Jill Neiswonger and Jolene Menold have accomplished their goal—not only getting offenders involved in their community, but getting the community involved with the offenders. This summer, youth worked at a wildlife/wetland preserve, performed cleanup activities within the Adopt-a-Highway Program, assisted in the repair and maintenance of Little League playoff fields within Clarion County, and conducted a car wash in conjunction with Wal-Mart, which agreed to match all monies raised at the car wash. The money was donated to the Family Centers of Clarion County.

Juvenile offenders earn a stipend of \$5.25 an hour in exchange for the individual hours of community service they complete. The money is made available through JAIBG funds. This program affords the speedy repayment of restitution to a victim of juvenile crime and simultaneously holds the offenders accountable. For more information, phone Clarion County Juvenile Probation, 814-226-4743.

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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## Lisa Freese appointed Director of Policy and Program Development

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission is pleased to announce the appointment of Lisa J. Freese as Director of Policy and Program Development, effective September 4, 2004. Ms. Freese is now responsible for reviewing agency programs and policies, developing and revising juvenile court standards, and analyzing legislation affecting delinquent and dependent children.

Freese began her career in 1988 as a juvenile probation officer in Dauphin County. She accepted a position with Cornell Abraxas in 1994 as a court services liaison, and was promoted to the position of Court Services Supervisor for Cornell Abraxas in 1996. Ms. Freese was hired by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission in 1999 as a juvenile court consultant.

She received her Bachelors Degree in Administration of Justice from the Pennsylvania State University in 1988, and her Masters Degree in Administration of Justice from Shippensburg University in 1993. She can be reached at 717-705-9003, or e-mail lfreese@state.pa.us.

## POSITION VACANCIES

### Juvenile Court Consultants

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is seeking candidates to fill one full-time and one half-time Juvenile Court Consultant position in the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, Harrisburg, PA. These positions will serve as the primary point of contact for juvenile court judges and chief juvenile probation officers regarding Specialized Probation Services Programs, provide on-site monitoring and evaluations of Specialized Probation Services Programs to ensure compliance with relevant program standards, and provide on-going technical assistance to juvenile court judges and chief juvenile probation officers regarding the implementation of balanced and restorative justice principles.

The minimum experience and training requirements for the position are: five years of experience in juvenile probation and a master's degree in social work or the behavioral sciences; or any equivalent combination of experience and training. Acceptable master's degree fields include counseling, criminology, criminal justice, human behavior, psychology, social work/social welfare, sociology, special education, anthropology, and gerontology.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania offers a comprehensive benefit package. The starting annual salary for the positions is \$42,621. Appointments above the starting rate may be considered and will be commensurate with the candidates' education, work experience, and salary history. This is a Civil Service position that requires Pennsylvania residency. An eligible list will be established through the evaluation of job-related experience and training of qualified applicants by the Civil Service Commission, based on the submission of written application materials provided by the candidate on the civil service application and application supplement. Please provide complete and accurate information on the written application materials. Failure to do so may delay the processing of your application, result in a lower than deserved score, or disqualification. A civil service application and application supplement may be obtained by contacting Barbara Barnes at the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, 717- 787-6910, Monday through Friday, 8 am-5 pm, or by e-mail (include your name and address) to [babarnes@state.pa.us](mailto:babarnes@state.pa.us).

All required applications and supplemental materials must be submitted directly to the Civil Service Commission, and postmarked no later than **November 26, 2004**.

**AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

#### *CTC Festival, from page 5*

While live music played all day at the band shell, the crowd was offered information about area human resources from the 56 agencies that participated. The National Guard brought its 28-foot climbing wall as a youth challenge, while activities for the younger children included a moon bounce, candy art, a balloon artist, face painting, wandering clowns, and an appearance by Spiderman.

WNEP/Channel 16 TV's Skycam helicopter landed on the soccer field to pass out promotional items to the children. WKAB/ Classic Hits 103.5 FM brought its Classic Cruiser Car and performed a two-hour live segment from the festival, while WYLN's Doug Farley also made an appearance. The day came to a close with patriotic music performed by The Catawissa Military Band and a fireworks display provided by Pyrotechnico.

The planning of The First Annual CTC Festival was a collaborative effort by both Berwick and Bloomsburg Communities That Care Boards. The group worked for nine months in collaboration with other agencies and organizations in Columbia and Montour Counties. For more information about the festival, please call or e-mail Columbia County Communities That Care Community Mobilizer, Debra Force-Moore, at 570-387-6501, or [dforce@columbiapa.org](mailto:dforce@columbiapa.org).

# Suicide Prevention Action Network applauds bipartisan vote to prevent youth suicide

The Suicide Prevention Action Network USA (SPAN USA) applauded Congress for its bipartisan support for a compromise bill that will help prevent suicide among our nation's youth.

The Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act (H.R. 4799), which passed both the House and Senate, amends the Public Health Act and authorizes \$82 million in grant money over a three-year period to states, Indian tribes and colleges and universities for the development of youth suicide prevention and intervention programs. The bill calls for early screening programs to identify mental illness in children and provide treatment referrals, training for community child-care professionals, and the authorization of a Youth Interagency Research, Training and Technical Assistance Center, which would provide training and technical assistance to states and other eligible entities.

Jerry Reed, executive director of the Suicide Prevention Action Network, applauded Senator Smith's leadership in passing this vital piece of legislation. "Senator Smith's courage in making his personal loss public was a great service to the over 4,000 families who lose a young loved one to suicide each year. This Act will allow young people to get the help they need. SPAN USA applauds the passage of this bill and will continue to work with the Congress to pass mental health parity and ensure that all Americans have access to mental health services."

SPAN USA fully supported the Senate version of the bill (S. 2634), which passed the Senate by unanimous consent on July 8. However, to reach a compromise with the House, the amended bill (H.R. 4799) requires elementary and secondary school students to receive parental consent before participating in school-sponsored programs, unless it is an emergency situation in which the life of a student is at stake. The issue of parental consent became somewhat contentious during House discussions because participation in many other types of school-sponsored health education programs does not require parental permission.

"SPAN USA concluded that the parental consent issue was a small matter when compared to the greater good that will come from the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act," added Reed. "Suicide is a

preventable public health problem and ultimately, this bill will prevent kids from dying prematurely. We hope Congress will appropriate the \$82 million authorized by the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act so that thousands of young people will have broad access to mental health services."

The Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act will bring parity to federal funding for public health issues by more than doubling the amount of money that the federal government allocates to suicide prevention. Although suicide has ranked among the nation's leading causes of death since 1975 and was the third leading cause of death in 2001 among young people 10 to 24 years old, today suicide prevention receives only \$40 million.

SPAN USA is the nation's only suicide prevention organization dedicated to leveraging grassroots support among suicide survivors (those who have lost a loved one to suicide) and others to advance public policies that help prevent suicide. Since its founding eight years ago, SPAN USA has led the drive to make suicide a public health priority by building political will and calling for the development and implementation of a national strategy for suicide prevention. Using its extensive grassroots network of survivors and advocates, SPAN USA has actively promoted the cause on Capitol Hill and in state legislatures.

## Communities That Care festival to be annual event



On July 17, 2004, Columbia County Communities That Care® held its First Annual Festival in Bloomsburg Town Park. The mission of the Communities That Care (CTC) Festival was to educate through its prevention message, and to encourage youth awareness of healthy lifestyles. The day began with 54 runners and walkers participating in a 5K race. A softball tournament had eight teams competing to win the CTC Festival Trophy.

An opening ceremony, emceed by CTC Board Member Roger Nunkester Jr., featured 17-year-old National Guard Recruit Jessica Lynn singing the national anthem. County Commissioners Chris Young, William Soberick, and David Kovach, addressed the crowd, emphasizing the importance of the prevention efforts of CTC and its positive impact on the community. The CTC Youth Board Members then acknowledged all of the corporate and private supporters who had contributed to making the event a success.

Reggie Byers, a motivational speaker with an anti-tobacco message, used his skills as a cartoonist and a rapper to deliver a prevention message. His performance was sponsored in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

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## JDCAP annual conference at the Nittany Lion Inn

The Juvenile Detention Centers' Association of Pennsylvania (JDCAP) held its 2004 Annual Conference September 22–24, 2004, at the Nittany Lion Inn, State College. Jerry Sandusky, retired Penn State defensive coordinator and director/founder of The Second Mile, was keynote speaker.

Denise Bray, Director of the PACE Institute, conducted a general session titled Gender Responsive Programming for Girls: A Holistic Approach. Ms. Bray was selected by the US Department of Justice to join a core group of experts in the National Training and Technical Assistance Center.

JDCAP recognized individuals for their outstanding service and achievement during the awards banquet. The following individuals were award recipients for 2004: Joseph Alexander, Montgomery County Youth Center – Distinguished Service Award Within the Field of Juvenile Detention; Mary Steffy, Executive Director of the Lancaster County Mental Health Association – Distinguished Service Award Outside the Field of Juvenile Detention; Greg Snook, Berks County Youth Center – Rookie Staff Person of the Year; Dennis Burns, Montgomery County Youth Center – Educator of the Year; Mark Wykle, Montgomery County Youth Center – Staff Person of the Year; Dana Milletary, Allegheny County Shuman Juvenile Detention Center – Nurse of the Year; and, “Letters of Apology,” Montgomery County Youth Center – Special Program of the Year. Justin H., a Lancaster County youth, was the winner of the conference poetry contest. Justin received a savings bond for his inspiring poem, *Behind the Walls*, which discussed the positive impact his experiences have had upon his life.

Nominations for president and vice-president of the association resulted in the election of Chuck McLister, Dauphin County, as president, and Joe Cirulli, Berks County, as vice-president. Alex Wilson was recognized for his leadership as JDCAP's president for 2002-2004. Kimberly Steward, author of *The Doghouse Angel* and *The Color of Secrets*, which encourage those who have been abused to heal and reclaim their lives, closed the conference.

# Cameron County Skills for Life tours Gettysburg battlefield

By: Annie Hnath, Cameron County community-based juvenile probation officer



Over the weekend of May 21-23, 2004, the Skills for Life group sponsored by the Cameron County Probation Department took a field trip to the Cornell Abraxas Leadership Development Program and to Gettysburg. Ten youth attended the event, chaperoned by five adults, including Judge Richard Masson, District Justice Alvin Brown, Chief Probation Officer Jan Burkness and probation officers Mara Bailey and Annie Hnath.

One of the youth was a member of the area's local Bucktail Regiment, an organization which performs Civil War re-enactments. This young man had an authentic Union uniform which he wore for the day.

Months of preparation were needed before the trip occurred. The youth learned about the Civil War from speakers, and from videos borrowed from Judge Masson. A Civil War-era musket was brought in by District Justice Brown for use as a visual aid. Only those youth who earned good grades and displayed good behavior were permitted to go on the trip.

Judge Masson acted as the group's tour guide as they explored Gettysburg on Saturday, May 22. Little Round Top, Devils Den, countless numbers of monuments, and the field where Pickett's Charge occurred were visited and described in detail by Judge Masson, an avid Civil War historian.

Each youth was given a T-shirt to wear while touring the battlefield. Two community organizations from Cameron County, GKN Sintered Metals and the Emporium Rotary Club, donated funds to help offset the cost of the shirts. They were designed by three of the probation youth, who created a Civil War logo for the front and back of the shirt as part of the Skills for Life program.

This program targets at-risk youth and educates them with the help of local organizations such as C.A.P.S.E.A., L.I.F.T., Drug and Alcohol Services, and Penn State Cooperative Extension.

Cornell Abraxas, a residential facility for juveniles in South Mountain, PA, provided housing and some meals over the weekend. The group was excited about camping out in the military-style tents. Climbing a "rock wall," touring the high and low ropes courses, campfires, and movies were some of the activities planned to engage the youth during their stay. On Sunday, May 23, several members of the "wilderness" staff from the facility led the youth through a series of team-building activities and games before the group departed for home.

The field trip was a huge success and a lot of fun. Special thanks goes to Pat Metcalf and the staff of the Cornell Abraxas LDP. Without their hospitality, the trip would not have occurred. The youth who were involved would also like to thank GKN and the Emporium Rotary Club for helping them make the event a reality. Many thanks to Judge Masson and District Justice Brown for donating so much of their time and knowledge throughout the whole planning process and the trip itself.

