

a newsletter of the

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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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April 2005

“Justice Isn’t Served Until Crime Victims Are”

National Crime Victims’ Rights Week Celebrated

By putting victims first, we recognize that their rights, needs, and concerns are priorities essential to promoting justice and safety.

Click [HERE](#) to view the Call for Presentations for the Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice



The Coalition of Pennsylvania Crime Victims Organizations (COPCVO) commemorated National Crime Victims’ Rights Week with a rally at the state Capitol on Monday, April 11, 2005. This 25th anniversary of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week (NCVRW) was dedicated to the memory of President Ronald Reagan, a pioneer in promoting victims’ rights and services.

The 2005 theme for Pennsylvania was “Justice Isn’t Served Until Crime Victims Are.” This simple yet powerful message focuses attention on victims’ needs for justice, for comprehensive services to help them cope in the aftermath of crime, and for the right to be treated with dignity and compassion by our criminal and juvenile justice system and society.

This was the 13th annual Victims’ Rights Rally in Pennsylvania where crime victims and their families, advocates, legislators, and criminal and juvenile justice professionals gathered to raise awareness of the impact of crime on victims’ lives.

Opening remarks at the rally were given by Donna Hull, Vice President of COPCVO. The Governor’s Proclamation and Citation was presented by Pennsylvania State Police Commissioner Jeffery Miller. The Proc-

COPCVO continued on page 4

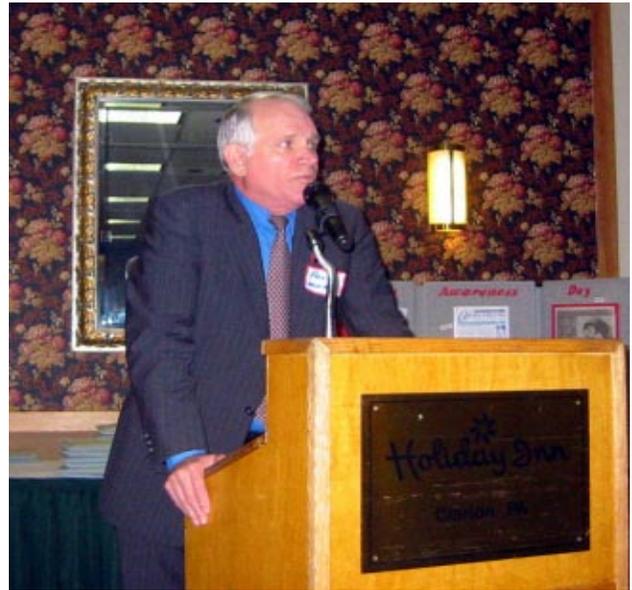
Northwest Region CTC holds Third Annual Recognition Banquet

Northwest Pennsylvania Communities That Care® sites recently celebrated the ongoing success of community collaboration and prevention planning for 22 sites in 18 counties in northwestern Pennsylvania at the Third Annual "Celebrate Your CTC" banquet in Clarion.

The keynote speaker was Paul Ward, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Association of Community-Based Prevention Coalitions (PACPC) and retired Deputy Director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Training & Research at Shippensburg University. Ward was honored for his support of the Communities That Care initiative by regional CTC co-chairs Joe Sarbo (Lawrence County) and Shirley Richards (McKean County). A special award was presented to former CTC Director Amy Bailey for her leadership, inspiration, and dedication to the CTC process from its inception in 1994 to the present.

The program included motivational speaker and magician Tim Picirillo, a performance by students of Clarion Area Elementary School, and piano music by 12-year-old Eric Krouse. Honored guests included Tara Dechert from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency and Makini Young from America's Promise. A reception was held at the home of CTC Mobilizer Kathy Krouse the evening prior to the banquet.

The Communities That Care model is based on 30 years of research and promotes community collabo-



Keynote speaker Paul Ward, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Association of Community-based Prevention Coalitions

ration and planning using research-based prevention programs to address the risk factors that lead to school drop-out, violence, teen pregnancy, delinquency and substance abuse.

Award recipients from around the northwest region include; Gary DeComo (District Justice- Armstrong County), Libby Massung (Crawford County), Teresa Swers, Denise Pickens, Sherry Keffer (Clarion County), Red Bank Valley Family Net (Clarion County), Katie Pollack, Pam Strouse, Gary Hederly (Centre County CTC), Katie Edmundson, Natalie Schattler, Maria Knaulff, Britt Hargeradrer Natasha Shumante, Duane Vreini (Forest Area Schools), Nick Viglione, Brian Eastman, Mike Jozwiak, Bridget Mooney, Cosina Johnson- IJJD Program, Perseus House/ Sara Reed Children's Center (Erie County), Paul Webster, Lee Sizemore, Bob Wassum, Betty Jo Wilcox (McKean County), Riley Smoot, Police Chief, Farrell Area School District (Mercer County), Michelle Orłowski (Lawrence County), Karen Crosby, Kim Henderson, Kathy Brooks-Austin Area School District (Potter County), Matt Hutcheson, Terry Erway, Georgia Nuffer, Charles Wicker, Bob Smith- Potter County Schools (Potter County).

The Northwest Region CTC will hold a strategic planning retreat in the summer of 2005 to conduct a regional needs-assessment and prioritize the training needs of all 22 sites in the region. For more information, phone the regional strategic consultant, Joe Markiewicz, at 814-734-3565 or e-mail him: markiewiczjoe@msn.com

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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Aftercare Probation Forum held in State College

March 30 and 31, 2005, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission sponsored a training program specifically designed for juvenile probation officers who provide aftercare probation services. There were 46 participants, representing 20 counties and 2 residential programs.

The forum commenced with a panel presentation consisting of providers who work with juveniles while in residential programs and upon their return to the community. Panel presenters included Ron Sharp, Ph.D., Alternative Rehabilitation Communities, Inc.; Robena Spangler, Northwestern Human Services; Derin Myers, Cornell Abraxas; Harry Stasik, The Summit Academy; and Matthew Fino, North Central Secure Treatment Unit.

The audience and the panelists discussed referrals, the initial treatment planning process, probation officer involvement, and aftercare planning. The panelists encouraged the participants to maintain frequent communication with offenders in placement and the staff at each program.

The participants were divided into groups during the afternoon of the first day, during which time they reviewed the "Joint Position on Aftercare for Delinquent Youth," an agreement among juvenile justice stakeholders in Pennsylvania. Participants addressed the goals outlined in the statement and offered valuable suggestions for ensuring that the goals would be accomplished.

Pat Torbet, Senior Research Associate at the National Center for Juvenile Justice in Pittsburgh, began the session on the second day with an overview of the MacArthur Model Systems Project. She provided the audience with information specific to the aftercare component of the initiative.

The forum concluded with presentations by the pilot counties who received grants to implement aftercare systems change. Allegheny, Cambria, Lycoming, and York Counties were awarded grants through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. Philadelphia received funding directly from the MacArthur Foundation. Each county shared its unique approaches to this reform initiative.

Evaluations of the forum indicated that the participants thought it an excellent opportunity to share

ideas and learn from colleagues across the state about obstacles they face in their positions and what works with offenders committed to residential placements who eventually return to our communities. Participants recommended that the forum be repeated, and requested more opportunities for discussion.

Adelphoi Village residents provide snow removal and lawn care for seniors

Operation Snow Shovel and Operation Lawn Care depend on the efforts of Adelphoi Village residents. Nine group homes with approximately 12 kids in each home provide the power to remove snow and care for the lawns of senior citizens in Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

This year, Adelphoi residents put in a total of 325 hours removing the snow and spreading ice melt for 98 homes in the community. The Adelphoi Village residents who owe restitution are the first ones encouraged to participate. The elderly homeowners whose walks and driveways are shoveled usually give donations, which help the youngsters with the restitution and court costs they are required to pay as part of their accountability under the statewide BARJ initiative. In addition, donations were matched "dollar for dollar" by the Mellon Foundation.

Adelphoi has had a tremendous response from senior citizens by means of letters of appreciation to group home supervisors. Most of the Adelphoi Village participants are not from the Latrobe area, so the snow shoveling gives them a connection to the community.

In May, Adelphoi Village residents took over responsibility for lawn care at the group homes. One group home has 8.5 acres of lawns and woods to maintain. Many of the senior citizens who had requested snow removal will also receive lawn care service. Adelphoi Village residents will be compensated for lawn care at the group homes and for maintaining the lawns of senior citizens in the Latrobe community.

Maloney praises the juvenile justice system

Dennis Maloney, known internationally for his seminal work, "Juvenile Probation: The Balanced Approach," spoke March 17 and 18, 2005, to members of the Balanced and Restorative Justice Committee and the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers. Maloney was visiting Pennsylvania to share recent developments from the national movement and his current work. His visit served to reignite the passion for continuing to advance the values and principles of balanced and restorative justice.

The presentations, sponsored by the Juvenile Justice Enhancement Project with funding from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, included a discussion on the outcomes development project and the work being piloted in Allegheny County as a demonstration site. Maloney commended Pennsylvania juvenile justice practitioners for the attention paid to the collection of these outcomes from all 67 of the juvenile courts in Pennsylvania.

He shared with the group his perception of the great strides he has seen the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system make since the introduction of the balanced and restorative justice model seven years ago, and noted that the posting of the mission and goals in the Allegheny juvenile court was a remarkable example of how balanced and restorative justice is truly integrated into the way business is done.

Speaking of his recent work in the area of civic engagement and the great promise of community service, Maloney noted that, in essence, community service embraces three principles:

- Community Service is a restorative practice that repairs harm caused by youths under juvenile justice supervision to victims and communities and helps to meet basic community needs.
- Youths under juvenile justice supervision benefit from participating in community service, enhancing their ability to be law-abiding and productive citizens.
- Service is a mechanism to rebuild severed prosocial relationships between lawbreakers and community members, and re-establish trust and a positive status in the community.

Maloney's presentation can be found on the PCCJPO web site at www.pachiefprobationofficers.org.

Firearm Commission Training Management System

by: Commission Chairman, Larry Straitiff

The new Firearm Commission Training Management System is online and running. You can access the system with your internet browser at <https://www.fctms.state.pa.us>

We are hopeful that this web-based information management system will make the interaction between the counties and the commission easier, more efficient, and instantaneous. You will find all of the upcoming training events online at this site and enrollment in a particular class will be accomplished with a click of the mouse. Each county has received a user's manual. If you have any problems navigating the program call the commission staff at 717-787-5699 x-389.

If there is sufficient need, a brief training session will be scheduled to assist counties in using the new system. We want this to be a win/win situation for both the commission and the counties. The system will greatly enhance the commission's ability to track the training records of individual officers as well as particular counties and statewide statistics. The reports will be informative and will be available to chiefs and courts across the Commonwealth. With your indulgence and cooperation this will move the data-gathering and dissemination related to county firearms training into the 21st century.

COPCVO from page 1

Amendment from the House of Representatives was presented by Victoria Sostack, from the Office of the Victim Advocate.

An important part of the rally was hearing the voices of victims ring with hope and promise. Several victims of crime shared their stories with the attentive and respectful crowd.

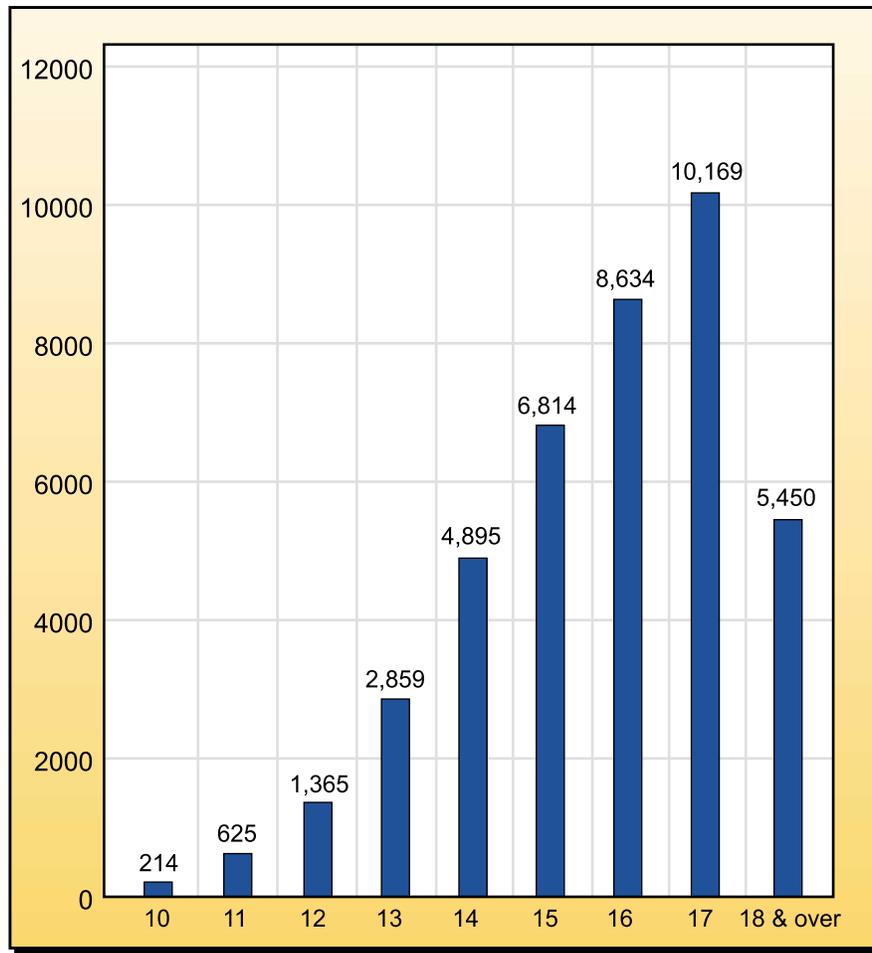
This year's 25th Anniversary of NCVRW was a tremendous opportunity for juvenile justice practitioners to seek a collaborative effort with others to promote victim and community awareness. We are interested in obtaining stories from your jurisdiction's event(s) to include in a resource guide for others seeking to replicate new and innovative approaches to celebrating the 2006 National Crime Victim's Rights Week. Please forward stories to Susan Blackburn, sblackburn@state.pa.us

Total Dispositions by Age, 2003♦

This table reflects the age of the juvenile at the time of disposition.

Seventeen year olds accounted for 10,169 (24.8%) of the 41,036 juvenile delinquency dispositions in 2003, representing the most dispositions for any age group. Juveniles who were age 16 accounted for 8,634 (21.0%), and juveniles who were age 15 accounted for 6,814 (16.6%) of the dispositions in 2003.

TOTAL DISPOSITIONS BY AGE



♦Please refer to the note on page 2 regarding Philadelphia dispositions.

Victim/Community Awareness training held in Chester County

by Diana Munson, Supervisor and Departmental Liaison to the Juvenile Court Victim/Witness Project, Chester County Juvenile Probation Department

March 8, 9, and 10, 2005, the Chester County Juvenile Probation Department hosted a training to develop facilitators for the *Victim/Community Awareness: an Orientation for Juveniles* curriculum. This curriculum was written by Valerie Bender for The Center for Victims of Violent Crimes, with the intent of increasing offenders' awareness and acknowledgment of how victims and the community are affected by crime. Both the curriculum development and the training were funded through the Juvenile Justice Enhancement Training Initiative by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

Attending the training were seven juvenile probation staff (including probation officers, community service staff, and supervisors), three victim advocates from the Crime Victims' Center of Chester County, Inc., two detention center staff and two York County staff from Catholic Charities Mediation Services.

There were three facilitators; Margery Miller, Supervisor and Balanced and Restorative Justice Coordinator of Montgomery County; Carrie Avery, Chester County Juvenile Court Victim/Witness Coordinator and Erin Taylor, Student Assistance Program Director for Chester County (formerly a Chester County Juvenile Probation Community Service Case Manager).

Chester County has been facilitating groups on the curriculum since 2002, when two of its staff became trainers. This additional training has served to enhance the efforts to expand the offering of this vital service. In 2002, Chester County changed the name of its group sessions to "Impact of Crime." These groups meet from 4-8 PM on Monday or Wednesday evenings. Staff also takes advantage of school breaks to schedule additional groups in the afternoons.

Since "Impact of Crime" groups started in Chester County in 2002, 421 juveniles have successfully completed the curriculum and about one third of the staff from the Juvenile Probation Department has been trained and is actively facilitating groups.

The support of the curriculum in Chester County can be attributed to the successful collaboration between the Juvenile Probation Department and the Crime Victims' Center of Chester County, Inc., and the dedicated staff who believe in the importance of accountability to victims.

IMMEDIATE OPENING

**Sullivan County
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer**

Baccalaureate Degree, Masters preferred, 3 years experience, background, clearances, firearms & residency requirement. Salary commensurate with education & experience; benefit package. Send resume, references, and transcripts: Judge's Chambers, #1 Courthouse Square, Tunkhannock, PA 18657

School-based Forum

The fifth annual School-based Probation Forum is scheduled for June 16 and 17, 2005, 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 probation officers and guest presenters.

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 16. If you have questions, call Kathy Hooven at 717-705-5633 or khooven@state.pa.us.

