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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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## JDCAP annual conference in State College

**Judge Arthur Grim, Berks County, winner of the *Distinguished Service Award Outside the Field of Juvenile Detention* is pictured with the new president of JDCAP, Joe Cirulli, of Bucks County.**



**T**he Juvenile Detention Centers' Association of Pennsylvania held its 2005 Annual Conference October 5-7, 2005 at the Nittany Lion Inn, State College. Dr. Lew Losoncy, "The Doctor of Encouragement," kicked off the conference with a general session on focusing on positive change and the future.

During the annual awards banquet, JDCAP recognized the following individuals for their outstanding service and achievement: Maureen Raquet, Montgomery County Youth Center – *Distinguished Service Award Within the Field of Juvenile Detention*; Judge Arthur Grim, Berks County – *Distinguished Service Award Outside the Field of Juvenile Detention*; Joseph Doran, Herbert Schaffner Youth Center, Dauphin County – *Rookie Staff Person of the Year*; Joan Lockwood, Delaware County and Chester County Detention Centers – *Educator of the Year*; Joseph Viti, Montgomery County Youth Center – *Staff Person of the Year*; Donna Venesky, Herbert Schaffner Youth Center, Dauphin County – *Nurse of the Year*; and, Gender Specific Program, Berks County – *Special Program of the Year*

*JDCAP continued on page 2*

*JDCAP, from page one*

Tom Sosna, Montgomery County, was recognized for his service as treasurer for the past seven years. John McCormack, Berks County, received the inaugural President's Award for his dedication and service to the association. Victoria D., a Montgomery County youth, was the winner of the conference essay contest. Victoria received a savings bond for her essay reflecting the conference theme of "Relinquish the Past, Embrace the Future." The Chandler Swift Education Fund was this year's charity recipient.

Elections for the offices of secretary, treasurer and training committee chair also occurred during the conference. John Corr, Bucks County, Wayne Bear, York County and Paris Webb, Chester County, ran unopposed for these offices. Chuck McLister, Dauphin County, resigned as president and appointed Vice-President Joe Cirulli, Berks County to succeed him. Maureen Raquet was appointed the vice-president.

Jeff Tobe, who was selected as one of the top 15 speakers in North America and dubbed "The Guru of Creativity" by Insider Magazine, brought the conference to a close by challenging attendees to step outside their comfort zones and position themselves more creatively.

## First of five regional forums on restorative community justice on December 7, 2005

The first of five regional forums designed to assist county juvenile courts in engaging community members and organizations will be held December 7, 2005, at Cross Creek Resort in Titusville, Pennsylvania, Venango County. This first forum will serve the Northwest Communities That Care technical assistance region. All forums will be based on the designated CTC regions.

The Juvenile Justice Enhancement Training Grant, funded through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, is supporting five regional forums over the next two years. The forum, "Building Bridges: Community Restorative Justice Forum," is based on the *Building Bridges* monograph which was developed by the Court and Community Collaboration Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers. The monograph, as well as the forum, addresses ways juvenile courts and communities across the Commonwealth can launch meaningful alliances and engage in ongoing dialog for effective, fair, and restorative practices of justice for all.

County chief juvenile probation officers will be asked to develop a team of 10 participants from their jurisdictions which will represent multiple sectors of the community: schools, social services, civic organizations, victims services, and faith communities, to name a few.

Developed to enable participants to learn from each other, with a particular emphasis on the engagement of the community in responding to delinquent behavior, the agenda includes a plenary session, four workshops, and a team break-out session, to provide an opportunity for members of county teams to meet. The hope is they will begin to identify local resources and training issues toward the development of a local action plan.

For additional information on the regional forums you may contact Susan Blackburn at 717-477-1411 or at [sblackburn@state.pa.us](mailto:sblackburn@state.pa.us) or Monica Iskric at 717-477-1709 or at [miskri@ship.edu](mailto:miskri@ship.edu).

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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# African-American Male Summit–Disproportionate Minority Contact Forum held in Harrisburg

On October 20, 2005, Ngozi, Inc. hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual African-American Male Summit at the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Harrisburg. Ngozi, Inc. partnered with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency (PCCD) Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Subcommittee for this year's event to simultaneously conduct a Harrisburg Regional DMC forum. Ngozi, Inc. is a non-profit organization established in 1985 with the goal of improving the quality of life for African-American males and strengthening black families in the capital region through artistic expression and education. The DMC Subcommittee has been charged with addressing the issue of minority over-representation since 1989. It has held regional forums in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Reading over the past three years. The focus of these forums has been "Minority Youth/Law Enforcement Relations."

Approximately 350 people participated in the program; 170 youth among them. Leaders and policy makers throughout the capital region, including school administrators, teachers, law enforcement professionals, city council members, district justices, and members of the community were in attendance. The day began with a keynote address by Tina Nixon, CEO, YWCA of the Capital Region. Ms. Nixon discussed the Men Against Domestic Violence Initiative. Her address was followed by a panel discussion featuring members of the education, healthcare, and faith-based communities.

For the DMC portion of the program, Michael Pennington, Director of the PCCD Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention, and Daniel Elby, DMC Subcommittee chair and CEO of Alternative Rehabilitation Communities, Inc., gave opening remarks and introductions on the issue of disproportionate minority contact and its status in Pennsylvania. Michael L. Lindsey, J.D., Ph.D., president of Nestor Consultants in Dallas, TX, led the audience in an overview from a national perspective.

Dr. Lindsey then led a panel discussion on the divide between minority youth and law enforcement which featured eight local youth and six local law enforcement officers, including a chief of police, school resource officers, juvenile detectives, and juvenile probation officers. Lindsey has served as a consultant to the DMC Subcommittee for several years and as the facilitator for the other DMC Forums in Pennsylvania.

The discussion generated from the panel was lively and a great lead-in to the afternoon breakout ses-

sions. All of the attendees were able to participate in each of three breakout discussions: *Juvenile Justice*, led by JCJC/CJJT&R staff, *Good Stop/Bad Stop – What to do when stopped by the police*, led by local police officers, and *School Dayz – Zero Tolerance*, led by school-based probation officers and school administrators. In each of these sessions, youth had an opportunity to share their perspectives with the group and receive information critical to reducing the trend of disproportionate minority contact. It is hoped that law enforcement and youth will gain new perspectives on one another and forge more positive relations.

Following dinner, author/educator Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu, who lectures on issues such as black male/female relationship solutions, critical concerns in the area of raising African-American males, and spiritual motivation, spoke to the group.

## Nancy Hardy Appointed as DPW Deputy Secretary for Children, Youth and Families

On October 24, 2005, Nancy Hardy returned to the Department of Public Welfare as Deputy Secretary for Children, Youth and Families after working for 15 years in the private sector. She began her career as a caseworker with the Department in 1972 and has held numerous management positions within the Department, including Director of Managed Care Operations.

In the private sector Ms. Hardy was a lobbyist and consultant for the clients represented by S. R. Wojdak and Associates and also served as Senior Vice President of Government Affairs at Keystone Mercy Health Plan.

Ms. Hardy succeeds Harriet Dichter, who had been serving as the Acting Deputy Secretary for Children, Youth and Families in addition to serving as Deputy Secretary for the Department's Office of Child Development and as Policy Director for the Department of Education.

# Lehigh County center has official tour

By Romy Varghese, of *The Morning Call*

**L**ehigh County officials on Monday celebrated a new \$8 million juvenile detention facility that complies with state standards on housing youth offenders. The 33,000-square-foot building, next to the much smaller detention facility on Cedarbrook Road in South Whitehall Township, can hold up to 48 juveniles when it opens sometime this month, said Scott Dillensnyder, superintendent of the detention center.

On Monday, the county was holding 35 juveniles. The old 7,500-square-foot center, originally built as a quarantine ward for the nearby county home, has a license capacity of 19. Lehigh County began housing youth offenders there in 1949.

In reminiscing about the old building, County Commissioner James Kelly remembered his father's words "listen to your parents or you'll end up in that place," while James Martin, the county district attorney, recounted stepping into the facility as a public defender in the 1970s.

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony Monday, officials praised the project, which has been in the works for ten years. The state-of-the-art facility will protect the community from young offenders, as well as protect juveniles from each other, County Executive Jane Ervin said.

The new center has a control room, from which staff members monitor cameras and control doors. Staff will now have locker rooms with individual lockers, instead of using shelves in the laundry room. Each juvenile will have a small room within a large wing which has a common area for eating and watching television.

There are four wings of 12 single rooms each. Dillensnyder said two more units could be added to the center, accommodating 24 more juveniles. The new center requires 39 staffers, 15 more than the former detention facility, he added.

The county hasn't decided what to do with the old building, Ervin, who was in the final week of her reelection campaign against former Bethlehem mayor, Democrat Don Cunningham, said. The former mayor had said on Monday that the ribbon-cutting and tours of the new center were a blatant campaign event, coming just eight days before the election.

Cunningham also said that the center's costs ballooned more than 60 percent over four years, showing fiscal mismanagement. Ervin said the event

was not timed for the campaign, but was contingent on the recently received government approvals and on the schedules of the invited dignitaries.

She also said that the contract for the facility, approved in November 2003, was for \$7.4 million, and the added costs were due to unforeseen sink-holes.

## Anne Marie Ambrose Appointed as Director of DPW's Bureau of State Children and Youth Programs

**A**nne Marie Ambrose has been appointed as Director of the Bureau of State Children and Youth Programs within the Office of Children, Youth and Families of the Department of Public Welfare. In this capacity, Ms. Ambrose will oversee the Youth Development Centers and Youth Forestry Camps operated by the Department of Public Welfare and will have a leadership role in all aspects of the Department's juvenile justice policies and programs.

Ms. Ambrose is well known throughout Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system, having most recently served as the Deputy Commissioner for Juvenile Justice Services for the City of Philadelphia. In addition, Ms. Ambrose has previous experience as Assistant Chief Counsel within the Juvenile Unit of the Defender Association of Philadelphia.

## Beaver County receives grant

**B**eaver County MHMR has been awarded a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to develop a comprehensive system of care for adolescents and young adults aged 14 to 21 who are involved with the juvenile justice system and have co-occurring mental health/substance abuse disorders. The grant will provide funding of approximately one million dollars per year for six years and is one of only 25 such awards granted nationally.

The Beaver County program "BC SCORES" will follow a "Systems of Care" approach emphasizing that the mental health needs of children can best be met within the home, school and community, and that families and youth should be the driving force in the transformation of their own care. It will be

implemented as collaboration between the juvenile justice, child welfare, education, mental health and drug and alcohol systems and will employ Family Group Decision Making as a major component. Juvenile offenders will be screened for participation during the juvenile court intake process. Those determined to be at-risk for co-occurring disorders will be given mental health and substance abuse assessments. A full array of services will be made available to youth and families in need including a Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) component.

## For your safety

By Christine Lisko, Tim Barnes, and Greg Willig

**O**n February 17, 2005, a 19-year-old was ordered to stand trial on homicide charges in connection with a double shooting at a home in Penn Hills. In September, after a 16-year-old and a 17-year-old led police on a chase, they were apprehended. A .32-caliber revolver was recovered from the scene. In September, 2004, a 16-year-old student from Langley High School was arrested on charges of attempted homicide, aggravated assault, reckless endangerment, and possession of a firearm. In August, 2004, a 16-year-old was charged with stealing a retired police commander's vehicle, gun, and badge, as well as homicide in the fatal shooting of a college student.

The above are all headlines from local newspapers and television stations. Almost weekly, it seems that some juvenile has made the news for a crime of violence, weapons, or drugs. Unfortunately, these days juveniles are committing serious crimes. Many of these youth are already under some form of court supervision. As much as victim restoration and youth competencies are an important part of Balanced and Restorative Justice, community protection is an ongoing priority throughout juvenile court. The Warrant Unit has made community safety its number-one priority by apprehending delinquent, AWOL youth and placing them in secure detention. In addition to preventing these juveniles from committing further delinquent acts, the Warrant Unit has been able to confiscate weapons and drugs as well as other illegal contraband from the street, making them unavailable for use in further crimes.

Since the Warrant Unit has been in full operation, the team has gone on a total of 17 sweeps. Thus far, a total of two semi-automatic handguns, seven gun clips, and one revolver have been confiscated. Additionally, ammunition has been found in many of the youth's homes. Recently, while serving a warrant, probation officers opened a closet to discover an SKS assault rifle with two fully loaded banana clips. Luckily, the youth did not have time to access the rifle prior to his apprehension on a different floor in

the home. The unit has also recovered two bullet-proof vests, one of which is believed to have been stolen from one of our CISP centers.

Throughout the sweeps, the unit has recovered drugs and drug paraphernalia: everything from scales to seeds. Most recently, the unit recovered a bag of marijuana with a street value of approximately \$5,000.

It is important to remember that any time you are dealing with a youth, he or she may be in possession of a deadly weapon or illegal drugs. It is important to keep this in mind any time you are dealing with a youth, whether there is an active warrant or not. One firearm recovered while the unit was attempting to serve a warrant on a child was found under the mattress of his brother, who at that time did not have an active warrant.

It is equally important to take into account what you hear in the community or schools about your clients. When word on the street is that your client is dealing drugs or carrying a weapon, there is a good chance they are. Consult with your supervisor for direction on how to approach the situation, whether it is to involve local law enforcement or to seek assistance from co-workers or members of the warrant unit for assistance in a warrantless search. §6304 of the Juvenile Act outlines the powers of the probation officer to search without consent or a warrant.

Another way to help promote community protection is by participating in regular police ride-alongs. You are not only sending a message to the community that you are monitoring it, you are also able to exchange important information with police about who is known for carrying weapons, drugs, or what are some of the more dangerous areas.

To date, of the 82 youth that the warrant unit has sought, the warrant unit directly apprehended 31. Another 33 of those youth were later turned in by parents who were upset that their homes were raided, or by police who had actively searched for these youth since the unit became involved. Of these totals, two had active Act 33 warrants, and two were arrested as adults due to our findings, with all four going to the Allegheny County Jail.

All in all, 64 out of the 82 youth have been apprehended as a result of the efforts of the Warrant Unit. That is 64 youth who have been taken off the streets, reducing the risk of further delinquent acts, not only for the safety of the community, but also for your safety.

## Fayette County Juvenile Probation gets a new home

Home at last! That's the feeling of the staff of the Fayette County juvenile probation office after moving into their new home in the Federal Building on West Peter Street in Uniontown at the beginning of April, 2005.

Since 1979, the juvenile probation office has been located on the fourth floor of the Courthouse in Uniontown. At the time, there were a total of four probation officers and three office staff. By 2000, there were 16 probation officers, two office staff, and a Victim Services Coordinator. The overflow of staff was sent to the third floor of the Courthouse.

Things got even worse in 2002 as 11 of the probation officers had to be moved out of the Courthouse to the basement of the Federal Building to make room for a new judge.

In 2003, the need for renovation to the Federal Building made it necessary to find space yet again for the vagabond officers. This time, the group was broken down into three separate groups and housed at Central School in Uniontown, the Intermediate Unit#1 Educational Campus at Colonial in Grindstone, and at Adelphoi Village Fayette Day Treatment in the Connellsville Community Center.

According to Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Jerome Andria, "This is the first time since we've added personnel that we've all been together in the same office."

**Honorable Conrad B. Capuzzi, *President Judge***

**Jerome M. Andria, *Chief Juvenile Probation Officer***

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## Michelle Beaver is new Juniata County chief

Michelle A. Beaver was recently appointed as the Chief Probation Officer for the Court of Common Pleas of Juniata County. Ms. Beaver will manage both the adult and juvenile probation departments.

Michelle Beaver is a 1994 graduate of Shippensburg University with a degree in Criminal Justice. She began her career as an adult probation officer in Juniata County and subsequently served as a juvenile officer and a community service officer. Beaver stated that she loves this profession and although she did not anticipate this career advancement at this time, she is excited about the challenge.

