

*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 14, Number 6

[www.jcjc.state.pa.us](http://www.jcjc.state.pa.us)

June 2006

## **Governor Rendell Makes Appointments to JCJC**

On June 8, 2006, Governor Edward G. Rendell reappointed Judge Arthur E. Grim and Judge Elizabeth K. Kelly as members of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) and appointed Judge Dwayne D. Woodruff as a member of the JCJC to fill the vacancy created by the expiration of the term of Judge Carol K. McGinley. Judge Grim, the current Chairman of the JCJC, is the President Judge of the Berks County Court of Common Pleas and has been serving as a member of the JCJC since 1997. Judge Kelly is the President Judge of the Erie County Court of Common Pleas, and was initially appointed as a member of the JCJC by Governor Rendell in 2003.

Judge Woodruff was elected Judge of the Court of the Common Pleas of Allegheny County last November and began serving on the bench in December, 2005 following the unanimous confirmation by the Senate of his nomination by Governor Rendell to fill a vacancy on the court. Judge Woodruff is assigned to the Juvenile Section of the Family Division in Allegheny County where his duties include presiding over both delinquency and dependency proceedings. Well known for his 12 years as a defensive back with the Pittsburgh Steelers, Judge Woodruff earned his law degree from the Duquesne University Law School in 1988, when he was also serving as team captain for the Steelers. Immediately prior to his election as Judge, he was a partner in Woodruff, Flaherty & Fardo, where his practice included civil litigation, criminal defense, business, real estate and sports and entertainment law.

Judge McGinley, of the Lehigh County Court of Common Pleas, had served as a member of the JCJC since 1991, when she was initially appointed by Governor Robert P. Casey. She was reappointed to the JCJC by Governor Tom Ridge in 1995, 1997 and 2000, and by Governor Ed Rendell in 2003. Judge McGinley served as Chairman of the JCJC from July, 2000 until July, 2005. In 2001, Judge McGinley was appointed to the Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee as Vice Chairman, a position she continues to hold.

## JCJC Weekend Master's Degree Program Graduates

Congratulations to the class of 2006 of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission sponsored Weekend Master's Degree Program at Shippensburg University. Commencement ceremonies were held at Shippensburg University's Seth Grove Stadium on Saturday, May 13, 2006. The eighteen members of this year's class are: Chrissie Prisk (Centre County), Emily Oswandel (Cumberland County), Kristen Nikolaus, Leo Lutz (Lancaster County), Carrie Million, Angela Zera (Luzerne County), Teresa Wilcox (McKean County), Dennis Mills (Northampton County), Angela Sobol, Molly McCarthy, Robert Bolton III (North-umberland County), Kathleen Buckley (Office of the Victim Advocate), James Ketner, Timothy Munley (Schuylkill County), Marc Taylor (Venango County), Mary Ann Ferrando, Sandy Fofi (Wayne County) and Dan Racht (Wyoming County).

Leo Lutz was named the Graduate Student of the Year. He will receive the Dr. Anthony F. Ceddia Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Juvenile Justice at the Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice in November, 2006.

On behalf of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and the faculty at Shippensburg University, we offer our congratulations on these students' outstanding achievements and wish them all the very best in their future endeavors.



## Forum for Juvenile Probation Supervisors Held in State College

On May 3 and 4, 2006 the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission sponsored a training program specifically designed for juvenile probation supervisors. There were 21 participants, representing 15 counties. The forum commenced with presentations from JCJC staff on the various programs and services available to juvenile probation departments. JCJC and Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research staff discussed dispositional reporting, detention monitoring, training, specialized probation services, the Grant-in-Aid program, court service visits, graduate education, BARJ and Communities That Care.

A portion of the forum was devoted to group discussion led by James Johnson, Supervisor in Luzerne County on the rewards and challenges of being a juvenile probation supervisor. On the second day, Larry DeMooy, Assistant Director in Delaware County and former president of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers (PCCJPO) presented information on the council and its current initiatives. Participants were encouraged to become involved with the council. Keith Snyder discussed the latest on IV-E Administrative Claims and the Integrated Childrens Services Initiative or Medical Assistance Realignment. Rick Steele and Kelly Franklin, Aftercare Specialists for JCJC and PCCJPO presented information on the MacArthur Model Systems Project and its emphasis on improving aftercare, mental health/juvenile justice services and disproportionate minority contact throughout the Commonwealth. Counties represented were invited to share their unique approaches to this reform initiative.

Evaluations of the forum indicated that the participants thought the forum was a good opportunity to share ideas and learn from colleagues across the state about what obstacles they face in their positions. Participants recommended that should the forum be repeated, more opportunities for discussion on supervisory issues should be provided.

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.

Greg Young is the editor. Our address is CJJT&R, Shippensburg University, 1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299. (gyoung@state.pa.us)

Please send additions or changes to the mailing list to Julie Bozich at Signal Graphics Printing, 1010 Wesley Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 (julie@sgp.cc)

## Aftercare All Sites Group Meets in Pittsburgh

The third in a series of meetings with key participants in the Aftercare Models for Change project was held May 23-24 at the offices of the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) in Pittsburgh. Participants in this "All Sites Meeting" included representatives from the five "model" counties supported through funding by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) or the MacArthur Foundation (Allegheny, Cambria, Lycoming, Philadelphia, York), as well as representatives from other key entities working on the project: PCCD, NCJJ, the Juvenile Law Center, the Education Law Center, and Aftercare Specialists from the PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers and JCJC.

The purpose of these meetings is to provide a forum for the discussion of each county's aftercare project activities and implementation issues. These meetings also provide for planning of the ongoing system reform activities statewide, through a group of professionals committed to the improvement of aftercare service to Pennsylvania youth.

Among the many agenda items, significant attention focused on the development of a "single plan that is developed within 30 days of placement and which integrates treatment and aftercare services. The plan should include appropriate education placements and goals developed in consultation with the appropriate school district." Consistent with the goals adopted by the Joint Statement on Aftercare, the development of this concept is

regarded as a critical component of aftercare reform activities.

The group also reviewed data collection/outcome measurement instruments which were used on a test basis over the past several months by each county. Following feedback and appropriate alterations, these instruments will soon be fully activated in all five of the model counties.

Additional discussion focused on the development of a residential facility data collection survey that will serve to enhance the information previously collected during the survey of aftercare practices and procedures. The Education Aftercare and Reintegration Toolkit, developed through the Education Law Center, was again reviewed. Finally, the group reviewed upcoming training activities. They endorsed efforts to present at the 2006 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice (November 1-3, 2006 in Harrisburg) and the 2006 Aftercare Forum (November 30 and December 1, 2006 in State College).

The next All Sites meeting is scheduled for August 15-16, 2006, again in Pittsburgh. For additional information regarding these or the general aftercare project activities contact Rick Steele at [c-rsteele@state.pa.us](mailto:c-rsteele@state.pa.us) or at 570-672-1165. Information about the MacArthur Models for Change activities in Pennsylvania can also be obtained through the web site of the Juvenile Law Center at [www.jlc.org](http://www.jlc.org).

## Golf legend teams up with Adelphoi Village to support Competency Development Programs

Arnold Palmer accepted the Adelphoi Spirit of Hope award at a reception at Laurel Valley Golf Club on May 21, 2006. The award was created to honor an individual who supports Adelphoi and its programs that serve at risk youth and their families. "There's nothing better than helping these young people have an opportunity to have the same life that we have had," Palmer said.

The \$131,000 raised at the May 21<sup>st</sup> reception will be utilized for competency development programs being developed by Adelphoi Village. This event was attended by 225 guests along with the 300 golfers who played Laurel Valley Golf Club in Latrobe on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.



# Luzerne and Wyoming Counties Sponsor Symposium

The Juvenile Probation Offices from Luzerne and Wyoming Counties recently joined forces to sponsor a Youth Symposium entitled "Get Involved: Take Responsibility—It's Your Life." Three hundred fifty five students from nineteen high schools throughout Luzerne and Wyoming Counties attended this one day event. The Youth Symposium is an annual event which relies on probation staff as well as collaboration with numerous human service organizations. The site for this year's symposium was King's College, located in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The Symposium rotates among local colleges and universities and is designed to provide an atmosphere that will foster an appreciation for education and a will to advance and to succeed. The group included probation clients and non-probation clients from grades 9 through 12.

The day began with a welcome by Luzerne County Juvenile Court Judge, Mark A. Ciavarella. Judge Ciavarella thanked the students for attending and applauded their interest in the overall symposium theme: volunteerism.

The Judge's comments were followed by an awards presentation honoring two individuals special to the Luzerne County Juvenile Probation staff. The first was the James S. Keiper Youth Volunteer Award, in remembrance of the late Chief James Keiper, Kingston Police Department. This award honors a high school student who volunteers their time to serve and improve their Luzerne County community. This year's recipient was Caitlin Williams, a senior in the Law Enforcement class at West Side Vo-Tech, who spends a great deal of her time volunteering in organizations such as, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Special Olympics. The second was the Thomas Kobeski Community Spirit Award, in memory of Trooper Thomas Kobeski, Pennsylvania State Police. This award recognizes an adult who volunteers their time working with youth in Luzerne County. This award was presented to Joseph O'Hara for his lifetime of contributions to his Forty Fort community, as well as the entire Luzerne County.

A special appearance was made by Chairman of the Luzerne County Commissioners, Gregory A. Skrepenak. Commissioner Skrepenak, a former player in the NFL, conveyed his personal experiences in his message, recognizing the students for their educational persistence while encouraging greater involvement in their communities. He also introduced the keynote speaker for the event, Carmen F. Ambrosino, CEO of Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug Services, Inc.

Mr. Ambrosino's message to the students was direct and to the point: Life is about choices and taking responsibility for those decisions. He encouraged the students to look for worth in themselves and in others. He related that positive influence on others begins with a single, positive decision. He spoke of everyday heroes and their impact on their communities. Mr. Ambrosino then gave a special presentation to Karie Yefko, a Nanticoke Area High School senior who alerted her neighbors to a fire in their residence, allowing for their safe exit from the building. He directed that this exemplary behavior should be a model for all young people to mirror.

Following the keynote presentation, the students attended two, forty-five minute workshops of their choice on a variety of topics: emotional well-being, substance abuse, safe dating practices, bullying, diversity, and AIDS. At the conclusion of the workshops, the students were provided a box lunch, as well as an opportunity to participate in several activities, most notably the climbing wall sponsored by Youth Services Agency. The students were offered demonstrations by the Tunkhannock Police Department K-9 Officer Keith Carpenter and Chase; Captain Donald Crane and the Motorcycle Patrol, and Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug Services with their DUI goggles. Additionally, students were exposed to numerous information tables staffed by Behavioral Health Organizations, offering tips and education on pertinent issues. Also on hand were representatives from several local colleges and universities, to provide vocational guidance.

Closing comments were provided to the group by Joseph DeVizia, Director of Luzerne County Office of Human Services. His inspirational words energized students to go out and make a positive difference volunteering in their respective communities.

The 2006 Youth Symposium was by all accounts a great success thanks in large part to the dedication and efforts of the entire committee. The committee, comprised of representatives from probation, schools, law enforcement, drug/alcohol agencies and mental health agencies, was proud to provide a quality event for the area youth. Their willingness to be a part of this very important educational process is a testament to their commitment to the youth in the Luzerne-Wyoming County communities.

# First-Time Juvenile Offenders Offered Second Chance

by Robert J. Bolton III, Northumberland County Juvenile Probation

**A** new court program in Northumberland County could give juvenile offenders a second chance by having their record expunged.

The Northumberland County Juvenile Court has developed a First-Time Offender's Program (FOP), which targets youth who are first-time offenders charged with non-violent misdemeanor offenses and non-violent felony crimes. The purpose of the program is to promote balanced and restorative justice principles, ensure that restitution is paid to victims and hold offenders accountable to the community.

The program is four to six months in length. The program will result in reduced caseload sizes for probation officers. Of the 1,100 cases referred to juvenile court each year, roughly 600 will fall within the first-time offender category. The Court believes that the program will prove cost-effective to the county in that it will minimize the use of judicial and prosecutorial resources while preserving public safety. One of the program goals is to allow for increased supervision of more serious juvenile offenders.

Standard program conditions include 15 hours of community service, full payment of restitution,

letter of apology if appropriate, and completion of the Victim Community Awareness Program. Juveniles tour the Northumberland County Prison and are subject to random drug and alcohol testing. They are also required to pay \$50.00 in Court Costs and \$50.00 in Supervision Fees, and must be enrolled in school and adhere to school attendance requirements. Special conditions can also be assigned to juveniles and may include a drug and alcohol evaluation or completion of a written assignment.

Upon successful completion, a juvenile's record will be expunged. The program is similar to the ARD (Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition) program in the adult system. If the juvenile does not abide by the program guidelines, then their case will be processed by the probation department in the usual manner.

Lebanon County Juvenile Probation Department's Gatekeeper Program was used as a blueprint in the development of this program. Lisa Donlan, juvenile probation supervisor and Robert J. Bolton III, juvenile probation officer developed the program. For more information, contact Robert J. Bolton III at 570-495-2197 or [bbolton@norrycopa.net](mailto:bbolton@norrycopa.net).

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## Art on the Block

**W**estmoreland County Juvenile Probation Department's Balanced and Restorative Justice Team's (BARJ) Community and Media Relations Subcommittee have been hard at work on the **Jeannette Community Justice Project** over the past 5 years. This project works to strengthen relationships in the Community of Jeannette with youth, citizens and lawmakers in an effort to introduce restorative practices to the community. Thus far, the team has been extremely busy making community connections, being available to the community-at-large as a resource, and partnering with the Recreation Board, after-school programs and initiatives, like the Jeannette Asset Builders.

One of the many community partners involved in this venture is the Jeannette Salvation Army's HopeShare Teen Drop-In Center. The probation department pursued a relationship with

HopeShare in 2005 in an effort to keep at-risk youth off the streets during the after school and early evening hours. Marjorie Stanislaw, of the Westmoreland County Probation Department, and a Jeannette resident, was invited to have a seat on the Advisory Board of the Jeannette Salvation Army (currently the chairperson) in order to facilitate this process and help to strengthen programming at HopeShare.

Through the connections of the BARJ subcommittee a relationship was forged between HopeShare and Seton Hill University. The University's Art Therapy program began sending students to the Center to do art lessons with the participants. The youth that come to the center enjoyed the lessons and at the end of the first semester they expressed their hope that the lessons would continue. In January, Nichole Sampson, a graduate level student started at HopeShare as the new intern and

(See ART, page 6.)

(ART, continued from page 5.)

introduced a variety of projects to the students.

Something interesting occurred with the youth's art. The students kept writing, almost like graffiti, rather than drawing when they did work with paints. After some brainstorming with Mrs. Stanislaw, it was concluded that a mural project (to be displayed) outside the building might be the ticket to getting the students to do more artistic painting, rather than artistic writing. Ms. Sampson also introduced a music project to be completed on the computers at the same time. Nicole calls these projects **Art on the Block**. All Jeannette youth ages 13 through high school graduation are invited to participate in the project.

The students have been submitting ideas for the mural and will participate in a walking tour of the city to look for inspiration. They have been instructed that the mural is to be about them, the city and it's history. Three of the young men involved have expressed their interest and excitement about the program, and have submitted artistic ideas to the program. One young man is very competent with computers and has agreed to design flyers to be placed at strategic places in the City to advertise the project, and solicit manpower. Mrs. Stanislaw is hopeful that the Probation Department will provide the paper for the flyers.

If you are interested in more information about **Jeannette's Art on the Block**, please contact Margie Stanislaw at [mstanisl@co.westmoreland.pa.us](mailto:mstanisl@co.westmoreland.pa.us) or 724/830-4216.

**In the next several months, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission will be converting its monthly "Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice" newsletter to online dissemination only. Information regarding subscription to the online version of "Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice" will be detailed in future issues.**

## JDCAP and PAPPC Hold Joint Conference

During May 21-24, 2006, the Juvenile Detention Centers' Association of Pennsylvania (JDCAP) held their annual conference in partnership with the Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections (PAPPC). The conference, themed "Raising the Bar," was held at the Sheraton Station Square in Pittsburgh. Attorney General Tom Corbett kicked off the conference that featured 30 workshops and *A Body in Motion*, a play about survivors of crime. Andre Norman concluded the conference with his compelling story of triumph over life in the Department of Corrections and Federal Bureau of Prisons to success as college professor, consultant, husband, father, and helper to youth.

Annually, JDCAP recognizes individuals for their outstanding service and achievement. The following individuals were recognized during the Awards Luncheon:

- John Wayne Jones, Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center – Rookie Staff of the Year
- Jason Tumelty, Bucks County Youth Center – Staff Person of the Year
- Isabelle Smith, Montgomery County Youth Center – Educator of the Year
- Joyce Taylor, Philadelphia Youth Study Center – Nurse of the Year
- Joe Cirulli, Berks County Youth Center – Distinguished Service Award Within the Field of Juvenile Detention
- Sisters Elaine McPherson and Mary Tomlinson, All God's Children Ministries – Distinguished Service Award Outside the Field of Juvenile Detention
- Communipower, Philadelphia Youth Study Center – Special Program of the Year

Scott Martin, Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center, was recognized for his dedication and service to the Association with the President's Award. Also recognized in memoriam was Lawrence J. Bish, employee of the Bucks County Youth Center. "Uncle Larry," as the children called him, passed away unexpectedly in January of this year. Larry was recognized for his 28 years of service, compassion and commitment to the youth and staff of the Bucks County Youth Center. Sean M., a Bucks County youth, was the winner of the annual poetry contest. As the winner, Sean received a hundred dollar savings bond for his entry entitled *Choices*. The Boys and Girls Club of

(See JDCAP, page 7.)

## Southwest Region Conference

The Southwest Region Communities That Care (CTC) Conference was held May 5-6 at Camp Harmony in Hooversville, Somerset County. The conference was sponsored by the CTC organizations of Southwestern Pennsylvania and the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research.

A total of 30 people participated in the overnight retreat; including youth ages 14-17 from McKeesport CTC (Allegheny County), Monessen CTC (Westmoreland County) and the Tri-Boro CTC (Braddock, North Braddock and Rankin, Allegheny County). These 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. Community Mobilizers and project staff from the following CTC sites attended the conference: Tri-Boro, McKeesport, Cambria County, Northern Cambria, Greene County, Washington City, McGuffey (Claysville, Washington County) and Monessen.

On the first day, the youth participated in a session led by Bernie Galanko, state CTC Trainer, and project director of Tri-Boro CTC, which reviewed the CTC model and demonstrated how to conduct a community resource assessment. Each team created a "billboard" type poster promoting the resources in their community. The team then shared their poster with the others, describing more about their community and what resources exist. They were also asked to consider what resources could be strengthened and how they could collaborate to build upon those resources.

On the second day the youth completed the high elements ropes course and climbed the rock tower. They also participated in a workshop that included

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*(JDCAP, continued from page 6.)*

Western PA was this year's charity recipient.

Elections for the offices of President and Vice President took place during the conference. Candidates for both offices ran unopposed with Maureen Raquet, Montgomery County Youth Center becoming the President and Scott Martin, Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center becoming the Vice President.

JDCAP's 2007 Annual Conference will be held October 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> at Nittany Lion Inn, State College.

a drum circle and discussion on how to engage youth in CTC. The youth developed a CTC rap song on the positive influence that CTC has had in their lives and performed it at the conclusion of the conference. Youth also had the opportunity to enjoy outdoor activities such as a scavenger hunt, hiking and basketball. The youth created crafts and held also held a dance during their free time.

The adult track of the conference included three workshops. On the first day Amy Zarefoss Bailey, director of Nine Dots Consulting of Somerset, conducted a workshop on Board Development. On the second day Tracy M. Soska, LSW, University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, conducted a presentation on Engaging Communities. The final workshop for the adult track was on Conflict Resolution and was conducted by Tim Phillips, Prevention Specialist of Community Prevention Services of Westmoreland County.

## Youth and Family Community Fair

On Saturday, May 20, 2006, a Family and Community Fair was held in Center City Allentown at the Lehigh County Government Center which was sponsored by Lehigh County and its community partners. Elizabeth Fritz, Supervisor for the Lehigh County Juvenile Probation Department, coordinated all activities with over fifty participating agencies and organizations. The intent of the community fair was to provide information about summer camps, pro-social activities, programs, and services available in the Lehigh County communities, in particular the City of Allentown. Music was provided as well as free food and drinks. A number of activities and entertainment events were also scheduled such as face painting, free health screening, therapy animals, and a variety of ethnic dancing. Approximately three hundred computers were donated and raffled by the Computers for Kids Organization. In order to be included in the raffle the individuals that attended the community fair had to visit each of the community booths where representatives would sign off on the visitation sheet that they were given. The event was expected to attract about 600 people and there were well over 3000 that participated in the day's activities.

## Chester County Opens New Youth Center

The Chester County Youth Center's Grand Opening and Dedication was held on June 16, 2006. The new 54,000 square foot Center is located in Pocopson Township, at 505 South Wawaset Road, West Chester, Pa. 19382, and it will provide Detention, Shelter and Electronic Home Monitoring Services for the County of Chester. The mission of the Youth Center is to provide secure, safe custody of its residents and to promote the health and well being of youths committed to its care. The administration and staff continue to aspire to create an environment that fosters social, intellectual and physical development.

The first County Detention Center opened in 1903 and was located at 228 West Gay Street in West Chester. Until 1939 this facility operated mainly as a Shelter, but was renovated to function more effectively as a Detention Center and continued in use for this purpose until 1971. At that time, the Juvenile Detention Center was moved to a vacant building on the grounds of Embreeville State Hospital to overcome some of the programmatic, staffing and physical plant problems cited in a 1970 study. When the Embreeville facility failed to meet Life and Safety code requirements in 1977, the Juvenile Home was relocated to leased space within the Delaware County Juvenile Detention Center, in Lima, Pa. Still in operation at Lima, the current facility has a 20 bed licensed capacity for boys and girls.



The New Youth Center, designed with a State of the Art Technology Security System, will provide 36 secure Detention beds for alleged and adjudicated delinquent boys, 12 secure Detention beds for alleged and adjudicated delinquent girls, and 12 Shelter beds for dependent girls. Both the Detention Center and Shelter serve as temporary housing for these youth in crisis.

The County of Chester has focused on this youth population for many years. This facility will continue to provide a wide variety of comprehensive services for the children it serves. The new facility will allow for the expansion and development of new programs to help in achieving the Youth Center's Mission. This mission is to create an environment that fosters the development of competencies and facilitates in the reunification of the child with their family and community.



## SAVE THE DATE



More details and information  
to follow

Date: **September 12, 2006**

Time: **9 AM - 3 PM**

Location: **Capitol Rotunda  
Harrisburg, PA**

**Mark your calendars now!  
A limited number of Display  
Tables will be available for your  
organization.**

*Feel free to contact either Heidi Bryan at  
(610) 715-0076, [feelingbluespc@aol.com](mailto:feelingbluespc@aol.com) or  
Tami Wright at (717) 772-6870, [tawright@state.pa.us](mailto:tawright@state.pa.us)  
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## *Highlights of the 2004 Disposition Report*

- The 43,533 delinquency dispositions in Pennsylvania in 2004 represent a 6.1 percent increase from 2003.
- Probation continues to be the most frequently utilized disposition (18.7 percent) followed in descending order by Consent Decree (17.5 percent), Informal Adjustment (15.7 percent), Complaint Withdrawn (8.4 percent), Placement (8.0 percent), Warned/Counseled/Case Closed (7.2 percent), Dismissed/Not Substantiated (6.6 percent), and Fines/Costs (4.8 percent).
- Public defenders handled 19,635 (67.6 percent) of the 29,049 delinquency proceedings in 2004. Court appointed attorneys handled 4,446 (15.3 percent) of the delinquency proceedings, while private attorneys handled 3,533 (12.2 percent). In 2004, juveniles waived their right to counsel in 4.8 percent (1,383) of the delinquency proceedings.
- Delinquency placements to private institutions, including those resulting from disposition reviews, comprise 32.1 percent of the 7,012 total delinquency placements in 2004. This continues to be nearly double the frequency of commitments to group homes (13.7 percent) and wilderness-based placements (9.7 percent).
- As in prior years, juvenile delinquency dispositions primarily involve males. In 2004, males accounted for 76.8 percent of all juvenile delinquency dispositions, 81.2 percent of probation dispositions, 87.8 percent of dispositions involving placement, and 95.3 percent of transfers to criminal court.
- Of the 33,602 juvenile delinquency dispositions involving males, 51.4 percent were White Non-Hispanic and 33.6 percent were Black Non-Hispanic. Similarly, of the 9,928 juvenile delinquency dispositions involving females, 50.3 percent were White Non-Hispanic and 38 percent were Black Non-Hispanic.
- In Pennsylvania, the majority of the 43,533 delinquency dispositions involved White youth (59.2 percent), followed in descending order by Black youth (37.9 percent) and Asian youth (0.8 percent).