

the newsletter of the

Pennsylvania
Juvenile Court
Judges'
Commission

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2006 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice Celebrates 10 years of Balanced and Restorative Justice

Pictures of award winners are on
pages 2 and 3

The 2006 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice, co-sponsored by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, and the Juvenile Court Section of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges was held November 1-3, 2006 at the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers. This year, over 1,200 individuals registered for the conference, which celebrated the 10th anniversary of "Balanced and Restorative Justice" in Pennsylvania.

Professional Caucuses

The conference began on November 1st, with an opportunity for participants to join with colleagues from their area of specialty within Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system in professional caucuses, to discuss issues of mutual concern and interest. Caucuses were held regarding the following areas of specialty: juvenile court masters and juvenile court judges; chief and deputy chief juvenile probation officers; juvenile probation supervisors; juvenile probation officers; victim services; service providers; juvenile defenders; and prevention.

Youth Awards Program

The 2006 Youth Awards Program was held on Wednesday, November 1st, and was attended by nearly 700 people, the largest audience to ever attend the Youth Awards Program. Young people were recognized for being selected as winners in poster, creative expression, and outstanding achievement award categories. This year's Youth Awards Speaker was **Vince Papale**, who spoke passionately about his inspirational journey from humble working class beginnings and troubled home life to successful professional athlete and businessman.

Conference Welcome and Keynote Presentation

On Thursday, November 2nd, Judge Arthur E. Grim, chairman of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and President Judge of the Berks County Court of Common Pleas, gave the "welcoming remarks," and noted that with its unique combination of training, professional caucuses, awards programs, and Resource Day, the annual conference is regarded as the premier state-level juvenile justice conference in the nation.

The Keynote Presentation was provided by Dennis Maloney, President of Community Justice Associates and author of "*Juvenile Probation: The Balanced Approach*." In the past decade,

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Thomas R. Schuster
Bradford County
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer
of the Year



Nicole Scott
Dauphin County
Juvenile Probation Supervisor
of the Year



Elizabeth A. Myers
Blair County
Juvenile Probation Officer
of the Year

Don Shumberger
Meritorious Service Award



Connie J. Barone
Westmoreland County
Juvenile Court
Support Service Award

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.

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(gyoung@state.pa.us)



Eryka L. Wentz
Dauphin County
Victim Advocate of the Year



DeWitt D. Poindexter Jr.
Shippensburg University
Undergraduate Scholarship Award



Leo J. Lutz
Dr. Anthony F. Ceddia Award for
Outstanding Scholarship
in Juvenile Justice



Marilyn V. Neely
Pathways Adolescent Center
Residential Program of the Year



Steve Wolfinger
Berks County
Court-operated Program
of the Year



Gary J. Soltys
Blair County Continuum of Treat-
ment Services Program
Community-based Program
of the Year

Denny has provided technical assistance to all 50 states, and his writings have been distributed to more than 250 countries as his work is being utilized worldwide as a foundation for juvenile justice reform.

During his keynote presentation, "The Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Journey: Celebrating Success, Learning from Experience and Lighting the Path for Others", Denny shared his unique perspectives on Pennsylvania's role as a national leader in juvenile justice policy and practice and noted that more than twenty-three states have followed Pennsylvania's example and changed the missions of their juvenile justice systems to incorporate the principals of balanced and restorative justice.

Workshops

Over 700 people registered to attend 14 different workshops, both before and after lunch on Thursday, November 2nd. These 28 workshops included: Trauma Informed Care; Pennsylvania's *Models for Change* Initiative; The new juvenile delinquency benchbook for judges and juvenile court masters; Performance measures; Educational reintegration and aftercare; Family group decision making; Supervising gang-affiliated juveniles; Restitution funds; The YDC's substance abuse treatment model; Shippensburg University practicum studies in restorative justice; Developing competencies in delinquent youth; The economic return of evidence-based programs; An overview of Pennsylvania's victim/community awareness curriculum; Implementing community justice panels; The rules of juvenile court procedure regarding dependency matters; and others.

Juvenile Defender Training

Over 50 juvenile defenders from across Pennsylvania attended the 2006 Conference on Juvenile Justice, and participated in a separate training track developed exclusively for them on Thursday, November 2nd. Presentations for juvenile defenders included: Trial Advocacy – Admitting Evidence Issues; MA Realignment; and Preparing for Dispositions. A "Judges Roundtable" was also held at which time approximately 20 juvenile court judges joined the defenders for lunch. A panel of juvenile court judges, including Hon. Arthur E. Grim (Berks County), Hon. Carol Van Horn (Franklin/Fulton Counties), and Hon. Lori Dumas Brooks (Philadelphia) discussed a number of issues with the defenders over lunch,

including the court's perspective on the role of the juvenile defender in juvenile court.

Thursday Afternoon Plenary Session

In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the effective date of Act 33 of Special Session No. 1 of 1995, Dennis Maloney moderated a panel of key juvenile justice system stakeholders who shared their perspectives on Pennsylvania's progress in achieving a balanced and restorative juvenile justice system. Denny guided the panel in a discussion of the history of the dramatic reform efforts in Pennsylvania, a candid assessment of our current system, and the panel's vision for the future of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system. Panelists included: Anne Marie Ambrose; James Anderson; Valerie Bender; Susan Blackburn; Hon. Kim Berkeley Clark; John Delaney, Esq.; Eugene "Dick" Dickert; Daniel Elby; Hon. Arthur E. Grim; Robert Listenbee, Esq.; James Rieland; and Ron Sharp, Ph.D. At the conclusion of



the afternoon plenary session, Steve Custer, President of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, made surprise presentations to **Susan Blackburn** and **James Rieland**, pictured above, to thank them for their ongoing efforts to make Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system truly balanced and restorative.

Annual Awards Program and Dinner

Thursday's activities concluded with the 26th Annual Awards Program and Dinner. The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers honored both individuals and Programs for their outstanding work in Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system.

MacArthur Models for Change Forum

A forum for individuals involved with the MacArthur Foundation / Pennsylvania *Models for Change* initiative was held on Friday morning, November 3rd. Laurie Garduque, program director with the John D.

and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, gave a report on the national progress of MacArthur's *Models for Change* initiative. Bob Schwartz, executive director of the Juvenile Law Center, provided an overview of Pennsylvania's progress in this initiative and updates were provided regarding the mental health/juvenile justice, aftercare, and disproportionate minority contact components of the initiative. Breakout sessions were also held for each of these areas for model counties to provide updates on their specific activities.

Resource Day

The 2006 Annual Conference on Juvenile Justice concluded with Resource Day. Conference participants had the opportunity to learn about new, innovative, and creative approaches to working with juveniles. Representatives from private and public residential programs, informational services, technology services, and other vendors were available to present information and discuss products and services.

2006-2007 Crime Prevention Kit available

The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) has just released the 2006-2007 Crime Prevention Month Kit, which is titled "Partnering with Law Enforcement to Prevent Crime." This year's kit is designed to extend resources and enhance efforts through partnering with law enforcement and other organizations. The kit is organized by month, and provides strategies and reproducible materials to help communities work together with law enforcement agencies to prevent and reduce crime.

The strategies and program examples for each month illustrate ways to build on traditional crime prevention practices through partnerships. The materials and resources in the kit are intended for use in everyday outreach, newsletters, special events, public service announcements, and targeted media campaigns. The kit is filled with ready-to-go resources for the law enforcement officer or community partner looking to educate communities on the basics of crime prevention and how people can work together with law enforcement to help "Take A Bite Out Of Crime."

While you can download the kit from NCPC at <http://www.ncpc.org/cms/cms-upload/ncpc/File/2007CPM.pdf>, MMM highly recommends that you order the paper version. Call 800-NCPC-911, and ask for Item # K21D to order your copy today.

Communities That Care unveils updated five-phase trainings

In May of this year, Communities That Care (CTC) staff participated in a three-day training of facilitators led by Rick Cady, of Cady & Associates. Rick worked directly with Dr. J. David Hawkins and Dr. Richard F. Catalano at the University of Washington's Social Development Research Group on a number of projects including the Community Youth Development Study, a research trial of Communities That Care.

Rick returned to Pennsylvania in June to conduct a training-of-trainers for the CTC statewide trainers. The CTC Regional Strategic Consultants (RSCs) and PCCD staff worked together to develop a training plan to meet the needs of the target audience, which includes Communities That Care board and workgroup members and other related key stakeholders.

On December 1, 2006, Pennsylvania's Communities That Care initiative embarked on a seven-month statewide training endeavor for CTC board members and key leaders. The trainings are being offered regionally in an effort to increase participation and decrease time spent in travel. Trainings will be in the areas of community board orientation, key leader orientation, community assessment, community resource assessment, community planning and community plan implementation.

This is the most comprehensive training made available to those involved with Communities That Care in over three years. A total of 30 trainings are planned for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. The last session will occur on June 15, 2007. If you, or anyone from your organization, would like information about Communities That Care or available resources in your area, please feel free to contact Lenore D. Wyant, Communities That Care Program Director at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research, at 717-477-1187 or via e-mail at ldwyant@ship.edu.

Major issues identified during Conference Caucuses

Participants at the 2006 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice had an opportunity to join with colleagues from their area of specialty within Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system to discuss issues of mutual concern and interest. The following is a summary of major issues identified during conference caucuses.

Over 30 **Juvenile Court Judges and Juvenile Court Masters** discussed a variety of issues, including: Act 21 of 2003; Juvenile Court Procedural Rules (relating to both delinquency and dependency matters); the Federal "Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006"; written and oral colloquies; the Supreme Court's Office of Children and Families in the Courts; the Pennsylvania / MacArthur Foundation *Models for Change* initiative; prevention services; outcome measures; restitution funds; Medical Assistance (MA) Realignment; and the need for specialized services for juvenile sex offenders, arsonists, and children in need of mental health and mental retardation treatment.

The **Chief Juvenile Probation Officers** discussed funding streams, including Title IV-E and Medical Assistance; the newly adopted Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure for Dependency Matters; the Federal Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006 which mandates caseworker visits to children in foster care; gun violence, and whether this issue was being adequately addressed within our system; recently introduced legislation regarding interagency information sharing; the role of the JCJC in providing technical assistance in dependency matters; gang violence; assaults in delinquency placements; and recidivism.

Juvenile probation supervisors spent the majority of their time discussing Medical Assistance (MA) Realignment, and issues pertaining to personnel, safety, and training. The supervisors discussed the need for additional training on management responsibilities, stress, and teaching proper courtroom testimony. Concerns included the increased use of technology in lieu of personal interaction with children and families, and the safety of probation officers. Some supervisors indicated that their counties conduct exit interviews with probationers and parents, and use surveys of juveniles, families, community members and victims to inquire about their level of satisfaction with probation services.

The **juvenile probation officers** also discussed MA realignment, and expressed concerns that some juveniles were inappropriately "labeled" because of the process, the paperwork was cumbersome, and that services are being delayed because of the time it

takes to get a psychological and/or psychiatric evaluation. Concerns were also expressed about gun violence and the emergence of "look alike guns" such as toy guns or pellet guns. A discussion on probation officer safety resulted in opinions being expressed both in support of, and against, probation officers carrying firearms. Probation officers expressed a desire for more programs for females, juveniles with a dual diagnosis, and improved quality of both sex offender and drug and alcohol treatment (both inpatient and outpatient). Some participants requested additional technical assistance regarding engagement of the community. The MacArthur *Models for Change* initiative has, according to the juvenile probation officers, not only improved the working relationships between agencies, but has helped agencies collaborate and avoid duplication of services.

Victim service providers discussed compliance with the "Bill of Rights" for Victims of Juvenile Crime and strategic planning through the Victims Services Advisory Committee of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). The importance of information sharing and role clarification was also discussed. The diversity of a county-operated system and the speed at which juveniles are processed through the juvenile justice system poses unique challenges to compliance with victims' rights. Gun violence was also discussed in this caucus. Some victim service providers mentioned that information sometimes gets lost when cases are transferred to, or from, criminal court. Restitution collection appears to have improved, thanks in part to the development of restitution funds.

Participants in the **prevention** caucus discussed Communities That Care training opportunities. They were informed of regional training offered in the following areas: Community Board or Key Leader Orientations; Community Assessment; Community Resource Assessment; Community Planning; and Community Plan Implementation. The State Prevention Framework/State Incentive Grant (SPF-SIG) was also discussed. SPF/SIG resembles the Communities That Care model, including the identification of risk and protective factors, and allows sites to assess their prevention needs and plan strategically. The Communities That Care Regional Strategic Consultants (RSCs) provided updates regarding how the Community Coordinators/Mobilizers are managing funding issues. Over the next several years, there will likely be a gradual decrease of sustainability grants. Some of the other issues discussed in this caucus included the Juvenile Justice Data Book, Pennsylvania Youth Survey, and the potential for a Center for Evidence-Based Programs.

The caucus for **service providers** focused on the following four areas: Alternatives to Coercive Techniques (ACT); evidenced-based practices; MA Realignment; and positive feedback on what's working in Pennsylvania. With regard to Alternatives to Coercive Techniques, concerns were expressed about the lack of resources, inconsistent responses from DPW, and the willingness of providers to accept and serve "high end" kids. The providers expressed interest in evidence-based practices and would like to hear from probation departments regarding what is "needed" and what is "valued". With respect to MA Realignment, the providers recommended that outcome data be collected and that "true partnering" occur. Concerns were expressed about what appears to be inconsistent medical necessity determinations. The providers valued the Courts' commitment to quality programs, and reported that the Aftercare component of the *Models for Change* initiative was having a positive impact on services. It was reported that there is more of an emphasis on strength-based assessments, and an increased attention to, and development of, gender responsive services.

Feedback from each of the caucuses showed that the participants appreciated the opportunity to meet with colleagues and share information on what issues faced on a day to day basis. A summary of the information collected will be reviewed by JCJC staff and the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers.

Luzerne County juvenile probation staff participate in "Day of Caring"

Members of the Luzerne County Juvenile Probation Department, accompanied by youth on probation, recently participated in the United Way's "Day of Caring," a one-day event where hundreds of volunteers throughout the Wyoming Valley come together to build a better community, one project at a time. The event offers agencies and organizations that may or may not, be participating United Way organizations the opportunity to make a positive impact in the community through direct interaction.

The volunteers were assigned to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals with the task of trimming weeds, leveling head stones, and filling holes in the pet cemetery to make the area safer for visitors. One probationer remarked, "It was kind of cool doing the work with my P.O." Another stated, "I felt good about helping out and it wasn't so bad hanging with my P.O. for the day." Probation Officer Jamie Harned recounted, "It is a good opportunity to work side-by-side with our clients and to be able to lead by example, while at the same time doing something to better our community." This is the fifth year that staff from the Luzerne County Juvenile Probation Department have participated in this event.

Westmoreland County receives awards for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Project

The Pennsylvania Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Project is this year's recipient of the Juvenile Justice Trainers Association Award (JJTA) for Excellence. This award is given on an annual basis to organizations that have made significant contributions to the field of juvenile justice training. Criteria for receiving this award included: the development of a specialized training program, training presentation excellence, curriculum development, providing special training opportunities, excellence in training management, or other contributions to the development and advancement of juvenile justice training.

The Westmoreland County Juvenile Court is also the recipient of the 2006 Training System Award from the International Association of Correctional Training Personnel (IACTP). The IACTP's Awards of Excellence Program strives to identify and celebrate the accomplishments of outstanding individuals and programs in the field of criminal justice training. This award is given for high quality training throughout an entire system, or training department.

Westmoreland County is the demonstration site for the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Project, with Deborah Slates-Ciocco from the juvenile probation department serving as the project coordinator. Ms. Slates-Ciocco accepted the JJTA Award for Excellence at the Joint Conference on Juvenile Services, sponsored by the National Partnership on Juvenile Services on October 15, 2006, in Las Vegas, Nevada. She also traveled to Atlanta to accept the IACTP's 2006 Training System Award on October 29, 2006.

International Restorative Justice Conference held in Bethlehem, PA

A number of juvenile justice practitioners from Pennsylvania attended and presented information during the 8th International Conference on Conferencing, Circles and Other Restorative Practices, held in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The conference was presented by the International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP).

More than 300 participants from 17 countries attended the conference, held on October 18-20, 2006, including participants from eight Canadian provinces, 25 U.S. states, and Guam. The conference brought together people from a variety of fields and backgrounds, to explore the development of “restorative communities,” where restorative practices are the primary method for dealing with wrongdoing and conflict.

Conference plenary sessions were presented by Gwynedd Lloyd, from the University of Edinburgh, who discussed Scotland’s countrywide introduction of restorative practices to schools. Anat Goldstein, director of Israel’s Family Group Conference Program, discussed the development of restorative practices with Israeli children and youth. Mark Finnis and Paul Moran, from the Sefton Centre for Restorative Practice, in England, spoke about creating a restorative community. Dan Van Ness, director of the Centre for Justice and Reconciliation at Prison Fellowship International, in Washington, D.C., presented information on Restorative Justice City, a simulation model of a restorative justice system.



Pennsylvania was well represented during plenary sessions, with **Christopher Hey**, pictured here, and Gail Ryan, school administrators from Souderton, Pennsylvania, discussing the introduction of restorative practices in a local school district and Laura Rush, coordinator of conferencing services at Community Service Foundation, presenting information regarding Family Group Decision Making in Pennsylvania. Other Pennsylvania professionals presented “The Pennsylvania Story,” “Bringing Restorative Justice into Academia,” and “Build-

ing a Restorative Community: Better Serving Our Youth through Community Building.” Go to www.iirp.org for more information.

SIGN UP FOR NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS’ RIGHTS WEEK RESOURCES!

DATES:
April 22 – 28, 2007

Once again, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) within the U.S. Department of Justice is producing a National Crime Victims’ Rights Week Resource Guide, theme poster, and DVD to help promote National Crime Victims’ Rights Week being this April in communities across America. You can visit OVC’s web site at www.ovc.gov, and click on the “NCVRW” icon in the left column (the link says “sign up for a free poster and guide”), which will enable you to receive this information.

These excellent public awareness resources can also be ordered via telephone from the OVC Resource Center by calling toll-free 800.851.3420 (TTY 877.712.9279).

**2007
National Crime Victims’
Rights Week**

THEME:
“Victims’ Rights: Every
Victim, Every Time”

On-line Juvenile Act training planned for Spring of 2007

The Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research (CJJT&R) has contracted with The Education Coalition (TEC) and Community Corrections e-Learning Collaborative (CCELC) to develop a "Pennsylvania Juvenile Act" on-line training program to be piloted in January, 2007. Beginning with the Spring 2007 training season, the Juvenile Act will no longer be taught exclusively as a segment of the Center's two-week New Juvenile Probation Officer (JPO) Orientation Program. The Juvenile Act segment, which currently constitutes 7½ hours of instruction time, is being designed as an on-line course. The course will be available, and recommended, for each participant to complete prior to attending the first week of New JPO Orientation.

This new on-line course, though administered outside the Center, remains an integral and necessary element of the complete New JPO Orientation package. The course will include components of the Juvenile Act, Pennsylvania Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure, and courtroom testimony that are currently covered; **no content will be lost**. The course will span five days, with officers needing to complete 1-1½ hours of course work per day on-line. The course will be taught/facilitated by JCJC staff. First-time on-line students will also need to take an "On-line Learners Orientation" course prior to taking the Juvenile Act course. On-line class size will be limited to 20 participants; however, there will be ample offerings for all new staff to complete the course prior to each season's New JPO Orientation. **This course also provides an excellent opportunity for veteran staff to get a refresher on the Juvenile Act.**

The cost for the on-line "Pennsylvania Juvenile Act" course for new staff, including the "On-line Learners Orientation," will be folded into the total registration fee for the Center's New JPO Orientation, bringing the new total cost for New JPO Orientation to \$250 per registrant. However, each participant will be responsible for registering separately with TEC/CCELC for both the "Pennsylvania Juvenile Act" and "On-line Learners Orientation" courses. Veteran staff interested in taking the course can register and pay \$75 directly to TEC/CCELC. Schedules for the Juvenile Act course will be determined and announced at a later date. Staff who will be registering for the spring "New JPO Orientation" session may wish to take the "On-line Learners Orientation" course now, by registering as outlined in the Fall 2006 training booklet. Please note on the registration that you will be taking the Juvenile Act course, and also send a copy to Stephen Bishop, at spbish@ship.edu or by fax 717- 477-1236.

