

Models for Change

Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice

Keith Snyder Honored for Mental Health Reform Efforts

Keith Snyder, Deputy Director of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, was honored by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation as a Champion for Change in juvenile justice reform for his work with Pennsylvania's Models for Change Initiative. He was recognized at the Fourth Annual Models for Change national conference in Washington, D.C. on December 7, 2009 for his work to improve the lives of court-involved kids, their families, and communities. Models for Change is the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's \$140 million national initiative to reform juvenile justice across the country.

Simply calling Keith Snyder a "team leader" is a vast understatement. He has repeatedly taken on difficult assignments that require bringing disparate groups together to identify common goals and find common solutions. That is the kind of job that requires a team leader of epic proportions. He has been especially skilled in the area of improving the mental health and juvenile justice systems' response to youth with mental health needs.



Laurie R. Garduque, Director for Research
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Keith Snyder, Deputy Director
Juvenile Court Judges' Commission
Robert Schwartz, Executive Director
Juvenile Law Center

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Mental Health Reform Efforts - *Continued from page 1*

Under Mr. Snyder's leadership, Pennsylvania's Mental Health/Juvenile Justice Work Group has made major strides in improving the coordination between the juvenile justice and mental health systems. Mr. Snyder used his leadership skills and knowledge of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system to organize and mobilize critical stakeholders, including judges, probation, and advocates in supporting the state's Models for Change efforts.

"I know there are many children who come into the juvenile justice system with mental health problems, and there are many families who are very frustrated because they can't get the services they need," says Snyder. "It's important that Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system has the ability to identify and provide evidence-based treatment to those children who need help. The support provided to us through Models for Change has been a tremendous help in speeding up the reform process." "Keith's formidable leadership has helped Pennsylvania institute reforms that will impact the lives of youth and their families for years to come," said Lourdes Rosado, Associate Director of Juvenile Law Center. "He tackled thorny policy issues by galvanizing a team effort from all the key players, helping them find their common goals."

Mr. Snyder's leadership was particularly important in the State Work Group's effort to create legislation that would increase access to mental health services by protecting youth from self incrimination during screening, assessment, and evaluation. He was instrumental in introducing the proposed legislation to a wide array of stakeholders and in shepherding the bill through the legislative process. Signed into law by Governor Rendell in December 2008, Act 109 allows county probation departments to screen youth for mental health issues early in their involvement with the juvenile justice system, while at the same time protecting their due process rights. The need for this type of legislation to protect the legal rights of youth in the justice system was identified in the Mental Health/Juvenile Justice Policy Statement. The importance of Mr. Snyder's leadership in the creation and implementation of this policy statement cannot be understated. The policy statement has provided a roadmap for reform in Pennsylvania by giving state and local policy makers, practitioners, and advocates a crystal clear understanding of the state's stance with respect to mental health and juvenile justice.

"The Mental Health/Juvenile Justice Policy Statement has given localities a framework against which to compare their system and identify priorities for improvement," continues Rosado. "The principles laid out in the policy statement come straight from Models for Change core values. There is perfect alignment." Mr. Snyder also helped create momentum

for the creation of an evidence-based practice center. The goal of the center is to expand the state's reliance on evidence-based programs and provide evaluation assistance to other communities with promising program models. Clearly, the growth of evidence-based practices across Pennsylvania will result in positive youth outcomes, including improved family and youth functioning, decreased recidivism, and reduced mental health symptoms.

Mr. Snyder's leadership role with Models for Change has grown to become a wise and ardent champion of these efforts in Pennsylvania, and across the country. He plays an important role in sharing the lessons and advancements from Pennsylvania's Models for Change initiative; he has presented on PA's joint policy statement, the Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support Center, and other juvenile justice reform work at national and state conferences, including the National GAINS Center's 2008 conference.

"It has been my honor to work with the judges, lawyers, juvenile probation officers and many other professionals in Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system who share the same commitment to this work and who are equally deserving of this recognition," added Snyder.

About Models for Change

The Models for Change initiative is an effort to create successful and replicable models of juvenile justice system reform through targeted investments in key states. With long-term funding and support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Models for Change seeks to accelerate progress toward a more rational, fair, effective, and developmentally appropriate juvenile justice system.

Sixteen states are now involved - four working on a range of state and local reforms, and 12 as part of three action networks focusing on disproportionate minority contact, mental health, and now, juvenile indigent defense. Pennsylvania was the first state chosen to participate in the initiative due to the state's existing, progressive reform efforts and well-established working partnerships. Models for Change efforts in Pennsylvania are coordinated by the Juvenile Law Center, a Philadelphia-based public interest law firm, that has been advocating for children in jeopardy since 1975.

For more information about Models for Change and Pennsylvania's efforts, visit www.modelsforchange.net.

Valerie Bender Honored with the Governor's Victim Service Pathfinder Award

Ms. Valerie Bender, a Research Associate with the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ), was the recipient of the "Allied Professional Award" at the Eleventh Annual Governor's Victim Services Pathfinder Awards Ceremony held in Pittsburgh, PA on November 19, 2009.

The Allied Professional Award is presented to an individual who has a history of outstanding service on meeting the needs of victims in collaboration with a Pennsylvania victim service agency or program whose mission is to assist and / or empower victims of crime.

For over 20 years Valerie Bender has inspired others through her dedication as an advocate for victims. She is recognized throughout Pennsylvania and beyond for her expertise and numerous contributions, most notably, her involvement with balanced and restorative justice in the juvenile justice system.

Valerie has authored or co-authored numerous publications such as: Victim/Community Awareness: Building a Restorative Justice Community, Victim/Community Awareness: An Orientation for Juveniles, Best Practice Guidelines for Victim Impact Panels within Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System, Best Practice Guidelines for Victim Inclusion in Community Justice Panels and Advancing Accountability: Moving Toward Victim Restoration.



Throughout her career, Valerie has given numerous presentations, keynote addresses, workshops and trainings at state and national conferences. Her presentations focus on victims rights and services, how balanced and restorative justice is designed to provide an active role for victims within the juvenile justice system and why victim/community impact awareness encourages accountability for juvenile offenders. She provides the expertise behind the statewide victim/community awareness curriculum and continues to remain highly involved in its promulgation.



Valerie is a gubernatorial appointee to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee and the Victims Services Advisory Committee. Recently, Valerie was elected to the Board of Directors for the Coalition of Pennsylvania Crime Victims Organizations and was invited by the Office of the Victim Advocate to provide technical assistance to victim advocates in Luzerne County.

Valerie Bender has been a friend to the juvenile justice system. She has made an impact on the enhancement of rights for victims of juvenile offenders and has assisted juvenile courts in their approach to accountability by focusing attention on how young offenders can repair the harm they caused by their delinquent behavior.

Spring Staff Development Schedule Released

The CJJT&R Spring 2010 Staff Development Schedule has recently been posted on the [JCJC website](#) and all 25 programs are open to registration. The printed schedule should be distributed just before or during the holidays. Eleven programs are new trainers or content designs never before offered by the Center. Several programs are likely to fill early.

The Juvenile Justice Academy: Orientation for the New Professional program was expanded this season and both live weeks of training will begin with Monday afternoon sessions, running February 1-5 and February 22-26. This was done in order to incorporate the newly revised Phase I Staff Safety curriculum in the Orientation program, eliminating the need for new officers to take this training as a separate stand-alone workshop.



We would also draw your attention to three programs being held early in the season including “Heroin and Other Narcotic Drug Abuse” to be held on March 4-5 at the Holiday Inn Mechanicsburg, instructed by Bruce Schaffer; “Engaging Latino Families” on March 10-11 at the Days Inn Penn State, led by Charito Calvachi-Mateyko; and “Motivational Interviewing: Skills Every Juvenile Probation Officer Should Know” on March 11-12, also in State College and taught by Barbara Ulmer.

For details on any of these programs, or to review the entire schedule visit the [Training page](#) on the JCJC website and click on training—Spring—2010.

Forest County Sponsors Cleanup

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Committed to supporting conservation efforts, PA CleanWays held a cleanup at the Jug Handle Road dump site in Forest County on October 24, 2009.

Attending the Jug Handle Road Cleanup was the Forest County Juvenile Probation Department as well as the president of the Kelletville Sportsman’s Club and several individual volunteers who worked tirelessly to remove and recycle 2.1 tons of trash and debris. Items illegally dumped at the site included appliances, tires, bottles, cans, bed springs, shingles and household trash.

Frank’s Auto and Son’s Inc. generously donated the use of a wrecker with operator to pull heavy items up the steep slopes.

The Army Corps provided the use of a dump truck and operator to transport items to the collection area. Kingsley Township shared their tractor to help deposit the debris into the roll off.

Cleanup funding was provided by the Rural Utilities Service Program, United States Department of Agriculture.

Models for Change Aftercare Forum Held

December 3-4, 2009 marked the dates for the fifth annual Aftercare Forum training held at the Days Inn, State College. Sixty-seven people were registered representing twenty-two counties and five providers. The focus of this forum was designed to highlight the ongoing work of the Models for Change Aftercare Reform Initiative. All sixty-seven counties have committed to Aftercare reform based on the seventeen bullet points in the Joint Position Statement on Aftercare released in January, 2005.

The flow of the material presented followed the five phases of Aftercare: pre-placement, placement, pre-release transition, release and reintegration, and aftercare supervision.

Autumn Dickman of the Juvenile Law Center, which sponsored the forum, opened the forum by providing an overview of the MacArthur Models for Change Initiative in Pennsylvania. In addition to Aftercare, Autumn also provided information about the other two focus areas, Disproportionate Minority Contact and Mental Health Services for delinquent youth.

The pre-placement phase was covered by staff from Lehigh County Juvenile Probation: Beth Fritz, Jeff Nonnemacher, Pat Best, and Jon Kuykendall. As a pilot county for both the Case Management Essentials and the Youth Level of Service, they shared their experience in undertaking the significant changes these initiatives require.

Marna Goodman of the PA Academic Career Technical Training Alliance (PACTT) covered the placement phase by describing PACTT's ongoing work to improve academics, career technical training, soft skills and entry level certifications in residential facilities. She also defined the role of probation in each of the five phases of Aftercare. Kelly Franklin and Cameron Romer covered the Competency Resource Guide, monitoring placement and home pass standards.

Pre-release transition and release and reintegration phases were illustrated by the work of the Allegheny County Education Specialists: Michele Howard, James Davis, and Andrew Schneider. They described their continuing development of a "best practices model" to provide seamless transition and reintegration from placement back to school. Changes to the recently updated Education Toolkit were addressed by Kelly Franklin.

An area of interest for many probation departments is graduated responses and incentives. Lisa Varon, and Karen Kern covered the Aftercare phase by explaining the necessary components required to develop an effective system which merges graduated sanctions and incentives.

Day one ended with an overview of Case Management Essentials (CME) and the Quality Improvement Project (QIP) by Pat Torbet. Both initiatives are through the National Center for Juvenile Justice. CME is being piloted in four counties and covers probation activities from intake to case closing. QIP is looking to improve the quality of interventions for juvenile offenders in Pennsylvania.

Day two opened with presentations by Ed Robbins and Alan Tezak on Family Involvement. Ed related Lycoming County's efforts to support and strengthen family involvement and Alan discussed the newly released Family Involvement monograph.

Cameron Romer and Sue Alberti stressed the importance of collaboration between probation and the treatment provider as they took participants through a case from pre-placement to aftercare.

Overall the forum was well received with the majority of evaluations rating it a four out of a possible five. Additional information regarding Aftercare can be obtained by contacting, Dan Rhoads at c-darhoads@state.pa.us, Kelly Franklin at kfranklin@epix.net, or Rick Steele at ricsteele@state.pa.us.

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Reauthorization Act Approved by U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee

On December 17, 2009, the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee approved, by a roll call vote of 12-7, S. 678, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Reauthorization Act of 2009, as amended. This action strengthens and advances the JJDP to:

- Encourage states to make critical improvements to juvenile justice systems, to improve conditions of confinement and adopt evidence based practices;
- Give states authority to retain delinquent offenders under juvenile jurisdiction after they have reached the age of majority, in keeping with state law;
- Place common-sense limits on the pretrial detention of juveniles in adult jails;
- Create a meaningful approach for reducing racial and ethnic disparities in juvenile justice by strengthening the JJDP's Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) core requirement;
- Restore and increase federal authorizations for core juvenile justice programs;
- Create new incentives for improving mental health and substance abuse assessment, treatment and diversion, as well as case management and re-entry services; and
- Reaffirm the federal-state partnership by supporting states' efforts to comply with JJDP core requirements, strengthening research and technical assistance to be conducted by the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), and increasing transparency on the part of OJJDP and the states.

During the session, an amendment that would have broadened federal juvenile transfer law was defeated by a vote of 13-6. However, three amendments were approved:

- An amendment to attach the PRECAUTION Act, legislation to create a National Commission on Public Safety Through Crime and Delinquency Prevention charged with identifying and disseminating effective crime and delinquency prevention and intervention strategies;
- An amendment to establish a new competitive grant program for OJJDP to "make grants to and enter contracts with qualified youth and family serving organizations, or combinations thereof, to provide an integrated continuum of services and programs for the prevention, control, or reduction of juvenile delinquency." The amendment authorizes \$80,000,000 over five years; but the funds are not administered through SAGs; and
- The Committee also accepted, by a vote of 10-9, an amendment that requires the General Accounting Office (GAO) to evaluate OJJDP and "conduct a comprehensive audit and evaluation of a selected, statistically significant sample of grantees that receive Federal funds under grant programs administered by [OJJDP] including a review of internal controls to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse of funds by grantees."

As amended today, S. 678, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Reauthorization Act of 2009, now heads to the Senate floor for final consideration and passage. The likelihood of final passage before the end of this year is not likely. It is anticipated that this bill will be given consideration on the floor of the Senate in the early part of 2010.

National Juvenile Justice Announcements

The following December announcements are reprinted from [JUVJUST](#), an OJJDP news service:

November 17, 2009 - Online Tool Provides Strategies for Preventing Community Gang Violence



OJJDP has created an online tool that teaches communities effective strategies to address local gang problems. The tool, provided by OJJDP and BJA's [National Gang Center](#), is called the Comprehensive Gang Model Overview. It provides a 23-minute discussion of OJJDP's Model for identifying target areas with high levels of gang activity, locating gangs, and focusing appropriate resources on them. The tool also describes how communities can follow proven anti-gang strategies and how to implement the Model locally.

Resources:

To access the Comprehensive Gang Model Overview, visit www.nationalgangcenter.gov/Comprehensive-Gang-Model/Online-Overview.

Learn about the National Gang Center at www.nationalgangcenter.gov.

November 19, 2009 - SAMHSA Will Provide \$39.6 Million To Support Juvenile and Adult Reentry and Recovery Services



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is currently accepting [applications](#) for the Offender Reentry Program. The purpose of the program is to expand or enhance substance abuse treatment and related recovery and reentry services to sentenced juvenile and adult offenders returning to the community from incarceration for criminal/juvenile offenses. Programs should help those who have been incarcerated make a stable transition back to the community, provide treatment for drug and alcohol abusers, and reduce future offending.

Grants will be awarded through SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, for fiscal year 2010. The deadline for submitting applications is January 19. The full [grant announcement](#) is available online.

Resources:

Read the full grant announcement online at www.samhsa.gov/Grants/2010/TI-10-006.aspx.

For more information about SAMHSA, go to www.samhsa.gov.

November 30, 2009 - Online Courses Train Juvenile Justice Managers



The [National Juvenile Court Services Association](#) has designed an online training curriculum to train juvenile justice managers. Sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Professional Juvenile Justice Manager (PJMM) certificate program includes [a series of online courses](#). Students will spend two weeks on each course, working on basic lecture material, specialized readings, and self-assessment questions.

The program is designed to train staff and to provide certification for supervisors currently in the field. Those who successfully complete the program will receive certification from the American Probation and Parole Association.

Resources:

To access a list of PJMM courses and register online, visit www.njcsacertification.org/course/category.php?id=29.

December 1, 2009 - OJJDP Bulletin Presents Findings on Juveniles Who Sexually Victimize Other Youth



The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has published "[Juveniles Who Commit Sex Offenses Against Minors](#)," the latest in its Crimes Against Children bulletin series.

The bulletin presents population-based epidemiological information about the characteristics of juvenile offenders who commit sex offenses against minors. The authors analyze data from the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System to describe the characteristics of the juvenile sex offender population who have come to the attention of law enforcement. Key findings include:

Juveniles account for more than one-third (36 percent) of those known to police to have committed sex offenses against minors.

Juveniles who commit sex offenses against other children are more likely than adult sex offenders to offend in groups, at schools, and to have more male and younger victims.

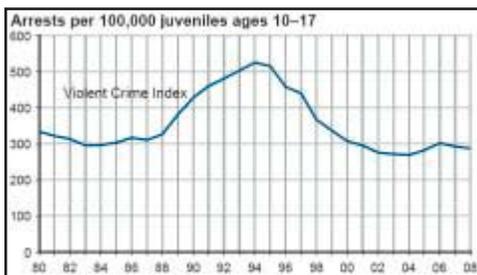
Findings may support the development of research-based interventions and policies to reduce sexual assault and child molestation as perpetrated by juvenile offenders.

Resources:

"Juveniles Who Commit Sex Offenses Against Minors" (NCJ 227763) is available online at www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=249770.

Print copies may be ordered online at www.ncjrs.gov/App/ShoppingCart/ShopCart.aspx?item=NCJ+227763&repro.

December 15, 2009 - OJJDP Bulletin Reports Declining Juvenile Arrests in 2008



The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has published "[Juvenile Arrests 2008](#)."

The bulletin summarizes juvenile crime and arrest data reported by local law enforcement agencies as cited in the FBI report "Crime in the United States 2008." There were 3 percent fewer juvenile arrests in 2008 than in 2007 and juvenile violent crime arrests fell 2 percent during the same period, continuing the recent decline.

Resources:

"Juvenile Arrests 2008" is available online at www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=250498.

Print copies may be ordered online at www.ncjrs.gov/App/ShoppingCart/ShopCart.aspx?item=NCJ+228479&repro.

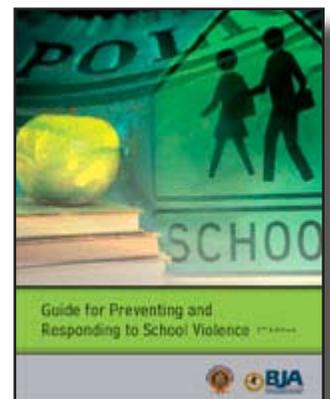
December 16, 2009 - Guide Offers Communities Ways To Prevent and Respond to School Violence

The Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), in coordination with the International Association of Chiefs of Police, has published a new edition of its "[Guide for Preventing and Responding to School Violence](#)."

Designed to assist local communities, the guide describes the roles of the school, community, families, law enforcement, and justice system in working together to take effective action to address school violence.

Resources:

BJA's "Guide for Preventing and Responding to School Violence" is available online at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/pdf/IACP_School_Violence.pdf.



On March 14-17, 2010, in Las Vegas, NV, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges will host the [National Conference on Juvenile and Family Law](#).

The conference adopts a collaborative approach to improving outcomes for children and includes sessions on:

- the adolescent brain
- collecting DNA from juveniles
- defense strategies for juvenile cases
- disproportionate minority contact
- tribal court considerations in juvenile law
- truancy prevention.

To benefit from the early payment rate, [register](#) by February 12.

Resources:

To access further information, including a conference brochure, and register online, visit www.ncjfcj.org/content/view/1246/315/.

Health care organization honors Gority

Reprinted with permission from the Altoona Mirror

By Kay Stephens, December 9, 2009 - <http://www.altoonamirror.com/page/content.detail/id/525013.html>

HOLLIDAYSBURG - Blair County Commissioner Donna Gority was praised Tuesday for her longtime dedication to human service agencies and the partnership helping to provide medical treatment for the needy.

Gority recently was named Commissioner of the Year by ComCare HealthChoices, a managed care program operating under the state County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

She accepted the honor at a recent banquet in Hershey and collected additional accolades during Tuesday's weekly commissioners meeting at the courthouse.

Blaine L. Smith, executive director of Blair HealthChoices, praised Gority for starting an effort in 1994 that led to creating the agency he directs.

It helps the county's Medical Assistance recipients secure care through mental health, substance abuse and child welfare programs.

"Although the journey was long with varied participants and partners and multiple stops and starts along the way, Commissioner Gority always felt cooperation was important," Smith said in his written nomination.

"In the end, she wanted Blair County to have control over the program so individuals could receive the best care possible."

Gority thanked Smith for the recognition and credited former county Drug and Alcohol Administrator JoEllen Steinbrunner and former Human Services Director Jean Johnstone, along with Nancy Williams, county chief probation officer, and Maryanne Burger, director of the county's Children and Youth Services, for their work, which contributed to her honor.

They, along with other county staffers, provided Gority with a standing ovation. Humbled by the attention, Gority began to shed tears as fellow Commissioners Terry Tomassetti and Diane Meling added compliments.

"It's well earned," Tomassetti told Gority.

Blair County Human Services Director Cathy Crum was among the letter writers nominating Gority for the honor.

"Commissioner Gority never hesitated to go to bat for the benefit of those in need of behavioral health services in Blair County," Crum stated.

President Judge Jolene Kopriva added an endorsement, too.

"We do not exaggerate to say that Blair County has nine of the 11 Blueprints for Violence Prevention programs because of Donna," Kopriva wrote. "... Our programs have healed and assisted many families and have prevented crime, without any doubt."

Phase II Staff Safety Training Update

On August 28, 2009, JCJC/CJTT&R hosted a meeting in State College for Phase II safety instructors from across the Commonwealth. The group convened to discuss issues and experiences with staff safety training and revisited the notion of having a list of trainers on the web to promote networking with neighboring counties who might be interested in sharing training resources.

The [list of Phase II trainers](#) is now available on the JCJC website in the Training section. Occasionally, upcoming Phase II trainings scheduled at regional locations will be posted on the website as well. Please be sure to check the tab when you are looking to coordinate training with other counties in your region, and be mindful of the new feature and how it might assist you in providing staff safety training in your jurisdiction.

Phase II Staff Safety training was first introduced in the mid to late 1990s, when JCJC/CJTT&R endorsed participation in the Protective Safety Systems (PSS) model developed by John Desmedt, a former secret service agent, who developed his own safety training program. Initially, several trainers were sponsored throughout the Commonwealth to become certified instructors of the PSS model. In the early 2000s, additional sponsorship was provided to counties to add instructors or to renew certifications of existing instructors. As funding allowed, JCJC/CJTT&R continued to provide support for recertification courses over the past several years in order to maintain a pool of safety instructors statewide.

Since Phase II instructors last met in 2004, it was time to reconvene to review the utilization of the Phase II curriculum, specific issues relating to training and equipment, and networking opportunities. We were pleased to learn that there are 45 certified instructors, many of which are at the senior advanced level. Of the 15 counties initially identified to have trainers, 12 of those counties were represented at the meeting in August. At the meeting, it was also learned that other juvenile probation departments utilize the PSS model, but rely on outside instructors. Some are trained by other juvenile probation departments, adult probation, or sheriffs' departments.

While promoting networking between counties using the PSS model, it is important to note that safety training for probation officers is of utmost importance, regardless of the model counties are using. PSS is the model that we are most familiar with and that many juvenile probation departments have adopted. Some counties refer to their safety training by various elements of the PSS model, including defensive tactics, control tactics, or the use of force model.

As a result of the feedback from the August meeting, the Center will host a 4-day Phase II certification class for new officers as part of the regular Spring 2010 season training calendar. This will be from May 18-21, 2010 at Shippensburg University. More information can be obtained by previewing the Spring 2010 Staff Development Schedule available on our website or on the print version which is soon to be released.

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 e-mail or on a disk. We particularly enjoy your photographs.

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