

Shay Bilchik to Keynote 2009 Pa. Conference on Juvenile Justice

Shay Bilchik, founder and Director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform and Systems Integration at Georgetown University, will deliver the keynote address on Thursday morning, November 5, 2009 at the 2009 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice.

Mr. Bilchik is one of the nation's most highly regarded juvenile justice and child welfare experts, and is very familiar with Pennsylvania's juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Prior to joining the Georgetown University Public Policy Institute in March 2007, he served as the President and CEO of the Child Welfare League of America.



From October 1994 until his selection to lead the Child Welfare League in February 2000, Mr. Bilchik served as the Administrator of the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. During his tenure at OJJDP, Shay Bilchik was widely regarded for his multi-system approach to reducing juvenile crime and addressing child victimization.

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NEW!

To subscribe to the JJC newsletter, Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice, please send your request to jjcnews@ship.edu to be added to the distribution list. You will receive an email alert each month when the latest edition is available.

NEW!

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Awareness Week Events Slated for September 8 – 14, 2009

By: Kathy Jo Stence, PA Department of Public Welfare, Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs

FASD is a lifelong, yet completely preventable set of physical, mental and neurobehavioral birth defects associated with alcohol consumption during pregnancy. FASD is the leading known preventable cause of mental retardation and birth defects. As a result of mothers drinking during pregnancy, each year, it is estimated that FASD occurs in at least 1 in 100 live births. FASD costs the nation approximately \$4 billion a year in healthcare and related costs. In fact, it is estimated that the lifetime cost for a single individual with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) is at least \$2 million.

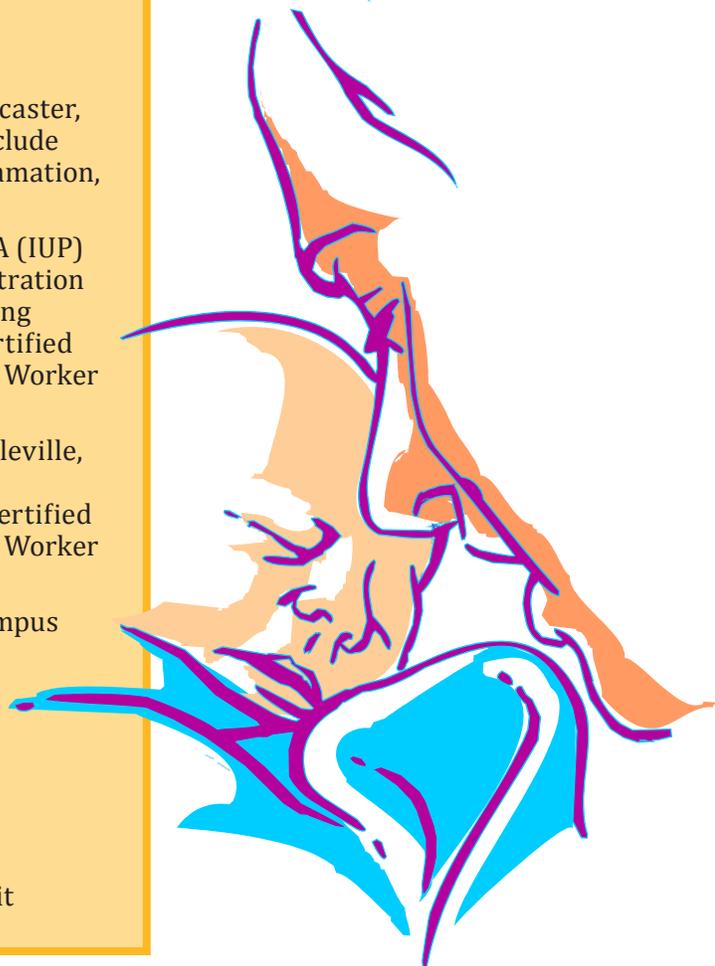
Individuals who have an FASD are involved in every service system in the Commonwealth, including the juvenile justice system. Because of the unique implications that having an FASD may pose to service delivery, it is important that professionals be informed about these disorders and become aware of effective intervention strategies when providing services. Each year, the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs (BDAP) hosts various events during FASD Awareness Week, which professionals and the general public is encouraged to attend.

Events include the following:

- 9/8: **Kickoff Event** at Vantage House for Women, Lancaster, PA, tentative time is 10:15 – Noon. This will include special speakers, reading the Governor's Proclamation, etc.
- 9/9 **FASD Training Event** at Indiana University of PA (IUP) is from 9:00 - 4:00. Free and open to all. Registration can be done on BDAP's website. IUP will be doing other awareness events on campus as well. Certified Addiction Counselor (CAC) and Licensed Social Worker (LSW) credits are available.
- 9/11 **FASD Training Event** at Eagleville Hospital, Eagleville, PA is from 9:00 – 4:00. Free and open to all. Registration can be done on BDAP's website. Certified Addiction Counselor (CAC) and Licensed Social Worker (LSW) credits are available.
- 9/14 **Bloomsburg University** awareness events on campus

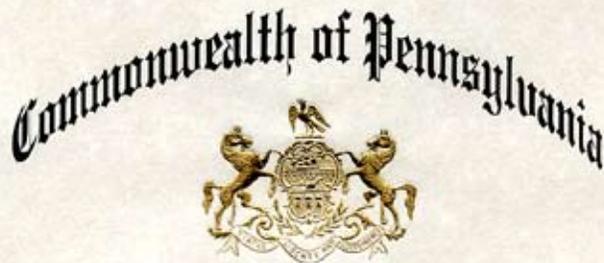
Weeklong Activities:

Baby Bottle Campaign
Awareness Ribbon Campaign
PSA Campaign
Women's Health Professionals Prevention Toolkit



For additional information, please feel free to contact BDAP staff, [Kathy Jo Stence](#) or [Natalie Sweitzer](#).

Governor Rendell Proclaims Juvenile Justice Week October 4 - 10, 2009



Governor's Office

PROCLAMATION

JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK October 4-10, 2009

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system is charged with providing programs of supervision, care, and rehabilitation as well as providing balanced attention to the protection of our communities, the imposition of accountability for offenses committed by juveniles, and the development of competencies to enable children within the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system to become responsible, productive members of their communities; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system is based on the principles of restorative justice, which gives priority to repairing the harm done to crime victims and communities and defines offender accountability in terms of assuming responsibility and taking action to repair harm; and

WHEREAS, the mission is premised on the belief that crime victims, communities, and juvenile offenders must all be regarded as clients of the juvenile justice system; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee has adopted the following mission statement for Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system: "Juvenile Justice: Community Protection, Victim Restoration, Youth Redemption"; and

WHEREAS, community protection refers to the fundamental right of all Pennsylvanians to be free of, and feel safe from, crime. Victim restoration emphasizes that crime can forever change its victims and that restoration programs should seek to restore crime victims, to the greatest extent possible, to their pre-crime status. Youth redemption embodies the belief that the vast majority of juvenile offenders are capable of change and have strength upon which treatment services can build; and

WHEREAS, all of the services designed and implemented to achieve this mission and all hearings and decisions under Pennsylvania's Juvenile Act - indeed all aspects of the juvenile justice system - must be provided in a fair, unbiased manner; and

WHEREAS, counties throughout Pennsylvania sponsor annual Juvenile Justice Week activities to enhance public understanding of our juvenile justice system and pay tribute to those who are part of this important effort.

THEREFORE, In special recognition of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system and its work with juvenile offenders, crime victims, and communities, I, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim October 4-10, 2009, JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK in Pennsylvania.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this twentieth day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and nine, and of the Commonwealth, the two hundred and thirty-third.

Edward G. Rendell

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

Governor Edward G. Rendell recently proclaimed the week of October 4 – October 10, 2009 as Juvenile Justice Week in Pennsylvania. Juvenile probation departments across the Commonwealth are encouraged to utilize Juvenile Justice Week as an opportunity to engage the public about the mission and outcomes of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system.

The proclamation notes that Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system is charged with "providing programs of supervision, care, and rehabilitation, as well as providing balanced attention to the protection of our communities, the imposition of accountability for offenses committed by juveniles, and the development of competencies to enable children within the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system to become responsible and productive members of their communities".

Chief juvenile probation officers are encouraged to send examples of media accounts of local Juvenile Justice Week activities to [Steve Bishop](#) for publication in future editions of Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice.

Pennsylvania Hosts CJJ Northeast Regional Conference

Reprinted with permission from the July/August 2009 edition of the CJJ e-Monitor,
the newsletter of the [Coalition for Juvenile Justice](#)

CJJ Regional News

On June 18-19, 2009, in Philadelphia, a wonderful CJJ Northeast Regional Conference was hosted and conducted by the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Advisory Committee (the PA SAG) and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). Many thanks for orchestrating this successful event go to the hosts: Ron Sharp, Chair of the Pennsylvania SAG; Michael Pennington, Director of the Pennsylvania Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention/Juvenile Justice Specialist at PCCD; and Wendy Poston, also with PCCD. The event was held in a lovely meeting space provided by SEPTA (the Philadelphia area transit authority) near the picturesque Philadelphia City Center.

In addition to SAG members and leaders from across Pennsylvania, CJJ members and representatives from eight states attended, including Delaware, Maryland, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina and Vermont. Robin Jenkins, then CJJ National Chair, from North Carolina, attended and provided leadership, as did CJJ's Northeast Region Chair and Region Representatives Jim Kirk (MD), Sue Kamp (VT) and Carlos Hendricks (NJ).

The conference agenda was rich with content, including the following presentations:

- PA DMC Initiative / Philadelphia DMC Efforts, with Dan Elby, the DMC Chair of the PA SAG, and Bob Listenbee, of the Philadelphia Defender Association and member of the SAG's DMC committee.
- PA Resource Center for Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Programs and Practices, with Brian Bumbarger of the EPIS Center at Penn State University and Pat Torbet of the National Center for Juvenile Justice, also a SAG member.
- The Models for Change Initiative in PA: SAG Priorities and an Update on Luzerne County, with Bob Schwartz of the Juvenile Law Center and Jim Anderson of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, both of whom serve with the PA SAG.

The CJJ Northeast Region Conference in 2009 (like those held in Maine 2008 and New York 2007) was an outstanding example of a state agency and SAG stepping up to facilitate, develop, host and fund an informative, enlivening meeting for their fellow SAG members in the region. CJJ, its Board and staff are most appreciative!

Weekend Master's Degree Program Accepting Applications for the Class of 2012

Applications are now being accepted for the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission-sponsored weekend Master's Degree program at Shippensburg University. Members of the class of 2012 will begin classes in the fall of 2010. The deadline to apply is September 1, 2009.

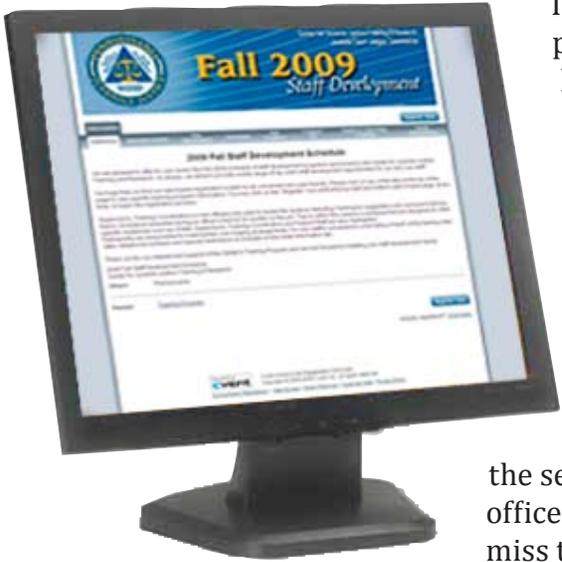
The Shippensburg University program offers students a Master of Science degree in the Administration of Justice. This is a 36-credit hour program that includes courses in research methods, theory, administration, and policy analysis. Also featured is a practicum study which is conducted throughout the two-year program. This practicum study provides students the opportunity to evaluate an existing program or practice that serves juvenile offenders in their home county, or another existing program or practice that impacts the juvenile justice system (i.e. prevention, assessment).

Classes in this two-year program are scheduled every third weekend in the fall, spring, and summer, with no classes scheduled during the month of August. This program is available to county juvenile probation officers (and county juvenile detention staff as space allows) who will have at least two years of post-baccalaureate experience in the juvenile justice field prior to the start of classes. Other juvenile justice professionals – such as residential placement staff and victim services providers – may also apply and be accepted into the program on a “self-pay” basis (or via an employer), again, as space is available.

Applicants who have an undergraduate grade point average of less than 2.75 must take and pass the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or the Graduate Record Examination.

Additional information about the program is available on the [Graduate Education](#) pages of the JCJC website. If you have any questions regarding eligibility or the application process, please contact [Stephen Bishop](#) at 717-477-1294.

FALL 2009 STAFF DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE



The JCJC/CJTT&R Fall 2009 Staff Development Schedule has been posted on-line and is open for registrations. Printed versions have also been mailed. Web-based registration is required for all workshops and can be accessed by clicking on the [Fall 2009 Training Registration](#) link on the JCJC website under “Training” in the left margin. There are 25 training programs being offered this season, eight of which are new.

As is our tradition, the first program of the season is the Orientation for New Juvenile Probation Officers held in Mechanicsburg on September 1-4 and continuing on the 22nd-25th. The “On-line Learners Orientation” and “Juvenile Act” online course should be completed prior to attending the second week of the live Orientation program for new probation officers in September. New officers who, because of their start date, miss the Fall Orientation program, can and should register in October for the spring 2010 live Orientation class. By registering early they can also sign up for and complete the Juvenile Act distance learning class portion of the Orientation programs in any of the intervening months. There is no need to wait until January to complete this portion of the training.

As the training season gets underway, we would like to draw your attention to the workshop **“Equipping Supervisors with Tools to Thrive in a Risk Reduction Environment: Part One of a Two-part Training Sequence”** scheduled for September 16 and 17, 2009 in State College, PA. This workshop is designed for direct line supervisors, who in smaller counties might also include Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs. This program, led by nationally known Mark Carey, will provide participants with the opportunity to teach and mentor officers in the four basic competencies necessary for them to become successful juvenile probation officers. Two of these competencies will be covered in this fall’s program, the other two in Part-two of this workshop next spring. While both programs will stand alone for those unable to attend both segments, supervisors are urged to attend both.

Two other programs, set for early in the season, that we encourage your staff to attend are **“Building Relationships with Families”** also held on September 16-17 in State College and **“Working with Girls in the 21st Century”** on October 1-2 at the Days Inn Penn State. Both programs will be taught by veteran, highly praised trainers. Please refer to the staff development schedule for details.

We would again draw your attention to the features in the training catalog added earlier this year including sections on **“Core Curriculum Workshops”** and **“Fall 2009 Workshops for Specific Audiences”** in the printed version, and [Guide to Selected Training](#) on the website. These pages are intended to serve as guides for staff, together with their supervisor, to make the most appropriate workshop selections as a part of an individualized staff development plan. Throughout the training booklet, you will find core curriculum courses designated with a blue box and a letter corresponding to the appropriate core curriculum subject area. Courses being offered this season that fulfill the core curriculum criteria are listed on page three, as well as workshops being offered this season that might be of interest to specific audiences, including chiefs, deputy chiefs, and supervisors.

We hope the new features will aid in the training selection process for new probation officers and encourage participation in core curriculum courses by all probation officers.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

HB 1648(2294) and SB 949(1228)

[HB 1648\(2294\)](#) passed the House (200-0) on June 29, 2009 and was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee on July 1, 2009. The bill is currently awaiting third consideration in the Senate. This bill was originally introduced by Rep. Todd Eachus (D-Luzerne) on June 10, 2009, and would establish an Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice consisting of 11 members who would be appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the General Assembly, and the Governor. The Interbranch Commission would have the following powers:

- To investigate and analyze the events, practices, processes, procedures and other authority in Luzerne County involving judges, attorneys, public officials, public employees, probation and parole officers and providers of juvenile services.
- To review the procedures, practices and rules relating to the appointment of counsel to represent juvenile offenders and the exercise of the right to counsel in Luzerne County.
- To review the exercise of authority and abuse of power with regard to the disposition and placement of juveniles in Luzerne County.
- To review procedures used in responding to judicial and attorney conduct and to make recommendations as necessary with respect to both disciplinary systems.
- To review the oversight of juvenile detention facilities and investigate the utilization of facilities in Luzerne County.

- To hold public hearings for the taking of testimony and the requesting of documents.

The Interbranch Commission would have the duty to accept and review written comments from individuals and organizations and to make, by May 31, 2010, recommendations to the Governor, Supreme Court, the Senate, and the House of Representatives based on the investigation of the issues identified in the legislation. The legislation also provides that recommendations should include those that would improve the juvenile justice system; prevent the reoccurrence of events similar to those that occurred in Luzerne County; and changes to state statutes and state and local practices, rules, policies and procedures.

The legislation further provides that subpoenas may be served upon any person, and shall have the force and effect of subpoenas issued out of the courts of this Commonwealth. The legislation provides that any person who willfully neglects or refuses to testify before the Commission or to produce any books, papers, records, documents or data and information produced and stored by any electronic data processing system shall be subject to the penalties provided by the laws of this Commonwealth. The legislation further provides that the chairperson of the Commission shall have the power to administer oaths and affirmations to witnesses appearing before the Commission and that the Commission may also cause the deposition of witnesses, either residing within or without this Commonwealth, to be taken in the manner prescribed by law for taking depositions in civil actions.

A similar bill was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Baker (R-Luzerne) on June 9, 2009. This bill passed the Senate (49-0) on July 6, 2009 and was referred to the House Judiciary Committee on July 7, 2009. The provisions of [SB 949\(1228\)](#) are essentially identical to the provisions of HB 1648(2294) except that SB 949(1228) does not provide the Interbranch Commission with the power to issue subpoenas.

SB 531(1334)

On March 2, 2009, Sen. Browne (R-Lehigh) introduced SB 531(538). The bill passed the Senate (49-0) on June 2, 2009 and was reported as amended from the House Judiciary Committee on July 21, 2009. [SB 531\(1334\)](#) is currently awaiting second consideration in the House. This legislation is intended to enhance the sharing of information among agencies who are working with children in the context of child welfare and juvenile delinquency proceedings through the use of interagency information sharing agreements. As drafted, this legislation will ensure that the sharing of information is governed both by federal and state law. In addition, the legislation would require that all interagency information sharing agreements must provide that the preferred method for obtaining authorization to share confidential information shall be upon the written, informed consent of the person authorized to consent to the release of information, after that person has been provided a full understanding of the circumstances under which, and with whom, the information will be shared.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

HB 264(2415)

On February 5, 2009 HB 264(283) was introduced by Rep. Solobay (D-Washington). The bill was amended in both the House Judiciary Committee and upon second consideration in the House, and ultimately passed the House (104-91) on July 14, 2009. The bill was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee on July 17, 2009.

[HB 264\(2415\)](#) would amend 18 Pa. C.S. §9123 (relating to juvenile records) to include cases involving summary offenses committed while the individual was under 18 years of age. This section would provide that an expungement could occur in cases where an individual is 18 years of age or older and has been convicted of a violation of section 6308 (relating to purchase, consumption, possession or transportation of liquor or malt or brewed beverages) which occurred while

the individual was under 18 years of age and the individual has satisfied all terms and conditions of the sentence imposed for the violation, including any suspension of operating privileges imposed pursuant to section 6310.4 (relating to restriction of operating privileges). Expungement would include all criminal history record information and administrative records of the Department of Transportation relating to the conviction.

The bill would also amend §9123(a) to provide that an expungement may occur for a conviction of any summary offense committed while the individual was under 18 years of age and where the individual is now 18 years of age or older, has satisfied all terms and conditions of the sentence imposed following the conviction, and has not been convicted of a felony, misdemeanor or adjudicated

delinquent and no proceeding is pending seeking such conviction or adjudication.

§9123(a)(4) would be amended to reduce the age, from 18 to 17, that an individual must attain before a court could order the expungement, upon the consent of the attorney for the Commonwealth, after giving consideration to the factors listed in that subsection.

The bill would also amend 18 Pa.C.S. §9122 (relating to expungement) to allow for the expunction of certain misdemeanor offenses specified in the bill, after the court gives consideration to certain factors. The bill also includes a new 42 Pa. C.S. §1725.7 “Expungement fee”, to require a \$100 fee for the filing of a petition for expungement under 19 Pa. C.S. §9122.

In Remembrance



The JCJC/CJIT&R was saddened to learn of the death of Roosevelt E. Shepherd, retired faculty member and former chair of the Department of Criminal Justice at Shippensburg University. He was 75 years of age at the time of his death, on June 29, 2009.

“Shep” became a professor at Shippensburg University in 1976. He was one of the original professors to teach in the JCJC Weekend Masters Program when it began in 1982, and continued to teach in the program until his retirement. Shep was an excellent professor who gave tirelessly to his students. He brought a wealth of “real world” experiences in criminal justice to the classroom, which resonated especially well with JCJC students, who appreciated his practical approaches to working with youth. He made a permanent positive imprint on not only his students, but on the JCJC Weekend Masters Program and Pennsylvania’s entire juvenile justice system.

The JCJC/CJIT&R extends its condolences to his family and many friends, and says “Thank You Shep” for your many years of dedicated service.

[Roosevelt Shepherd’s Obituary](#) from the July 3, 2009 Harrisburg Patriot-News.

GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

- plans new \$11-million academic center to open in 2010.

Press Release – July 8, 2009

On June 25, 2009 George Junior Republic publicly celebrated the centennial of its founding. Over 300 guests gathered at the campus of the residential treatment facility in Grove City, PA. Highlights of the day included a presentation by CEO Richard Losasso, a video history of George Junior Republic and testimonial remarks by former students. The day concluded with the groundbreaking for a new 62,000 square foot academic center to be opened in 2010.

Established as The Junior Republic of Western Pennsylvania in 1909, George Junior Republic eventually took the name of its founder, William R. George. At the turn of the last century, the needs of orphaned and delinquent youth were abundant. In 1907, three Allegheny County attorneys, R. T. McCready, Samuel Black and Leonard Levin joined together to address the plight of area youth. After careful study of successful juvenile systems of the day, the group chose the model of the junior republic, established by philanthropist William Reuben George. Who had founded his first junior republic at Freeville, New York in 1895. At the time of Levin's request, Mr. George had already replicated his program in three other states, established a national board and received recognition from the president of Harvard University and then President Theodore Roosevelt.

The facility was driven by his dream of creating a community where youth would be guided to become self-sufficient and productive citizens in a democratic society. Through the years, the program at George Junior Republic has grown from an experiment in democracy to an orphanage, a juvenile detention center to the therapeutic residential treatment facility it is today. Its current continuum of care contained in the following program offerings: Campus Group Homes, Community Based Group Homes, Diagnostic, Drug and Alcohol, Intensive Supervision, Prevention and Aftercare, and Special Needs.

Speaking to the crowd, Benson Callier and Eric King both expressed their appreciation and gratitude for the George Junior Republic family. Benson Callier, a 2001 graduate, received his undergraduate degree in Sociology from Western Kentucky, and is working on completing his Master's degree while playing semi-pro basketball. "When I came here, I was lost," Callier told the crowd. "I found myself here. This is my home." Eric King, a 2006

graduate who recently returned stateside from his first overseas tour of duty with the Navy, was given special permission to speak at the celebration. "The sailor you see before you is the man you helped grow. Thank you" King said.

Following the presentation, guests were invited to view exhibits in the newly opened Heritage Room. Artifacts, mementos and a timeline visually depict the challenges and progress made by the GJR. In the lobby of the campus resource center, three architectural renderings of the new school offered guests insight into the plan for the new academic center. The new academic center will have four wings and one core area. The four wings include: science and technology; vocational, music and art; math and reading; and English and social studies. The common core area will include a library, student information center, administration offices and lower-level classrooms.

According to GJR CEO, Richard Losasso, the plan for a new school came as a result of a study conducted about two years ago of the campus' main school facility. The conclusion of that study indicated that an investment of about \$2 million would be needed to improve electricity, heating, air conditioning and plumbing in the building. This would not even address the educational need of the residents. "We would have put \$2 million into the building but you wouldn't have been able to tell by looking at it," Losasso said. "It's an old building with narrow hallways, low ceilings and small classrooms." Instead of spending money to extend its useful life for another 10 to 15 years the GJR board of directors decided to construct a new, larger academic building located more centrally on campus.

The day concluded with a groundbreaking ceremony in which several current youth took shovels to the ground to make way for the new academic center being built this summer. The 62,000 square foot site will afford the youth in placement a state of the art setting in which to learn and grow. June 25th was an opportunity for George Junior Republic to look backward as it plans to look ahead.



WESTMORELAND COUNTY JUVENILE COURT PRESENTS
PENNSYLVANIA'S POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER PROJECT

Free Training

Sept
4th
2009
9am
to
3pm

Signs & Symptoms of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder In the Adolescent Population

Train the Trainer

This 1 day training experience will review basic information along with signs and symptoms of PTSD.

At conclusion of the training each participant will receive a facilitator training manual to further train their own staff.

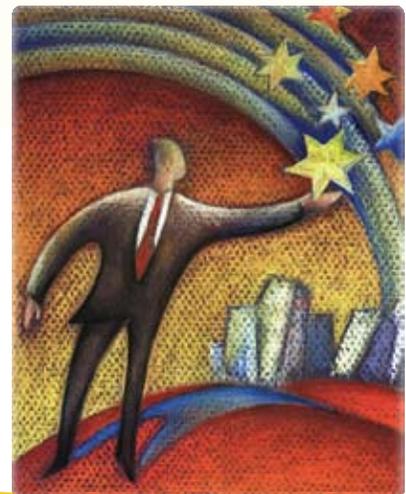
Contact us today for this **FREE** training!

Limited to 35 Participants per Training.

*Westmoreland Intermediate Unit #7
102 Equity Dr.
Greensburg, PA 15601*

Lunch will be on your own.

*Act 48 Hours and/or Training Certificates
will be available upon completion of training.*



PRESENTER:

Deborah Ciocco
PTSD Project Coordinator
Westmoreland County
Juvenile Probation Officer II

Who Should Attend:

Any Professional Working
with Adolescents

Any Questions:

Please contact Jacqueline Vaughan @ 724-830-1816

RSVP By: August 21st, 2009

Signs & Symptoms of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

Train the Trainer

Registration Form

Sept 4th, 2009

Name:

Agency/Organization:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Phone:

Email:

*** Please fax registration form to (724) 830-1817 OR
email to: jvaughan@co.westmoreland.pa.us**

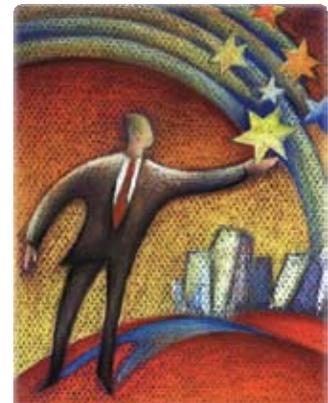
(Note: If you are emailing, this file is set up for you to insert your information
on the form and click send as email)

Thank You!

Print Form

Submit by Email

We look forward to seeing you!



WESTMORELAND COUNTY JUVENILE COURT PRESENTS
PENNSYLVANIA'S POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER PROJECT

FREE Training

Stress In Adolescence

Train the Trainer

Aug
24th
2009
9am
to
3pm

Research studies have been consistent in identifying stress as a significant issue for adolescents. Self reported studies show that many adolescents have witnessed or experienced violence in their homes or communities.

Stress In Adolescence is a 20 session curriculum designed for adolescents in any setting. Each 1 hour exercise is designed to be educational in nature and all free standing. Each exercise is hands on and interactive, enabling the participant to feel comfortable and willing to share. This training is a 1 day experience for staff; at the conclusion participants will be certified as Trainers to continue the experience within their organization!

Contact us today for this FREE training!

Limited to 35 Participants per Training.

*Westmoreland Intermediate Unit #7
102 Equity Dr.
Greensburg, PA 15601*

Lunch will be on your own.

*Act 48 Hours and/or Training Certificates
will be available upon completion of training.*

PRESENTER:
Deborah Ciocco
PTSD Project Coordinator
Westmoreland County
Juvenile Probation Officer II

Who Should Attend:
Any Professional Working
with Adolescents



Any Questions:
Please contact Jacqueline Vaughan @ 724-830-1816
RSVP By: August 10th, 2009

Stress In Adolescence

Train the Trainer

Registration Form

Aug 24th, 2009

Name:

Agency/Organization:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Phone:

Email:

*** Please fax registration form to (724) 830-1817 OR
email to: jvaughan@co.westmoreland.pa.us**

(Note: If you are emailing, this file is set up for you to insert your information
on the form and click send as email)

Print Form

Submit by Email

Thank You!

We look forward to seeing you!



Revised BEC on Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth

Deborah Gordon Klehr, Staff Attorney, Education Law Center

Recently the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) issued a revised Basic Education Circular (BEC) regarding the use of Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth. The BEC addresses many of the most significant issues reported as barriers to smooth educational reintegration for youth returning from out-of-home placement. These issues are also often encountered with other youth as well. Below please find highlights of the BEC. For a full copy of the BEC, go to <http://www.pde.state.pa.us/k12/cwp/view.asp?A=11&Q=67371>.

The BEC states that students may only be transferred to alternative education programs if ***at the time of the recommended transfer*** they meet the definition of a disruptive student. This means that if a student is returning to a school district months after an incident, the relevant query is whether the student is “currently fit” to return to the regular classroom. This is especially important language for students returning from out-of-home placements, since such students may have made tremendous progress in placement, regardless of the impetus for being sent to placement in the first place.

The section on students formerly adjudicated delinquent or convicted of a crime states, in part, that:

When a student returns to a school district from a delinquency placement, the school district cannot automatically place a child in an AEDY program merely because the child had been adjudicated delinquent. ***Each specific case must be examined on an individual basis.*** As with any other student being transferred to an AEDY program, students returning from delinquency placement are entitled to an informal hearing prior to being placed in an alternative education program. The purpose of the hearing is to determine whether the student is currently fit to return to the regular classroom or meets the definition of a disruptive student. Factors a school should consider include: whether the incident causing the adjudication occurred at school or at a school-sponsored event, the child’s behavior in placement, and the recommendations of teachers and other adults (such as juvenile probation officers and residential treatment staff) who have worked with the youth.

Students often make significant progress while in placement and some may be best served by returning to a regular classroom. Many want the chance to prove they are able to thrive in a regular school setting. Thus each case should be considered individually, based on the circumstances of a student at the time of return to the district.

As an advocate for a child, you may need to show this language to the school district if the district is trying to transfer a returning student to an alternative education program and you believe the student will be better served in the regular, neighborhood school. There is similar language, protective of children’s needs returning from placement, in the 2009-2010 Alternative Education for

WHAT IS A BEC?

A Basic Education Circular (BEC) is a statement by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) providing its interpretation of a provision of state or federal law. A BEC may provide guidance to school districts, other educational entities, and education professionals concerning what they need to do to comply with the law and regulations; a BEC also may contain an explanation of how PDE will interpret the laws and regulations for purposes of its own implementation and enforcement activities. Since PDE is responsible for administering the education laws enacted by the General Assembly, PDE’s opinion in a BEC, though not controlling, is likely to be afforded deference by a court. That said, a BEC is guidance as opposed to law. This BEC provides guidance to school districts in both the process by which students are sent to alternative education and the type of education a student receives while at the alternative program.

Disruptive Youth Program Guidelines, available here: http://www.pde.state.pa.us/alt_disruptive/cwp/view.asp?A=3&Q=140045&tx=0. See page six (6).

Other highlights of the BEC include language clarifying that alternative education programs:

Are **temporary**

- Must provide “a sound educational course of study that meets or exceeds state standards...and allows students to make normal academic progress toward graduation in their home district”
- Must offer at least **20 hours of academic instruction** per week and must operate **five (5) days per week**
- Must provide behavioral supports and counseling to modify the behavior that led to the transfer, including **2.5 hours/week of individual or group counseling** in addition to the 20 hours of required academic instruction.
- Must provide a behavior plan for each student that has clear and measurable goals
- Must review each student at the end of every semester, at a minimum, to determine if the student is ready to return to the regular classroom. The parent, student, and any other advocate(s) with knowledge of the child’s history should be involved in this review process.
- Are only for grades 6-12
- May only be used “after all other options for improving behavior have been exhausted”
- May only be used after the sending school district has shown that “any student recommended for placement in an AEDY program ha[s] participated in the Student Assistance Program.”
- May only be used **after** a student has received due process; school districts must provide students with an informal hearing in accordance with [22 PA Code 12.8\(c\)](#) **before** transferring the student. If the student poses a danger, the District can transfer the student immediately, but the informal hearing must follow “as soon as practicable.”

The BEC makes clear that alternative education programs that are not specifically approved by PDE must follow the same requirements as regular education programs (i.e. at least 27.5 hours of academic instruction/week instead of merely 20, etc.) The BEC also makes clear that **school districts “remain accountable for students’ progress”** in alternative education programs. The BEC also goes into more detail on the rights of students who receive special education services before they can be transferred. Moreover, schools must consider whether a child who has not yet been identified as a student with special education needs might need to be evaluated for special education **before** making a decision to transfer the student.

Finally, there is a section on best practices for alt ed programs at the end of the document. Programs would be wise to follow such practices to receive favorable review from PDE.

It is our hope that this revised BEC will alleviate many of the problems reported to us from juvenile justice professionals such as students returning from out-of-home placements being sent to alternative education programs inappropriately and for long periods of time while receiving a very poor quality of education. We hope that this BEC will improve both the process by which students are sent to alternative education programs and the quality of education they receive while attending such programs. You may use this BEC as an advocacy tool to ensure the best possible education for the students you serve.

National Juvenile Justice Announcements

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

July 1, 2009 - National EUDL Leadership Conference To Be Held in Dallas

On August 13–14, 2009, in Dallas, TX, the [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#), in partnership with its [Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center](#), will hold the annual [National Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws \(EUDL\) Leadership Conference](#).

The EUDL conference will feature innovative workshops that cover critical topics related to the effective prevention and enforcement of underage drinking. Early registration is recommended.

Resources:

To obtain additional information about the conference and register online, visit <http://nlc.dgimeetingsupport.com/>.

July 9, 2009 - Report Provides Guidance for Juvenile Defenders



The National Juvenile Defender Center has released the publication "[Role of Juvenile Defense Counsel in Delinquency Court](#)."

The report describes the unique and crucial role played by defense attorneys in juvenile court proceedings in providing comprehensive legal representation to children charged with offenses.

Resources:

To access this report, visit http://www.njdc.info/pdf/role_of_juvenile_defense_counsel.pdf.

July 15, 2009 - COPS Guide Addresses Bullying in Schools



The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) has published "[Bullying in Schools](#)."

Part of COPS' [Problem-Specific Guide Series](#), the guide provides police with information about the causes and extent of bullying in schools and includes recommendations for developing practices and policies that promote student safety.

Resources:

"Bullying in Schools" is available at www.cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/ResourceDetail.aspx?RID=18.

July 16, 2009 - Presenters Sought for National Conference on Juvenile and Family Law



On March 14-17, 2009, the [National Conference on Juvenile and Family Law](#) will be held in Las Vegas, NV. Sponsored by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the conference will provide presenters with a forum to address a multidisciplinary audience of professionals working in America's juvenile and family courts.

Further information about the conference, including registration, will be posted on [JUVJUST](#), as it becomes available.

Resources:

To submit a presentation proposal, visit www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=vy5Jbtjoc9W0d8QTDYwaw_3d_3d.

Proposals should be transmitted by September 15, 2009, and questions may be addressed to Diane Barnette, Director of Conference Planning and Marketing, at dbarnette@ncjfcj.org.

Mark your calendar!

Online registration at www.jjc.state.pa.us will be available in August.

The Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

November 4-6, 2009

at the Harrisburg Hilton & Towers

Sponsored by
The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission
The Juvenile Court Section of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges
The Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers



Youth Awards Program & Dinner

Wednesday, November 4

Annual Training and Awards Program

Thursday, November 5

Resource Day – 2009

Friday, November 6

The 2009 Annual Training and Awards Program will conclude by presenting Resource Day – 2009, during which representatives from residential programs, electronic monitoring companies, drug testing companies, and other service providers will “set up shop” to discuss their programs with the Pennsylvania juvenile justice community. This informal marketplace will offer an important opportunity for consumers to learn about new and innovative services.

VENDOR INFORMATION AVAILABLE NOW!

Early Registration....\$400 After August 31st....\$500



For vendor information, please call Arlene L. Prentice,
717-783-7836 or e-mail aprentice@state.pa.us

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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