

Act 32 of 2009 Establishes Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice

HB 1648(2294), which establishes the Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice, was signed into law by Governor Rendell as [Act 32 of 2009](#) on August 7, 2009, and became effective immediately. HB 1648 was introduced by Rep. Todd A. Eachus (D-Luzerne). Sen. Lisa Baker (R-Luzerne) introduced an identical measure in the Senate in the form of SB 949. Initially, each bill was passed by its respective chamber, but ultimately HB 1648 was targeted for passage.

The Interbranch Commission, which consists of 11 members appointed by the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government, is charged with ascertaining how the Luzerne County juvenile justice system failed, restoring public confidence in the administration of justice, and preventing similar events from occurring. The Commission has 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; and
- To hold public hearings for the taking of testimony and the requesting of documents.

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Four members of the Commission were appointed by the Chief Justice Ronald Castille, and include: Interim Superior Court Judge John M. Cleland as Chairperson; Hon. Dwayne D. Woodruff, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas; George D. Mosee, Jr., Philadelphia Deputy District Attorney; and Kenneth J. Horoho, Jr., former Pennsylvania Bar Association President.

Three members of the Commission have been appointed by Governor Rendell and include: Ronald P. Williams, former Wyoming County Commissioner and Vice-Chairman of Pennsylvania Resource Families; Tod C. Allen, Director of Court Advocacy, Erie County Crime Victim Center; and Valerie Bender, Research Associate, National Center for Juvenile Justice.

The four legislative appointees include: Hon. John C. Uhler, York County Court of Common Pleas, who was appointed by President Pro Tempore Joseph Scarnati; James A. Gibbons, Lackawanna Magisterial District Judge appointed by Senate Minority Leader Robert Mellow; Robert Listenbee, Juvenile Unit Chief, Defender Association of Philadelphia appointed by the Speaker of the House, Keith R. McCall; and Jason Legg, Susquehanna County District Attorney, appointed by the House Minority Leader Samuel H. Smith.

Act 32 of 2009 provides the Interbranch Commission with the power to issue subpoenas under the hand and seal of its chair, commanding any person to appear before it and answer questions touching matters properly being inquired into by the Commission, and to produce any books, papers, records, documents and data and information produced and stored by any electronic data processing system as the Commission deems necessary.

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. 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 is subject to the penalties provided by the laws of the Commonwealth. The legislation further provides that the chairperson of the Commission has 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 the Commonwealth to be taken in the manner prescribed by law for taking depositions in civil actions.

The Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) is to provide administrative services to the Interbranch Commission. Upon request, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and the Joint State Government Commission are also to provide administrative assistance to the Interbranch Commission; Act 32 provides that the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission may provide analysis, reports and recommendations to the Interbranch Commission.

The Interbranch Commission has 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 addressed in the legislation. These recommendations must include recommendations to improve the juvenile justice system, to prevent the reoccurrence of events similar to those that occurred in Luzerne County and to change state statutes and state and local practices, rules, policies and procedures. The organizational meeting of the Commission was held on August 27, 2009.

Orientation Training for New Hires Can Begin Without Delay

Chiefs and supervisors are encouraged to arrange for newly hired juvenile probation officers who missed the fall cycle of Orientation training, to register their staff for the spring 2010 program as soon after they are hired as possible. This will enable them to take the online Juvenile Act course right away, rather than waiting until December or January, with the live portion of the program beginning in February.

The one-week-long Juvenile Act course is scheduled to be taught beginning on the second Monday of every month. Officers must first complete the Online Learner's Orientation Program in one of the weeks preceding the Juvenile Act course. These mini-courses begin every Monday of every week of the year. Registration for the online courses and the upcoming live training in February is one seamless process.

You may start to register new staff for Orientation in mid-October by visiting www.jcjc.state.pa.us.

We urge you to begin getting your new officers up to speed by arranging for them to complete this online course as soon as they have an e-mail address established.

PHASE II STAFF SAFETY INSTRUCTOR MEETING HELD IN STATE COLLEGE

On August 28, 2009, certified Phase II Safety instructors met in State College to discuss the ongoing use of the Protective Safety Systems (PSS) model and to discuss ways that the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research could continue to support counties in their efforts to maintain the status of their Phase II instructors.

PSS instructors last met in 2005 and it seemed necessary to gather once again to update any changes from the last four years. In surveying counties with known instructors prior to the meeting, it became apparent that some counties no longer had PSS instructors. Contributing factors could include staff turnover and the lack of funds to train new staff or a change in their preference of models.

Phase II Staff Safety Training was supported by JCJC and CJJT&R to be the follow up to Phase I Staff Safety Training, with Phase I being the conceptual, preventative, skill building safety component and Phase II being the physical or defensive tactics safety component. In 1995, twenty-one officers from fifteen separate counties received funding from the Center to train Phase II instructors in the PSS model. In years to follow, as training funding was available, the Center continued to support the training of additional new instructors and recertification of existing instructors.

Recently, there were forty-six existing PSS instructors identified throughout the Commonwealth, representing fifteen counties. Participants noted that the meeting was productive in identifying issues with training and in networking with neighboring counties. Some of the thoughts and ideas that came out of the meeting were: to ascertain if there are other Phase II instructors in counties we might not have known that were using the PSS model; to promote PSS trainings being offered by individual counties through various means; to identify representatives from each county to serve as a liaison for providing updates on trainers; to explore hosting a PSS/Phase II training as a workshop on the regular Center training calendar; to develop a list of trainers who were willing to assist other departments with training; and to discuss issues with liability, compensation, and equipment. The participation and feedback from each of the trainers in attendance was greatly appreciated. In the near future, a list of available PSS instructors and regional trainings will be posted and maintained on the JCJC website, in an effort to assist counties who lack instructors but wish to train their staff in the PSS model.

Following the meeting, a survey was sent out to all counties to determine if there are other counties with PSS instructors that had not been counted. The general response from that survey was that some other counties are using the Pressure Points Control Tactics (PPCT) model. While the meeting was called to assemble PSS instructors, it is recognized that other models are being used throughout the state. This is very encouraging, as it indicates that officer safety continues to be a priority throughout the Commonwealth.



Jim Rieland to receive The Dennis M. Maloney Award

On Thursday evening, November 5, 2009 at the 2009 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile justice, James J. Rieland will be honored as the recipient of the Dennis M. Maloney Award by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers. Established in 2007 as a tribute to juvenile justice advocate and mentor, Denny Maloney, the award was designed to be presented periodically to individuals who have made truly exceptional contributions to Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system in the area of balanced and restorative justice. Mr. Rieland will be only the second individual to receive this honor. The inaugural presentation was made at the 2007 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice to Judge Kenneth G. Biehn.

Jim Rieland is currently the Director of Allegheny County Probation, in which capacity he directs all aspects of Allegheny County's Adult and Juvenile Probation Departments. Mr. Rieland is a past President of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers and was honored as the Pennsylvania Chief Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year in 2002. In 2007, Mr. Rieland was honored as the Juvenile Court Administrator of the year by the National Juvenile Court Services Association.

Mr. Rieland led Pennsylvania's balanced and restorative justice initiative as the Chairman of the Balanced and Restorative Justice Implementation Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers from 1998 until 2004, and returned as chairman in 2006. In this capacity, he is once again leading Pennsylvania's entire juvenile justice system in our ongoing efforts to achieve the statutory mission established by Act 33 of Special Session No. 1 of 1995.

Shuman Center Residents Experienced G-20 Summit with International Cuisine

The Shuman Juvenile Detention Center in Allegheny County marked the arrival of the G-20 Summit in Pittsburgh on September 24-25, 2009 by providing an opportunity for students to enjoy cuisine from countries that are participating in the event.

"This is a great event for our kids because it encourages them to learn more about the G-20 Summit, explore other cultures and be creative," said Shuman Juvenile Detention Center Director Jack Simmons. "It also gives our residents the opportunity to feel connected to this monumental event taking place in our region."

To kick-off the celebration, students created replicas of the flags of the participating countries. Shuman staff members paired the flags with facts about each country and posted them in the canteen.

Nutrition Inc. prepared the specialty lunches, which were served last week while the summit was being convened. Students tried a range of main courses, such as Italian risotto, and desserts, such as Mexican nut cookies. By the end of the week, the students had sampled cuisine from Italy, Mexico, Australia, India, South Africa and China.

During the meals, Shuman staff educated residents about the coinciding countries and offered clues to a crossword puzzle, which the students had the opportunity to complete to further reinforce what they learned about the G-20 nations.



Education Law Center Releases Updated JPO Toolkit

The MacArthur Foundation, and the Education Law Center (ELC) published an updated version of its Educational Aftercare & Reintegration Toolkit for Juvenile Justice Professionals in June, 2009. The Toolkit, which was first written in 2006, now includes more information on several topics of particular concern to juvenile justice professionals. ELC has conducted numerous trainings based on the Toolkit over the past three years. Due to the feedback that ELC received during these trainings, ELC revised the Toolkit significantly.

The updated Toolkit provides more guidance about the rights of youth enrolling in public school, more information about charter schools, expanded guidance on school attendance and truancy issues, and more detailed information about the special education process. The Toolkit also provides additional material about alternative education

programs for disruptive youth, and advice on how to ensure that youth returning from delinquency placements are not automatically sent to such programs by their school districts. The Toolkit includes several new or revised "Tools," including new policy guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education on student enrollment and alternative education programs, as well as a revised Checklist of Key Activities from Pre-Placement through Release and Reintegration.

ELC will continue to provide trainings on the Toolkit for Juvenile Probation Officers and other juvenile justice professionals. The next JPO training is scheduled for October 30, 2009 in Allegheny County. In addition, ELC will be conducting several trainings statewide for juvenile public defenders, including a presentation at the Pennsylvania Conference on

Juvenile Justice on November 5, 2009 in Harrisburg.

Every JPO in Pennsylvania will receive a hard copy of the Toolkit, with distribution being initiated at the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers general membership meeting on September 18, 2009 in State College. The revised Toolkit can be found at www.modelsforchange.net/publications/225 and also on the Education Law Center's website at www.elc-pa.org. If you have questions about the educational rights of youth returning from delinquency placement that cannot be answered by the Toolkit, you should contact one of the Aftercare Specialists (the contact information for the Aftercare Specialists is listed in Tool 17 of the Toolkit) or the Education Law Center at 215-238-6970 (Philadelphia) or 412-258-2120 (Pittsburgh).

Community Service – Summer 2009

Another successful summer of community service work is just about in the books for the children under the supervision of the JPO.

The kids worked hard doing projects with the Brownsville Area Revitalization Corporation to maintain properties in Brownsville Borough, picking litter on the roadways in Wharton Township and Dunlap Creek Park, grass cutting at German-Masontown Park, Fayette Area Coordinated Transportation, and the Clearview Cemetery behind Lafayette School, working with the Connellsville Street Department, washing vehi-

cles for the County Assessment Office.

Their efforts so far have earned them over 1,100 hours of community service completed as of the end of July.

One project this summer hit the JPO close to home; clean up and re-landscape the building that houses their own office, the Federal Building in downtown Uniontown, “I walked out the side door one day this past winter,” according to Community Service Coordinator Mike Lukac, “the tree was so overgrown that when the door opened, it hit one of

the branches and snow fell down the back of my neck. That’s when I decided it was time to clean this place up.” All of the old, overgrown shrubs and dead trees were removed and replaced.

Part of the cost of the landscaping project was paid for by an Alternative Activities Grant from the Fayette County Drug & Alcohol Commission, Inc., “They have always been very supportive of our activities over the years. Their help is greatly appreciated”, states Lukac.

“The tree on the side was so overgrown that when the door opened, it hit one of the branches and snow fell down the back of my neck. That’s when I decided it was time to clean this place up.”
--Mike Lukac

Before



During



After



PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION ON PROBATION, PAROLE AND CORRECTIONS
89th ANNUAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

Working Together/Working Smarter For Safer Communities

May 23-26, 2010 – Seven Springs Resort

2010 CALL FOR PRESENTERS
PROPOSALS ARE DUE BY November 15, 2009

PAPPC invites you to submit topics for consideration on subjects that will help juvenile and adult criminal justice practitioners and related service providers deal more effectively with the challenges of today's workplace. Workshops will explore winning strategies, promising practices and Evidence-Based Practice in the field of adult and juvenile, county and state probation, parole and institutional care. Systems approaches to addressing public safety, cross system networking, treatment and victim concerns will be appreciated. Topics can include the following: Institutions, Adult Probation and Parole, Juvenile Probation, Administration and Management Issues, Academic and Research, Terrorism and Critical Instance Response, Victim Advocacy and Awareness, Offender Treatment, and other relevant topics.

PROPOSAL FORM – (Please attach this form to the front of your submission. More than one proposal is acceptable.)

Person submitting Proposal:

Name: _____ Company/ Agency: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Presentation Title: _____

Presenter name (s), Title (s), Licensing (i.e., Ph.D. LSW), Organization (s): _____

Length of Presentation (check one): 1 ½ hrs. _____ 3 hrs. _____ 6 hrs. _____

I have enclosed the following:

- **200 word description of topic on 8 ½" x 11" paper or electronic file attachment**
- **Objectives of Presentation**
- **An outline of the presentation**
- **Biographies of presenters**

Presenter Agreement:

If this proposal is accepted by PAPPC, the undersigned guarantees that he/she is the sole proprietor of this material, that no proprietary rights or copyrights belonging to any other person exists. The undersigned further agrees to deliver in advance, to the Program Committee the proposed session materials and handouts. The undersigned agrees that no fees or reimbursement of expenses will be paid by PAPPC unless agreed upon otherwise.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail, Fax or Email by November 15, 2009 to:

Kristin Sayers - PAPPC Secretary/ Program Committee Co-Chair
55 Utley Drive, Camp Hill, PA 17011

Fax: (717) 731-7159
Email: krsayers@state.pa.us

OR

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PLEASE FEEL FREE TO MAKE COPIES AND SHARE WITH OTHERS.

National Juvenile Justice Announcements

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

September 3, 2009 - OJJDP Seeks Information on DSO Promising Practices

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) seeks information on initiatives that help states achieve or maintain the Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO). To that end, OJJDP invites state agencies and others to [nominate](#) programs and strategies that have shown promise in keeping status offenders out of jail or removing status offenders from juvenile or adult detention, regardless of funding source.

Nominated programs will be reviewed for inclusion in a database of promising DSO initiatives. To be eligible for nomination, programs and strategies must have been in operation for at least 2 years and data documenting their impact must show improvement over one or more periods of time.

Resources:

The DSO Promising Practices Nomination Form may be accessed at ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/programs/DSOpromisingpractices2009.pdf.

September 21, 2009 - OJJDP Bulletin Provides Strategies To Reduce Disproportionate Minority Contact



The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has published “[Reducing Disproportionate Minority Contact: Preparation at the Local Level](#).”

The bulletin, the first in OJJDP’s new DMC series, describes strategies that states and communities can use to reduce disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system. A companion to OJJDP’s [Disproportionate Minority Contact Technical Assistance Manual](#), the bulletin includes guidance drawn from the manual and provides useful information on the context in which local preparation to address disproportionate minority contact takes place.

Resources:

“Reducing Disproportionate Minority Contact: Preparation at the Local Level” (NCJ 218861) is available online at ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=240604.

Print copies may be [ordered online](#).

The DMC Technical Assistance Manual may be accessed at www.ncjrs.gov/html/ojjdp/dmc_ta_manual/index.html.

September 21, 2009 - Updated National Youth Gang Survey Analysis Now Available



The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s National Youth Gang Center has posted updated findings and analyses from OJJDP’s [National Youth Gang Survey](#) (NYGS) on its Web site.

Conducted annually since 1995, NYGS is a systematic survey of law enforcement agencies across the nation that assesses the presence, extent, and characteristics of local gang problems.

The National Youth Gang Center Web site provides survey data from 1996 through 2007. Available data include annual numbers of gangs and gang members from 1996 through 2007, the change in the number of gang-problem jurisdictions from 2002 to 2007, and gang member demographics.

Resources:

To access this youth gang resource, visit www.iir.com/nygc/nygsa/.

The 2009 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice is just around the corner!

November 4-6, 2009 at the Harrisburg Hilton & Towers

If you have not done so, please remember to register today by visiting www.jjc.state.pa.us.

Please note that the discounted fees for early conference registration have been extended throughout the entire registration period! Please see the revised fee schedule below:

Conference Events:

- Professional Caucuses (Nov. 4) \$0
- Youth Awards Program & Dinner (Nov. 4) \$50
- Continental Breakfast, Morning & Afternoon Plenary Sessions, Lunch, and Workshops (Nov. 5) ... \$110
- Reception and Awards Program & Dinner (Nov. 5) \$60
- Continental Breakfast & Resource Day (Nov. 6) \$30
- Complete CONFERENCE PACKAGE (Nov. 4—Nov. 6) \$250

We hope to see you there!

15th National Symposium on Juvenile Services

October 11-14, 2009 • Indianapolis, Indiana
Representing America's Youth: Transforming the Field of Juvenile Services

SPONSORED BY
National Partnership for Juvenile Services

COSPONSORED BY
Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
Indiana Juvenile Detention Association
Indiana Department of Correction

SYMPOSIUM LOCATION
Indianapolis, Indiana - Sheraton Hotel & Suites • Room Rate: \$97.00 per night (plus tax)
 For Reservations Call: 1-888-627-7814 or (317) 846-2700. You must reference the following to receive the discounted rate: National Partnership for Juvenile Services. All reservations **must** be made by September 11, 2009 to qualify for the discount rate.
Online reservations: <http://www.npjs.org/symposium.html>

REGISTRATION RATES	EARLY BIRD	AFTER SEPTEMBER 1ST
Non-Member	\$225	\$245
NPJS Member	\$195	\$215
Indiana Resident	\$175	\$195
Student Rate (full-time)	\$85	\$85
Intensive Training Courses (participants enrolled in training courses will be unable to attend other events scheduled during course hours)		
Leadership Skills for Supervisors and Managers	\$225	\$245
Educators Curriculum	\$299	\$319

EXHIBIT FEES (to download a complete Exhibit Show Guide visit: <http://www.npjs.org/symposium.html>)

Non-Member	\$495	Non-Profit	\$445
NPJS Corporate Member	\$425	Indiana Vendor	\$425

SYMPOSIUM PLENARY SESSIONS
 Professionalizing the Field through Certification - Frank Eckles, Executive Director, Youth Worker Certification Institute
 Resurrecting Juvenile Justice: News from OJJDP - Jeff Slowikowski, Interim Administrator (invited), OJJDP, U.S. Department of Justice
 Adolescent Development & Sexuality in Institutional Settings - Sheryl Brissett-Chapman, Executive Director, The National Center for Children & Families

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
 For symposium agenda, registration materials and other information visit: <http://www.npjs.org/symposium.html>
 For questions or to request hard copy registration materials contact our office at: email - npjs@eku.edu • phone - 859.622.6259



WORKSHOP SESSION HIGHLIGHTS...

Cyber-Training in the 21st Century • The Intersection of Youth Development and Juvenile Justice • Implementing Cognitive Behavioral Programs in Juvenile Detention and Residential Treatment Facilities • Critical Issues in Juvenile Services: A National Perspective • Xbox, Hip-Hop and Dreadlocks • Community Outreach in Juvenile Detention • CARE Teams: Highlighting Indiana Juvenile Corrections Programs • Building an Effective Reentry Program: The Alaska Experience • Learning on a Shoestring • Why the Training School Model Needs to Be Abandoned • Reaching and Teaching Every Student Especially the Reluctant Learner • Managing At-Risk Youth in the Classroom • Creating Positive Media Relations • Competency and Motivational Retention Strategies for Correctional Staff • JJDPA Compliance Issues • Pathways to Promotion • Tai Chi: A Stress Reduction Program • PLUS, multiple sessions exploring the progress of the Annie E. Casey Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative and also sessions examining the growing issue of children of incarcerated parents



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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Stephen Bishop - Editor, Chris Heberlig - Graphic Design & Layout.

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.

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