

PENNSYLVANIA

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
Edward G. Rendell, Governor



Juvenile Justice

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

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In Memory of Edward M. Shearn

On October 4, 2010, Schuylkill County and the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system lost a dedicated professional and advocate for children when Edward M. "Schmook" Shearn died peacefully at his home. Until his retirement in January 2010, he had been employed for 34 years with the Schuylkill County Juvenile Probation Department, the last ten of which as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer.

Schmook was the lead staff when, in the mid-1970's, the Schuylkill County Juvenile Probation Department and the Loysville Youth Development Center initiated a program in Schuylkill County to recruit and supervise foster homes for delinquent children. Also, he worked as an intensive probation officer, aftercare officer, supervisor, and deputy chief.

Frequently, he went beyond the parameters of his job to improve the life situations of those he supervised and their families. Often, as a young probation officer, he would utilize his limited fiscal resources to purchase clothing, furniture, bedding and food for families in need. Schmook, against the advice of his co-workers, would co-sign for loans so that a juvenile would be able to buy a car to get to work. On a number of occasions he attended weddings for individuals he supervised on probation and on a few occasions was actually a member of the wedding party. On at least one occasion, when one of his probationers died, the family asked Schmook to be in the receiving line at the funeral home. Many of his probationers maintained contact with him long after their court ordered relationship expired.

Schmook served as a member of the Schuylkill County Drug and Alcohol Executive Committee, on the Youth Council of the Luzerne/Schuylkill Workforce Investment Board, and was active in the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers. Most recently, he served as chairman of the By-Laws Committee and as a member of the Council's Executive Committee. He had previously been involved with the Public Relations and Standards Committees and worked on the redesign of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) statistical card. From 1988 through 1989 he served on the Compliance Review Team for secure state facilities.

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Reminders:

Tie One on for Safety - Drunk Driving Awareness Campaign starts in November

Allegheny County Celebrates Juvenile Justice Week By Honoring Veteran Staff

By Christine Lisko, Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County Juvenile Court



Front Row: Lloyd Woodward, Cindy Davis, Janice Matuscak, Judge Clark, Administrator Carlino, Judge Klein, Sam Bundridge Back Row: Joe Cacolice, Bert Hathaway, Judge McVay, David Speaks, Sam Grott, Cyndi David, Judge Hens-Greco, Judge Mulligan, Judge Woodruff, Mark Yon, Ted Kairys, Kim Booth, and Ray Bauer (Missing Mary Hatheway, Darcel Goodlowe & Robyn Maromonte)

As part of Juvenile Justice Week, on Monday, October 4, 2010, Allegheny County celebrated with a Veteran PO Ceremony. Thirteen Juvenile Court employees with a combined total of 429 years of juvenile court experience were honored.

After a welcome by Juvenile Court Administrator Russell Carlino, Administrative Judge David Wecht swore in three probation officers. Both Thera Greene and Angela Wyman were sworn in, as they returned to employment with Juvenile Probation, as well as, Nelton Neal, formerly a CISP D&A worker. As part of the celebration, all veteran staff were sworn in, renewing the oath that they took years ago. Administrative Judge Wecht administered all the oaths.

Four support staff were honored and renewed their oath: Cynthia Cross has been with the Court for 26 years; Cynthia Davis for 29 years; Darcel Goodlowe for 33 years; and Robyn Maromonte for 29 years.

Home Detention Officer Samuel Bundridge was also sworn in again after 30 years of service with Allegheny County Juvenile Court.

Supervisor Samuel Grott and Probation Officer David Speaks were recognized for 25 years of service. Assistant Administrator Mary Hatheway and Probation Officer Mark Yon have been with the Court for 26 years. Probation Officer's Janice Matuscak and Lloyd Woodward have been with the Court for 28 years.

This was the second such recognition in Allegheny County. In 2006, during Juvenile Justice Week, 12 Court employees renewed their oath. Of those staff, Karen Ambrose, Raymond Bauer, Stephen Bechtold, Joe Cacolice, Robert Dassel, Ronald Dziuban, Bert Hathaway, Edward Kairys, George Kinder, Richard Smith, Robert Straw, Linda Tanis, Leonard Thomas and James Tucker are all still employed here. To date, veteran staff members have a total of 812 years of experience between them.

Special recognition was given to Bertrand Hathaway and Joseph Cacolice for their years of service. Bert has been with the Court for 41 years, and Joe has been with the Court for 45 years. To put it into perspective, 109 current employees were not even born when Bert started with Juvenile Probation and 136 current employees were not yet born when Joe started with the Court.

Some other interesting facts about when Joe started with the court in 1965. The average cost of a new home was \$13,600.00 and a gallon of gas was \$.21. Also, Lyndon Johnson was our president and the average cost of a new car was \$2,650.00. Additionally, when Bert and Joe started with the Court, there was no Internet, no email, and no cell phones. Also, Three Rivers Stadium, the US Steel Tower and the fountain at Point State Park were all not built yet.

Judge Kimberly Berkeley Clark was the guest speaker of the ceremony and spoke about the importance of Juvenile Probation Officers and the outstanding work that Allegheny County Juvenile Court does as a whole.

Position Announcement

Information Technology Technician/Generalist Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research

Shippensburg University, Shippensburg Pennsylvania

The Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research (CJJT&R) is currently accepting applicants for a twelve month grant-funded Information Technology Technician/Generalist position. Pending final grant approval, it is anticipated that the funding for this position will begin January 1, 2011. The annual starting salary for this position is \$45,000 and includes a comprehensive benefits package. Appointments above the starting salary may be considered, and will be commensurate with the candidate's education, work experience and salary history.

This position will serve as a central point of contact for information technology needs on various agency research projects and data requests; develops forms and reports in Crystal Reports or other report writer tools as requested by end users; builds data extraction packages as requested for reports and research initiatives; provides operational and procedural assistance to end users involving database and application support, backup and recovery support, and county networking issues.

The minimum experience and training requirements for the position are: an Associate's Degree in Microcomputer Technology or other closely related field; or two (2) years of experience providing microcomputer support services to include information technology hardware and software installation, operation, and maintenance, or any equivalent combination of experience and training.

Qualified candidates should submit a cover letter, transcripts, and a resume to Stephen Bishop, Deputy Director, Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research, 1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299. This information must be received no later than November 19, 2010. Please contact [Stephen Bishop](#) at (717) 477-1294 if you have any questions or desire additional information; or view the entire job description on the [JCJC Website](#).

Fall 2010 Staff Development Highlights:

We also invite you to check out some links to other trainings around the state.

The following trainings and their links are not sponsored by JCJC.



Signs & Symptoms of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in the Adolescent Population

December 17th 2010

Stress In Adolescence

November 10th 2010

Mental Health Issues in Adolescence

November 17th 2010

STRESSLESS

December 3rd 2010

Hitting the Ground Running: Putting DMC Reduction on the Fast Track in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

*Reprinted with permission from DMC Action Network eNews, October, 2010
http://cclp.org/documents/DMC/DMC_eNews_017.pdf*

Smart, sustainable DMC reduction takes time. So what can a jurisdiction realistically hope to accomplish in just one year? As Lancaster County, PA, has demonstrated, you can accomplish a lot, including the creation of a diverse and active governing body, the implementation of a detention risk assessment instrument, and the opening of the County's first evening reporting center.

When Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, officially joined the DMC Action Network in August 2009 as a replication site, it was because individuals there demonstrated a strong motivation and commitment to DMC reduction in a jurisdiction that was facing some stark disparities. In Lancaster County, white youth make up 88% of the juvenile population, yet youth of color represent 60% of the youth in secure detention on any given day. Most of those youth live in the City of Lancaster, an urban area situated in what is an overwhelmingly rural county.

Those numbers drove Sherry Lupton, Supervisor of the Lancaster County Office of Juvenile Probation, to lead the County's effort to join the Network. In 2007, Lupton had created a DMC Group to try to tackle some of the issues surrounding racial and ethnic disparities in her jurisdiction. She began attending meetings of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency's (PCCD) DMC Subcommittee of its Juvenile Justice Initiative, which connected her with others in Pennsylvania who were working on reducing racial and ethnic disparities. She hoped that, as a replication site, Lancaster could learn about some of the strategies that have been most effective at reducing DMC.

One year after joining the Action Network, Lancaster is not just learning: it's doing.

Immediately after joining the Network, Lancaster began gathering information on youth in the system using the Burns Institute Level One Data Collection tool – information that forms the basis of quarterly presentations to juvenile justice professionals and other stakeholders. Data from this past spring demonstrated that the top three offenses for which youth were being detained were failure to appear in court, delinquency order violations, and aggravated assault. Those data help illustrate where the County should target efforts to reduce DMC. However, Lupton also notes that the data are also valuable in

empowering groups to take action: “When you're able to point to a specific zip code and time of day, you can help motivate the community to get involved in a different way.”

This past spring, Lancaster used this information to help obtain funding for an evening reporting center (ERC) from PCCD. Lancaster officials believed that the ERC would help reduce the number of youth of color in detention. David Mueller, Director of the Office of Juvenile Probation, led the push to implement the program, which opened its doors in August. Known as Turning Point, the ERC serves up to ten male youth in the City of Lancaster between 3pm and 9pm, Monday through Friday. The ERC's director and staff are bilingual, which Lupton notes was a deliberate choice, given the number of Latino youth who come into contact with the system.

To complement the ERC, Lancaster County also developed a detention risk assessment instrument to ensure that officials are making objective decisions about which youth need to be securely detained and which youth can participate in community-based programs like the ERC, consistent with public safety. All county officials have received training on the instrument by Supervisor Leo Lutz, and the tool is now being used for all detention decisions.

When asked how Lancaster has made such rapid progress in just one year, Lupton notes that the County has a strong and consistent voice for reform: its DMC Governing Body. The Governing Body, which was created in large part through the leadership of the Honorable David R. Workman, has met regularly and built a strong membership base. Lupton also notes that its membership in the DMC Action Network as a replication site has been invaluable, particularly because neighboring Berks County has a similar population and is “aware of the concerns and challenges of this work.”

Lancaster's stakeholders have a lot to celebrate, but Lupton notes that there is much more to look forward to in the coming months. Diana Rodriguez, Senior Probation Officer, has spearheaded a project to ensure that all forms are translated into Spanish. Additionally, given the high concentration of churches in the jurisdiction, stakeholders are working hard to build connections with the faith-based community, which she hopes "will help connect youth to a new network of resources and individuals." That push was sparked by a presentation by Reverend Romal Tune at the [DMC Action Network's Fourth Annual Meeting](#), and Lupton is now working to bring Reverend Tune to consult with her jurisdiction.

Capitalizing on the community's rich pool of resources and working closely with organizations like the Crispus Attucks Community Center, which provides a broad array of services for youth and families, are key to improving outcomes for youth, Lupton notes. "Networking with other stakeholders is based on a simple principle: We want our kids to do well. When you collaborate, you realize what a blessing it is to have those organizations and individuals in your community."



National Juvenile Justice Announcements

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

October 8, 2010 - Report Provides Best Practices To Address Gang Problems

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has published "[Best Practices To Address Community Gang Problems: OJJDP's Comprehensive Gang Model \(Second Edition\)](#)."

The report provides communities that are considering implementing OJJDP's Comprehensive Gang Model with critical, evidence-based information to inform and direct their efforts. This second edition includes a summary of findings from an independent evaluation of OJJDP's Gang Reduction Program in four demonstration sites.

Resources:

"Best Practices To Address Community Gang Problems: OJJDP's Comprehensive Gang Model (Second Edition)" is available online at www.ojjdp.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=253257.

October 25, 2010 - DOJ and HHS Award Nearly \$76 Million To Enhance Drug Treatment Courts

On October 25, 2010, the Office of Justice Programs issued the following press release:

Washington - The U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ's) Office of Justice Programs' (OJP) Bureau of Justice Assistance and Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS') Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) awarded nearly \$76 million in Fiscal Year 2010 grants to enhance the court services, coordination, and substance abuse treatment capacity of adult and juvenile drug treatment courts. Drug courts promote treatment approaches rather than traditional incarceration for people drawn into the criminal justice system because of substance abuse related problems.

There are more than 2,200 drug court programs currently providing services to adults and juveniles across the nation. In judicially supervised settings, these specialized courts effectively integrate substance abuse treatment, mandatory drug testing, sanctions and incentives, and support services needed to recover and steer clear of further involvement with the juvenile and criminal justice system.

"We know that drug courts are central to reducing drug abuse and to keeping communities safe. These grants will help communities launch new drug courts and enhance courts where they already exist," said Laurie O. Robinson, OJP's Assistant Attorney General. "Our National Institute of Justice recently released preliminary findings from its five-year, multi-site evaluation of adult drug courts. The early analysis shows that after 6 months, and again after 18 months, drug court participants reported less drug-related and criminal activity."

"SAMHSA and DOJ are committed to building on the success of treatment drug courts by bolstering their ability to provide essential alcohol and drug treatment, recovery support, screening, assessment, case management, and program coordination services to thousands of people working to free themselves from lives of substance abuse and crime," said SAMHSA Administrator Pamela S. Hyde, J.D. "These efforts are critically important since more than 60 percent of all people in state and federal prisons and local jails have substance abuse problems. By effectively addressing these substance abuse problems our nation can significantly reduce crime, lessen the burden on the criminal justice system and restore countless lives."

Resources:

For information about the specific grants, see the complete press release at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/newsroom/pressreleases/2010/OJP10145.htm.

For information about OJJDP's FY 2010 awards, visit www.ojjdp.gov/funding/fy10awards.html.

The Transition to Purchased Detention: Beaver County's Experience

By Robert Rose, Director, Beaver County Juvenile Services

On July 31, 2009, Beaver County Commissioners closed the Allencrest Detention Center and entered into a contract for secure detention services with the Jefferson County Detention Center, Steubenville, Ohio. These are some of our experiences related to the closing.

So far the move has proven to be a positive one overall for the county and our juvenile justice system even though there was much apprehension by many of us when the closing occurred. Here are some of the positives: In the past year, we have reduced detention admissions by 31% during a period in which there was no significant change in the number of delinquency referrals. The reduction was achieved in part by careful planning and collaboration, the development of alternative graduated sanctions for probation violations, and through related policy changes. These changes also helped the court reduce delinquency placement costs by 26% over the same time period.

For several years prior to closing Allencrest, the demand for secure detention had declined in Beaver County. During its last two years of operation, the 25 bed facility averaged fewer than 10 residents per day. The demand for purchased beds by neighboring counties and the revenue it had generated dropped off substantially during the past five years with surrounding counties opting to use less costly shelter beds or other community based options to secure detention. The facility was costing the county about \$2 million

per year to operate at the time of its closing.

Opened in the mid 1950's, Allencrest had seen better days. By today's standards, it was lacking in many ways. Classroom facilities were inadequate and visitation areas were lacking. The facility had no gymnasium and had little in the way of indoor recreation facilities. From a security standpoint, the layout was problematic making staff and resident supervision difficult and costly. The physical plant left much to be desired. An antiquated heating system required constant attention and there was no central air. The overall physical plant was in need of a major overhaul. The cost to rehabilitate the facility and to bring it up to modern standards was prohibitive.

The board of commissioners announced its decision to close the Allencrest facility several months prior to the actual closing. That decision had been anticipated many months earlier and the county, the court and probation services had ample time to plan accordingly. A number of options were discussed including the development of a new state of the art juvenile justice facility. However, financial considerations prevented new construction. Contracting with Jefferson County, Ohio, the nearest available facility, made the most sense.

Planning and collaboration were the keys that have allowed the successful transition to purchased detention services for Beaver County. Cooperation by the Sheriff was critical to the success of this project.

All juvenile transports in Beaver County have been the responsibility of the Sheriff for many years. The closing of Allencrest meant that the Sheriff would be transporting juveniles to detention at all hours of the day and night as well as back and forth from the Ohio facility to court hearings four days a week and in all sorts of weather. This would be a substantially increased burden on the Sheriff's Office.

A juvenile transportation detail was established by the Sheriff to handle all juvenile court transports. A procedure was established whereby local police would be responsible for taking a youth approved for detention to the Central Booking facility of the Beaver County Jail where the youth would be booked sight and sound separate from adults and turned over to the Sheriff for transportation to Jefferson County. While at the booking center, the juvenile receives a medical screening by jail medical personnel. The new procedure has proven to be no more time consuming for local police than the admission process at the previous county run facility.

Allencrest had served as a cornerstone of Beaver County's juvenile justice system for many years and its closing forced a careful review of overall juvenile justice system operations by the court and the Juvenile Services Division. A review of secure detention admission data revealed that in nearly half the admissions to the detention center, the most serious charge at admission was probation violation or dispositional review. It became apparent

Juvenile Law Center Releases Fact Sheet on Status Offenders

The Juvenile Law Center has recently released a Fact Sheet entitled “Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders in Pennsylvania”. This fact sheet reviews the legislative history which makes the placement in secure confinement of a status offender illegal in Pennsylvania.

The document also addresses the issue of attempting to transform a dependent youth into a delinquent youth in order to enforce a dependency order. According to the fact sheet, failure to comply with a dependency order cannot be the pretext for a delinquency proceeding. Further, and more specifically, this document notes that failing a drug test is an insufficient basis for a finding of possession of drugs. This is supported by the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Robinson v. California* which prohibits convictions for drug possession based solely on the results of a drug and/or urine test. Essentially, a court may order a drug test to aid in a dependency disposition; however, corroborating evidence is necessary to support a delinquency adjudication for possession of drugs.

Lastly, this fact sheet provides strategies for deinstitutionalizing status offenders while still meeting the needs of youth who violate court orders.

The “Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders in Pennsylvania” fact sheet can be viewed and downloaded from the Juvenile Law Center’s website, http://www.jlc.org/factsheets/deinstitutionalization_of_status_offenders_in_pennsylvania/.

that with no county run detention center in our back yard, another approach to probation violations was essential.

The Court and the Juvenile Services Division agreed that operational changes were needed to address the issue of probation violators. One of the most significant changes that was implemented was the movement away from an enforcement approach to supervision. The number of standard probation rules was reduced to ten standard conditions and was limited to those rules that established the basic supervisory requirements such as the requirement to meet with the PO, keep the PO informed of any changes in address, etc. Additional conditions could be established for a particular youth but only if a direct correlation could be shown between the factors that led to the commission of the offense and the proposed condition.

The goals were for supervision to be no more intrusive than necessary into the life of the offender and to close cases successfully on the basis of achieved Balanced and Restorative Justice outcome measures established in the individual supervision plan. As a Phase I YLS/CMI county, Beaver County has been able to make use of the YLS for most of the past year and has adopted a supervision plan based on it. Case plans target the criminogenic needs of the youth on an individualized basis. In addition, Beaver County is fortunate to have a wealth of community based treatment programs available within the county as well as a number of natural supports for our youth and families. Probation officers have made skillful use of those resources

since the detention center has closed.

For those individuals who persist in committing probation violations, three graduated alternative sanctions were initiated. A two to eight week evening report program was established with the assistance of Adelphoi Village as an addendum to another community based program they operate for the county. The Court also began using weekend sanctions through Keystone in Greenville and, for those youth who just don’t get it, the Keystone 30 Day Sanction Program. Sanctions may be repeated as needed. So far, the results have been as desired: fewer detention admissions and fewer longer term placements for probation violators.

The closing of the Allencrest Detention Center has dramatically changed the juvenile justice system in Beaver County. The worst fears many of us had as the facility closed its doors in July 2009 have not materialized. While the total savings to the county resulting from the closing has not been calculated, it has been very significant. More importantly, the policy changes that have been made in the juvenile justice system as a result of the closing have not only led to substantial cost savings but to a revitalized approach to probation supervision.

Beaver County’s experience in closing their secure detention facility is representative of a growing trend across the Commonwealth. Statewide, detention admissions have decreased by an average of 1000/year over the last two years, and the number of secure detention facilities has decreased from 22 to 18 to date, with another detention center pending closure later in the year.

Dr. Donna Hale Retires



After 22 years of teaching in the JCJC Graduate Education Program at Shippensburg University, Dr. Donna Hale recently retired. Since the late 1980's Donna has been instructing courses in the area of management to over 450 students within the JCJC Program.

When asked to say a couple things about the success and the continuity of JCJC Program, Donna mentioned the dedication she witnessed firsthand from her students over the years and emphasized the importance of the cohort structure. She explained that "it was always interesting to see the bond and loyalty develop within each class from the beginning of the program through the end and how the academic rigor plays a part in the whole process."

Donna stated that over the years JCJC students would call the house requesting instructions on regression analysis and ask to speak with her husband, Dr. Tom Austin. She was happy to hand the phone over to Tom and jokingly say to him, "...must be because all of my instructions to my students are clear." Donna is very much proud of the relationships she has garnered teaching within the JCJC program and is fond of all of the "hellos" she receives from previous students at the Annual

Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice each year in November.

Regarding leadership and management issues in the workplace, Donna explained that because "organizations are always changing and as a result conflict may appear, communication and actually talking to those involved with the issue at hand is vital to resolving the problem."

Donna is originally from Cincinnati and completed her Ph.D. at Michigan State. In the near future Donna will be completing her Masters of Divinity degree and hopes to work in a juvenile residential facility as a chaplain.

Donna stated that she "will miss Shippensburg University and will especially miss the JCJC program because it has been such a lively, enriching and engaging experience."

Edward M. Shearn - Continued from page 1

Schmook was 1975 graduate of Kings College with a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice, and a 1985 graduate of the JCJC sponsored Masters Degree program in Administration of Justice at Shippensburg University.

He was a dedicated family man. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Marilyn Marcavage Shearn, and two daughters; Jill, a Licensed Physical Therapist and her husband, Edward Langehennig, Las Vegas, Nev., and Marcie Shearn, a Pharmacist, Pittsburgh.

Memorial donations may be made to the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the [Arthritis Foundation](#): Bourse Building, 111 S. Independence Mall East, Suite 500, Philadelphia, PA 19106. For more information on the foundation, call 215-574-3060 or e-mail info.epa@arthritis.org. Donations may also be made to the Hillside SPCA, P.O. Box 233, Pottsville, PA 17901.

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.

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