

PENNSYLVANIA

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
Tom Corbett, Governor



Juvenile Justice

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

Volume 19, Number 10

October 2011

Pennsylvania Supreme Court Modifies Delinquency Rules

Definition of Juvenile

- Effective September 7, 2011

On September 7, 2011 the Supreme Court amended Rule 120 (relating to definitions) to define the term “juvenile” as a person who has attained ten years of age and is not yet twenty-one years of age, who is alleged to have, upon or after the juvenile’s tenth birthday, committed a delinquent act before reaching eighteen years of age.

The primary purpose of this modification was to clarify that, in order to be alleged to be delinquent, a juvenile must be at least ten years of age at the time of the commission of the act, rather than at the time the juvenile is alleged to be delinquent.

Modifications to Rules 120 and 140

- Effective November 1, 2011

On September 20, 2011, the Supreme Court amended Rule 120 to define the term “judge” as “a judge of the Court of Common Pleas”. The Comment to Rule 120 was modified to explain that the term “judge” refers to a judge of the Court of Common Pleas, including senior judges when they are properly certified, but that the term does not include masters or magisterial district judges. However, the Comment explains that magisterial district judges are included within the definition of “court” when they have the power to issue arrest warrants pursuant to Rule 210.

Rule 140 (relating to bench warrants for failure to appear at hearings) was modified to include the term “master” in several places to allow masters to hear cases if the President Judge has designated the master to hear bench warrant cases in his or her judicial district. The Comment to Rule 140 was modified to explain that if there is a bench warrant issued, masters may hear cases in which the petition alleges only misdemeanors.

INSIDE:

- ***Luzerne County “Celebrating Partners In Juvenile Justice”***
- ***Westmoreland County Juvenile Probation Celebrates Juvenile Court Week With Multiple Events***
- ***Seeking Best In Kids, Officer Named Best In State***
- ***Passage Of Federal Foster Care Law Will Help Improve The Lives Of More Vulnerable Children And Their Families Across The Nation***
- ***Staff Development Opportunities***
- ***Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Statewide Kick-Off Meeting***
- ***Community Service In Dauphin County***
- ***The Eight Domains Of The YLS/CMI***
- ***National Juvenile Justice Announcements***

Reminders:

November:

[Adoption Awareness Month](#)

December:

[National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month](#)

JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK ACTIVITIES

Luzerne County "Celebrating Partners in Juvenile Justice"

The Luzerne County Department of Probation Services-Juvenile Division recently celebrated the 2011 Juvenile Justice Week with a full slate of activities. This week was established to enhance public understanding of our juvenile justice system and pay tribute to those who are part of this important effort. This Commonwealth-wide celebration, which occurs the first week in October, is an opportunity to raise public awareness and educate the community regarding the Juvenile Justice System practices, procedures and prevention methods. Locally, the celebration recognizes the quality work being done by Juvenile Justice Professionals, as well as acknowledges the outstanding Agencies and Service Providers committed to serving the youth and families of Luzerne County by following the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice. The on-going partnerships focus on promoting safer communities, providing victim restoration and encouraging competency development in the juveniles served.

District Attorney Jeff Mitchell and Children's Service Center. 225 youth from 11 school districts throughout Luzerne and Wyoming Counties attended their choice of 2 workshops and met with prevention educators who provided a number of hands-on activities. The guest of honor for the event was Stephanie Jallen, a 15 year old sophomore from Wyoming Area High School (Luzerne County) who is a member of the U.S. Paralympic National Alpine Ski Team. Stephanie was born with Congenital Hemidysplasia with Ichthyosis and Limb Defects (CHILD) Syndrome. She spoke with a contagious confidence and the students listened. The powerful message of her disability and the cognizant decision



Students try their hand at a concentration activity sponsored by The PA Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics and Northeast Highway Safety.



Members of the Luzerne County District Attorney's Office participate in the Open House-Resource Day sponsored by Luzerne County Department of Probation Services-Juvenile Division.

This year's observance was kicked off on Tuesday, October 4, 2011 with the annual, **2011 Youth Symposium** held at Penn State Wilkes-Barre. This prevention event was sponsored by Penn State Wilkes-Barre in cooperation with Juvenile Probation Offices of Luzerne and Wyoming Counties, Luzerne County District Attorney Jacqueline Musto Carroll, Wyoming County

to move forward in her life as a motivated, self-driven individual was inspiring to all in attendance.

An Open House-Resource Day, "**Celebrating Partners in Juvenile Justice**", was held at the Penn Place Building on Wednesday, October 5, 2011. Thirteen agencies that assist the Juvenile Probation Office in serving the juveniles of Luzerne County came together to provide educational information to the public on their respective agencies as well as network with their peers from other agencies. The agencies in attendance were: Wyoming Valley Alcohol & Drug Services, *Continued on page 3*

JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK ACTIVITIES

Luzerne County (Continued)

Inc.; Children's Service Center; Northeast Counseling Services; Catholic Social Services; Youth Services Agency; Victims Resource Center; Luzerne County District Attorney's Office; Luzerne County Office of the Public Defender; Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug and Alcohol; Luzerne County Office of Children & Youth; Luzerne County MH/MR; Family Service Association and The Advocacy Alliance. The overwhelming agency response is a testament to the dedication of the participants.

Wednesday evening offered an opportunity for the on-going collaboration between Luzerne County JPO and higher education institutions with a presentation by Theresa Kline, Community Liaison Probation Officer, to Dr. John Shalanski's Master's level social work class at Misericordia University. College outreach continues to be an important venture enhancing the curriculum with real-world application.

The Juvenile Justice Week celebration culminated on Thursday with a staff training/luncheon followed by the 6th annual JPO sponsored Golf Outing. Narcotic Agents Robert Golenberke and James Devine from the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General presented "Methamphetamine Lab Awareness" to 45 members of the Luzerne County Juvenile and Adult Probation

Offices. Sincere gratitude goes out to these agents for traveling from Erie to share their field experience and expertise on this important topic. 60 golfers participated in the afternoon golf outing representing JPO staff, APO staff, local police, agency affiliates and community participants. Special thanks to Northampton County Chief PO Michael Schneider and members of his staff for crossing county lines to have a little fun on the links.

The Luzerne County Department of Probation Services-Juvenile Division wishes to recognize all those individuals and groups whose support, cooperation and participation assisted in the successful observance of the 2011 Juvenile Justice Week.



Luzerne County Department of Probation Services-Juvenile Division staff attend training/luncheon/golf outing during Juvenile Justice Week celebrations.

Westmoreland County Juvenile Probation Celebrates Juvenile Court Week With Multiple Events

The Juvenile Court began its 32nd year of ceremonies for Juvenile Court Week by celebrating the Westmoreland County Youth Commission Volunteer Program. Dinner and training were provided to representatives of the county's 17 youth commissions. In attendance were both new members and veteran commission members completing the program's yearly training requirement. Training this year was presented by juvenile court staff and senior youth commission members, centered on a review of the program description, updates on services and orientation for the newly appointed members.

Continued on page 4



Honorable Judge John J. Driscoll
Picture by: Guy Walthen, Tribune Review

JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK ACTIVITIES

Westmoreland County (Continued)

Westmoreland County Juvenile Probation continued its annual celebration of Juvenile Court Week by holding Open House. County residents were invited to visit the newly renovated center and to learn firsthand the judicial process for young people.

Visitors/community members had the opportunity to tour the center, which includes an eight-bed shelter for dependents and a 12 bed detention facility. The facility offers an onsite behavioral health unit, juvenile probation

offices, a courtroom, holding cells and multiple conference and training rooms.

Westmoreland County Judge John J. Driscoll held one of several workshops in the onsite courtroom. When a child or teenager arrives in juvenile court, Judge Driscoll said, "The goal is to get his/her life back on track. You have a golden nugget underneath all that. Nobody has ever really helped them set goals for their futures. Suddenly the probation staff is confronted with a rather complex history of the youth. Quite often the child brought in on a drug charge may be a victim of trauma, neglect, abuse, or even depression."

Special Agent Richard Shaheen, a senior agent with the state Attorney General's Office addressed cyber bullying and "sexting". He discussed with the audience threats hurled through cyber space or on a cellular phone can lead to social isolation, incarceration and even suicide. Several parents attending with their children stated this session was so very beneficial, both to them as parents and their youngsters. To understand the repercussions of "sexting", sending inappropriate photos or words by text leave lifetime cyber footprints.

In another workshop the juvenile staff had produced a DVD. The 22 minute film depicts a juvenile offender committing a crime and his experience throughout the juvenile court process.

The final workshop was hosted by veteran Westmoreland County Detective Anthony Marcocci. The detective's extensive experience was a great offering to the audience. Detective Marcocci had various narcotics on display for the education of both parents and youth. Many ques-

tions were answered in response to current drugs and usage among the county's youth.

Over 200 visitors enjoyed refreshments and took advantage of the workshops and Open House.



Special Agent Richard Shaheen,
Senior Agent with the State Attorney General's Office

***Send us your Juvenile Justice Week activities
and we'll feature your county in our next issue!***

Seeking best in kids, officer named best in state

Reprinted with permission of the Reading Eagle
By Holly Herman; October 15, 2011

[Http://readingeagle.com/article.aspx?id=339318#.TqFRa5YR7BQ.email](http://readingeagle.com/article.aspx?id=339318#.TqFRa5YR7BQ.email)

Berks County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Robert N. Williams is humble about winning the 2011 Probation Officer of the Year Award.

“It’s embarrassing,” Williams said in his office on the 10th floor of the county services center. “It’s not about me. It’s about the people in my department. It’s never been about one person. It’s a team effort.”

The 53-year-old chief gives credit for the award from the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission to his staff of 67 for their devotion to helping kids lead productive lives. The award will be presented Nov. 3 during the annual Juvenile Justice Conference at the Harrisburg Hilton.

Williams was selected by a committee of representatives from probation offices and agencies in the state’s juvenile justice system.

“Bob was selected for his excellent statewide leadership in juvenile justice reform,” said Jim Anderson, Executive Director of Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission, Harrisburg. “Bob is in the leadership role in every aspect,” Anderson said. “People care about what he thinks. It’s an honor to work with him. We expect many wonderful things to happen when we work with him.”

Anderson said Williams is involved in programs with the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Chicago, which selected Berks as a model site for a program to reduce the number of minorities in the juvenile justice system.

He added that the department also is participating in a national pro-



Robert N. Williams, Berks County’s chief juvenile probation officer, in a probation courtroom. Williams has been named Chief Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year by the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission.

gram at Georgetown University to study and implement better ways to reduce crime.

Previous Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Bruce A. Grim also won the Commission’s award, in 1995. “Berks County has had excellent juvenile probation leadership for a long time,” Anderson said.

Williams said that leadership included the three judicial leaders the office has had: retired Judge W. Richard Eshelman, Senior Judge Arthur E. Grim and Judge Scott E. Lash, head of juvenile court.

Williams, a 30-year-veteran probation officer, said the focus is to get kids to change their ways at a young age.

“We’d rather have a kid come in at 12 for a minor offense than at 17 for

a robbery,” Williams said. “We like to look for the best in kids.”

Chief Deputy Juvenile Probation Officer Kim Epler said Williams is an excellent boss who is willing to make changes for the benefit of the juveniles and staff.

Speaking of awards, the department’s Evening Reporting Center in the Children’s Home of Reading recently [2010] received one from the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission, Harrisburg, as Pennsylvania’s Community-Based Program of the Year.

The program is the first of its kind in Pennsylvania to provide youth with after-school activities, including sports, computers and mentoring from 3 to 9 p.m. as an alternative to jail.

Passage Of Federal Foster Care Law Will Help Improve The Lives Of More Vulnerable Children And Their Families Across The Nation

Law will give more states the flexibility to invest in programs that reduce the need for foster care and ensure more children have safe, stable and permanent families.

Casey Family Programs Press Release: http://www.casey.org/Press/PressReleases/2011-09-30_InnovationAct.htm

Washington, D.C. — Casey Family Programs, the nation's largest operating foundation dedicated to improving the foster care system, today applauded Congress for passing and President Obama for signing into law a foster care funding reform measure that will help keep more children safe from abuse and neglect and improve the lives of vulnerable children and their families across the United States.

Passage of the bipartisan Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act, was due to the tremendous leadership of Senators Max Baucus (D-MT) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT), and Representatives Geoff Davis (R-KY), and Lloyd Doggett (D-TX).

Because of their efforts, and the sustained leadership of Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Representative Jim McDermott (D-WA), America is one step closer to fundamentally reforming its child welfare system. Passage of this law means that states will be better able to invest in initiatives that help improve child safety and family stability as well as move children from foster care into safe permanent homes.

The law reauthorizes two important child welfare programs and incorporates improvements to ensure that children can safely remain with their own parents or be supported by other caring adults. The law renews child welfare waiver authority to allow more states to invest in new ways of serving children at risk of abuse and neglect. In addition, the law establishes a process to create child welfare data standards that can help drive further improvement to foster care systems.

“By approving this law, the President and Congress and have taken a significant step toward improving the lives of the most vulnerable youth in our nation,” said William C. Bell, Ph.D., President and CEO of Casey Family Programs. “This law will encourage more innovation and connect young people to the critical services they need to have a bright future.”

The law supports many essential pieces of Casey Family Programs' 2020 Strategy for America's Children, which seeks to ensure that more children are able to grow up in safe, stable and permanent families. The 2020 Strategy seeks to safely reduce the number of children in foster care 50 percent by the end of the decade and improve outcomes in education, employment and mental health for children who do experience foster care. In particular, the law:

- Reauthorizes Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, which includes the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program. These programs are the primary source of federal funding for prevention initiatives that can reduce the need for foster care while keeping children safe with their families. They also support adoption and other programs designed to help more children in foster care quickly return to safe, stable and permanent families.
- Allows more States to apply for Title IV-E waivers. The waiver program gives states greater flexibility in how they spend federal child welfare funds to invest in programs that will improve the lives of children, families and communities. Existing waivers in places such as Los Angeles, Florida and Oregon have helped prevent child abuse and neglect, helped more children remain safely in their own homes and improved the quality of services to vulnerable children and families. Casey has supported expansion of the waiver program as a critical interim step toward a comprehensive reform of the federal child welfare finance system. For more details, read our white paper on the issue <http://www.casey.org/resources/publications/NeedForWaivers.htm>.
- Extends the Court Improvement Program which provides grants to state court systems to assess foster care and adoption laws and reduce the time it takes for children to be placed in permanent homes. The law extends the program through FY 2016. In addition, the law streamlines the program by allowing states

Continued on page 5

Foster Care Law (Continued)

to submit one application for each of three court improvement grants instead of three separate applications. The law also makes tribal courts eligible for funding.

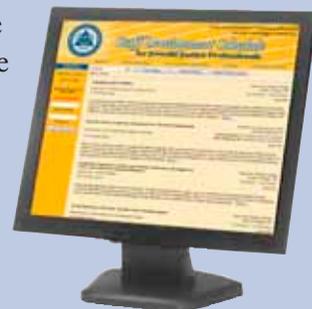
- Improves the effectiveness of federal child welfare data by requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to better standardize the type of data collected from states. This will provide an important foundation for improving foster care services by providing administrators, policy makers and the public with more data to make effective policy and practice choices. Casey's recent white paper on promoting improved accountability covers this topic in more detail <http://www.casey.org/resources/publications/accountability.htm>. In addition, the new law will help improve

how child deaths are reported by states, allowing better assessment of trends in this area. This was an important conclusion in our recent white paper on child safety <http://www.casey.org/resources/publications/FosterCareReductionsChildSafety.htm>.

The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act is the second major piece of child welfare reform that has become law in recent years. The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act in 2008 also provided significant progress in efforts to better serve children in foster care and to help more children find safe, stable and permanent families.

Upcoming Staff Development Opportunities:

As of this writing most of the Center's spring training offerings are assembled and are anticipated to be posted to the JCJC/JEMS website no later than early-December. The next cycle of Orientation for New Professionals has been posted for several months and is open for registration. The live portion of Orientation, held as usual at the Park Inn in Mechanicsburg, is scheduled for February 6-10 and to conclude on February 27 - March 2. Registrants may begin by taking the distance learning portion of the Orientation program on the Juvenile Act in the intervening months prior to the start of the live training.



Among the programs that will be hosted this spring is "The Trajectory of Gangs in the 21st Century" that will be led by Jason Soles, a former gang leader who turned his life around and currently teaches on the faculty of the Minneapolis-based Metropolitan State University in Minnesota and is a PhD candidate in Public Safety/Criminal Justice. This workshop will be held on March 22-23 in State College. In addition, on March 6-7, Barb Ulmer will return to present "Understanding the Mental Health System." This program will be held at the Child Welfare Competency-based Training Center along East Winding Hill Road in Mechanicsburg, a facility that we are experimenting with as a training site this spring.

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.

STRESSLESS
December 2, 2011

***Services for Adolescent and Family Enrichment
Outpatient Treatment for Juvenile Sex Offenders***

January 30-31, 2012

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)

Statewide Kick-Off Meeting

Pennsylvania held its Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Statewide Kick-Off Meeting on October 27, 2011. Teams from six counties (Allegheny, Berks, Chester, Lancaster, Lehigh, and Philadelphia) participated in the event, sponsored by the [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#).

Keith Snyder, JCJC Deputy Director and Pennsylvania's JDAI Statewide Coordinator, welcomed the participants and described the JDAI within the broader context of Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES). Consistent with the JJSES, the JDAI emphasizes collaboration among stakeholders, the use of evidence-based practices including a standardized detention risk assessment instrument (RAI), and data-driven decision making.

Mark Soler, Executive Director of the Center for Children's Law and Policy (CCLP), welcomed participants on behalf of the Annie E. Casey Foundation and provided an overview of the counties' first year's work including the collection of detention-related data and the development of local work plans.

Dana Shoenberg, Deputy Director of the CCLP, provided information regarding the development of local JDAI infrastructures, including the assignment of local JDAI site coordinators, governing boards, and subcommittees. Representatives from county implementation sites will be afforded the opportunity to visit model sites in other states and will also be invited attend the JDAI national conference being held in Houston Texas in April 2012.

Tom Woods, Senior Associate with the Juvenile Justice Strategies Group of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, described the "Detention Utilization Study" (DUS) that sites will be completing to analyze secure detention placements from 2010. Alan Tezak, a consultant working with JDAI State Leadership Team, described the work done to-date to support counties with the DUS data collection process. Counties will analyze data from their DUS to develop local JDAI work plans.

Dana Shoenberg emphasized the importance of developing a local consensus on the purpose of detention and utilizing objective admission criteria through a detention risk assessment instrument. The development of a framework for graduated responses to violations of probation and alternatives to secure detention were also discussed.

Before concluding for the day, county teams were provided with an opportunity to meet and discuss "first steps" regarding their local JDAI work. Linda Bender, Director of the Information and Technology Division (ITD) of the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research, met with individuals assigned to collect local data and provided them with detention-related data generated from the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS) and other sources to assist counties with the completion of their DUS.

Please contact Keith Snyder, at ksnyder@pa.gov, if you have any questions or would like additional information regarding Pennsylvania's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative. Information regarding the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative can be found at www.jdaihelpdesk.org.



Dana Shoenberg,
Deputy Director of the Center for Children's Law and Policy

COMMUNITY Service

in Dauphin County

Please share photos from your county that depict juveniles performing valuable community service work – emphasizing both competency development and victim/community restoration.

Juvenile Probationers Perform Community Service to Help with Flood Cleanup in Dauphin County



Juvenile probationers assist with flood cleanup along the Capitol Beltway in Lower Paxton Township.



This juvenile probationer is doing community service by helping to clean-up a Middletown home that had significant flood damage.



Juvenile probationers and probation officers help homeowners with flood cleanup in the Hummelstown and Hershey area.

“Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) Building Blocks for a Better System”



JJSES STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To work in partnership to enhance the capacity of Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system to achieve its balanced and restorative justice mission by: employing evidence-based practices, with fidelity, at every stage of the juvenile justice process; collecting and analyzing the data necessary to measure the results of these efforts; and, with this knowledge, striving to continuously improve the quality of our decisions, services and programs.

Part 3 of a series: *“JJSES Building Blocks”*

The Youth Level of Service / Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI)

One of the foundational cornerstone of Pennsylvania’s Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) is the use of evidence-based risk/need assessment processes and instruments for juvenile offenders. In 2008, the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers endorsed the use of the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI). The YLS is an empirically validated instrument designed to assess criminogenic risks/needs of juvenile offenders to aid in the development of an appropriate case plan that addresses the identified risks/needs. The intent is to address the identified factors to reduce the likelihood that the youth will recidivate. After an initial pilot phase involving ten county juvenile probation departments, the use of the YLS has expanded to 51 juvenile probation departments through two subsequent phases.

The YLS is a well-researched actuarial instrument that examines 42 risk factors across eight domains. In addition to scoring risk factors, the instrument also calls for the assessor to identify strengths the youth and/or his/her family may possess. The domains of the YLS are:

1. **Prior and Current Offenses/ Dispositions:** Includes dispositions resulting in informal adjustments; consent decree; and adjudications of delinquency in a “pattern of offending over time” of the youth. Also includes the youth’s failure to appear, probation violations, prior placements and escapes.
2. **Family Circumstances/ Parenting:** Includes the factors of inadequate supervision; difficulty in controlling behavior; inappropriate discipline; inconsistent parenting; poor relations between father and the youth and poor relations between the mother and the youth.
3. **Education/Employment:** Includes instances of disruptive classroom behavior; disruptive school yard behavior; low achievement; problems with peers; problems with teachers; truancy; and unemployed, not seeking employment.
4. **Peer Relations:** Includes the youth having some delinquent acquaintances; some delinquent friends; no/few positive acquaintances; and no/few positive friends.
5. **Substance Abuse:** Includes the youth’s occasional drug use; chronic drug use; chronic alcohol use; substance abuse interferes with life; and substance use linked to the offense.
6. **Leisure/Recreation:** Includes the youth’s limited organized activities; ability make better use of time; no personal interests.
7. **Personality/Behavior:** Includes whether the youth has an inflated self-esteem; is physically aggressive; exhibits tantrums; short attention span; poor frustration tolerance; inadequate guilt feelings; and is verbally aggressive.
8. **Attitudes/Orientation:** Includes whether the youth has antisocial/pro-criminal attitudes supportive of a criminal or anti-conventional life style (does not believe social rules apply to him/her); is not seeking help; is actively rejecting help; defies authority; and is callous, with little concern for others.

In addition to providing a structured inquiry and scoring of these risk/need factors, the YLS also enables other needs and special considerations to be taken into account. These include parent’s criminal, drug abuse or mental health history; physical or sexual abuse; learning disabilities; and several other factors.

The YLS is designed to assist and support professional judgment and decision-making. The most critical aspect is its utility in the development of a case plan that matches interventions to a youth’s criminogenic risks/needs to reduce the chances of the youth re-offending.

For additional information regarding the YLS and its use in Pennsylvania’s Juvenile Justice System please contact Rick Steele at ricsteele@state.pa.us. Additional information regarding the YLS’s validity and reliability in assessing risk can be found at: http://www.uc.edu/ccjr/Articles/Risk_of_Reoffending_YLSCMI.pdf. You may need to paste the web address into your browser.



National Juvenile Justice Announcements

The following announcements are reprinted from JUVJUST, an OJJDP news service:

OJJDP Bulletin Examines State Juvenile Transfer Laws

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has published, "[Trying Juveniles as Adults: An Analysis of State Transfer Laws and Reporting.](#)"



In the 1980s and 1990s, legislatures in nearly every state expanded transfer laws that allowed or required the prosecution of juveniles in adult criminal courts. This bulletin, which is part of the Juvenile Offenders and Victims National Report Series, provides the latest overview of state transfer laws and practices and examines available state-level data on juveniles adjudicated in the criminal justice system.

Resources:

"Trying Juveniles as Adults: An Analysis of State Transfer Laws and Reporting" (NCJ 232434) is available online at: www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/232434.pdf.

Print copies can be ordered online from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service.

Global Youth Justice To Host International Training Institute

On December 6–8, 2011, in Las Vegas, NV, [Global Youth Justice](#) will host its 2nd International Training Institute, "[Establish or Enhance a Local Teen Court/ Youth Court Diversion Program.](#)" Topics will include training adult and youth volunteers, mock family intake meetings, offering quality community service programs, implementing operational and administrative procedures, and more.



Registration is available [online](#).

Resources:

For more information about Global Youth Justice, go to www.globalyouthjustice.org/.

For more information about the training institute, go to www.globalyouthjustice.org/Training_and_Events.html.

To register, go to www.globalyouthjustice.org/uploads/VegasDec2011Registration.doc.

New Report Makes Case for Reducing Juvenile Incarceration

On October 4th, the Annie E. Casey Foundation released "[No Place for Kids: The Case for Reducing Juvenile Incarceration.](#)" The report makes the case for states that have substantially reduced their juvenile correctional facility populations in recent years and details how these states have seen no resulting increase in juvenile crime or violence. The report also highlights successful reform efforts from several states and recommends ways that states can reduce juvenile incarceration rates and redesign their juvenile correction systems to better serve young people and the public.

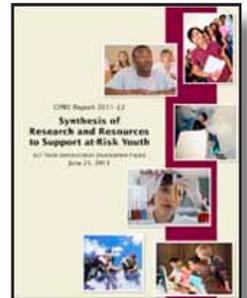
This report is part of the Casey Foundation's efforts to catalyze a more coordinated national movement to reform juvenile corrections that results in less crime and more successful futures for America's young people.

Resources:

For more information or to read this report, visit www.aecf.org/noplaceforkids.

Report Highlights Resources to Support At-Risk Youth

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) has released the report, "[Synthesis of Research and Resources to Support At-Risk Youth.](#)" The report provides the latest research on the risk factors these youth face, highlights their needs, and describes how ACF and community programs have helped serve them. It then discusses how programs can be better catered to meet at-risk youth's needs in the future.



The report is available [online](#).

Resources:

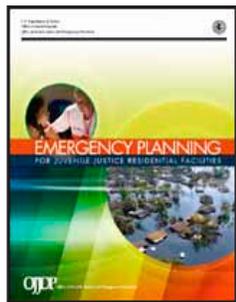
Download the report, at www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/fys/youth_development/reports/synthesis_youth.pdf.

Report Discusses Emergency Planning for Juvenile Justice Residential Facilities

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has released "[Emergency Planning for Juvenile Justice Residential Facilities.](#)"

This guide describes how facilities can ensure that youth receive the supports and services they require during the disruptions that emergencies inevitably cause. It is the first comprehensive planning guide to address the specific needs of children, youth, and families involved in the justice system

during an emergency. The document provides step-by-step guidance to help ensure the efficient continuation of operations during an emergency, the reduction of risk to the physical plant, and the safety and well-being of the youth and staff who live and work in the nation's juvenile justice residential facilities.



Resources:

"Emergency Planning for Juvenile Justice Residential Facilities" (NCJ 234936) is available online at <http://www.ojjdp.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=256884>

Print copies can be ordered online from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service.

Inaugural Issue of Journal of Juvenile Justice Available

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) released the new online [Journal of Juvenile Justice](#) at its 2011



National Conference, "[Children's Justice and Safety: Unite, Build, Lead.](#)" The Journal is an accessible, practical tool for a diverse researcher and practitioner audience. The semi-annual, peer-reviewed journal is sponsored by OJJDP and will address a variety of issues in juvenile justice, such as juvenile victimization, delinquency prevention, intervention, and treatment.

The inaugural issue covers topics ranging from the unique risk factors associated with crossover youth to the benefits of comprehensive restorative justice programs. Articles that report the findings from evaluations of Parents Anonymous and King County's Child Protection Mediation Pilot showcase programs that demonstrate promise in reducing child maltreatment and increasing the efficiency of case processing, respectively. Additionally, the journal includes items on the development of standards for defining and measuring recidivism and a method that may improve the reliability of juvenile justice screening and assessment instruments.

Resources:

Access the Journal of Juvenile Justice at <http://www.journalofjuvjustice.org>

Manuscripts are now being accepted at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/joj>

Report Provides Latest Data and Trends in Juvenile Court Cases

The National Center for Juvenile Justice has published, "[Juvenile Court Statistics 2008](#)," which was developed with funding from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.



Drawing on data from the National Juvenile Court Data Archive, the report profiles more than 1.6 million delinquency cases that U.S. courts with juvenile jurisdiction handled in 2008.

It also describes the trends in delinquency cases processed by juvenile courts between 1985 and 2008 and the status offense cases they handled between 1995 and 2008.

Read the report [online](#).

Resources:

Download the full report at www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/publications/StatBBAbstract.asp?BibID=258095.

Access the Statistical Briefing Book for detailed statistics on a variety of juvenile justice topics at, www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/

New Search Tool Helps Users Find Federal Grants to Fund Youth Programs

The Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs has created an online [Web tool](#) that allows users to search for federal grant opportunities by youth topic or federal agency on [Grants.gov](#). The tool uses a filter to search for grants that are likely to fund youth programs. [Grants.gov](#) is a Web site that allows users to search and apply for thousands of federal grants.

Resources:

To use the tool, go to www.findyouthinfo.gov/GrantsSearch.aspx.

Find federal grants on <http://grants.gov>.

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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