

*a newsletter of the*

Pennsylvania  
Juvenile Court  
Judges'  
Commission

# P E N N S Y L V A N I A J U V E N I L E J U S T I C E

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## Private Providers Expand Services to Include Secure Detention Facilities

**T**wo up-and-coming private providers have obtained licenses from the Department of Public Welfare to expand their existing services to include secure detention. Northwestern Human Services opened the Northwestern Academy Secure Detention Unit in late November 1998, and Cornell-Abraxas will be opening the Cornell-Abraxas Youth Center in the coming weeks. The Department of Public Welfare granted each organization a license for 18 secure detention beds. The additional 36 beds combines with the current 708 statewide for a total of 744 detention beds now available to Pennsylvania's juvenile courts and probation departments. With the creation of these two facilities Pennsylvania now has 23 centers offering secure detention services for alleged and/or adjudicated delinquent youth.

The Northwestern Academy (NWA) Secure Detention Unit is located in Coal Township in Northumberland County and offers services to counties in the surrounding central and upper northeast region of the state. In addition to the Detention Unit, the Northwestern Academy's

existing services at the complex include the NWA Boot Camp Program, the Intermediate Secure Treatment Unit, and the 54-bed Intensive Secure Program for habitual violent juvenile offenders. Susan Alberti, the Director at the Detention Unit, brings 12 years of experience in youth care from the North Central Secure Treatment Unit in Danville. Melanie Spade, the Unit's Clinical Supervisor, previously spent six years working for the Northumberland County Juvenile Court. Questions regarding programmatic aspects of the new detention center should be directed to Ms. Spade at 717-644-5362. Counties interested in contracting with Northwestern for secure detention services should call Richard Steele, 717-644-5344, another familiar name in the state's juvenile justice system. Steele is the former Chief Juvenile Probation Officer for Northumberland County's Juvenile Court, as well as past president of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers.

The Cornell-Abraxas Youth Center is located in South Mountain in Franklin County and offers

services to counties in the south-central region of the state. The Youth Center will house the 18-bed secure detention center, an 18-bed shelter care unit, and a 36-bed secure long-term residential treatment unit for habitual juvenile offenders, sex offenders, and juvenile firesetters. Also at the South Mountain complex are the Cornell-Abraxas Leadership Development (boot camp) Program, and the South Mountain Secure Treatment Unit (SMSTU). The SMSTU is the 52-bed facility for habitual violent juvenile offenders that Cornell-Abraxas operates under a contract with the Department of Public Welfare. Jack Harne is the Director at the Youth Center. His career spans 23 years with the Maryland Department of Corrections. Counties interested in contracting with Cornell-Abraxas for secure detention services should call Harne at 800-950-0509. Questions regarding programmatic aspects at the Youth Center should be referred to Cheryl Sornson, Assistant Director, at 800-950-0509. Sornson spent four years on staff with the Leader-

ship Development Program, and she will oversee operations in the secure detention and shelter units.

Both facilities have elected to participate in the monthly detention monitoring effort that has been on going in Pennsylvania since the expiration of the *Coleman v. Stanziani* Consent Decree in mid-1996. Staff at both facilities have received training in the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission's "Standards Governing the Use of Secure Detention under The Juvenile Act." Any probation department or court utilizing secure detention services in either of these private facilities must provide the proper documentation that is required whenever secure detention is authorized or ordered, i.e. a petition with delinquency allegation, D1 Form, and D2 Form. Both centers will also participate in the statewide compliance monitoring effort sponsored by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. Therefore, each center will undergo an annual on-site audit of admission records to assess compliance with the guidelines established by the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.

National Organization of  
Forensic Social Work  
&  
National Council of  
Juvenile and Family Court  
Judges

present

## **SOCIAL WORK AND THE LAW**

May 2-5, 1999  
Midby-Byron National Center  
Reno, Nevada

## **IN MEMORIUM**

### **Mary Jeanne DeAngelis**

"Jeanne" DeAngelis, a dedicated child advocate for more than thirty years, died on January 28, 1999, after a two-year battle with leukemia. She was selected as the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Council of Children's Services in 1996, and had worked for the council since 1980. Prior to joining the council, DeAngelis was the Executive Director of Sylvan Heights Home, a residential program for girls operated by the Catholic Archdiocese of Harrisburg.

Ms. DeAngelis was influential in the development and implementation of legislation designed to improve the delivery of services for children, youth and families in Pennsylvania. She was often called upon to testify before the state legislature about adoption, as well as services provided to abused, neglected, and delinquent children.

Ms. DeAngelis was very much respected in the field of children's services, and will be deeply missed by her peers. Memorial contributions may be made to Penn State Geisinger, H1222, P.O. Box 850, Hershey, PA 17033. Checks should be made payable to "7 East Fund."

## **YDC/YFC System Training**

**T**he YDC/YFC system-wide training program which is delivered through a contract with the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research began February 11-12 with a Safe Physical Management Crisis Intervention Instructor Refresher Program. Thirty facility-based instructors attended the program held at the Holiday Inn in New Cumberland. The training was led by Joe Mullen from CJJT&R with assistance from Frank Omlor of the Loysville Complex. The new instructors video "Handcuffing Techniques," which was recently completed by Shippensburg University Media Services, was used during the training. The video is being distributed to all facilities in the YDC/YFC system to ensure consistency in the use of handcuffs.

Training in March will feature programs on Suicide Intervention and Clinical Supervision. Dr. Ken France will lead the 5-day Instructor's Certification Program in Suicide Intervention. This program will occur March 8-12 at Shippensburg University. From March 9-12, Dr. Robert Hewitt will lead the Clinical Supervision for YDC/YFC Counselor Supervisors at the Holiday Inn in New Cumberland.

Other training during the contract period which concludes in June includes aggression replacement training, cultural diversity (new and refresher instructor programs), a week-long counseling institute, and instructor programs in safe physical management crisis intervention and suicide intervention.

# Healing Racism: A Call for Action

by Joseph K. Mullen, Director of Correctional Training for the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research at Shippensburg University

**W**hat do you think and what do you feel about the late Arthur Ashe's statement that "living in America with HIV/AIDS was not as difficult as living as a black man in America?" This was the last meditation question raised to a group of 30 participants in the two-day Healing Racism retreat held at the Starr Commonwealth Residential Care facility in Albion, Michigan, in November, 1998. As with previous statements, it produced a significant reaction in the group — a reaction that is part of the process of curing the affliction shared by all of the participants — the affliction of racism.

We had come as strangers from all across the country as the invited guests of the Starr Commonwealth organization to experience a retreat on the healing of racism. In common we had the experience of working in the field of youth service and the personal belief that the problem of racism in our society must be solved. We were African Americans, Asian Americans, European Americans, Native Americans. We were young and old, male and female. During our two days together we listened and shared our experience of racism. Some of our sharing was enraged, some apologetic, some confused, and some enlightened. When we finished we were closer to each other, more comfortable with ourselves and more clearly committed to becoming active on the issue of racism.

Since my experience in this process, I have suggested to many of my colleagues that the retreat at Starr Commonwealth should be replicated in Pennsylvania. For me, the retreat was a personal and professional benchmark. It was an experience which enlightened me on the issues of racism. I thought I had a good grasp of the issue—and found my understanding was merely superficial. Like so many others walking this planet, I was comfortable with my perceptions of racism, which were strictly cognitive. The retreat taught me that the true healing of racism requires more than an intellectual understanding; in the final analysis real healing requires your heart. Those with whom I have shared my experience suggest I continue to tell others about it. I remain hopeful that together we can act on this issue.

The retreat is a part of a movement known as the Institute for Healing Racism. It is not a place, but

rather a process that has been developed by a number of professionals concerned with the issue. It is specifically described by Nathan Rutstein, one of the founders, in his book, *Racism, Unraveling the Fear*. In the book, Rutstein suggests that racism is a psychological disease that can be cured. It is a disease that has been passed on from generation to generation by individuals, families, schools, and other institutions; passed on by not telling the truth about who "we" are. "We" being the human race. "We" being the only species on the planet who fiercely proclaim our difference—and yet have a capacity for interchange of blood and organs because we are the same; a simple fact that is somehow unacceptable to so many of us.

"We" being the gullible collective who believe, for example, that Spanish explorer deSoto actually discovered the Mississippi river when there were already more than a million human beings living in settlements up and down its banks when he arrived. DeSoto discovered a civilization living on the banks of the river, a civilization that could boast a city several times the size of London, England, at the time. Yet, deSoto's place in history is not marked by the finding of the civilization, but rather by the finding of the river. Apparently, the people living there were not worthy of recognition, somehow in our version of history they became nothing more than an asterisk on the page. They were the natives, the pagans, and the barbarians whom history tells us were *saved* by the arrival of deSoto and the "real people" who followed him.

The Institute for Healing Racism suggests that the disease of racism is inflicted and promoted by an educational process that subtly conceals the reality of history—with the effect of negating specific cultures to a lower level. The institute believes the cure for racism lies in personally encountering the truth and the effect this disinformation we call the education process has had on all people. The Starr Commonwealth staff is committed to a process within their own organization. They are also committed to seeing the Institute for Healing Racism movement occur in other locales. In addition, they are creating a retreat-facilitators training program which will be available soon. Information is available from Starr Commonwealth, 517-629-5991 or from CJJT&R, 717-532-1411.

## Wilksburg CTC Helps Students During School Strike

By: Constance F. Horton, Wilksburg CTC Program Coordinator

Wilksburg, a Communities That Care community outside Pittsburgh, has several CTC-initiated projects operating within Hosanna House, the community center. One of these is the Academic Rotation Program. It brings fifth grade students to Hosanna House to participate in structured learning activities: the Brains Link Science Project teaches students science by emphasizing the importance and function of the brain; the Kuumba Music Project is designed to educate students about music and the music industry; and the Computer Lab aids students in enhancing their computer skills. While students are participating in the Academic Rotation, they are able to use the gym at Hosanna House, which not all area schools have. They may also use the recreation room.

When the school district went on strike in December, it caused a significant child-care problem. CTC, in light of the needs that existed in the community, facilitated a support program for working parents. The program allowed 75 youth to participate in the Academic Rotation Program. The flexibility of the rotation model allowed staff to adjust programs to age-appropriate levels while continuing the three primary courses.

Implementation of the program allowed the parents of the youth to continue working during the strike, and also allowed the parents a sense of relief, knowing their children were not on the streets and unsupervised.

## Northwestern Academy Begins Operations

The Northwestern Academy, a comprehensive residential facility for delinquent youth, is now fully-operational with the opening of the Intensive Secure Treatment Unit in January. The facility, which includes a boot camp, intermediate secure, intensive secure, and detention services, is located near Shamokin and offers a total of 242 beds. Future plans include the opening of a general residential component available as a "stepdown" or primary placement alternative to local juvenile courts.

The goal of Academy operations is to provide a continuum of services to delinquent youth in a setting that emphasizes the principles of balanced and restorative justice. In addition, a strong aftercare planning and implementation strategy for each student serves to bridge the gap between placement and return to the community. The educational component, operated year-round, is provided by staff directly employed by the Academy who participate as part of the overall team of professionals involved in student activities.

Referral and other information may be obtained by calling either Jennifer Gaugler, 570-644-5347, or Joseph Sayres, 570-644-5346, of the court liaison staff. Counties are encouraged to schedule tours of the facility through the court liaison staff or by calling Northwestern Academy at 570-644-3170. More information is available from Rick Steele, Director of Operations, 570-644-5344 or by mail to Northwestern Academy, Satet Route 61, Coal Township, PA 17866.

## Foundations Behavioral Health Presents Seminar on Violence

Foundations Behavioral Health has announced that nationally renowned expert Stanton E. Samenow, Ph.D., author of "Before It's Too Late: Why Some Kids Get Into Trouble" and "Straight Talk About Criminals," will be the keynote speaker at its third annual educational seminar. Covering *Clinical Perspectives on Teen Violence: A Generation at Risk*, the 1½-day workshop will be held on Friday, May 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Williamson's, Rt 611 & Blair Mill Rd. in Horsham, PA. Samenow is America's foremost authority on the criminal personality. He has appeared on *60 Minutes*, *Good Morning America*, *The CBS Morning News*, *Oprah Winfrey*, *Larry King*, and *Phil Donahue*.

The program also features a presentation on the *Clinical Context of Teen Violence in the Local Community* by Linda Young, MD., Medical Director of Acute Services at Foundations Behavioral Health. The theme of the annual seminar was developed in response to the rash of school violence nationwide. A study of inner-city high schools in four states conducted by the National Institute of Justice found that 66 percent of students said they personally knew someone who carried weapons to school.

For more information or to receive an invitation, call Diane Nussbaum at 215-345-0444 x113. The seminar fee is \$40 per person and includes continental breakfast and all sessions.



## Erie County Chief Resigns

**T**homas P. Antolik has resigned his position as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer for Erie County, after 27 years of dedicated service. His resignation is effective March 26, 1999.

Antolik has dedicated his entire adult life to the field of juvenile justice. He began his career in the juvenile justice system at HarborCreek School for Boys in 1971, immediately after graduating from Gannon University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology.

Antolik joined the Erie County Juvenile Probation Department as a probation officer in 1972. In 1974 he was promoted to the position of intake officer and served in that capacity for 10 years. During this time, he earned a Master of Arts Degree from Gannon University. In 1984, Judge Fred P. Anthony appointed him to the position of Chief Juvenile Probation Officer.

Extremely active on both the state and local level, Antolik has held all elective offices within the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers and

served as President in 1992 and 1993. He is highly regarded by his colleagues in the Chief's Council for the strong leadership he has provided and has served on the advisory board of the JDCAP Juvenile Justice Personnel Safety Committee and the Juvenile Probation Training/Certification Curriculum Committee of the Chief's Council.

Antolik has been at the forefront of juvenile justice system issues on the local level for many years. His leadership was essential to the development of school-based probation programs in city schools. Involved in collaboration with mental health, child welfare and law enforcement services long before statewide initiatives were developed in this regard, he also engaged his staff in a comprehensive restructuring of the delivery of juvenile probation services in Erie County based on balanced approach principles.

He has served on the advisory boards of the Thomas Edmund Adolescent Center and the Erie County Victim Service Program, is a member of The Child and Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP), the Erie County Drug and Alcohol Coalition, the Commission on Youth, the Erie School District's Strategic Planning Committee, the District-wide Safety Committee of the Erie School District, the Living in Family Environment Project, the Family Center Planning Team, and the Erie County Gang Task Force.

Antolik's staff is planning a farewell party in his honor at the Lakeshore Country Club in Fairview, on March 26, 1999. Anyone interested in attending should contact Waneda McCullough at 814- 451-6027, or Gale Ward at 814- 451-6026.

## Balanced and Restorative Justice Coordinators Network

**E**ighteen Balanced and Restorative Justice Coordinators from across the state convened their first network meeting on January 11, 1999, in Harrisburg. The primary focus of this meeting was to establish a network of professionals dedicated to the implementation of balanced and restorative justice throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Through grant awards from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, 11 counties have added staff positions to coordinate their reform efforts. These 11 new employees join an existing compliment of professionals working within the juvenile justice system to initiate programs, policies and procedures which will serve to institutionalize the principles and values associated with a balanced and restorative juvenile justice system.

Each county has defined its implementation priorities differently depending on the needs and issues relevant to the particular jurisdiction. The experience and background that the coordinators bring to the table is as varied as the counties they represent. Many have been transferred from within the juvenile probation department while others have backgrounds in community mobilization, education, or victims' services.

Participants were invited to take part in an interactive video-conference on "Promising Victim-Related Practices in Probation and Parole," broadcast live from Phoenix, Arizona. Ann Seymour, chair of the APPA Victim Issues

Committee, moderated the broadcast. Panel presentations focused on topics including victim impact, information needs and notification services for crime victims, and restorative justice practices within probation and parole. The new juvenile justice coordinators obtained a basic overview of victims' services, as well as an insight into the complexity of practices and programs related to victims of crime. The American Probation and Parole Association (APPA), the Office of Victims of Crime and the Arizona Supreme Court sponsored the video-conference.

On-going monthly meetings of these juvenile justice professionals will serve to orient the group to the complex issues involved in implementing balanced and restorative justice and provide a forum for training, networking and the general exchange of information and experiences. If anyone on your staff is interested in attending these meetings please call Susan Blackburn, the balanced and restorative justice coordinator for the Juvenile Court Judges Commission at 717-705-2290, or email her at sblackbu@oa.state.pa.us.

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## **Governor Recommends More Funds for Specialized Probation Services**

**W**hen Governor Ridge presented his proposed FY 1999-2000 budget to the General Assembly on February 2, 1999, he proposed an additional \$5,000,000 to provide support for 125 new school-based probation, intensive probation, and aftercare positions increasing this appropriation to

\$10,000,000. Continuation of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant funding (\$2,000,000) was also included in the Governor's presentation. The Grant-In-Aid appropriation proposal included a 2½ percent increase from \$5,513,000 to \$5,651,000.

Information regarding final budget figures for each of the aforementioned programs will be provided upon passage of the General Appropriation Act of 1999.

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## **Staff Development**

**T**he Center's Spring 1999 staff development workshops and seminars have once again received an overwhelming response in registrations. The 21 workshops are slated to have more than 900 participants attending from February through May. Six programs have been closed to additional registrants. Closed are: "Involving Youth in Their Community & Involving the Community in Their Youth: I Need a Strategy!" "Taming the Warrior Within," "Victim/Community Awareness Curriculum," both regional sessions of "Introduction to Group Counseling," and "Working with Girls: Meeting the Challenges." The program on Working with Girls will be repeated this fall on October 13-15. Several other programs are nearly full.

Conversely, "Public Speaking Skills for Juvenile Probation Officers," scheduled for April 13-15 in Harrisburg, which we were asked to arrange in response to the BARJ-related need to do more outreach and community education work, has not yet received

sufficient registrations to be feasible. We hope that an additional eight to ten participants will register in the next two weeks in order to avoid the need to cancel the workshop. There is also space still available in several other outstanding training programs being offered this spring which we are encouraging practitioners in the field to consider attending.

On March 24-25 at the Days Inn Penn State, the Center is sponsoring a program designed for system supervisors and managers "Motivating Staff in the Midst of Change." This session will be led by Philip H. Washington who has conducted other topics at Center sponsored workshops and received outstanding feedback. The workshop offers participants the opportunity to become a more change-skilled motivator with staff who bring a diverse array of attitudes, needs, behaviors, perceptions, personal preferences and cultural backgrounds to the workplace.

Also at the Days Inn Penn State, on April 28-29, the Center is holding its once-a-year workshop for the system's support staff. This year's program is titled "Communication Skills to Get Results and Reduce Conflict," and will be led by Elizabeth Coyle, who has taught a wide variety of classes and seminars with businesses, schools and agencies in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware. Ms. Coyle has taught college courses at Penn State University's York Campus and The Lancaster Center. She led a Center-sponsored workshop two years ago and received a 6.7 on our 7-point scale. Agency supervisors and directors are urged to encourage their support staff to

## New Sites Receive Implementation Funds

**N**ine sites which have received Communities That Care (CTC) training and submitted implementation grants have been awarded funding.

Abington Township (Montgomery County): Development of a Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse Intervention Strategy, which includes the education of alcohol retailers, parents, and youth; an Alcohol Tip Line, where concerned citizens can leave information regarding underage drinking; media coverage; and intensive police enforcement of underage drinking laws. Also included is a program to offer homework help to students in grades 1-6, and Parent and Youth Support (PAYS), a program to teach social competency skills to at-risk students and parenting skills to their parents.

Columbia County will hire a community mobilizer who will coordinate CTC and Family Service System Reform (FSSR) efforts in the county, as well as lead community development efforts in Berwick.

Forest County will develop a Focus on Forest's Future Mentoring Program, in which adult academic mentors will tutor students; after the first year a social mentoring component will be added. A Parent Support and Resource Program designed to enhance parenting skills under the Preparing for the Drug Free Years Model will be created, and a National Youth Program Using Mini-bikes will be implemented.

In McKean County three delinquency prevention programs will be implemented; Preparing for

the Drug Free Years, expansion of the Parent As Teachers (PAT) program, and use of the Parents and Children Videotape Series for parents having behavior management problems with their children age 3-10.

Potter County funding will enhance the Parent Education Program, which provides classes on family management, conflict resolution, and delinquency prevention, and allow the Galeton School District to create a Parents/Kids Computer Project.

In Venango County CTC will be integrated with FSSR to create a plan for developing, expanding, and enhancing current services that are available in the county.

Washington County efforts will focus on Claysville, a rural borough in the county. An afterschool program, which includes academic and recreational activities for children in grades K-6 will be developed, as well as a summer playground program.

New Kensington, in Westmoreland County, will expand the SERVISS-PLUS Program. This is an adult tutoring and mentoring program in which senior citizens can volunteer and receive a local tax credit. In addition, non-seniors can participate and designate the tax credit to a senior.

Wyoming County funding will be used to develop a county-wide recreation calendar, create a community substance abuse awareness program, a substance abuse education program for parents, and a media substance abuse prevention campaign.

## Position Available Director of Juvenile Probation

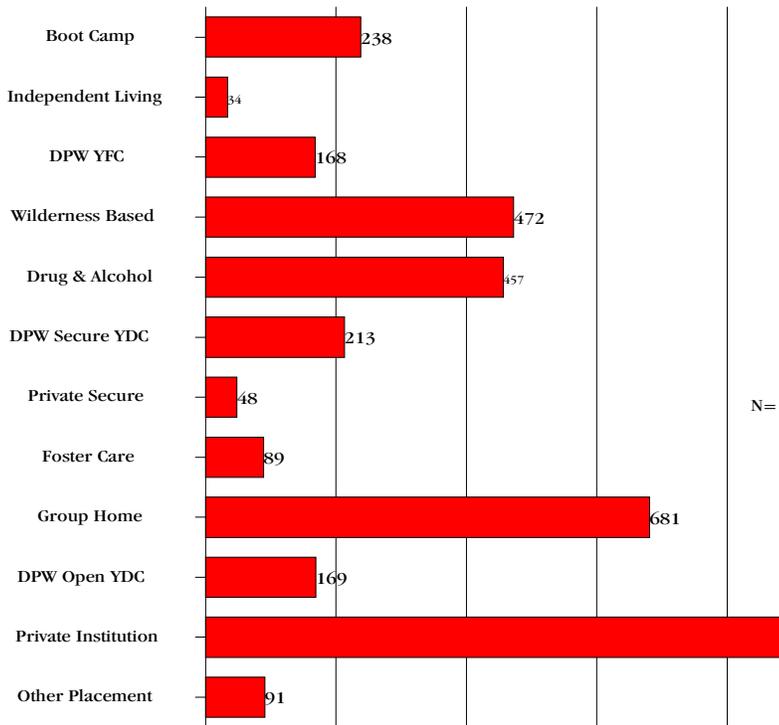
Under direction of the Erie County Court of Common Pleas, the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer plans, organizes, and directs the juvenile probation department for the County. The director is responsible for implementing new and ongoing programs designed to ensure the safety of juvenile delinquents, their families, and the community consistent with the principles of the balanced approach to restorative justice. The successful candidate must possess considerable knowledge and background in the administration of programs, the principles and methods of probation and current social and economic trends with special emphasis on factors relating to crime and delinquency and the ability to prepare and implement a department's budget.

Candidates must also possess a Master's Degree in social work, criminal justice, or a related field with a minimum of ten (10) years experience in probation or social work with five (5) years experience in an administrative/management or supervisory capacity.

A letter of interest and resume should be submitted by March 22, 1999, to:

Court of Common Pleas  
District Court Administrator  
Erie County Courthouse  
140 West Sixth St., Rm 201  
Erie, PA 16501-1030

### DELINQUENCY PLACEMENT SUMMARY - 1



The graph shown here depicts the number of juvenile court dispositions that resulted in a placement during 1997. Dispositions are reported to the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research by juvenile probation departments across the Commonwealth each month of a calendar year. A disposition of placement refers to an out-of-home commitment of the juvenile. Placements account for 10.8 percent of the total disposition of new referrals for 1997.

The category of Private Institution refers to private-sector facilities which typically house 25 or more juveniles. The open settings of the Youth Development Centers operated by the Department of Public Welfare are counted in the DPW Open YDC category. DPW Secure YDC placements are the secure Youth Development Centers, with Alternative Rehabilitation Communities and Concern comprising the Private Secure facilities. The Youth Forestry Camps are counted in the DPW YFC category. VisionQuest placements are reflected in the Wilderness Based category unless the group home facility is specifically reported on the data card.