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Pennsylvania Shares Anti-Violence Initiatives with Community Leaders in Littleton



Clay Yeager, who was invited to meet with officials in Littleton, CO

Community leaders in Littleton, Colorado, have turned to Pennsylvania for guidance in developing violence-prevention strategies. Clay Yeager, Executive Director of the Governor's Community Partnership for Safe Children, met in late-August with nearly 80 Littleton community leaders, including the mayor, school-district officials, school administrators, business leaders, and representatives from Colorado Governor Bill Owens' office. Yeager was invited to Littleton, the site of last April's tragic school shootings at Columbine High School, to talk about

Pennsylvania's strategies to combat youth violence using research-based programs. "We talked a lot about building a future," said Yeager, who also directs the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania. "They wanted to learn more about what Pennsylvania is doing to identify kids who are having problems and how we are addressing their needs. Under the leadership of Gov. Ridge and First Lady Michele Ridge, Pennsylvania has developed a comprehensive approach to violence prevention. With the 'Communities That Care' and 'Blueprints' programs, we provide community leaders with the tools, information and resources to identify risks that endanger their children and find ways to reduce those risks. We don't believe that a one-size-fits-all package is the right approach, because every community has different risks and needs."

Crime researchers say that Pennsylvania is a national leader in reducing violence. "By virtue of the tragic shootings that occurred at Columbine High School, Littleton is at ground zero in the battle against youth

violence," said Cheryl Wise, Juvenile Justice Program Director of the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice (CDCJ). "Our community leaders are aggressively looking for ways to prevent any future Columbines. The CDCJ has long been aware of Pennsylvania's successful, comprehensive approach to addressing youth violence, using a research-based, risk-focused approach. It was only natural that, when Littleton wanted to hear from those who have developed strategies to prevent violence, we immediately thought of Clay Yeager."

Shortly after taking office in 1995, Gov. Ridge created the Governor's Community Partnership for Safe Children. Chaired by First Lady Michele Ridge, the Children's Partnership seeks to curb youth violence. The 34-member board of directors includes recognized leaders in education, law enforcement, clergy, health care, business and government. The Children's Partnership promotes anti-violence initiatives, particularly "Communities That Care," through which community leaders identify risks that

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Littleton...from page 1

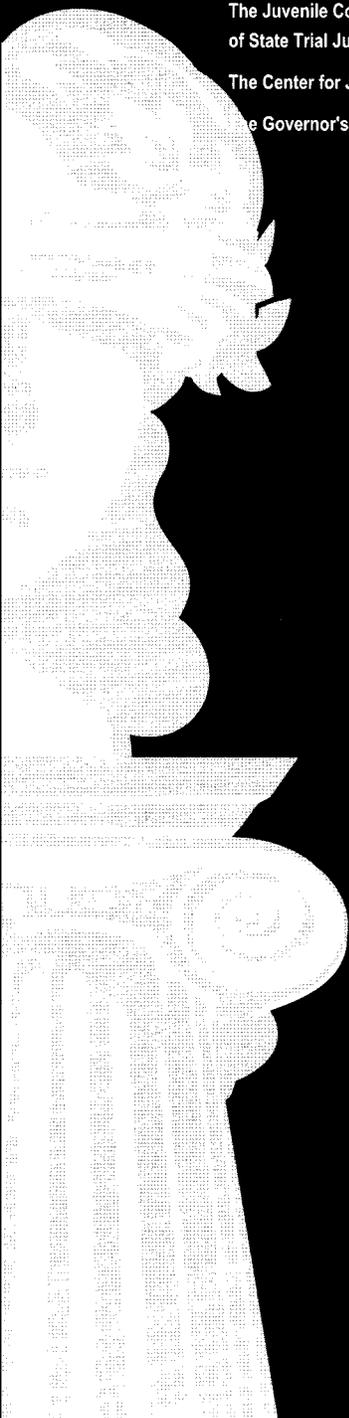
jeopardize the safety and well-being of their children, and then develop strategies to reduce those risks. The goal of the program is to reduce youth violence, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, academic failure, illiteracy and delinquency – factors that make children more likely to commit crimes. Right now, 68 Pennsylvania communities in 44 counties are involved with “Communities That Care.” Their programs differ, depending on their risks and needs, but all are based on initiatives that have proven effective in research studies.

Since 1995, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency has awarded \$7.5 million to Pennsylvania communities in “Communities That Care” grants. The Children’s Partnership also encourages communities to participate in the “Blueprints for Violence Prevention” and other research-based anti-violence initiatives. Researchers at the University of Colorado’s Center for the Study of Violence and Prevention analyzed nearly 500 violence-prevention programs from across the country and identified the 10 most effective.

Called the “Blueprints for Violence Prevention,” these programs include bullying prevention for elementary school children; family-therapy programs that improve problem solving, communication and interaction within families; a treatment foster-care program; and Big Brothers/Big Sisters, one of the nation’s best-known mentoring programs. The 1999-2000 state budget earmarks \$4 million for Pennsylvania communities to implement such research-based violence-prevention initiatives. Earlier this month, Gov. Ridge

announced that 54 school districts will receive nearly \$1 million in safe-schools grants to develop locally designed violence- and substance-abuse prevention programs. Another 25 school districts will receive nearly \$124,000 to continue existing programs. Since 1995, Pennsyl-

vania has invested nearly \$85.8 million in state and federal funds to support school violence prevention programs. This year’s budget includes an additional \$20 million in new state safe-school grants and another \$5.7 million to support Alternative Education for disruptive students programs.



The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission
The Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers
The Juvenile Court Section of the the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges
The Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research & the Governor's Community Partnership for Safe Children

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Eighteen Communities Selected to Begin Communities That Care Training

Beginning in late November, key leaders from 18 new CTC communities will participate in Key Leader Orientation, the first step to becoming trained in the CTC model of delinquency and violence prevention. These communities were among the candidates who submitted applications to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to become the ninth, tenth, and eleventh cycles of CTC communities.

The ninth CTC cycle will consist of the following counties: Pike, Sullivan, Mifflin, Juniata, Armstrong, Bedford, and Lebanon.

The 10th cycle will contain several school districts, including Keystone in Clinton County; Greenville in Mercer County; Great Valley in Chester County; Warminster in Bucks County; and Middletown in Dauphin County. In addition, Middletown Township in Bucks County and Centre County will participate.

Participants in the 11th cycle will include Philadelphia, Bethlehem in Northampton County, and Braddock and Duquesne in Allegheny County.

Upon completion of Key Leader Orientation, Risk and Resource Assessment Training, and Promising Approaches Training, communities will be expected to complete a delinquency prevention plan. The main components of this plan are the development of a community prevention board, the completion of a risk and resource assessment, designating priority risk factors on which to concentrate prevention efforts, the development of strategies to impact the priority risk factors, and the creation of an evaluation and re-assessment plan.

Brian Watts New Juniata County Chief



Brian Watts was appointed to the position of Chief Juvenile Probation Officer for Juniata County on

October 30, 1999. Watts assumes the post after having begun his employment with Juniata County as a probation officer in 1995 where he served in the capacity of school-based probation officer.

Watts has a background in drug and alcohol treatment, having worked as a counselor for Clear Concepts Counseling. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Susquehanna University and is active in the community as a soccer official with the Tri-county Chapter of PIAA Officials, and with the Juniata County *Communities that Care* initiative.

German Juvenile Justice Leaders Garner Ideas from Pennsylvania

For the past several years, German juvenile justice officials and scholars have been visiting the Philadelphia area to learn about American practices in dealing with delinquent youths. The media in Germany has been calling for tougher responses to juvenile crime, and juvenile court judges, probation administrators, and others concerned about the quality of justice and treatment for German juvenile offenders have turned to the United States for new ideas and programs. German officials have made several trips to Philadelphia's juvenile court and probation department and to the Glen Mills School.

Several of those same Pennsylvania hosts will now visit Germany to discuss Pennsylvania practices, including the balancing of juvenile justice goals. Administrative Judge Paul P. Panepinto, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Kenneth E. Hale, and Samuel Ferrainola of Glen Mills, have been invited to speak in Germany about juvenile justice in Pennsylvania. Dr. Bernd-Rudeger Sonnen, Professor of Law at Hamburg University and president of Deutsche Vereinigung for Jugendgerichte und Jugendgerichtshilfen (DVJJ), is coordinating the visit.

The American visitors will lecture at the University of Hamburg on October 13. Judge Panepinto will speak on Balanced and Restorative Justice and Act 33. Ken Hale will follow with a presentation on delin-

quency prevention and intervention strategies, and will highlight some of the new programs developed in Philadelphia. In the afternoon, Sam Ferrainola will speak on the Glen Mills approach to residential delinquent treatment, after which a panel discussion with both German and American participants will be held. A dinner reception that evening at the Town Hall will involve German government officials and members of the DVJJ. Thursday, October 14, will find the guests visiting the Hamburg Juvenile Court to meet with judges and probation officers. Later that day they will fly to Munich for meetings and presentations with Bavarian leaders to discuss juvenile justice practices.

In Germany, most juvenile facilities are secure public institutions. School settings are not widespread and private delinquent residential facilities are also new to them. Some of those invited to the meetings are prospective private investors in juvenile corrections. The German hosts hope to promote the introduction of American policies and practices into German juvenile justice.

JCJC Elects Officers for 1999-2000

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission has re-elected Judge Isaac S. Garb, Senior Judge, Bucks County as its Chairman. Judge Carol K. McGinley (Lehigh County) was re-elected as Vice-chairman and Judge John B. Leete (Potter County) was re-elected as Secretary. Judge Garb has served as the Commission's Chairman since July of 1994.



Judge Panepinto Honored by Philadelphia CASA

On August 17, 1999, the Philadelphia Court-Appointed Special Advocates Program (CASA) recognized the Honorable Paul P. Panepinto, Administrative Judge of the Family Division of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, for his work for children in Philadelphia. Judge Panepinto is a member of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, and has worked in the juvenile court for 28 years, starting in 1971 as a juvenile probation officer.

Senior Judge Edward Rosenberg, Chair of CASA, presided at the award ceremony. Barbara Fruchter, Executive Director of Philadelphia CASA, praised Panepinto's courage and ingenuity in developing innovative programs such as the Model Dependency Court. Mayor Ed Rendell described Judge Panepinto as a judge with a passion for doing what is right by children and as a team player with city agencies in making the Philadelphia juvenile justice system work. Judge Panepinto was selected to receive CASA's

Marvin E. Wolfgang Award, named for the late criminologist at the University of Pennsylvania, who was a member of the CASA board of directors. The award presentation was made by Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Sandra S. Newman. In speaking of Judge Panepinto, Justice Newman cited a recent editorial in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* which praised him for making the needs of at-risk children a priority during his tenure as Administrative Judge of the of Juvenile Court in Philadelphia. Recognition was made of the CASA program, the Model Court, and Project Start, an anti-truancy court initiative that holds truancy court on-site in public school buildings. A strong supporter of CASA, Justice Newman urged the spread of the program to other counties and credited her strong support for CASA to her daughter, a member of the Philadelphia CASA board. She thanked Judge Panepinto for his work and the work of the court in helping children and families.

MPOETC Computer Learning Center Fall Schedule

The Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) has released its Computer Learning Center's schedule for software training programs being held in the final quarter of 1999. All Commonwealth law enforcement personnel, which includes juvenile probation department staff, are welcome to attend. The computer lab training facility offers an on-going series of mostly one-day programs held on the following dates: Introduction to Windows 95 held on 11/10/99; Introduction to Wordprocessing-Word 97 held on 10/26/99; Word 97-Intermediate 11/5/99; Introduction to Wordprocessing-Word 97-Advanced 11/23/99; Introduction to Database-Microsoft Access 97 held on 12/15/99; Access Intermediate 10/18/99; Introduction to Spreadsheets-Excel 97 held on 10/21/99 & 12/16/99; Introduction to the Internet on 11/24/99; Introduction to Presentations-Powerpoint

97 10/28/99; Powerpoint Intermediate 11/8-9/99 and, several other specialized law enforcement computer-related topics. The programs are held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., typically on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays during most weeks of the year. The computer lab is located on the grounds of the Municipal Police Officers' Training Academy at 75 East Derry Road in Hershey.

Obviously, class size is limited as each student learns through guided hands-on instruction with a PC they are utilizing. The Computer Learning Center's training is free to all law enforcement personnel and classes fill quickly. Early registration is encouraged. For those individuals attending outside a commutable distance, two recommendations for lodging are as follows: The

Milton Motel, 1733 E. Chocolate Avenue, (within about a mile of the Academy) \$55-\$60 + tax, 717-533-4533; or, the Holiday Inn Harrisburg East, 4751 Lindle Road, (exit 1 off I-283-about 10 minutes from Hershey) \$55 +tax, 717-939-7841.

The center's training schedule for October through December is summarized above. Course descriptions may be accessed at the MPOETC's website: www.mpoetc.org. Information on sponsored training beyond this time period will be announced in the coming months. Registration information may be obtained by calling 717-533-5987. Questions may be directed to Dave Davis, manager of the Computer Lab Training facility, 717-533-5987 x210. Registrations should be faxed to 717-787-1650.

Noyes is New Chief in Butler County

Michael E. Noyes was appointed the new Chief Juvenile Probation Officer for Butler County on July 6, 1999. He replaces Terry Reynolds, who recently resigned that position.

Noyes began his career in Juvenile Court as a child abuse intake officer with the Venango County Children and Youth Services Division. In 1987, he was appointed as the first Chief Juvenile Probation Officer for Venango County when the Venango Court of Common Pleas established a separate division to focus on delinquency matters. Noyes remained in that position until 1991, when he left to work in the

private provider system. He returns to the Juvenile Court with enthusiasm for the work and a commitment to a job he enjoys.

Having graduated with academic honors from Allegheny College in 1983, Noyes continued his educational pursuits at Indiana University where he obtained a Masters of Arts in Criminology in 1990 and a Doctor of Philosophy in Criminology in 1996. He has provided academic instruction at the Indiana University's Criminology Department since 1984.

Noyes has been a member of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers since 1987, and anticipates becoming an active member once again.

Governor Ridge Makes Commission Appointments

On August 5, 1999, Governor Ridge re-appointed Judges Marilyn J. Horan (Butler County) and Paul P. Panepinto (Philadelphia County) as members of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. On August 27, 1999, Governor Ridge appointed Judge Kathleen R. Mulligan, Administrative Judge of the Family Court Division in Allegheny County, to fill the vacancy created by the expiration of the term of Judge Eugene B. Strassburger. Judge Strassburger had served as a member of the JCJC since 1990.

Aggression Replacement Training: A Comprehensive Intervention for Aggressive Youth

by Arnold P. Goldstein, Barry Glick & John C. Gibbs

At one time aggression was viewed as an instinctive human trait, a combative energy that needed to be expressed. Clinicians employing this approach advocated that chronically aggressive people seek safe ways to express their anger such as beating a punching bag or other ways of blowing off steam. In recent years, however, such cathartic thinking about aggression has changed, as the idea of an inborn and inevitable aggressive instinct has been shown to be a convenient but incorrect myth. Instead, research has demonstrated that aggression is primarily learned behavior, through observation, direct experience, and rehearsal (p.3).

According to social learning and cognitive theorists, the learning of aggression begins early in life as the child interacts with "coercive parents" (p.3). Their parenting behavior is marked by irritability and inconsistency. These are parents who are aggressive themselves, and are prone to solving most problems through intimidation or violence. Moreover, discipline is inconsistent and predicated on how the child's behaviors affects them at any given moment. Parental warmth and affection are infrequent. The child learns that "might makes right," and increasingly relies on aggression as the quick-fix solution for any and all of their problems.

Goldstein and his colleagues cite a number of standard personality characteristics common among aggressive persons. They are typically self-centered. Along with this egocentric perspective, aggressive people often view others as being as hostile as them

even when such is not the case. Assuming that their way of thinking is normal (false consensus), they often misinterpret behavioral cues that lead to confrontations with others. Such thinking often takes the form of minimizing or mislabeling, in which one's own aggressive behavior and its negative consequences are down-played or portrayed as something other than what they really are. Other features of aggressive personalities include assuming the worst, ("If I don't smack him I'll look like a punk"); and blaming others, ("It's his fault, he's asking for it, I'll smack him") (p.6).

The final (and most interesting) characteristic outlined by the writers is their idea about anchoring. Anchoring is a resistance to changing one's thinking, even when new evidence to the contrary is presented (p.6). This parallels Festinger's notion concerning cognitive dissonance. According to Cognitive Dissonance Theory (Festinger, 1957), we see and hear only those cues that we believe to be true. Cues that are inconsistent with our belief system create static and are promptly dismissed as untrue or irrelevant.

For a growing number of adolescents, aggressive thoughts and behaviors are over-learned, consistently successful, and generously supported by the important people in their lives. In addition, aggression is glamorized through the media and by society in general. Hence, there are ample societal norms supporting aggressive problem-solving behaviors.

Under these conditions the

learning of aggression replacement behaviors is clearly a daunting task, Goldstein and his colleagues agree. Since aggression is well-learned and generously rewarded short-term, quick-fix programs will offer little enduring effect (p.31). Accordingly, Goldstein states that in its rationale and procedures, Aggression Replacement Training (ART) emphasizes four intervention strategies.

First, ART is complex. The program recognizes that aggressive youths lack many of the personal, interpersonal, and social-cognitive skills that constitute effective prosocial behavior. In addition, their frequent impulsiveness and overreliance on aggression to meet their daily needs and longer term goals reflect deficiency in anger control. With respect to values, such adolescents also have been shown to respond at a more egocentric, concrete, and primitive level of moral reasoning. ART addresses each of these concerns, respectively, in its three (3) coordinated components: *skillstreaming*, *anger control training*, and *moral reasoning*.

Second, ART is prescriptive in its learning styles of different individuals, particularly those from low-income environments.

Third, ART is situational in its consideration of the importance of the interaction between the aggressive individual and the significant persons in his/her life.

Finally, ART advocates the notion that aggression is primarily learned behavior. Hence, ART is designed to offer these youngsters an opportunity to

learn prosocial alternatives. Underlying Aggression Replacement Training is the idea that adolescent or child aggression stems from multiple conditions within their environment. Thus, the three components of ART are designed to offer a comprehensive response to these multiple causation factors. The program is offered in a ten week curriculum.

Skillstreaming is a set of procedures designed to build prosocial skills. Derived from social learning theory (Bandura, 1973), skillstreaming features experts modeling a series of 50 prosocial skills in which the youths are deficient, e.g. listening, asking for help, dealing with embarrassment, and so forth. Other elements include: role-playing of competent behaviors, opportunities for praise, feedback, and re-instruction, and homework assignments to test out their new skills in real-world settings.

Anger control training is ART's emotion-oriented component aimed at enhancing self-control and the reduction of aggression. Youths are trained to respond to provocations through their awareness and employment of a chain of responses focusing on (a) triggers- the external events and internal appraisals that function as one's anger stimuli; (b) cues- kinesthetic or other physiological sensations indicating one's anger arousal; (c) reducers- arousal lowering techniques, i.e. reflecting upon the long-term consequences; (d) reminders- self-instructional statements designed to reinterpret and defuse internal triggers; (e) the use of appropriate skillstreaming alternatives to anger or violence; and (f) self evaluation- of the use or results of the anger control sequence. Whereas, skillstreaming is designed to

teach youths what they *should do* in problematic situations, anger control training teaches them what they *should not do* (p.69).

The anger control training is provided as part of the 10-week sequence featuring social learning elements, e.g. modeling, role-playing, etc..., built into each session. Anger control training also features rational emotive therapy concepts (Ellis, 1961) with its emphasis on the A-B-Cs of anger.

Moral reasoning training is the third intervention of ART and features four stages of Kohlberg's moral reasoning model. This is accomplished by employing Kohlberg's approach of exposing youths to a series of moral dilemmas in a discussion-group context. This element of the intervention also calls for cognitive restructuring to address self-centeredness and other distortions in reasoning.

The first chapter of the text provides a solid theoretical rationale for ART, with some discussion about limitations of alternative approaches. Chapter 2 offers an overview of the ART program, illustrating how the components are integrated by outlining one commonly used curriculum. Chapters 3-5 are devoted to each of ART's three components. Chapters 6-7 are devoted to such critical issues as client motivation and overcoming resistance, and methods to insure that trainees continue to use what they have learned in the program. The final chapter (Chapter 8) is devoted to evaluations of the program's effectiveness. The text also contains appendices which includes comprehensive outlines of the skillstreaming skills, checklists, and grouping charts; and moral reasoning problem situations.

New Chief Juvenile Probation Officer In Wayne County

Robert H. Williams was recently appointed as the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in Wayne County. He had served as the assistant chief in the Wayne County adult probation office since 1993.

Williams has a military background in the administration of justice, having served in both the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Army, where he attained the rank of Chief Warrant Officer. During his military career he served in various capacities, including Military Police Supervisor in Reitcheid, Germany; Chief of Investigative Support in Fort Lewis, Washington; Chief of the Drug Team in Camp Humphreys, Korea; and Chief of General Crimes/Assistant Operations Officer at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Williams also earned several military awards throughout his career, including the Legion of Merit Medal (the highest peacetime award), the Meritorious Service Medal, and the U.S. Army Commendation and Achievement Medals.

Williams holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from Saint Martin's College, Washington. He can be reached at 570- 253-5970, ext. 250.

