

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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The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) has announced that 10 new Communities That Care projects have been added to the state's growing list of CTC participants. The ten include five new counties and five "saturation" projects, which are already engaged in CTC in limited communities, but developed strategic plans to expand to multiple sites. The addition of the new projects brings the number of Pennsylvania communities engaged in CTC to more than 100, with sites in 56 counties.

The new projects are: Adams, Clarion, Elk, Greene, and Jefferson counties. Saturation projects include: Berks County, Boyertown School District and Wilson School District; Chester County, Downingtown School District and Kennet School District, and York County, Hanover area.

PCCD and the Center For Juvenile Justice Training and Research (CJJT&R) have recently modified the process for new communities entering CTC. Instead of first-year planning and assessment grants, followed by three-year implementation grants, communities will now be eligible for larger, three-year planning grants in the beginning of the project. The change was made to support the hiring of staff early on in the project and to allow time for more thorough community assessment. "Our experience over the past six years has shown that teams who have committed staff-support brought in during early phases have a much higher likelihood of success than those who do not. The planning dollars previously assigned simply were not enough to bring that person on board early enough to spearhead the project," said Mike Kovacevic, CTC Coordinator.

Instead of submitting a grant application to PCCD for implementation dollars, communities are now required to submit Community Prevention Plans, with no money attached. The plans will be reviewed and certified, with technical assistance provided for groups whose plans do not meet criteria for certification. PCCD will then issue a

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C. T. C. Announces New Sites -

ten new Communities That Care projects have been added to the state's growing list of participants

Please see page 3 for *revisions to the schedule* of The Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice at the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers, November 1-3, 2000

Annual Conference Offers Workshops, Thursday, Nov. 2

As part of this year's Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice, a series of workshops will be offered throughout the day on Thursday, November 2, 2000. Registrants are encouraged to attend these 90- or 180-minute presentations about innovative and diverse juvenile justice programming on both the state and national levels. Registrants may choose to attend any workshops offered from the following list:

10:15 – 11:45 a.m.

- Ahtenshun! Pennsylvania's Juvenile Boot Camps—Current and Future
- The Ins and Outs of Working with Communities to Keep Their Youth
- Collaborative Intensive Treatment Program [CICTP]
- Residential Sex Offender Treatment—An Overview
- Youth Violence Reduction Project: Reinventing Probation in Philadelphia
- Collaborative Human Resource Development Between Juvenile Justice and Mental Health: A New Partnership
- Community Justice/Youth Aid Panels
- JNET and the Juvenile Tracking System
- Effectively Accessing Services and Obtaining Funding for Mental Health Treatment for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System
- Disproportionate Representation of Minorities in the Juvenile Justice System

1:30 – 3 pm

- Treatment for Adolescent Girls: Understanding and Treating Post-Traumatic Stress [180 minutes]

- Bullying in Schools: A Blueprint for Violence Prevention
- Impact of Crime [180 minutes]
- CD2: Competency Development/Consent Decree
- JNET & the Juvenile Tracking System [repeat of earlier session]
- Juvenile Court Judges Workshop
- The Alternative School as An Instrument of Delinquency Prevention
- Communities That Care [180 minutes]
- The Role of the Prosecutor in Balanced and Restorative Justice Principles and Practice
- Year-round Boondocs Program

3:15 – 4:45 pm

- Treatment for Adolescent Girls—[continued from earlier session]
- Impact of Crime [continued from earlier session]
- Communities That Care [continued from earlier session]
- Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies-Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Juvenile Court Judges Workshop
- Partners in Crime Reduction
- Understanding and Effectively Counseling Serious and Violent Offenders
- Home Visitation of High Risk Pregnancies: A Violence Prevention Strategy
- Understanding the Psychological Impact of Emotionally Traumatic Events
- Conflict Resolution and Mediation Skills for the Juvenile Justice System

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 email or on a disk. We particularly enjoy your photographs, but we ask that these be mailed - we will be happy to return them to you.

P.J. Verrecchia is the editor. The address is CJJT&R, Shippensburg University, 1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299 or email pjverr@wharf.ship.edu

Please send additions or changes to the mailing list to Nina Weaver at the same address or email nsweav@wharf.ship.edu



Revised Conference Schedule

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

The Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers

The Juvenile Court Section of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges

The Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research

and

The Governor's Community Partnership for Safe Children

present

The Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

November 1-3, 2000, Harrisburg Hilton and Towers

Wednesday, November 1

- √ 10 a.m. Registration desk opens
- √ 2 – 3:30 p.m. Professional caucuses
- √ 5:30 p.m. *Youth Awards Program and Dinner*
Bonnie St. John Deane
- √ 9 – 11 p.m. Chief's Council reception

Thursday, November 2

- 7:30 a. m. Registration desk opens
- 8 – 8:45 a.m. Continental breakfast
- √ 8:45 – 10 a.m. Keynote address/Plenary
- √ 10:15 – 11:45 a.m. Workshops
- noon Luncheon
- √ 1:30 – 3 p.m. Workshops
- √ 3:15 – 4:45 p.m. Workshops
- 6 – 6:45 p.m. Reception
- 7 p.m. *Awards Dinner and Program*

Friday, November 3

- 6:30 a.m. Registration desk opens
- 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. Continental breakfast
- 8 – noon *Resource Day*
- noon Close

Registration information will be mailed the first week in September. *Resource Day* exhibitor questions may be directed to Arlene L. Prentice at 717-783-7836, email aprentice@state.pa.us

School Law Q & A

#1: The right to attend school

With this issue, we inaugurate a series of columns on school law questions frequently encountered by juvenile probation officers. These columns will be written by the Education Law Center (ELC), an organization that provides advice on legal issues involving public schools in Pennsylvania. If you send in your questions, ELC will try to answer them.

The views expressed here are, of course, ELC's. Because of space limitations, we can't address issues in great detail. For more help with specific situations, call ELC directly at 215-238-6970, Philadelphia, or 412-391-5225, Pittsburgh. PO's may refer families to ELC, as well. ELC also offers publications on school law, which can be obtained by phone or from ELC's website, www.elc-pa.org.

Q: What are the age limits for school attendance in Pennsylvania?

A: There are two kinds of age limits. *Compulsory school age* -- the age at which a child *must* attend school -- runs from 8 (or from the point at which the child begins first grade, if earlier) to the child's 17th birthday. (Under certain circumstances, compulsory school age ends at 16 if the child is employed.)

The *right to attend school*, on the other hand, applies from age 6 (or the district's entry age, if lower) to high school graduation or the end of the school year in which the child turns 21, whichever comes first. Thus, while a child over 17 is not *required* to attend school, s/he *may* do so until either graduation or age 21, whichever occurs first.

Q: Are the age limits different for children returning from juvenile justice placements?

A: No. A child who has been away from home in a juvenile placement has the right to re-enroll once s/he returns -- so long as the child is of the proper age (see above) and meets other requirements (residency, immunizations, and so on).

Q: Can a school postpone enrolling a child pending (1) the school's receipt of the child's records from another school, or (2) the child's obtaining a psychological or psychiatric evaluation?

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Positions Available

The SU Foundation...

CTC Technical Assistant

The Shippensburg University Foundation is currently seeking qualified applicants for four TECHNICAL ASSISTANT positions to support the expansion of the Commonwealth's Communities That Care (CTC) program. These are grant-funded positions and will be regionally located in the northwest, southwest, northeast, and southeast areas of the state.

The duties of the CTC Technical Assistant include:

- Consult with and monitor established CTC sites
- Provide assistance to communities interested in joining CTC
- Assist new sites with CTC plan development, budgeting, the grant application process, and plan certification
- Help CTC sites with reassessment of their delinquency prevention plan
- Support CTC sites in assessing and reassessing priority risk and protective factors
- Assist communities in the implementation of Promising Approaches and blueprint programs
- Advise and assist regional CTC boards
- Supervise CTC regional training activities
- Assist in the development of the state CTC conference
- Review grant proposals
- Organize CTC Process Facilitators within each region
- Assist with the development of a CTC newsletter, directory, and web page
- Conduct speaking engagements about CTC in local communities
- Attend monthly management/supervision meetings at Shippensburg

This position will involve some overnight travel and working flexible hours. A bachelor's degree in prevention/social science or related field is required; a master's degree in a related field is preferred. The ideal applicant will also have at least two years experience in prevention, juvenile justice, or human services as well as community organization or mobilization experience, including one year of demonstrated experience under the Communities That Care Model. Knowledge of research and evaluation methods is preferred. Starting salary will be in the low \$30,000 range and a comprehensive benefits package will be provided by the SU Foundation.

For confidential consideration, please submit a resume, and the name, address, and telephone

number of three professional references to: Search Committee, CTC Technical Assistant, Shippensburg University Foundation, Shippensburg, PA 17257. Review of resumes will begin on September 15, 2000, and will continue until the positions are filled.

The Shippensburg University Foundation is an equal opportunity employer.

Court of Common Pleas of Lancaster County Office of Court Administration...

Juvenile Probation and Parole Director

This is managerial social service work, based at the Lancaster County Courthouse. The position involves direction of staff of full performance and lower level social service personnel engaged in juvenile probation and parole work, including supervising of individuals on probation or parole, conducting investigations and evaluating clients prior to disposition and overseeing progress in institutional or other treatment. Work includes determining policy direction, managing the administrative workload and requirements, completing Fiscal Year State Plan and Budget and Calendar Year County Budgets, responding to changes in the Juvenile Justice System impacting on Court of Common Pleas' operations and coordinating juvenile probation activities with those of other court and related organization operations.

Knowledge requirements include: a comprehensive knowledge of the principles and policies of the Juvenile Justice System, including statutes, rules and regulations, particularly as applicable to juvenile offenders; thorough knowledge of the operations, practices and procedures of juvenile probation and parole supervision, treatment, counseling and rehabilitation; and thorough knowledge of the various organizations, functions and roles comprising a state criminal justice system and their interrelationship.

Knowledge of methods and techniques used in supervising a staff of subordinate supervisors and works engaged in supervising probation and parole client caseloads, conducting investigations, and similar functions; knowledge of characteristics of individual and group behavior, particularly that of juvenile individuals involved with delinquent, criminal or other unacceptable conduct and activities; and knowledge of available community resources dealing with social, psychological, medical, economic and other elements affecting juvenile clients.

The ability to develop policy, administrative and managerial direction for a staff engaged in juvenile probation and parole casework; ability to communicate effectively with members of the Judiciary, co-

workers, representatives of other agencies and the public; ability to make formal written and oral presentations before a variety of groups.

Education required equivalent to completion of a bachelor's degree program with course work in psychology, social work, counseling or closely related field. A master's degree is preferred. Five years of experience as a probation officer, or in a related field such as criminal justice or counseling, is also required. Two years of this experience shall have been at the full-performance level with substantial contact with juvenile clients, and one year supervising a staff of social service workers engaged in supervising and/or investigating probation and parole cases. Any combination of education and experience which has provided the knowledge, skills, and abilities cited above is acceptable.

Salary range is \$43,264 - \$70,221 yearly. Applicants should send a resume, by September 15, 2000, to Mark M. Dalton, District Court Administrator, P.O. Box 83480, Lancaster, PA 17608-3480

Cornell Abraxas...

Youth workers (F/T & P/T)

Counselor

Teacher's Aide

Teachers, (special education, English, science and social studies)

All positions require at least 21 years of age and a high school diploma/GED. Additional education and experience are helpful. Some positions may require a bachelors degree. Bilingual applicants are encouraged to apply. Benefits for F/T include: medical, dental, vacation, sick, holidays, 401(k), tuition reimbursement, free meals.

Please forward resume or call:

Susan Barber, Human Resources Specialist

Cornell Abraxas P.O. Box 334

South Mountain, PA 17261

1-800-560-7731 fax 717-749-322

sbarber@cornellcompanies.com

JCJC Goes Online

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission has established a presence on the World Wide Web by publishing a public access Website, <http://www.jcjc.state.pa.us>, on August 4, 2000. The site has been under construction since February 2000 and is the successor to a limited-access Website that was available through JNET.

In addition to the home page, the site contains nine major areas:

- *About JCJC* – containing a summary of the history and services provided by the agency.
- *Directories* – commission members, juvenile courts, JCJC staff, PCCD Juvenile Advisory Committee, and the officers and chairs of the Chief's Council.
- *Training* – the three most recent training schedules.
- *Standards* – the JCJC standards for operation of juvenile courts.
- *Graduate Education* – curriculum, the application process, forms, and general information.
- *Publications* – newsletters from 1998 to the present, and the 1997 BARJ Monograph.
- *Statistics* – the county statistical data published by JCJC from 1995 to 1998.
- *Legislation* – synopsis of recently enacted and pending legislation; new regulations and related JCJC correspondence.
- *Links* – websites of interest to justice practitioners, academicians and researchers, and utilization tools for the website.

Future plans include interactive enhancements such as forums for judges, chiefs, and probation officers, and the ability to register electronically for training. Suggestions are welcome.

A: No, to both questions. The only things that the school can require before enrolling the child, apart from proof of age and residency, are proof of immunizations and a statement, signed by the child's parent or guardian, concerning the child's previous school disciplinary record.

Q: Does a child who commits a crime or delinquent act lose the right to attend school?

A: Not necessarily. A child can lose his or her right to attend school only if s/he is *expelled* after a full school board hearing. If there has been no hearing or expulsion, the student continues to have the right to attend school. Moreover, only certain kinds of acts can result in expulsion, even assuming a proper hearing is held. For example, school officials cannot expel a student for misbehavior that occurs off school grounds, and not during the student's trip to or from school – unless (one court has held) the misbehavior “substantially interferes with the educational process.” ELC can provide more detailed information.

In future issues: Alternative education; special education; school discipline. ELC welcomes suggestions for other topics. Contact Len Rieser at ELC, 1315 Walnut St., Suite 400, Philadelphia PA 19107, telephone (215) 238-6970, S e-mail lrieser@elc-pa.org.

FYI...

effective August 14, 2000

Crawford County Juvenile Probation Department has moved. The new address is 286 Chestnut Street, Meadville, PA 16335. The primary telephone number is 814-336-4061; fax 814-333-6798. Individual extension numbers will be available later.

College Students Help Juveniles on Probation

by: Margery Miller, Montgomery County's Balanced and Restorative Justice Coordinator

Montgomery County Juvenile Probation and Cabrini College in Radnor have developed a partnership that enables juveniles on probation to receive tutoring from students of Cabrini College. For the past four months, students have met Cabrini's community service requirements by tutoring juveniles on probation at both Abington High School and Lincoln Academy.

Margery Miller, Montgomery County's Balanced and Restorative Justice Coordinator, and Merle Krinsky, a psychologist and member of the BARJ team, developed this tutoring program. It emanates from the BARJ team's desire to involve community members in balanced and restorative justice activities, and Cabrini College's policy of student community service. This collaboration has been a win-win for all the participants.

The college tutors and the high school students gave the program high marks. All agreed that the closeness in age of tutors and students was a plus. The students thought the tutors were good role models, easy to relate to, and nonthreatening. One student said he might not have passed last year, if it were not for his tutor. Conversely, a concern of one of the new tutors was that the juveniles on probation would have negative attitudes about learning. "I couldn't have been more wrong. I think I got as much out of this as he did." The tutors have extended their commitment six weeks longer than the college required and have volunteered to tutor again next year.

An expansion of the program is being considered for next year to include additional colleges and universities. For more information on this program, please call Margery Miller at 610-630-2252.

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request for proposals for communities to submit their certified plans, along with a budget, for implementation funding.

CJJTR is also expanding its technical assistance capacity to accommodate the growing number of CTC sites and requests for help. Four additional technical assistants will be hired statewide to work with new and existing CTC communities, provide training and help organize regional network meetings (see related article in this newsletter). These workers will be stationed within the regions with which they have been assigned to work, allowing more availability for site visits, specialized and regional training opportunities.

For more information about Communities That Care, please call Amy Zarefoss at 717-477-14479 or Mike Kovacevic at 717-477-1237, both of the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research, or Dan Romage of PCCD, at 717-787-8559 ext. 3123.