

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

Volume 8, Number 1

January 2000

## Balanced and restorative justice in action in Westmoreland County

by Lisa Galloway Monzo, Restorative Justice Coordinator



Probation officers Brian Steele and Jeremy Olson, Chief Addie Beighley, and an intern, with some of the equipment for the CBMR program.

**L**ock them up and throw away the key” may have been the prevailing sentiment toward juvenile crime and punishment in the past, but new community-based alternatives are helping to change that way of thinking. Prior to the changes to the Juvenile Act in 1996, very little attention was given to the personal and community impact of crime. The focus

was strictly on the offender and making him or her “pay.” While locking a juvenile offender up may have prevented him from committing other crimes for the time being, it did little to prepare the child, the victim, or the community for the child’s eventual return to the community.

Balanced and restorative justice, Pennsylvania’s new blueprint for

juvenile justice, looks at crime through a different lens. Crime and delinquency are viewed as a harm. Westmoreland County has created new initiatives to meet the mission of balanced and restorative justice by helping crime victims, offenders, and communities restore and improve the quality of lives adversely effected by crime. The Community-Based Monitoring and Restoration Program, recently established in Westmoreland County through a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, allows a child who would ordinarily be sent to placement to remain in the community. The trade-off is that the juvenile will be placed on electronic monitoring for at least eight weeks, where the child’s every move will be monitored. It lets the CBMR officers know if a child is not where he or she is supposed to be. A child on CBMR is generally allowed to go to school, church, home and, maybe later, work.

In addition, an intensive plan is developed where the juvenile offender, the victim, the offender’s family, and the

offender's probation officer each have a say in what goals and obligations a juvenile offender must achieve in order to successfully complete CBMR. Unlike traditional probation, where a child is placed on probation for a specific amount of time, CBMR requires a child to meet short-, moderate-, and long-term goals before being released. There is no set time period in which the child must achieve these goals. If the child successfully meets the short-term goals, he or she is removed from electronic monitoring and placed under intensive supervision. That child would not be transferred to traditional probation until he or she met the moderate-term goals and would not be released entirely from supervision until meeting his or her long-term goals.

The victim of the crime has a say in supervision, too. If the victim thinks community service is appropriate, then community service will be included. Victims are given an opportunity to receive monthly progress updates and are afforded a direct link to voice concerns and to have immediate attention given to any problems. The child also would be subjected to random drug and alcohol testing, random home and school visits, and be required to attend eight weeks of competency-development classes, including victim-sensitivity classes.

Jeremy Olson and Brian Steele, probation officers who helped to create and now monitor the Community-Based Monitoring and Restoration Program, are on-call 24-hours-a-day, and have a variety of options available to them if a child does not comply with the program. CBMR was created in part to help fill the gap between intensive probation and placement. It serves as a gradu-

ated sanction and allows continuity in monitoring offenders. The program allows a juvenile to remain in the community and learn to take responsibility for his or her actions. It also encourages the community and the victim to play a role in the supervision of the offender.

The final benefit is to the taxpayer. CBMR is far less expensive than traditional placement in an institution. Probation officer Jeremy Olson estimates that the savings to the taxpayers will be more than \$2 million when the program is running at capacity. Westmoreland County saves \$129.37 per day per child when a child is placed in CBMR rather than in traditional placement.

Back to the  
Future and Beyond:

### Building Strong Foundations



### First Quarter Training Sexual Violence

**March 9-10, 2000**

Sheraton Great Valley  
Frazer, Pennsylvania  
or

**April 4-5, 2000**

Mountain View Inn  
Greensburg, Pennsylvania



presented by the  
PCCD Bureau of Victims' Services  
Training and Technical Assistance Project

## MTV and OJJDP collaborate on anti-violence initia- tive

In this era of unusual alliances, one of the most interesting recent collaborations is between MTV and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. If you work with teenagers, you will find a host of useful resources by checking out MTV's website. At [www.FightForYourRights.MTV.com](http://www.FightForYourRights.MTV.com), you can access some interesting presentations on anti-violence initiatives. You can also register to get a free copy of the CD and Action Guide produced by MTV and OJJDP. The information is available also from OJJDP at [www.ojjdp.ncjrs](http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs)

President Clinton announced the release and distribution of more than a quarter million copies of the CD "Fight for Your Rights: Take a Stand Against Violence" to viewers who requested the CD as a result of its promotion on MTV. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) will send an additional 200,000 copies to afterschool programs, law enforcement agencies, foundations, and civic associations. OJJDP and BJA in DOJ and the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program in the U.S. Department of Education worked with MTV to produce the CD and an accompanying guide that provides information on conflict resolution, mentoring, artistic responses to violence, youth crime watch and prevention, and advocacy. Contact information is included for additional resources. The CD features popular musical artists and comments from youth on violence-related issues. To request a free copy of the CD and guide, call 877-284-1188.

## Social development strategy and competency development

**W**ith the implementation of the balanced and restorative justice model, the juvenile justice system has a different approach for rehabilitating delinquent youth. Not only is the accountability of delinquent youth to the victim and the community emphasized; now it is also important to develop competencies within youth. Juvenile offenders who come under the jurisdiction of the court should leave the system more capable of being productive and responsible members of the community.

Competency development implies more than treatment and remediation. Services promoting treatment and remediation may support competency development; however, extensive competency development builds on strengths of the offenders, families, and communities. This is accomplished by changing the offender's behavior and thinking by engaging the youth in productive activities and involving the youth in cognitive learning groups that stress decision-making, emotional control, and conflict resolution.

Social Development Strategy, the theoretical foundation of the Communities That Care Model, demonstrates the importance of competency building in youth. Social Development Strategy suggests that the development of healthy behavior within youth occurs when youth become bonded to pro-social institutions in society: the family, school, and the community. In order for this bonding to occur, these institutions must provide young people with opportunities to complete

tasks or activities; teach them the appropriate skills so that they can successfully complete tasks; and provide them with positive recognition when tasks or activities are completed.

Even though the Social Development Strategy has been developed as a proactive, prevention model, it can also be applied as an intervention model within balanced and restorative justice. This can be perceived when looking at some of the intended outcomes for competency development in the balanced and restorative justice model. Competency development should allow young offenders to practice and demonstrate competencies (the opportunity to build on current skills or learn new skills). When this occurs, youth will have an increased sense of competency and self-esteem.

Another outcome is to increase the capacity of adults and community groups to accept and integrate youth into the community. This can be accomplished by the youths completing work valued by the community (demonstrated by community opportunities to complete tasks and providing recognition for task completion). Youth will also gain increased opportunities for positive interaction and bonding with adult role models.

Competency development, when seen within the Social Development Strategy, has become an important part of the rehabilitative effort of balanced and restorative justice.

## Annual conference on juvenile justice to feature workshops

**T**he Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice will be held November 1-3, 2000, at the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers. The program will again feature a three-day format, providing opportunities for plenary sessions, breakout sessions, and professional caucuses, as well as social activities, for participants.

On Thursday, November 2, there will be series of workshops presented throughout the day. Ninety-minute workshops will be offered three times throughout the day. Pennsylvania-based trainers and presenters are encouraged to develop proposals for consideration of being featured during this year's conference.

Prospective trainers may submit summaries of their training programs in the following format:

- ✓ Title of presentation;
- ✓ A brief summary, approximately 100 words or less, of the program or presentation;
- ✓ Identify the intended target audience, i.e. juvenile probation officers, juvenile court judges, residential service providers, program administrators, community officials, etc.

Review and final selection of presenters and programs will be made during the summer. Interested presenters/trainers should submit materials to:

Clay Yeager, Director  
CJTT&R,  
Shippensburg University  
1871 Old Main Drive  
Shippensburg, PA 17257.

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*PAPPC Group Sales: 800-444-2326*

Single: \$ 171.00; Double: \$225.00

Full Registration: \$110.00

Per Day \$ 75.00 (Mon. or Tues.)



*\* Note: Hotel and full registration pricing includes all meals, functions, parking, taxes & gratuity*

## **PCCD Funds Programs to Provide Services to Victims of Juvenile Crime**

In November 1999, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) announced the availability of \$3.4 million in state funds to support the provision of rights and services for victims of juvenile crime. This on-going grant program will be administered through PCCD's Bureau of Victims' Services, similar to the existing Victims Rights Program that provides services to victims of crime committed by adults.

As with the Victims Rights Program, counties must serve as the applicant for the Victims of Juvenile Offenders (VOJO) funds. Grant recipients, who are responsible for the actual provision of the rights and services, may vary. They may include community-based victim service providers, juvenile probation departments, offices of the district attorney, or any combination of the aforementioned. In order to be eligible, local policy boards are required to expand to include participation by chief juvenile probation officers.

To date, PCCD has received twenty-seven applications and six letters of intent from counties expressing interest in providing these services. Please call Kelli Matson, of the Victims Services Division at PCCD, at 717-783-0551, ext. 3117, if you have any questions or need more information.

## Jesse Williams will keynote conference

**J**esse E. Williams Jr. will be the keynote speaker for the spring conference, *Promising Approaches III: "Strengthening Prevention and Intervention Services for Minority Youth,"* presented by The Pennsylvania Commission of Crime and Delinquency, The Governor's Community Partnership for Safe Children, The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, The First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, Family Court Division, The Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research, The Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, The Philadelphia Department of Human Services and The Department of Public Welfare. The conference will be held March 19-21, 2000, at the Wyndham Franklin Plaza in Philadelphia.

Mr. Williams was appointed by the mayor to serve as chief probation officer of the juvenile probation department for the city and county of San Francisco. In this capacity, Williams is responsible for the management of probation, community services, placement services, detention and long-term commitment services. Prior to assuming this position, Williams was Deputy Commissioner of the Philadelphia Department of Human Services, Division of Juvenile Justice Services. He also served as the administrator of the Youth Services Administration in Washington, D.C.; assistant secretary for administration for the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; and deputy director of the Maryland Juvenile Services Administration.

Williams received a Master of Education Degree from Coppin State College and a Bachelor of Arts from Morgan State University. He has been awarded a certificate from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University for the successful completion of their program for senior executives in state and local government. He is past president of the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators, and an active member of the Chief Probation Officers of California and the American Correctional Association, a former member of the Board of Philadelphia Police Athletic League, and past president of the Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association. Williams has been honored by the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, Family Court Division, for excellence in juvenile justice, and named in *Who's Who in the Delaware Valley*.

For information, call Kathleen DiStefano at 215-683-6222.

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## Edward M. Shearn appointed chief of Schuylkill County juvenile probation

**O**n December 30, 1999, Schuylkill County President Judge William E. Baldwin announced the appointment of Edward M. Shearn to the position of Chief Juvenile Probation Officer to succeed Thomas Green, who accepted a position with the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission.

Mr. Shearn is well known throughout the juvenile justice system in Pennsylvania. He is a 24-year veteran of the Schuylkill County Juvenile Justice Department, having worked in various positions throughout the department. His initial employment with the county was as a probation officer in charge of recruitment and supervision of a foster care program in conjunction with Loysville Youth Development Center. Subsequently, he undertook the responsibilities of an intensive probation officer and progressed through the administrative positions of Supervisor and Deputy Chief Juvenile Probation Officer.

A past member of the Schuylkill County Drug and Alcohol Executive Commission, Shearn is active in the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, having served on the Public Relations Committee, Standards Committee, and the redesign of JCJC statistical cards committee. From 1988 through 1989 he served on the Compliance Review Team for secure state facilities. He received a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice from Kings College in 1975, and is a 1985 graduate of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission-sponsored Masters Degree program in Administration of Justice at Shippensburg University.



## Position Announcement

The Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research at Shippensburg University will be hiring a full-time juvenile court consultant who will serve as the Detention Monitoring Specialist. This position is funded through a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. The position will be responsible for monitoring compliance with standards governing admissions to secure juvenile detention centers and for providing consultant services and technical assistance to county juvenile probation departments and juvenile detention centers. The salary range is \$38,631 to \$58,700. Candidates must have five years of experience in a juvenile probation and/or juvenile detention setting and a Master's degree in Social Work or the behavioral sciences. Qualified candidates must also demonstrate excellent communication skills, both verbally and in writing. The position will be based at Shippensburg University and a significant amount of travel will be required.

For information, please call Ms. Vicki Rideout, Recruitment/Classification Manager, 717-477-1124, or send a resume by February 29 to Shippensburg University Human Resources Office, 1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, PA17257-2299, Attn: Vicki Rideout; FAX 717-477-4037 or email [vjride@wharf.ship.edu](mailto:vjride@wharf.ship.edu)