

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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November 2000

Nearly 1,000 participants attended the 2000 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice at the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers November 1-3. On Wednesday evening, young people from within Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system were recognized for their individual achievements at the Youth Awards Program and Dinner. This program underscores the importance and impact of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system and the dedicated people working on behalf of thousands of young people. This year's speaker was Bonnie St. John Deane. Ms. Deane, an amputee at age five, has used determination and imagination to become an Olympic Silver Medalist, a Rhoads Scholar, a White House Official, and an award-winning author. In 1998, she wrote *Succeeding Sane*, describing her personal obstacles and how she overcame them. In 1999, NBC Nightly News featured her as one of the "Five Most Inspiring Women in America." St. John Deane spoke with passion and purpose; at the end of her speech the entire audience gave her a well-deserved standing ovation.

On Thursday the conference featured a series of workshops detailing innovative and diverse juvenile justice programs. The Annual Awards Dinner and Program, around which the conference is centered, took place on Thursday evening.

Each year, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, honors outstanding individuals and exemplary programs from across the Commonwealth who have improved the quality of life for youth and families who come into contact with the juvenile justice system. The Annual Awards Program is an opportunity to extend appreciation and pay tribute to the award recipients whose effort, dedication, and commitment to juvenile justice are worthy of special commendation. In each award category there are several nominees, all of whom are deserving of recognition. Award winners are selected by committee from the field of nominees as submitted by their peers.

The conference ended on Friday morning with *Resource Day-2000*, a yearly event offering participants an opportunity to meet with representatives from public and private residential service providers, informational services, and others whose products and services are available to improve juvenile justice in Pennsylvania.

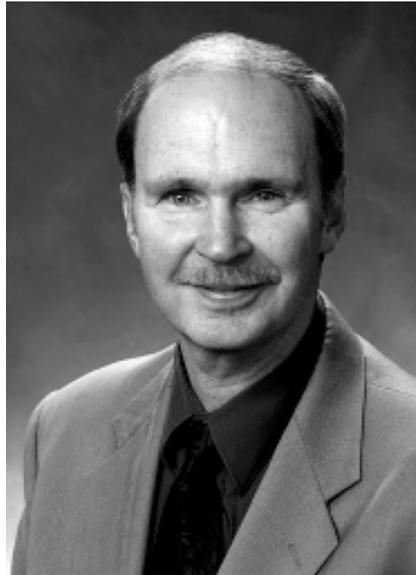
2000 Conference on Juvenile Justice

Chief Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year is Marshall R. Davis of Wyoming county.

Photos of all award winners are on pages 2 and 3.



Marshall R. Davis
Wyoming County
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer
of the Year



Peter Pitts
Delaware County
Juvenile Probation Supervisor
of the Year



Joseph A. Signore
Beaver County
Juvenile Probation Officer
of the Year

Beverly Kloba
Westmoreland County
Meritorious Service Award



Cynthia J. Pletcher
Blair County
Juvenile Court Support Service

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

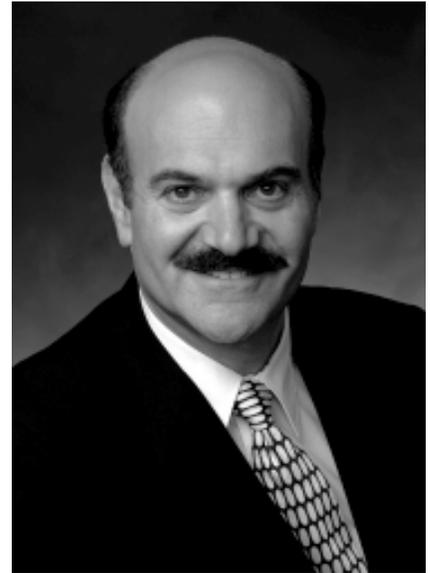
Please send additions or changes to the mailing list to Nina Weaver at the same address or email nsweav@wharf.ship.edu



Christopher Stone
Undergraduate Scholarship



Michelle L. Benninghove
Outstanding Scholarship
in Juvenile Justice



Samuel A. Costanzo
CEO, Summit Academy
Residential Program of the Year



Brian A. Muschlitz
Lehigh County
Court-Operated Program
of the Year



John T. Nalevanko
Director, S. T. A. R. S.
Community-Based
Program of the Year

FYI...

effective October 30, 2000

Allegheny County Juvenile Court has relocated.
Their new address is:

440 Ross Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

telephone 412-350-0200

Several communities begin CTC training

During the week of November 13-17, 2000, nine new CTC communities received Key Leader Orientation (KLO). The purpose of KLO training is to provide key leaders from the communities information on the CTC model and philosophy, as well as the framework for developing community prevention boards and involving the community in the CTC process. The counties and communities participating are Greene, Elk, Clarion, and Washington Counties; Hanover area in York County; and the school districts of Boyertown and Wilson in Berks County and Kennett and Downingtown in Chester County.

Upon completion of the KLO, community leaders will return home and begin developing their key leader and community prevention boards, and prepare for future training on both Risk and Resource Assessment and Promising Approaches. Following these training sessions, the community boards will be required to develop a violence and delinquency prevention plan.

Applications for new CTC communities will be sent to community leaders in late December 2000. Sites that have their applications approved will begin their KLO training in March or April 2001. If you are not sure you are on the mailing list for CTC applications and you would like to receive an application, please telephone Mike Kovacevic, 717-477-1237 or Amy Zarefoss, 717-477-1149.

School Law Q & A

#4: Special education: program decisions

This is our second column on special education (and the fourth in our school law series). We hope you're finding these columns useful as a source of general information. For more detail or advice on a specific case, you or a family you're working with can contact the Education Law Center at (215) 238-6970 (Philadelphia), or (412) 391-5225 (Pittsburgh). ELC publications are also available on its website, www.elc-pa.org.

Q: What's an IEP?

A: An Individualized Education Program, or IEP, must be written for every child who receives special education services. The IEP describes the child's educational levels and special needs, and tells what special education services he or she will receive.

Q: How do I get a copy of a child's IEP?

A: The parent should have a copy. If not, he or she has the right to get one from the school on request.

Q: How is the IEP developed?

A: The IEP is written at an IEP conference. The parent must be invited to the conference, as well as the student if s/he is over age 14 or if it would otherwise be "appropriate" for the student to attend. (In practice, it's up to the parent to decide whether the student should be present.) Parents may also invite anyone else they choose, such as a neighbor, advocate, psychologist, probation officer, or other person.

IEP conference participants must also include a special education teacher of the child, a regular education teacher of the child, and a representative of the district (such as a special education supervisor).

Q: How often must an IEP conference be held, and how often must the IEP be revised?

A: At least once per year. However, either the parents or the school have the right to request an IEP conference to consider possible revisions at any time.

Q: What services can be included in an IEP?

A: Virtually *any* special education services that seem to be needed in order for the child to receive an "appropriate" education, *i.e.*, to make progress

in school. These services might be specific teaching strategies; one-to-one or small group assistance; “related” services (such as counseling, health services, or transportation); technology; or other services. Because there’s no fixed “menu” of special education services, it’s important for parents (and those working with them) to *ask that the IEP include whatever services they think the child needs.*

Q: What services should the IEP include if the student has behavior problems?

A: The IEP must include a “behavior management” program. This program must be based on positive, rather than negative, approaches; and must be designed to help improve the child’s behavior and deal with behavioral crises.

Of course, the real trick is figuring out what the program should say. (“Call the police,” for example, is not much of a program.) Help in designing behavior programs can be obtained from school personnel, as well as from outside professionals who know the child.

Also, the state-operated Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) can supply information and expert consultation to schools and families who need help in this area. PaTTAN operates three regional offices: Gibsonia (in the Pittsburgh area), telephone 724-443-7821 or 1-800-446-5607; Harrisburg, 717-541-4960 or 1-800-360-7282; and King of Prussia (near Philadelphia), 610-265-7321 or 1-800-441-3215. More information about PaTTAN is available at www.pattan.k12.pa.us.

Q: What is “transition”?

A: “Transition” refers to the process of identifying goals for the child (in terms of work, further education, living, etc.) once he or she leaves school, and building into the IEP the services that the child will need in order to attain those goals. By age 14, the IEP must identify the child’s “transition service needs;” and no later than age 16, the IEP must include an actual “transition plan.” The student must be invited to any IEP conference at which these issues are discussed; and if he or she does not attend, the school must find some way of making sure that his or her preferences and interests are considered at the meeting.

The IEP must also include a graduation plan if the student is of high school age.

These parts of the IEP are important. By making sure they are completed and make sense, one can make sure that school won’t be an empty exercise for the student – but will instead help prepare him or her for graduation and post-school activity. PaTTAN, by the way, has materials and consultants available in this area as well.

Q: If there’s a disagreement over the content of the IEP, who decides?

A: As we’ve noted, the family and those working with them can and should ask that the IEP include whatever services they think the child needs. On each point, the school can agree or disagree. The points on which agreement is reached should be reflected in the IEP.

With regard to the points, if any, on which there is *disagreement*, here are some options:

- Take some time to get more information. Consider the possibility of further evaluation of the student. Also consider involving a consultant (a school staff member, an outside professional, PaTTAN [see above], etc.). After getting the additional information, meet again and try to resolve the matter.

- Contact the state-operated “mediation” service. This service is available to any parent or school district (provided that the “other side” agrees to participate as well). Mediation consists of an informal meeting, conducted by a trained mediator who has no connection with either “side.” The mediator tries to broker an agreement; he or she does not make a decision. For more about mediation, which has a good track record in resolving problems, contact Pennsylvania’s Office of Dispute Resolution at (800) 222-3353 or (800) 992-4334.

- Request a legal “due process hearing.” The Office of Dispute Resolution sets these up. These hearings are a formal, legal process; parents aren’t required to have a lawyer, but it’s advisable. At the very least parents should get plenty of information about “due process” before getting into it.

Next month: “signing off” on the IEP; placement decisions; and school discipline for special education students.

JDCAP and CEAP hold First Annual Joint Conference

The Juvenile Detention Center's Association (JDCAP) held its First Annual Joint Conference, "Reaching the Hard to Reach" with the Correctional Education Association of Pennsylvania (CEAP) at the Nittany Lion Inn, State College, from October 11 - 13. Combining the two groups resulted in attendance that exceeded 300 participants. To accommodate the large numbers, there were more than 25 break-out sessions with topics including BARJ in detention and the classroom, psychotropic drugs, adolescent health, suicide, and anger management.

Kevin Elco opened the conference with a discussion on the "3-R's of Conflict Resolution." Dr. Elco, who uses many of his experiences in professional football in his teaching, told the story of a fan near field level heckling Deon Sanders. This went on for an extended period of time; ignoring it was not working. Finally, Sanders walked over to the fan and very sincerely told him, "God bless you." The heckling stopped, and Sanders personified in that instant one of the key principles of avoiding conflict: don't let others control your behavior.

The awards dinner on Thursday evening was highlighted by a presentation from JoAnn Lawer, Deputy Secretary for Children, Youth & Families, on her vision of "Reaching the Hard-to-Reach." The Deputy Secretary focused on the importance of keeping children out of the system by insuring that adoptions occur in a timely fashion, and the importance of education in providing youth with the resources to move successfully into adulthood. This philosophy has been incorporated into the new independent living initiative. The final step was described as the infusion of the principles of BARJ; if young people understand their responsibilities to victims and the community, and if we are able to endow them with competencies, then we are able to reach the hard-to-reach.

A \$500 scholarship was presented to the Second Mile for their work with at-risk populations. Some of the programs undertaken by the Second Mile include providing prevention materials for school counselors and social service workers statewide; activities for, and recruitment of, foster families; and a week-long summer program. Chris Foust, Director of Development for the Second Mile, accepted the scholarship. The prevention work of the organization is typified in the philosophy its

executive director, Jerry Sandusky, who says, "We are giving a hand up, not a hand out."

JDCAP initiated an out-of-state selection process for the awards. Professionals familiar with detention work from New York, Maryland, and Massachusetts were asked to judge the various award nominee categories. This year's staff person of the year was Marge Frymoyer, from Barnes Hall. She has worked in the facility for 21 years. Her accomplishments include planning picnics, planning special holiday meals, decorating for the holidays, and giving special treats to youth and staff.

The Program of the Year was the "Detention Census Management Project," operated by the Edmund L. Thomas Adolescent Center in Erie. The project involves the screening of youth by the courts, juvenile probation, children and youth, and the detention center, collectively, to determine who can be released to less secure settings. Program effectiveness is tracked by Mercyhurst College Civic Institute.

Kathy Kane, Montgomery County, was named Educator of the Year. In her effort to make learning fun for the youth in her classroom, she has established a technology program for her students in which they developed a web site and a newsletter for the Montgomery County Youth Center.

Fred Ellsy, from Chester County Juvenile Detention Center, is the winner of the Rookie of the Year. Described as a person who constantly generates enthusiasm, he enjoys working with some of the most difficult residents. Although a relative newcomer to the field of detention, Ellsy makes sound decisions in difficult situations. He is a Safe Physical Management trainer and works closely with staff to ensure they know the techniques.

John McCormack won the award for outstanding work within the field of detention. A results-oriented administrator for Berks County, his accomplishments include the planning and development of the new youth center and incorporating a full size gymnasium into the regular program. His leadership qualities are exemplified in his ability to respect the opinions, abilities, and contributions of others.

The awards program concluded with a special

presentation to Deputy Secretary Lawer for the outstanding work she has done to serve Pennsylvania's children. She was awarded the internationally renowned Henry Mercer Tile, with the Latin inscription "Bona et bene," (not all things, but things good and well done).



Schneider is new Northampton County Chief

In August of this year, Michael Schneider was named Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in Northampton County. He replaces Dennis Galligani, who is now Director of the Juvenile Justice Center.

In 1977 Schneider graduated from Mansfield University with a B.A. in Criminal Justice. One year later he started his career in juvenile justice as a probation officer with Northampton County. Over the years he moved up the ladder to supervisor, deputy chief, and now Chief Juvenile Probation Officer. Schneider is a 1991 graduate of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission-sponsored Weekend Masters' Degree Program at Shippensburg University.

Originally from Muncy, he now lives in Bethlehem with his wife, Debbie. They have two sons, Jason, 21, and Stephen, 18, and a granddaughter, Macie, who is nine months old.

Balanced and Restorative Justice manual will detail initiatives statewide

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency has recently distributed a resource manual on balanced and restorative justice initiatives from throughout the Commonwealth. This directory includes program descriptions, policies, sample brochures, booklets, and newspaper articles.

The resource manual was updated and compiled by Dan Mumford, an intern for the Juvenile Justice Division of PCCD, under the direction of Beth Gardner. Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, Balanced and Restorative Justice Coordinators, private and public services providers, as well as many other juvenile justice professionals contributed information for inclusion in the directory.

This publication is intended to promote the sharing of balanced and restorative justice implementation efforts throughout the state. Program managers and service directors are listed in the directory, along with their phone numbers, to assist those who may be interested in replicating the listed resource or service.

The resource manual will be updated on an annual basis in order to help juvenile justice practitioners stay informed about the wealth of initiatives available to implement the values and principles of balanced and restorative justice that are occurring throughout Pennsylvania. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of this manual, please contact Linda Grier at extension 3050 at either 800-692-7292 or 717-787-8559 or via email at lgrier@state.pa.us.

Save the date!!!

**3rd Annual Pennsylvania
Communities That Care Conference**

Feb. 28 & Mar. 1-2, 2001

Recognition and Awards Luncheon March 2nd

**Hershey Lodge and Convention Center
Hershey, PA**

Governor's Community Partnership for Safe Children
Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency
Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research

For information contact Mike Kovacevic at 717- 477-1237