

a newsletter of the

Pennsylvania
Juvenile Court
Judges'
Commission

PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE

Volume 9, Number 3

www.jcjc.state.pa.us

March 2001

Third Annual CTC Confer- ence held in Hershey

**Governor Tom Ridge and
Pennsylvania First Lady
Michele Ridge with Michael
Pritchard, J. David Hawkins,
and Clay Yeager at a reception
in the Governor's Mansion**



Workshops, entertainment, awards, networking opportunities, and a trip to the Governor's Mansion were highlights of the Third Annual Pennsylvania Communities That Care Recognition Conference held February 27 through March 2 in Hershey. The conference was sponsored by the Governor's Community Partnership for Safe Children, a community-based initiative that seeks to curb youth violence by reducing child abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, academic failure, illiteracy, and other factors that make children more likely to commit crimes. Approximately 500 people attended what has become an eagerly anticipated event by communities participating in CTC statewide.

The conference kicked off with attendees being bussed to a reception at the Governor's Residence. Governor Tom Ridge and Pennsylvania First Lady Michele Ridge welcomed the crowd, praising the group for its work in promoting the healthy development of young people. The Governor and Mrs. Ridge, who serves as chair of the Governor's Community Partnership for Safe

Children, stated their continued support of prevention efforts throughout the commonwealth. Governor Ridge noted that there are currently 107 CTC sites in 57 counties statewide. It is the Governor's and First Lady's goal to have CTC installed in each of the state's 67 counties before the end of the administration, he said.

Dr. J. David Hawkins, one of the co-founders of CTC, was given a special recognition award on behalf of the Commonwealth for his work in promoting prevention science. Dr. Hawkins, along with Richard Catalano, founded CTC in the state of Washington. Widely regarded as the country's premier community prevention scientist, Catalano's professional publications promoting science-based prevention as a matter of policy are extensive. He is listed in Who's Who in Science and Engineering; in 1999, he was awarded both the Prevention Science Award from the Society for Prevention Research and the August Vollmer Award for outstanding scholarly contributions to the field of criminology from the American Society of Criminology.

continued, page 2 column 2

Special edition insert

by Andrew DeAngelo

Enclosed within this newsletter you will find an insert titled, *Special Edition of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Newsletter*.

This publication focuses on the initiatives which have been undertaken in our state to address community issues, involvement and safety, the needs and concerns of victims, and the supervision of, and services for, juvenile offenders.

We believe this publication will help to develop public awareness and appreciation for our work. Please take the time to share it with others. If you need additional copies of the special edition to send to colleges who offer criminal justice courses or to your political representatives, etc., please contact P.J. Verrecchia, at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research, 717-477-1797. In addition, if you need assistance in working with the media in your area to publicize an event or write a news article, you may contact any of the following members of the Public Relations Committee:

Andrew DeAngelo, Lehigh County, 610-782-3346; Bernard Beattie, York County, 717-771-9602; Allison Delsite, PCCD, 717-787-8559; Andrew Frantz, York County, 717-771-9602; Dan Hoover, Abraxas, 1-800-210-7215, ext. 231; Reed Hustwit, Allegheny County, 412-350-0026; Danielle Lambert, Cambria County, 814-472-4700; Shannon McCloskey, Blair County, 814-693-3230; Dan Rhoades, York County, 717-771-9602; Edward Shearn, Schuylkill County, 570-628-1245; Karen Slater, Westmoreland County, 724-830-4200; Lori Thew, Northwestern, 570-644-3170; or Pat Yeager, VisionQuest, 1-800-433-4362, ext. 419

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

from page 1

Dr. Hawkins addressed the conference the following morning at its general session. He spoke about current trends in prevention science and how they relate to the implementation of Communities that Care.

Conference-goers had the opportunity to participate in 20 different workshops covering topics such as Conducting an Assessment of Your CTC Plan, Advanced CTC for Project Directors and Mobilizers, and When Systems Collide. Many of the workshops were presented by CTC project leaders from throughout the state who were able to discuss first-hand how certain concepts worked, or did not work, for them and give suggestions for groups at various stages of planning and implementation.

Michael Pritchard was the keynote speaker/entertainer for the evening. Pritchard is a youth activist, humorist, and public television host who is known throughout the country for his ability to help young people gain insight into the choices they make. Well known for his PBS series *Peace Talks*, *The Power of Choice*, and *Saving Our Schools*, he is the voice of many familiar cartoon characters and was the voice of Star Wars' Jabba the Hutt. Pritchard has the unique distinction of being named California's Probation Officer of the Year the same year he won the International Comedy Competition. He shared many humorous anecdotes of his work with children and young adults, and encouraged the group to continue making a difference in the lives of children.

Friday morning opened with participants having the opportunity to talk with other CTC practitioners through a series of networking meetings. These facilitated meetings centered around topics based on frequently asked questions about operating a CTC initiative. Topics included funding, maintaining participation, collaboration, youth involvement, and marketing. Conference areas were arranged to encourage mingling of guests at breaks and lunches. In addition, a special area was set up as a Community Showcase where sites set up booths displaying their groups' work.

The conference closed with a luncheon with First Lady Michele Ridge presenting awards to outstanding projects and individuals. Award winners will be featured in the April edition of this newsletter.

JCJC and Chief's Council host orientation program for new CJPOs

The Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers and the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission hosted an orientation program for new chief juvenile probation officers on Thursday, February 15, 2001. Sixteen chiefs participated in the program, which was held at the Days Inn, State College.

Various JCJC staff, chief juvenile probation officers, and a representative from the Office of Children, Youth and Families in the Department of Public Welfare made brief presentations regarding a variety of programs and initiatives. Programs reviewed included the JCJC grant-in-aid program, juvenile court standards, the specialized probation services program and audits, court service visits, detention monitoring, training requirements and funding, the graduate education program and enrollment process, the statistical analysis center's disposition reporting and statewide automation, the Juvenile Act and its legislation, balanced and restorative justice, needs-based planning, funding streams, and interaction with state/local children and youth agencies, model petitions and court orders, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and the Chief's Council.

All participants were also invited to attend the executive committee meeting of the Chief's Council, which was held on Friday, February 16, 2001. The new chief juvenile probation officers were encouraged to become active participants in the chief's council, and were extended an invitation to participate on the various committees of the organization. The program was well received, and will most likely be repeated in the future.

Staff development news

We are nearing the halfway point in the CJJT&R spring training season. While a few programs have filled to capacity, there is still space available in several outstanding training programs being offered this spring which we are encouraging practitioners in the field to consider attending.

The "Introduction to Group Counseling Skills" program held in Allentown on April 19-20 is full. However, limited space is still available in the Pittsburgh area repeat of that session on May 9-10. This program will be held at the Sheraton Inn, Mars and will be led by Dr. Darla Henry. Learning how to run adolescent groups is one of the most satisfying means of facilitating growth among our youthful clients and is also useful in leveraging limited time. We anticipate offering a single, 1½-day advanced group skills program in the fall for those attending this introductory session and wish to take their skills further.

At the Holiday Inn Mechanicsburg, on April 24-25, the Center is holding its once-a-year training workshop for the system's support staff. This year's program is titled "Dealing with Difficult People" 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. Agency supervisors and directors are urged to encourage their support staff to attend this session scheduled during National Secretaries' Week.

On April 11-12 in Mechanicsburg, the Center is sponsoring "Conflict Resolution for the Juvenile Justice Professional. This program will be presented by David Trevaskis, the Director of the Law, Education and Participation Project based at the Temple University Beasley School of Law. Through a series of lectures, exercises, group discussions, and simulations, this workshop will provide participants with specific skills and conflict resolution techniques for use with groups and individuals.

Michael D. Clark, M.S.W., C.S.W. a consultant, trainer, and family therapist will lead the program "Strength-based Practice for Juvenile Courts: Techniques for Raising Cooperation and Motivation" at the Holiday Inn Mechanicsburg on May 2 & 3. Clark is a former judicial referee and senior

continued on page 4, column 2

Computer Training Available

The Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) has released its Computer Learning Center's schedule. 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 programs on the following dates: Introduction to Personal Computers 4/12/01; Introduction to Operating Systems (Windows and Windows NT) held on 5/31/01; Introduction to Word held on 5/2/01; Intermediate Word 2000 on 5/17/01; Advanced Word 2000 on 4/5/01; Introduction to Access 2000 held on 4/17/01; Intermediate Access 2000 5/3/01; Advanced Access 2000 on 6/27/01; Introduction to Excel 2000 held on 4/10/01; Intermediate Excel 5/22/01; Introduction to Powerpoint 2000 held on 5/1/01; Powerpoint Intermediate 4/3-4/01 and 5/15-16/01; Advanced Powerpoint 4/18-19/01; Introduction to Outlook 98 4/11/01; Web Page Design for Law Enforcement 6/26/01; Digital Photo and Movie Editing 6/6/01, and several other specialized law enforcement computer-related topics.

The programs are held from 9 am to 3:30 pm at the computer lab located on the grounds of the Municipal Police Officers' Training Academy at 75 East Derry Road in Hershey. Course descriptions are available on MPOETC's website at: www.mpoetc.org

Class size is limited; each student learns through guided, hands-on instruction with a PC. The training is free to all law enforcement personnel, and classes fill quickly, so please register early. Recommendations for lodging: 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.

Questions may be directed to Vance Rosebush at ext. 206, e-mail vrosebush@mpoetc.org Dave Davis, 717-533-5987, ext. 210, ddavis@mpoetc.org, is the manager of the Computer Lab Training facility. Registrations may be faxed to 717-787-1650.

continued from page 3

juvenile court officer in Lansing, Michigan who has published several articles on strength-based practice and solutions-focused work with youth and families. He has trained throughout the U.S., Europe, Canada, and the Caribbean. The techniques he teaches offer the opportunity to increase respect and integrity in youthful offenders as well as advancing responsible behavior. The workshop will focus on techniques rather than theory, so that participants can take back to their jobs helpful methods and start using them immediately. Attendees will learn how to interview to begin behavior change and how to focus on strengths and solutions with their clients.

On May 16-17, staff who have not yet had the opportunity to participate in the Phase I Staff Safety program can do so at the Days Inn Penn State. This two-day workshop is appropriate for all new probation officers and support staff. It will be led by David Sheely, a probation officer supervisor from Dauphin County.

In May we anticipate mailing our first summer staff development schedule. We expect to offer between six and eight programs to be held in the Harrisburg area and State College from mid-June to early August. We hope these workshops will fill a gap for those staff who can more easily attend training during the summer months. Our fall training schedule should arrive in late July.