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Erie's 2001 Summer Earn and Learn Program

Through a collaborative effort by GECAC, the Workforce Investment Act, and the Erie Earn-It Program, Inc., teenagers were able to earn summer school credits as well as learn valuable employment skills.

For six weeks last summer, the Erie County Juvenile Probation Department and the Erie Earn-It Program, Inc., together with the Workforce Investment Act, joined with the Greater Erie Community Action Committee (GECAC), Perseus House, the Erie School District, and the Office of Children and Youth to provide an opportunity for 30 students to "Earn and Learn." Through a collaborative effort by GECAC, the Workforce Investment Act, and, for the sixth summer, the Erie Earn-It Program, Inc., teenagers were able to earn summer school credits as well as learn valuable employment skills. The youth earned minimum wage while employed at various work sites throughout the School District of the City of Erie, Boys Baseball, the Northwest Pennsylvania Port Authority, the ROOTS Garden and Greenhouse Project, and the Bayfront Center for Maritime Studies.

In addition to gaining valuable work experience, 21 of the 30 students were held accountable for their delinquent activities by turning over 75 percent of their paychecks toward their restitution. This money was owed to the victims of juvenile crime and was disbursed to the victims in accordance with the juveniles' court orders. A total of \$6,826.35 was paid by the 21 juveniles. Five of the 21 youth paid the full amount of restitution ordered by the court. During the summers of 1996 through 2000, a total of \$59,246.60 was paid in



restitution by probation clients, bringing the six-year total of restitution for the summer program to \$66,072.95. The remaining nine youth did not owe restitution. However, they were gainfully employed, earning minimum wage as well as learning hands-on life skills.

The summer youth participants were supervised by staff from the School-based Probation Program, Perseus House Collaborative Intensive Community Treatment Program (CICTP), and the Erie School District. Some of the major projects completed by the teenage employees included cleaning the stands and helping prepare Veterans Stadium for the fall athletic season, repairing the stands and grounds of Ainsworth Field, maintaining several little league fields, as well as the Garden and Greenhouse Project. The youth who worked at the Greenhouse donated 12 flats of flowers to help beautify the Erie County Court House.

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.

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

On property donated by Erie County, Pleasant Ridge Manor East, and the Edmund L. Thomas Adolescent Center, summer program participants grew a variety of vegetables in the annual garden. This year, 3,771 pounds of produce were donated to the Second Harvest Food Bank. A total of 12,178 pounds of fresh vegetables has been provided to help feed the hungry of Erie County since 1998. This year, the youth workers from the Earn and Learn Garden were awarded second place in the government division at the Annual Bread Box Awards Ceremony held at the Second Harvest Food Bank.

In addition to supervising the work sites, the summer program staff taught classes including mathematics, English, Pennsylvania history, study skills, and computer application. Five of the program participants earned a total of six summer school credits. The students also participated in Peer Council groups, which taught them how to decrease the high rate of teenage pregnancy, and the dangers associated with substance abuse. The summer education and work experience at the Earn and Learn Program proved to be successful due to the employment, vocational, academic, and social skills gained by the students as well as the amount of restitution paid to the victims of juvenile crime.

Governor presents budget for '02-'03

Governor Schweiker presented his proposed FY '02-'03 budget to the General Assembly on February 5, 2002. The Governor has recommended Specialized Probation Services (SPS) continue to be funded at its present level, \$15,623,000. This appropriation supports school-based, intensive, aftercare, and community-based probation services provided pursuant to JCJC Standards. Also, it is proposed that the regular grant-in-aid appropriation remain at the same amount as that appropriated for this fiscal year, \$6,033,000. This appropriation supports salaries and benefits for probation officers, training and graduate education programs for probation officers, and other statewide impact projects. The FY '01-'02 budget proposal continues the TANF/BG appropriation at its' current level of \$2,000,000.

Michele Ridge will be spokesperson for Communities That Care®

Michele Ridge, former First Lady of Pennsylvania, will become a national spokesperson for Communities That Care®, a prevention planning system that gives communities a foundation for improving children's lives.

Mrs. Ridge's top priority as First Lady was the prevention of violence by and against youth. She chaired the Governor's Community Partnership for Safe Children, which seeks to curb youth violence by reducing child abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, academic failure, illiteracy, and other risk factors that make children more likely to commit crimes. Communities That Care (CTC), the cornerstone of the Children's Partnership, is now being used in 128 sites in 58 Pennsylvania counties.

"CTC is a perfect platform for allowing communities to come together in an objective, scientific way – without finger pointing," Mrs. Ridge says. "It is truly a bipartisan, apolitical, process that results in better, healthier communities that help children grow up with more hope, more opportunity, and better outcomes. I look forward to explaining the CTC Pennsylvania story to other communities across the nation."

Mrs. Ridge's office will be located in leased space at the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency in Harrisburg, where the Children's Partnership is located.

2nd School-based Probation Forum planned

Seventy-six school-based probation officers and supervisors from across Pennsylvania met in June, 2001, at the Days Inn Penn State in State College for the first Juvenile Court Judges' Commission-sponsored School-based Probation Forum. Immediately following the forum, a committee comprised of school-based probation officers and the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission began making plans for a subsequent forum.

The second School-based Probation Forum has been planned for Thursday and Friday, June 20

and 21, 2002, at the same facility. School-based probation officers from across the Commonwealth will have the opportunity to share their experiences and take advantage of the expertise of veteran school-based officers. Participants will be provided with information from current research being conducted on school-based probation by the National Center for Juvenile Justice, and school-based probation committees will provide reports. Additionally, a presentation on special education law is being planned.

The target audience for this training program includes chief juvenile probation officers, school-based probation officers, and school administrators. There is no registration fee; lunch will be provided on Thursday, June 20, and breakfast on Friday, June 21. Opportunities will be afforded all participants to share their experiences and challenges. Current registration has already eclipsed last year's attendance, so register soon.

Please plan to join us, and your colleagues from across the Commonwealth, in a forum sure to provide us with renewed energy, a sense of purpose, and a common direction for the future. Questions about the forum can be directed to Keith Graybill at 717-787-2860 or kgraybill@state.pa.us.

Juvenile mentoring program to be announced

The Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention will announce its Juvenile Mentoring Program (JUMP) in the near future. JUMP seeks to support one-to-one mentoring programs for youth at risk of educational failure, dropping out of school, or involvement in delinquent behavior.

Congress funded JUMP to address two critical concerns; poor school performance and dropping out of school. The program focuses on the importance of providing youth the support and structure that is often missing from their lives, and recognizes the importance of school collaboration in mentoring programs, either as the primary applicant or in partnership with a public or private nonprofit organization.

Access information at: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/grants/grants.html>

Restorative Justice: Principles, Practices, and Implementation via satellite

Approximately 120 participants throughout Pennsylvania attended a week-long live satellite distance learning program titled, “Restorative Justice: Principles, Practices, and Implementation” from January 28-February 1, 2001. Produced by the National Institute of Corrections and sponsored by the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers at seven sites across the Commonwealth, the broadcast was viewed at 590 sites nationwide with more than 3,500 participants.

The Pennsylvania component of the training was held in conjunction primarily with colleges and universities in order to initiate the development of partnerships with institutions of higher learning. This training event should stimulate interest from the students and professors at these facilities, and result in an ongoing relationship focused on the education of criminal justice students in Balanced and Restorative Justice.

This intensive 5-day training on the principles and values of restorative justice was attended by community members, victims’ service advocates, juvenile probation officers, juvenile justice and Communities that Care consultants, and private service providers. Participants experienced a mix of downlinked video training from national trainers, and local facilitation by Pennsylvania’s own balanced and restorative justice trainers. The local trainers coordinated the event and facilitated interactive, practice-oriented exercises at each of the seven sites, while national trainers such as Dan Van Ness and Kay Pranis assisted in the downlink training from their site in Seattle.



Those contributing to the success of this initiative include P.J. Verrecchia, Mary Gaspari, and Susan Blackburn at Shippensburg University; Bernard Beattie and John Cookus at Marywood University; Sherry Lupton, Jeannie Romero Talbert, and Linda Butts at Millersville University. At Penn State’s Altoona Campus, Valerie Bender, Michele Timulak, and Kip Cherry; at Temple University, Don Haldeman, Jeannie Serinsky, Maria Strauman, and Margery Miller; in Gibsonia, George Kinder, Reid Jamey, and Lisa Monzo and in Venango County, Susan Goss, Nancy Overman, and Regis Salaga.



Position Available

Balanced and Restorative Justice Coordinator

The Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers will be hiring a full-time Balanced and Restorative Justice Consultant to serve as a coordinator and trainer for the juvenile justice enhancement training project, funded through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

This person will provide on-going assistance regarding implementation of Balanced and Restorative Juvenile Justice, and will be responsible for coordinating and supporting various initiatives including training events, focus groups, and committee meetings. Other duties will include report and technical writing, balanced and restorative justice training, technical assistance, and some grant-management duties.

Candidates must have at least three years of experience in juvenile probation, a comprehensive understanding of Balanced and Restorative Justice, and display excellent verbal and written communication skills. The contract position, which will be funded at \$45,000, is contingent upon yearly grant funding, will be home-based, and requires a significant amount of travel.

Qualified candidates should send applications or resumes to Ms. Susan Blackburn, Balanced and Restorative Justice Specialist, Room 401, Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120. The deadline for applications is March 20, 2002.

Highlights of the 2000 Disposition Report

The disposition of cases referred to juvenile probation with alleged delinquent offenses increased from 40,824 in 1999 to 41,898 in 2000 or 2.6 percent.

Type of attorney representation for delinquency dispositions is as follows: public defender 61.5 percent ; private 13.9 percent; court appointed 13.6 percent and waived 11.0 percent.

Total delinquency placements in Pennsylvania during 2000 were down by only 2 percent from the total placements in 1999 (4,487 total placements in 1999). In 2000 there were 1,526 placements to private institutions, which represents an increase of only 2 percent from 1999 (1,495). The type of placement that witnessed the biggest increase from 1999 was boot camps, which increased by 50 percent (from 412 in 1999 to 620 in 2000). The biggest decrease in placements utilized were to foster care, which declined by 76 percent (from 319 in 1999 to 75 in 2000).

While there were only 2,661 dispositions for juveniles age 12 and under in 2000, this number represents an increase of 32 percent since 1996. Also, dispositions for juveniles age 18 and over decreased by 3.4 percent in that same time period.

In 2000, less than one half of one percent of the dispositions in Pennsylvania were for transfer to criminal court. The 183 transfers to criminal court in 2000 represent a 63 percent decrease since 1996.

The number of substantiated aggravated assaults by juveniles in Pennsylvania has decreased by 28 percent since 1996.

In 2000 there were 239 fewer admissions to secure detention than in 1999.

Call for articles

During the next several months, the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers Public Relations Committee will be putting together a special edition of *Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice*, which will focus on balanced and restorative justice. The committee is soliciting articles and photographs for this publication from county probation departments and service providers. Please email any articles to PJ Verrecchia at pjverr@wharf.ship.edu, or mail them to him at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research, Shippensburg University, 1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257. Please help us inform the whole state of the wonderful BARJ-related projects and programs that are occurring in your jurisdictions. The deadline for articles is March 15, 2002.

Butler County Juvenile Court Services program addresses Balanced and Restorative Justice issues

By Michael S. Trego, Butler County Community-Based Probation Officer

Coordination of services, and keeping youth placement numbers down, is the goal of a new initiative begun a year ago by the Butler County Juvenile Court Services Department. Through the efforts of Dr. Robert Andolina, Clinical Director for Child and Adolescent Clinical Associates in Cranberry Township, Butler County, and Butler County President Judge Thomas J. Doerr, youth are provided with psycho-educational counseling services in addition to addressing their delinquent behavior.

To date, none of the 50 youths who have gone through the program have committed any new delinquent offenses. The staff consists of a drug and alcohol specialist, a psychologist, a psychiatrist, a music therapist, and other counselors whose expertise is working with youth who have significant delinquent and family problems. All the specialists at Child and Adolescent Clinical Associates have experience with inpatient work.

Dr. Andolina's program provides ready access to the psychological and psychiatric piece of the juvenile delinquent puzzle. "There was a lot of discussion about working with kids and not putting them in placement," Andolina said. "Sometimes placements don't work for the youths, but whether they work or not, there are fees to be paid," he said.

Michael E. Noyes, director of Butler County Juvenile Court Services, said Andolina's program is built to address clinical issues, keep juveniles in the community, provide for accountability and consequences for unacceptable behavior, and address the competency needs of the youth. "Sometimes we do it in reverse and send the juvenile to a residential treatment facility, but they begin with Dr. Andolina the day they go into placement," he said. "We have professional cooperation among all of our community support mechanisms. We can hold kids accountable, but how are we going to cure them?"

Andolina has plenty of experience working with adolescents. He set up a child adolescent unit at Butler Memorial Hospital, in addition to programs at the Irene Stacy Community Mental Health

Center, and residential treatment facilities in Tampa, Fla., Southern California, and the Pocono Mountain area. "I had done a lot of work with children and supervising agencies," Andolina said. "Judge Doerr and I talked about what to do with these kids because they come back from placement and the recidivism rate is high and there are mental health and legal issues. Does sending them out-of-county make sense?"

One of the reasons there is a need for such a program, Andolina said, is the predominance of managed care in health care today. He said managed care limits the amount of time an adolescent may be treated for mental health issues. Many placements are set up to deal with a juvenile's delinquent behavior and spend less time on mental health, he said.

Keeping juveniles in the community means the youths are not separated totally from their families. "I agree that parents should be responsible," Andolina said, "but when children of indigent parents are placed out-of-county in residential programs the parents can't afford to visit. You split up the family and reinforce the parents' feelings of inadequacy. Not only do the parents need to be motivated and responsible, they need to be part of the bigger picture."

When a juvenile is put into placement, he/she usually knows it's for a finite amount of time. When placed in Andolina's program, the youths earn their way out, in cooperation with juvenile probation. Andolina's program then helps the youth and family set up continuing care in the community so that the youth may continue taking his/her medications and continue with family counseling.

Automatically putting delinquents in placements had been an accepted practice when child and adolescent psychiatric units around the state were closed. "When that happened, they all came into the juvenile justice system," Andolina said.

The differing approaches pitted one system against another, he said. "We needed an alternative to outpatient care because these kids won't function well in a traditional one-hour-a-week clinic and the

family doesn't function well in a residential setting," Andolina said. "We decided on an intensive outpatient program where the youths would come three times a week."

At the three-times-a-week individual counseling sessions, the youth, and sometimes their parents, meet with Andolina or a member of his staff. The key to the program is the Multi Disciplinary Team (MDT) meetings where Andolina and members of his staff meet with those involved with the youth, including school officials, in-home workers, and the juvenile probation officer.

The program does have a respite component where a youth can spend time at a residential facility as a negative reinforcement or consequence for probation violations. Andolina said that having youth come to his office three times a week is inconvenient for the youths and they do complain, but appointments are scheduled during traditional high-crime times.

"It's all community-based," Andolina said. "It's keeping them in the community, it addresses Balanced and Restorative Justice issues, it enables parents to be involved. An impact can be made on the family; we can address problems at the school, as well as any legal or other system with which they are involved."

Andolina said his program is "filling a gap in services and doing it in a very cost-effective way." If a juvenile acts out in an unacceptable manner, nobody looks the other way, he said. "The relationship between juvenile probation, the court, and our agency is seamless. We can talk with each other immediately and decide if the youth fits into the program or not. It's not for everybody; there are still a percentage of youth who need placement, but to suggest all kids need it is unrealistic."

Some of Andolina's future initiatives include setting up intake assessments and placement reviews, and employing in-home counselors. He presented the program at the annual conference of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission this past year, and will present it at the Child and Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP) April 23-26, 2002, in State College.

One of the biggest supporters of Andolina's approach is Butler County Common Pleas Court President Judge Thomas Doerr, who oversees juvenile court. "The judge is supportive and knows

kids make mistakes, but nobody gives up," Andolina said. "We provide the probation department with weekly updates. It's comprehensive intervention, and we don't lose sight of the kid."

Doerr said Andolina's program allows coordination through each step of placement in the program. "All we needed was the nuts and bolts knowledge of how the funding system works and how the day-to-day operation works, Doerr said. "About that time Mike Noyes was hired to be the director." Doerr, Noyes, and Andolina worked on a program under the assumption that juveniles who go into placement tend to stay in placement.

"There was never a program out there like this," Doerr said. "RTFs are appropriate for some, but they are like fast food restaurants. You can have it anyway you like as long as you have it our way. This allows us to work with everybody who's involved in a kid's life."

Andolina's approach is not considered, Doerr said, when a juvenile is deemed to be a danger to the community. "Prior to this, we were placing kids who weren't dangerous, but we had no other alternative," he said.

Noyes said Butler County currently has about 40 juveniles in placement. Most are sex offenders or have heroin-related convictions. "All the kids Dr. Andolina has seen are kids who would have been in placement," Noyes said. "The program saves us money: it costs less than placement and has a higher state and federal reimbursement rate because it's a community-based program."

Mark Your Calendars Now!

May 6-17, 2002
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Restorative Justice Academy 2002

The Community Justice Institute at Florida Atlantic University will host the second Restorative Justice Academy at the Doubletree Galleria in Fort Lauderdale May 6-17, 2002. The Academy will include a wide variety of introductory and advanced courses and workshops over a two-week period. Individual courses will be sponsored by the JAIBG grant, the Balanced and Restorative Justice Project, and other participating agencies. A nominal registration fee of \$50 will be charged for each course and participants will be responsible for their own travel, food, and lodging expenses.

Courses

- Working with Key Court Personnel to Implement Restorative Practice - May 6
- Restorative Justice in Residential Settings - May 6
- Restorative Justice Tools for Schools - May 6-7
- Training for Trainers of Restorative Group Conferencing - May 6-12
- Teen Courts and Restorative Practice - May 7-8
- Circle Training - May 7-10
- Training for Trainers of Restorative Justice - May 8-17
- Victim Sensitive Guidelines for Restorative Practice - May 9-10
- Facilitating Restorative Group Conferences - May 11-13
- Introduction to Balanced and Restorative Justice - May 13-17
- Prosecutorial Leadership Roles for Restorative Justice - May 14
- Circle Keeper Training - May 14-15
- Volunteers in the Restorative Justice Community - May 15-16
- Benchmarking and Evaluation of Restorative Efforts - May 16-17

For more information and registration forms, please visit the Restorative Justice Academy website:
www.fau.edu/caupa/centes/cji/T4T or phone Carsten Erbe, 954-762-5022, email cerbe@fau.edu

