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Liz Murray will speak at annual Youth Awards Banquet



Liz Murray's life is a triumph over adversity and a stunning example of the importance of dreaming big. Murray's life as the child of cocaine-addicted parents in the Bronx was bitterly grim. There was never food in the house, everything was filthy, drugs were everywhere, and the welfare checks were spent before they arrived. By age 16, her mother had died and she was homeless—living on the streets, riding the subway all night, and eating from dumpsters. Amidst this pain, Murray always imagined her life could be much better than it was. "I started to grasp the value of the lessons learned while living on the streets. I knew after overcoming those daily obstacles that next to nothing could hold me down."

Determined to take charge of her life, Liz Murray finished high school in just two years while camping out in New York City parks and subway stations. She went on to earn a scholarship from *The New York Times* and entered Harvard in 1999.

Murray's story is exhilarating and her delivery innocently honest, as she takes audiences on a very personal journey where she achieves the improbable. Her story sounds like a Hollywood movie – and it soon will be; Lifetime optioned Murray's life story and she is currently writing her memoirs for Hyperion.

Balanced and Restorative Justice video released

The Juvenile Court Judges Commission and the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation officers are proud to announce the release of Pennsylvania's video titled "Achieving Balanced and Restorative Justice in Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System." This videotape provides a 23-minute overview of Pennsylvania's efforts to implement and achieve a juvenile justice system built on the foundation of balanced and restorative justice values, principles, and practices. It provides insight into the development of the new mission and revised goals for juvenile justice in Pennsylvania.

Video, continued on back page



Lodge Director Robert Howard, Administrator Col. Lenward Nealy, Principal Barb Newton, and Program Administrator Harry Gray display their Middle States Association Accreditation certificate at VisionQuest's South Mountain Lodge. Absent from the photo is Program Administrator Maj. Fred Newton.

Middle States Association accredits VisionQuest's South Mountain Lodge

The Middle States Association's Commission on Secondary Schools has announced that VisionQuest's South Mountain Lodge has been accredited for the five-year period ending May 1, 2007. The decision to accredit VisionQuest was made following a 3½-day visit to the school in spring 2000 by a visiting team of educators from member schools of the Middle States Association appointed by the Commission on Secondary Schools.

During the visit, the Middle States team met with and *VisionQuest continued page 4*

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

Dauphin County's First Employee Appreciation Day

Together we make a difference was the theme on April 4, 2002, for employees of Dauphin County's juvenile probation and social service departments. The two agencies joined together to recognize the hard work and dedication they provide for the children and families of Dauphin County.

Employees were invited to a breakfast at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel where Valerie Pritchett, of WHTM-TV, opened the program. Commissioner Lowman Henry, President Judge Joseph H. Kleinfelter, and Human Services Directory Rick Wynn welcomed the audience and acknowledged their very difficult jobs; they also thanked everyone for their dedication and hard work.

The audience then welcomed the keynote speaker, Clay R. Yeager, Executive Director of the Governor's Community Partnership for Safe Children. With great enthusiasm, Yeager shared personal stories of his childhood and experiences as a probation officer.

Stephen J. Suknaic, Director of the Juvenile Probation Department, presented eight appreciation awards to juvenile probation officers and probation staff who have demonstrated dedication to juveniles and helped instill balanced and restorative justice. Awards were also presented to community agencies for their outstanding contributions to Dauphin County youth.

Sandra Moore, Administrator for Children and Youth Services, presented awards to nine employees of the Children and Youth Department. Moore also recognized and thanked the Dauphin County Sheriffs for the excellent protection they provide during hearings and other matters.

Speakers at the luncheon which followed the awards ceremony were the Honorable Richard A. Lewis and the Honorable Todd A. Hoover. After lunch, Wayne Stevenson, Deputy Secretary for Children, Youth and Families ended the program.



McCalpin formally appointed as CJJT&R Director

Michael W. McCalpin officially assumed the position of Director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Training & Research (CJJT&R) at Shippensburg University on May 9, 2002. He was appointed Acting CJJT&R Director on August 25, 2001, when the position of Executive Director of the Governor's Community Partnership for Safe Children, held by Clay Yeager, was transferred from the staff complement of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission to the complement of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). McCalpin joined CJJT&R as the Secure Detention Monitoring and Mental Health Services Project Director in June, 2000. He joined the staff of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission in April, 2001 as the Assistant Director of Training.

Prior to joining CJJT&R, McCalpin served as Blair County's Administrator of Juvenile Probation, Children and Youth, and Costs and Fines. A past president of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, and Chief Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year in 1986, he is also a gubernatorial appointee to PCCD's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee.

Tioga County establishes AA program for juveniles

by James Weiskopff, Tioga County JPO

With the adoption of the Balanced and Restorative Justice model in Pennsylvania, there have been many new challenges for the juvenile court system. The three guiding principles of this new model, community protection, accountability, and competency development have required the juvenile court, probation, and other service providers to rethink their roles in the system.

With competency development in mind, President Judge Robert E. Dalton Jr. and Juvenile Court Public Defender Thomas A. Walrath wanted to attack the problem of substance abuse by the juvenile offender. With the assistance of Harbor Counseling of Wellsboro, an Alcoholics Anonymous program was established for juveniles. This program is based on the 12 steps of AA and is designed to be run by the juveniles themselves, supervised by recovering adults. The program begins a life-long recovery process with chances of success being greater when treatment starts early. Along with the two nights a week at an AA meeting, Harbor Counseling provides a three-times-a-week partial hospitalization treatment program for adolescents that conforms to NIDA's research. With the services of Tioga County, a continuum of care is provided for the offender to meet the needs of his treatment.

The programs are made part of the juveniles BARJ contract with the probation department. The contract spells out the responsibilities of the juvenile to attend treatment; parents are required to see that their child gets to the meetings and probation officers are expected to encourage and enforce participation. The contract also spells out the consequences should expectations not be met and the rewards for successful completion.

The benefits of this type of program aid community protection by encouraging kids to refrain from the use of alcohol and drugs and causing harm to the community. The principle of accountability is addressed as the youth has to take ownership of his behavior and the harm it causes. As a result of the juvenile's participation in the AA program, he is more competent to understand and handle his own problems or where to find help.

President Judge/PACM Conference features juvenile justice presentation

The 2002 President Judge/Pennsylvania Association of Court Management Conference featured a training session focusing on Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system. On June 4th, staff from the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) presented an overview of the JCJC and its programs while Addie Beighley, Director of the Westmoreland County Juvenile Probation Department, summarized the philosophy and programs of her agency and the Westmoreland County Juvenile Court.

JCJC Executive Director Jim Anderson, Deputy Director Keith Snyder, and Director of Administration and Grant Programs, Tom Green, provided background on the structure and programs of the JCJC and the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research at Shippensburg University, as well as a summary of significant issues that require the attention of President Judges and Court Administrators.

The presentation featured the video "Achieving Balanced and Restorative Justice in Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System" developed by the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers through funding from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. This video, featuring Senior Judge Emanuel Cassimatis from York County, presents an excellent overview of efforts throughout Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system to achieve the balanced and restorative justice mission set forth in Pennsylvania's Juvenile Act.

Ms. Beighley summarized her department's comprehensive strategy to create a balanced and restorative juvenile justice system. She also presented detailed information regarding their county-wide "Youth Commissions" initiative: it has been the recipient of numerous state and national awards, including awards from both the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

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interviewed representatives of all the school's stakeholders, including teachers, students, parents, and administrators, as well as representatives of the VisionQuest Community Advisory Board. Team members also toured the school's facilities, studied the school's plans for improvement and other documents related to the school's work, and observed teaching and learning in classrooms.

To be accredited by the Commission on Secondary Schools, a school must meet the Commission's standards for each major area of a school's work and activity. These areas include the school's educational program, learning media services, student services, student activities, facilities, school staff and administration, finance, school leadership and governance, and assessment of learning. Because VisionQuest's South Mountain Lodge elected to use the *Continuous School Improvement* for accreditation, the school was required to do more than meet the Commission's standards to be accredited.

Continuous School Improvement is an accreditation process that requires a school to establish and implement a ten-year, cyclical improvement plan based upon its determination of both the present and future needs of students. The school must develop a minimum of ten school improvement goals focused on the standards for accreditation and other areas of the organization in need of improvement. Plans must be developed to achieve the goals in the first five years of accreditation. At the end of the five-year period, a review committee will visit the school to determine the progress toward achieving the goals and to review the school's new goals for school improvement for the second five-year accreditation period.

"VisionQuest's South Mountain Lodge is to be congratulated for having completed the rigorous and demanding accreditation review process successfully," said Dr. Joseph J. DeLucia, Executive Director of the Commission on Secondary Schools. "By meeting the standards of the Commission, and by having established a comprehensive and challenging strategic plan to improve targeted areas of student performance, VisionQuest has joined a growing number of schools in the Middle States region that are committed to public accountability for their results."

News Release of the Middle States Association's Commission on Secondary Schools

OCYF provides needs-based budgeting training for juvenile probation officers

The Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF) presented a one-day training program on needs-based planning and budgeting which was designed specifically for Chief Juvenile Probation Officers and their staffs, on June 7, 2002 in State College. The program was attended by approximately 75 people, including 28 Chief Juvenile Probation Officers.

The training program included the following presentations:

- Terry Clark, Director of OCYF's Division of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, presented an overview of the needs-based planning and budgeting process and offered suggestions on how to prepare county plans;
- Mark Harkins, Director of the Harrisburg Office of Hornby / Zeller and Associates, provided suggestions on how to use data to identify trends and justify requests in the needs-based plan;
- Cliff Crowe, Budget Analyst in OCYF's Bureau of County Programs, presented a fiscal overview of the needs-based budgeting process, including information on the different cost centers; and
- Carl DiVincenzo, Division Chief in OCYF's Bureau of County Programs, presented three options for how juvenile probation departments can claim IV-E administrative costs.

Participants had many questions about the needs-based planning process and the requirements associated with the various funding streams. As a result, another training program designed specifically for chief juvenile probation officers and their staff will be presented on September 19, 2002, in State College. This program will provide information regarding IV-E requirements and the recently distributed "Model Court Orders and Petitions." Registration information will be included in the fall training announcement from the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research.

Mike Noyes appointed to NJDSA Board of Directors

Dr. Michael E. Noyes, director of Butler County juvenile court services was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the National Juvenile Court Services Association (NJCSA) at their most recently meeting in Tucson. Dr. Noyes will serve as the editor-in-chief of their quarterly publication, *Rapport*.

NJCSA is a direct affiliate of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges of Reno, Nevada, and is recognized as the oldest and most prestigious juvenile and family court organization in the country. NJCSA serves as a national membership organization for court personnel, serving those who work with and support the nation's juvenile and family courts, and is the leading national sponsor of juvenile court-specific advocacy, training, certification, technical assistance, and education of juvenile court personnel.

Dr. Noyes has served as the director of the Butler County juvenile court services department since July, 1999. He has also served as chief juvenile probation officer for Venango County, deputy district manager for VisionQuest in Franklin County, and has taught at both Indiana University of Pennsylvania and the Butler County Community College. Noyes serves on the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers as chair of the Planning Committee.

MPOETC Training Schedule

The following courses will be offered in the MPOETC Computer Learning Center, 75 East Derry Road in Hershey. Course descriptions may be found at www.mpoetc.org. The training is free for probation officers. Questions may be directed to Vance Rosebush, vrosebush@mpoetc.org. Classes are 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Advanced Access 2000	August 29
Advanced PowerPoint 2000	September 17-18
Advanced Word 2000	September 25
Digital Photo and Movie Editing	July 25
Intermediate Access 2000	August 14
Intermediate Excel 2000	August 15
Intermediate PowerPoint 2000	August 20-21
Intermediate Word 2000	August 27
Internet Crime	September 4-5
Introduction to Access 2000	July 30
Introduction to Operating Systems	September 3
Introduction to Outlook 98	August 28
Introduction to Personal Computers.....	July 17
Introduction to PowerPoint 2000	July 16
Introduction to Excel 2000	July 23
Introduction to the Internet	July 31
Introduction to Word 2000.....	August 13
PA-LEMIS ** POC is Chris Braun, PA Chiefs	July 9- 11, August 6-8,
	September 10-12
Web Page Design for LE	September 19

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The video was developed to assist juvenile justice practitioners in communicating the mission and goals of the system to the public they serve, and to inform the community about the significant ways that Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system has responded to the needs of crime victims, communities, and juvenile offenders. It concludes with an invitation for the public to join juvenile justice professionals in achieving Pennsylvania's vision of the future. It is anticipated that it will serve as a valuable tool for community education and recruitment efforts.

This project was supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and produced by the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and JPL Productions. Innumerable juvenile justice professionals, community members, and young people contributed to this project. Telephone Susan Blackburn, 717-705-2290, or email sblackburn@state.pa.us to obtain copies of "Achieving Balanced and Restorative Justice in Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System."

