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Pennsylvanians support the mission of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system

The results of a recently released public opinion poll reveal that citizens of Pennsylvania are supportive of the mission of the state's juvenile justice system. The poll, conducted for the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers by Millersville University's Center for Opinion Research, found that 84 percent of Pennsylvanians view community protection as a "very important" goal for the juvenile justice system, with victim restoration (64%) and youth redemption (73%) also perceived as important system responses.

Although the public supports the mission of the juvenile justice system, more than half of the respondents believe that too little attention is paid to the victims of juvenile crime (58%), that the juvenile justice system is too lenient on juvenile offenders (54%), and that the system does not do a good job of rehabilitating juvenile offenders (53%).

Only 13 percent of the respondents were aware that recent changes have been made to the way Pennsylvania responds to juvenile crime, and only 6 percent had ever heard of "balanced and restorative justice," which was incorporated into Pennsylvania's Juvenile Act in 1995. The public also believes that most juveniles convicted of crimes are placed in facilities such as group homes, private institutions or secure facilities, when in fact, the data reveal that only 11 percent of adjudicated delinquents are placed in residential facilities. Only one in four (26%) rated Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system as "excellent" or "good" when it comes to dealing with juvenile offenders; 39 percent said the system does a "fair" job.

This research project points to the need for a more intensive effort to ensure that Pennsylvanians understand how the juvenile justice system operates, and to provide more opportunities for their involvement in the juvenile justice process. Although most Juvenile Courts in Pennsylvania are implementing the principles of balanced and restorative justice in their local jurisdictions, the public has limited knowledge of these activities and the opportunities they provide for repairing the harm caused by delinquent behavior.

Many programs, including valued community service, community
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CTC Conference will be held at Hershey Lodge, April 10-12

The Annual Communities That Care Recognition Conference is being held April 10, 11 and 12 at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center.

This year's conference will feature an Opening Night Reception on Wednesday, hosted by Governor and Mrs. Schweiker at the Governor's residence. Thursday will feature 24 workshops. These 90-minute sessions will be presented throughout the day. They will highlight the latest in prevention research and community tools, offer participants an opportunity to hear from other communities' successful efforts, and provide insight and experience in working with other community-led prevention efforts.

"A Tribute to Michele Ridge" will be the theme of the banquet Thursday evening. The event will honor the former Pennsylvania First Lady for her leadership of the Governor's Community Partnership for Safe Children and her untiring devotion to Communities That Care.

The event will close Friday with the Pennsylvania Communities That Care Awards Luncheon and Program, hosted by Kathy Schweiker, First Lady of Pennsylvania and current Chair of the Governor's Community Partnership for Safe Children.

Correction

On page six of the 2000 Disposition Report, the total under the "Disposition Rate per 100,000" should be 3,066. This number correctly reflects the total state disposition rate per 100,000.

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

Specialized probation services forum—April 4-5, 2002

The history of intensive probation and aftercare programs in the Commonwealth dates back to 1984, when 17 counties were awarded funds by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency for the development of ten aftercare and 11 intensive probation programs. Specialized intensive probation and aftercare programs for juveniles with drug and/or alcohol problems were subsequently funded by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission in the early 1990s. Since then, intensive probation and aftercare services have become institutionalized throughout Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system.

Intensive probation and aftercare officers from across the Commonwealth will have the opportunity to share their experiences, take advantage of the expertise of veteran probation officers, and more fully understand the impact that these programs have had on our juvenile justice system. The target audience for this training program includes chief juvenile probation officers, all intensive probation, aftercare probation, intensive aftercare drug and alcohol probation and intensive drug and alcohol probation officers, and their supervisors. There will be opportunities for all participants to share their experiences and ideas, and to problem-solve common obstacles.

Please plan to join us and your colleagues from across Pennsylvania in a forum sure to provide renewed energy, a sense of purpose, and a common direction for the future. Participants can register for this forum up until one day before it begins. There is no registration fee for this training program. If you have any questions about this forum, please feel free to contact Lisa Freese at 717-705-9003, or Greg Young at 717-705-5635.

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	April 2
Advanced PowerPoint 2000	June 25-26
Advanced Word 2000	April 18
Digital Photo and Movie Editing	April 25
Excel Applications	June 13
Intermediate Access 2000	May 22
Intermediate Excel 2000	May 16
Intermediate PowerPoint 2000	May 29-30
Intermediate Word 2000	June 11
Internet Crime	June 19-20
Introduction to Access 2000	April 30
Introduction to Operating Systems	May 2
Introduction to Outlook 98	June 12
Introduction to Personal Computers	June 17
Introduction to PowerPoint 2000	April 16
Introduction to Excel 2000	April 23
Introduction to the Internet	May 1
Introduction to Word 2000	May 21
PA-LEMIS ** POC is Chris Braun, PA Chiefs	April 9-11, May 14-15, and June 4-6
PowerPoint for Law Enforcement	April 3-4
Web Page Design for LE	June 27

Staff Development News

The Center's Spring/Summer series of professional development workshops have received an unprecedented response in registrations. As of this writing, the 29 scheduled workshops have more than 1,250 participants attending between February and August. Because of this overwhelming response, three programs have been closed to additional registrants; both regional sessions of The Substance Abuse of Generation X, and the April 17-18 Drug Subculture Competency program in State College. The August 7-8 session of this program at the Holiday Inn East in Harrisburg still has limited space. There are several other programs very near the point where they will be closed to additional registrants.

Programs with space available include: both regional workshops on Resilience: Strengthening

Youth to Bounce Back, in Allentown on April 25-26, and in the Pittsburgh area on May 16-17; Phase II Staff Safety-Defensive Tactics, May 14-17, at the Heiges Field House, Shippensburg University; Identification and Interventions for Adolescent Female Offenders/Adolescent Female Sexual Offenders, July 18-19, Days Inn Penn State; and, Understanding Adolescents: A Juvenile Court Training Curriculum, July 25-26, Holiday Inn Harrisburg East.

Prospective attendees are encouraged to register for these top-notch, mid-summer workshops and get a head start on meeting their 2002-03 training requirements.

Information & Technology Division staff transfer to JCJC complement

In January, 2002, thirteen positions in the Information & Technology Division (formerly Statistical Analysis Center) of the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research at Shippensburg University were transferred to the staff complement of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. From its inception, the ITD has been funded through a variety of contractual arrangements involving a combination of federal and state funding. As the ITD took on new responsibilities relating to the reporting of dispositions to the Pennsylvania State Police Central Repository and the design and implementation of the Juvenile Tracking System under the auspices of JNET, the number of staff grew proportionately. The inter-agency transfer of these staff from Shippensburg University to the JCJC complement will enhance the ability of the JCJC to fund and administer the ITD. Linda Bender, JCJC's Director of Juvenile Justice Information and Technology, transferred from the university complement to the JCJC in 1996.

The ITD also collects, compiles, and publishes juvenile court statistics for the Commonwealth. These statistics are used to analyze the functioning of juvenile courts and to develop long-range plans for future court operations. In addition to the annual Disposition Report, the ITD provides reports to county probation departments and to local, state, and federal agencies, upon request.

Montgomery County Youth Respond to September 11 Tragedy

Learning to be a good citizen ... Giving back to the community in a positive way ...

Providing services, rather than consuming them.....

by Margery Miller, BARJ Coordinator, Montgomery County

These are all goals of the balanced and restorative justice model. Connecting these goals in a meaningful way with the tragedy of September 11 was the challenge faced by Vanessa Johnson, community service coordinator for the Montgomery County Juvenile Probation Department. "When something terrible happens, everyone wants to help, to do something," she said. "But, clearly, there was no way for us to have a community service project at Ground Zero."

From Kay Pranis, Restorative Justice Planner with the Minnesota Department of Corrections, came the idea of asking juveniles to create cards for the police and firefighters in New York City and Washington, D. C. Our youth joined their neighbors and friends and the millions of other people from around the world who sent letters and cards or left electronic messages on the hundreds of memorial and tribute websites on the internet.

Johnson sent a letter explaining the card project to each juvenile with community service hours.

Juveniles had the option of participating—most chose to take part. There were four conditions to be met. First, the cards had to reflect the sentiments of the sender; second, they had to describe what each juvenile thought about "the heroic efforts of the police and firefighters" and "how important these men and women are to this country." Third, juveniles had to make or create their own cards and, last, they had to ask a minimum of fifteen other people, classmates, teachers, parents, or friends to sign their cards.

The juveniles did not have to sign their names as the creators of the cards since it would identify them as being on probation, but they all did. Most cards had more than the required 15 signatures.

"The work that the kids put into their cards was amazing—totally beyond what we expected," Johnson said. Several cards were made on computers and the computer skills the kids have are impressive, she said. In fact, in making the cards, the kids showcased their competencies in com-

puter skills, design, art and in expressing their ideas and thoughts. The younger children made "old-fashioned" cards out of construction paper, paste, crayons, and markers.

Each card was unique and touching—whether it was in the carefully constructed American flag, the elaborate artwork, or the expressions of awe and gratitude in the prose and poetry, the work that went into these cards revealed the impact of September 11 on the youth who made them. The card project gave juveniles the opportunity to begin the journey that would lead to their becoming positive members of their communities, their country, and the world.

The completed cards were mailed to Johnson who reviewed them and forwarded them to an engine company in New York City. As more cards are received, they are being mailed to other fire companies. "I felt that these cards were meaningful to the kids who made them *and*, hopefully, to the firefighters," Johnson explained.



Pennsylvanians...from page 1

justice panels, victim offender conferencing, “Communities That Care,” and various types of competency development programs for youth are just some examples of the victim and community involvement that is occurring in areas across the Commonwealth.

Nearly half (43%) of Pennsylvanians expect juvenile crime to increase during the next five years. The study speaks to the need for all juvenile justice professionals to provide ongoing and updated information to the public. Clarifying the mission and sharing our outcomes with the public will continue to strengthen the juvenile justice system, and will promote community involvement in our pursuit of justice.

The Public Relations Committee of the Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, chaired by Lehigh County Deputy Chief Andrew DeAngelo, initiated this public opinion survey, which was intended to capture a snapshot of public opinion, and serve as a benchmark to measure future public opinion and awareness. Copies of the survey can be obtained from the website of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers at www.pachiefprobationofficers.org, or by calling Susan Blackburn at 717-796-0228.

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 April 12, 2002.

Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice:

Community Protection

Victim Restoration

Youth Redemption

Mark your calendar!

Promising Approaches IV: Prevention and Intervention Services for Minority Youth

**May 19-21, 2002
Holiday Inn-Harrisburg East
Harrisburg, PA**

The "Promising Approaches IV" conference, being coordinated by the Disproportionate Minority Confinement Subcommittee of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee, is scheduled for May 19-21, 2002, at the Holiday Inn-Harrisburg East. The DMC subcommittee sponsors this statewide training conference during which issues related to the disproportionate involvement of minority youth in the juvenile justice system are examined. This annual event is an integral part of Pennsylvania's initiative to address this very important issue.

This year's program will feature creative community-based prevention and intervention programs that are worthy of replicating. The 2002 Promising Approaches IV conference will feature keynote speakers and training workshops for the more than 400 anticipated participants from across Pennsylvania. The program is designed for both public and private practitioners in the fields of juvenile justice, education, mental health, children and youth, drug and alcohol, law enforcement, and other grassroots organizations from communities.

For conference registration information, please contact Daniel Romage at 717-787-8559, ext. 3123. The conference is being funded by PCCD.

