

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

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Edward G. Rendell, Governor

Volume 11, Number 2

www.jcjc.state.pa.us

February 2003

Philadelphia Family Court opens new community- based juvenile probation office

by: John Buggy, Philadelphia
Family Court

**Pictured left to right are:
Joseph A. Ciarone,
James Anderson,
Hon. Myrna P. Field,
Senator Vincent Hughes Jr.,
Hon. Frederica Massiah-Jackson,
Kenneth Hale**



On December 9, 2002, The Honorable Myrna P. Field, Administrative Judge of the Philadelphia Family Court, opened the West Philadelphia Community-Based Juvenile Probation Office, at 4601 Market Street. The site provides basic probation supervision services, as well as a number of specialized probation services, including electronic monitoring, intensive supervision, aftercare, and school-based probation. The office also houses the West Philadelphia Youth Violence Reduction Project, which brings together both juvenile and adult probation officers working with police and social services staff to reduce violent crime in the area.

Participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception were Philadelphia President Judge Frederica A. Massiah-Jackson, Senator Vincent J. Hughes Jr., James Anderson of JCJC, and various court and community officials and workers. Joseph A. Ciarone, Court Administrator of the First Judicial District, Kenneth E. Hale, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, and Elaine McCray, the director of the new community-based probation office, also offered remarks. More than 100 people attended the opening ceremony, including the commanders of the local police district. Director McCray will coordinate a staff of 22 experienced proba

Philadelphia, continued on page 2

Philadelphia, from page 1

tion officers selected from specialized and geographic units located at the central office of the Family Court at 1801 Vine Street in Center City Philadelphia.

The inspiration for the decentralization of probation services is Pennsylvania's Balanced & Restorative Justice Model of Juvenile Justice. Locating probation staff and services in a community to build linkages and partnerships with other agencies and leaders servicing that community is a step toward improving community protection and restoration. The new probation office will also provide services to juveniles and parents, including tutoring, anger management, and parent support groups. Probation officers will be available in the evenings and on weekends. Probation community service projects will address problems identified by local residents and organizations.

The Philadelphia Juvenile Probation Department supervises approximately 6,500 juveniles in Philadelphia.

Intensive/Aftercare Probation Forum to be held in State College on April 10-11, 2003

In April 2002, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research sponsored a training program specifically designed for specialized probation officers providing intensive probation, aftercare, and specialized intensive probation and aftercare services for drug and alcohol offenders. Participants found the forum to be an excellent opportunity to share ideas and learn from colleagues across the state about what obstacles they face in their positions, and what works with intensive/aftercare offender populations. Participants recommended that not only should the forum be repeated, but requested that more opportunity for discussion be provided.

A committee of intensive and aftercare probation officers, supervisors, and JCJC consultant staff developed the agenda for this year's forum. It includes, at a minimum, two opportunities for probation officers to engage in group discussion on issues specific to their roles as intensive, aftercare, or specialized drug and alcohol officers. Discussion topics will include treatment plans, supervision plans, innovative contact strategies for offenders, provider issues, and, time-permitting, pre-placement and post-placement services. In addition to a presentation and discussion on probation officer safety, a representative from the Attorney General's Bureau of Narcotics Investigation has been invited to present on "fad" drugs, identifying use or symptoms of use, and proper testing techniques.

Intensive probation and aftercare officers from across the Commonwealth will have the opportunity to share their experiences, and take advantage of the expertise of veteran probation officers to 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 and aftercare probation officers, and their supervisors.

Please plan to join us, and your colleagues from across Pennsylvania, in this forum that is sure to provide renewed energy, a sense of purpose, and a

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

common direction for the future. Participants can register for this forum, being held at the Days Inn Penn State, through the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research until April 9, 2003. There is no registration fee to attend. Lunch on April 10 and breakfast on April 11 will also be provided at no cost to participants. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Freese at 717-705-9003, Kathy Hooven at 717-705-5633, Arlene Prentice at 717-787-7836, or Greg Young at 717-705-5635.

JCJC endorses Shippensburg University Class of 2005

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission would like to congratulate the following students who were endorsed to be members of the class of 2005 at Shippensburg University's Weekend Master's Degree Program: Anne Marie Cresci (Bucks County), Michael Deal (Butler County), Timothy Duff (Adams County), Michael Fiore (Bucks County), Mary Gaspari (Chester County), Dean Hiestand (Bucks County), Vanessa Johnson (Montgomery County), Kristin Lincoln (Chester County), Joe Markiewicz (CJJT&R), Lonnie McMillan (Bucks County), Tricia Moore (Chester County), Robert Murnock (Venango County), William Price (Dauphin County), Bonnie Savitski (Dauphin County), Denise Schechterly (Columbia County), Larry Smith (Lycoming County), Robert Smith (Montgomery County), Anita Stinson (Cambria County), Kelly Thompson (York County), Megan Van De Water (Montgomery County), Joseph Viti (Montgomery Detention), Scot Walkowski (Venango County), Kelly Waltman-Spreha (Dauphin County), Chad Weaver (Jefferson County), Michael Webb (York County), and Gregory Wilt (Union County).

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission congratulates these professionals and wishes them luck as they begin a rigorous graduate education program. Shippensburg University offers a Master of Science degree in the Administration of Justice involving 36 credit hours. Classes are scheduled over two years and course work includes research, theory, policy, administration, leadership, and juvenile justice.



John M. Cookus joins staff of JCJC

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission is pleased to announce that John M. Cookus joined its staff as a juvenile court consultant on February 10, 2003. Cookus will serve as a primary point of contact for juvenile court judges and chief juvenile probation officers regarding the Commission's Specialized Probation Services Program, and provide on-going technical assistance to judges, chief juvenile probation officers, juvenile justice agencies, and community organizations regarding the implementation of balanced and restorative justice principles.

While employed by the Luzerne County Juvenile Probation Department as a community-based liaison probation officer, Cookus was responsible for implementing balanced and restorative justice principles in Luzerne County. He developed standardized outcome measures for all youth in the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system, and assisted in the development of a protocol for engaging private organizations and institutions of higher learning in an effort to implement balanced and restorative justice principles. Cookus was an adjunct faculty member for Luzerne County Community College.

Cookus is a graduate of Wilkes University and the JCJC-sponsored Weekend Masters Degree Program at Shippensburg University. He can be reached at 717-705-9006, or via e-mail jcookus@state.pa.us.

Weekend masters degree program applications for Shippensburg University Class of 2006 being accepted

Applications are now being accepted for the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission-sponsored Weekend Masters' Degree program at Shippensburg University. Members of the class of 2006 will begin classes in the fall of 2004.

The Shippensburg University program offers students a Master of Science degree in the Administration of Justice, with a concentration in Juvenile Justice. This is a 36 credit hour program that includes courses in research methods, theory, administration, and policy analysis. Also featured is a summer practicum where students will get an opportunity to develop, implement, and evaluate a program in their home county, or evaluate an existing program that serves juvenile offenders. Classes in this two-year program are scheduled every third weekend in the fall, spring, and summer, with no classes scheduled in the months of July and August. This program is open to county juvenile probation officers who will have at least two (2) years of post-baccalaureate experience in the juvenile justice field prior to the start of classes. Applicants who have an undergraduate grade point average of less than 2.75 must take and pass the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or the GRE.

The deadline for applying to the JCJC-sponsored MSAJ program class of 2006 at Shippensburg University is September 1, 2003.

Tuition costs, educational fees, and room and board are paid for by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission for all eligible students. If you would like more details or are interested in applying for the program, please call PJ Verrecchia at 717-477-1797, go to the JCJC web site www.jcjc.state.pa.us, or send an email to pjverr@wharf.ship.edu.

Review of Research: *Treating Today's Juvenile Homicide Offenders*, by Kathleen Heide and Eldra P. Solomon

Note: This research article was published in *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice* (1) 2, 2003.

In their article, Heide and Solomon, both mental health professionals, discuss 12 components of effective treatment with juvenile homicide offenders (JHOs). Eleven of these were identified by psychologist Vicki Agee after many years of treating serious, chronic, and/or violent youth. Heide and Solomon added a twelfth component to Agee's list and tailored their discussion of intervention strategies to juvenile murderers.

The escalation in violent crime, particularly murder, by youths beginning in the mid-1980s provoked widespread concern in the United States. This dramatic increase also resulted in legislatures across the country passing laws in the late 1980s through the 1990s to "get tough" with juveniles by treating them as adults. The increase in the imposition of adult sanctions has continued to occur despite decreases in violent juvenile offending.

Heide and Solomon state that the important question to ask is not what punishments will be the most effective in preventing juvenile murders, but "how can treatment agents decrease the likelihood that juvenile murderers who are charted for release continue to commit crimes and to pose a threat to society?" (p. 11). They believe that successful intervention requires that treatment be tailored to the youth's development and special needs. At the same time, effective programming must take into account the time and place in the youth's lives and the influences to which he or she is exposed.

In 1995, psychologist Vicki Agee identified 11 components of effective intervention with juveniles in correctional settings. She based these elements on her review of the literature as well as on more than 20 years of clinical experience with residential treatment programs for juvenile delinquents. These components include (a) effective and extensive assessment using a variety of data sources; (b) comprehensive cognitive behavioral programming or restructuring; (c) prosocial skills training; (d) positive peer communities; (e) anger management; (f) empathy training; (g) clear, firm, and consistent discipline; (h) drug and alcohol abuse counseling and education; (i) transition, including family

Research, continued on page 6

Staff development news

CJJT&R training

Commission training staff have joined together with members of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers Association joint Training and Planning Committee to work toward making a variety of enhancements to the system of training provided by the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research. The tasks being examined include: evaluate and re-design the Orientation for New JPO training; design and adopt a sequence of core curricula training—recommended workshops beyond completion of the orientation training; evaluate and consider refinements to the Phase I and Phase II staff safety training model programs; examine the prospects of integrating distance learning capacity; examine the pros and cons of a system of professional certification for juvenile probation officers; and develop a training strategy/sequence for system supervisors and managers.

These tasks have begun to be worked through at two separate retreats held thus far with the committee on October 28-29, 2002 and January 15-16, 2003. The committee is co-chaired by Michael E. Noyes, Ph.D., Chief, Butler County and Robert R. Rose, Chief in Beaver County. Other committee members include: Ted Kairys, Jr., Allegheny; Bob Blakely, Erie; Tom Antolik, Perseus House; Val Bender, Victim's Services Consultant; Greg Moore, Lehigh; Becky Brant, York; Bob Williams, Berks; Brian Steuhl, Pike; John Cookus, JCJC; and Mike McCaLpin, Susan Blackburn, and John Herb of CJJT&R.

One result that has occurred thus far is that the design of the Orientation program has been expanded from six total days, delivered currently as a 3½ days segment followed about a month later by a 2½ days segment, to an anticipated eight days of training. At this point, we expect the redesigned program to be ready for the Fall 2003 training season. Because of this expansion, and because the first segment of the training was originally scheduled to be held during Labor Day week in September, we have had to reschedule the program. The fall Orientation program has therefore been rescheduled to be held on August 25-29 and September 29-October 3. During each week, we expect that the workshop will

Training, continued on page 6

Youth Aid Panel conference

The next statewide Youth Aid Panel conference will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2003, at Millersville University in Lancaster County. This year's one-day event is sponsored by Lancaster County Juvenile Probation and underwritten by a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. The conference is open to panelists, police officers, juvenile justice professionals, judges, district attorneys, and interested community members from anywhere in Pennsylvania.

Workshop topics include victim involvement with panels, the effect of today's music on young people, contracting impediments, and skill-building through effective contracting. Most sessions run for 1½ hours, although there are a few three-hour sessions. There is no fee for attending the conference, which is being planned by the Pennsylvania Commission on Community Youth Aid Panels.

Needs-based planning & IV-E issues

In response to feedback from last fall's training program, "ASFA, IV-E, and Model Petitions and Court Orders: What Chief Juvenile Probation Officers Need to Know," the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission sponsored a follow-up training program on January 16, 2003, to provide more detailed information on the needs-based plan and budget, and various IV-E, TANF, and MA forms. More than 80 people registered for the training program, which was held at the Days Inn Penn State in State College.

The training program featured David Evrard, Allegheny County's Juvenile Justice Planner, who received excellent evaluations for his presentation during last fall's training program. Bucks County Deputy Chief Robert Stanzione presented information on various fiscal forms. Delaware County Deputy Chief Larry DeMooy and Chester County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Marietta Lamb-Mawby served as panelists.

Research, continued from page 4

counseling when appropriate; (j) intensive and extended aftercare; and (k) medication when necessary. Heide and Solomon add another component to Agee's list, educational and vocational programs and other activities that promote prosocial opportunities for success.

The authors state that these 12 strategies are consistent with the therapeutic recommendations and conclusions drawn by researchers who evaluated the effectiveness of treatment programs specifically targeting violent juvenile delinquents. They also recommend that when dealing with adolescent murderers, it is therapeutically desirable that treatment take place in a secure and structured facility; "The community must be protected while the youth is facing the effects of his or her actions on others and learning more adaptive coping strategies and ways of looking at life" (p. 23).

Heide and Solomon make several policy implications from their experience and review of the literature. First, intensive treatment should be provided whenever possible to JHOs in juvenile correctional settings. Second, incapacitative sentences should be used when necessary to protect society. Third, 10 years should be considered an appropriate benchmark in evaluating offender fitness for release back into the community. And fourth, programs and policies must be implemented to ease the transition of these youths or young adults back to the community.

Training; continued from page 5

begin with a Monday afternoon session and conclude each Friday at about noon.

Of course, as the committee continues to make progress, more news will follow.

Turning to the spring schedule of training, while several programs are approaching their capacity, only the two regional "Understanding Subculture Language" workshops, April 24-25 in the Allentown area, and May 8-9 in the Pittsburgh area have been closed to additional registrations as full. Waiting lists for both sessions have been created.

There are several other excellent training opportunities that have room for additional registrants to attend including: "Developing and Achieving Successful Outcomes for Probation through Assessment and Case Planning" on March 11-12 in Harrisburg. The focus of this program is to help practitioners become more purposeful about individual goal planning and assessment in order to refine the documenting of progress and outcomes with probationers. Incorporating these methods is at the core of becoming more restorative and accountable. This workshop will be led by Doug Thomas, Research associate for the National Center for Juvenile Justice in Pittsburgh.

"Balanced and Restorative Justice in Pennsylvania: Principles, Practices and Implementation" on April 2-4 and April 15-17 in Harrisburg. This two-part, five-day workshop will provide interested administrators, treatment providers, victim advocates, law enforcement and other juvenile justice stakeholders an opportunity to comprehensively explore of the principles, values and practices of balanced and restorative justice. The two-part session will be co-facilitated by Val Bender, an independent victim's services consultant and Susan Blackburn, the Assistant Director of Training at the Center, but will also include presentations by a variety of other guest speakers.

There is also available space in: "Mothers Raising Sons" on May 21-22 in Harrisburg; "Fostering and Measuring Intrinsic Change" on June 11-12 in Harrisburg; and, "Youth Aid Panels: A how-to Primer" on June 17-18 in State College.

Registrations may be emailed to nsweav@wharf.ship.edu or faxed to 717-477-1236.

Save the Date!

May 15-16, 2003

Juvenile Justice

Trainer's Association Conference

Featuring workshops by national trainers

**Holiday Inn Harrisburg East
Harrisburg, PA**

**For information email Launa Kowalczyk
launatk@aol.com**

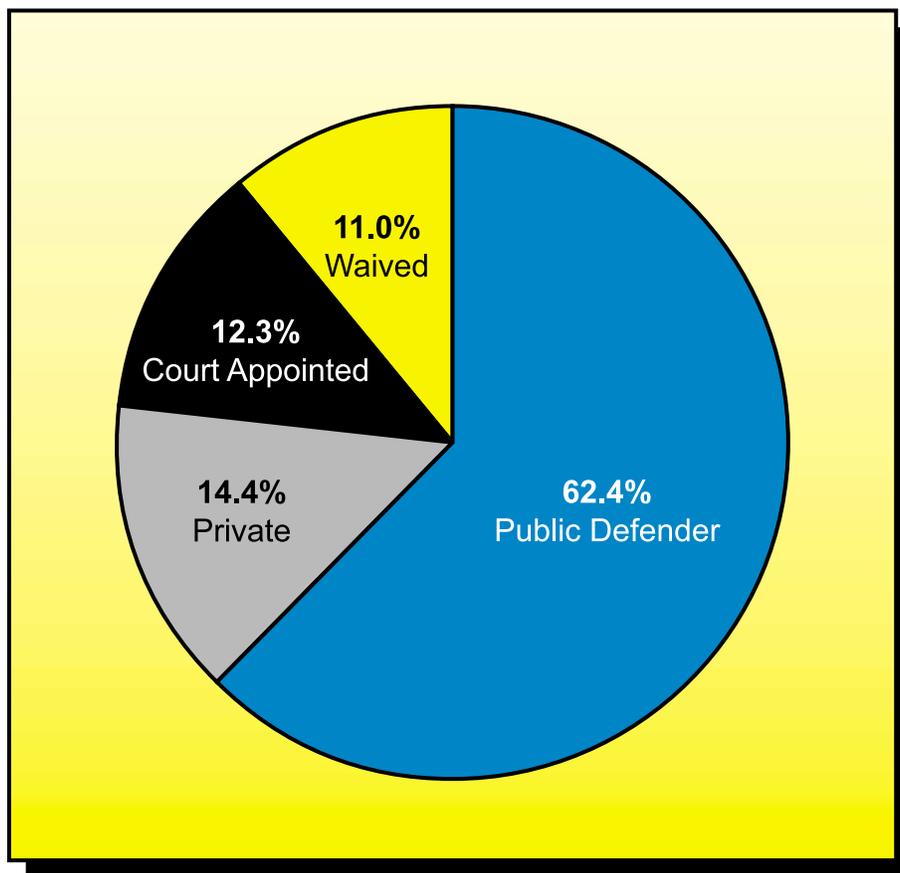
Type of Attorney Representation in Delinquency Proceedings, 2001

This chart presents a summary of the data included in the table found on page 14. The “Court Appointed” column of the table includes those cases where counsel, other than the public defender, is appointed by the court. Attorney representation at the court hearing may be waived.

The data on attorney representation reflect only the 28,068 dispositions made as a result of a hearing before a master or a judge. Disposition reviews, placement reviews, and dependency cases are not included.

Legal representation in delinquency proceedings, during 2001, was most often provided by public defenders who were involved in 62.4 percent of the delinquency dispositions involving hearings. Court appointed attorneys provided legal representation in 14.4 percent of delinquency dispositions involving hearings, followed by private attorneys (12.3%). Legal representation was waived in 11 percent of delinquency dispositions involving hearings.

ATTORNEY REPRESENTATION: DELINQUENCY DISPOSITIONS



Juvenile justice scholarship fund at Shippensburg University

The Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research and the Shippensburg University Foundation established a scholarship program in 1986 to benefit undergraduate Criminal Justice students at Shippensburg University. From 1986 through 2002, over \$14,000 in scholarship funds have been provided by graduates and friends of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission sponsored Weekend Masters Degree Program at Shippensburg University. The money has been used to present at \$1,000 award in the form of tuition support to a worthy undergraduate student majoring in Criminal Justice with an interest in juvenile justice.

The Center plans to make a similar award in 2003. As usual, we are relying on graduates of the Weekend Masters Degree Program for their support. However, donations from any person in the Commonwealth's juvenile justice system will be gratefully accepted.

Past recipients of this scholarship have gone on to careers in Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system. Kassi Morgart, a Dauphin County Juvenile Probation Officer, Michelle Geib, who works for Perry County Juvenile Probation and is a graduate of the JCJC-sponsored Weekend Masters Degree Program at Shippensburg University, and Nichole Kunkle, a Franklin County Juvenile Probation Officer who is currently enrolled in the JCJC-sponsored Weekend Masters Degree Program at Shippensburg University, are just three people who have benefited from this scholarship.

The fact that past award winners have served or are currently serving as juvenile justice professionals in Pennsylvania attests to the value of the scholarship program. If you would like to contribute to the 2003 scholarship fund, please make your check payable to the SU Foundation/Juvenile Justice Scholarship and mail to:

Shippensburg University Foundation
Shippensburg University
1871 Old Main Drive
Shippensburg Pennsylvania 17257

