

a newsletter of the

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Juvenile Court
Judges'
Commission

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It used to be that a juvenile offender could pay a small fine to walk away from a summary offense, according to Keith Cohan, restitution/community liaison officer with the Warren County Juvenile Probation Department. For the most part, they wouldn't even pay the fine. Their parents would. Not anymore.

With the increase of school-related summary crimes being reported, the juvenile probation department and district justices want kids to take more responsibility for their actions. Effective July, 2002, the juvenile probation department was awarded a \$20,000 state Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG) to help establish a program to do just that.

Warren County commissioners provided a 10 percent match for the countywide Student Accountability in the Community (SAC) Program. "The intent of this program is to teach juvenile offenders to take responsibility for their actions and to learn that there are consequences for such actions," Cohan said. "It also enables the district justice offices in the county to allow first-time youthful offenders to learn new skills and give back to the community. In the past, juveniles were fined and the parents had to pay, leaving the juvenile with few or no consequences for their actions."

Kids are now being ordered to work off their crimes at the district justice level. Jon Gerarde, chief of the Warren County Juvenile Probation Department, said the summary charges usually involve "school-based offenses. They're not violent." He said the juveniles who take part in SAC have been involved in disorderly conduct or criminal mischief at school, or tobacco-related or truancy offenses. "This is the first time we've done this program," Gerarde said. The grant money is used for supervision and transportation of the juveniles. Some monies go to the public defender's office for representation of the juveniles and some is used for equipment.

Instead of getting away with paying a fine, the juvenile offenders might be ordered to perform 20 or more hours of community service at one of 17 community service sites in the county.

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**"The times they
are a-changin,"
sang Bob Dylan**

by Jon Sittler, Warren County Times Observer staff writer

Staff Development News

The workshop “Drug Subculture Competency,” scheduled to have been presented by Bruce Schaffer at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg East on July 9-11, had to be postponed because of surgery the trainer had to undergo the prior week. He is mending well.

Obviously, the circumstances were beyond anyone’s ability to control, but we still regret the inconvenience caused. We have rescheduled the program for Wednesday and Thursday, September 3rd and 4th (9-4 p.m.) and Friday, September 5th (9-noon). The program will still be conducted at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg East with every other detail remaining unchanged. It should be noted that this program overlaps the originally scheduled “Child/Adolescent Psychiatric Disorders Associated with Violence” workshop scheduled for September 4 & 5 at the same hotel.

The original group of registrants was given the first choice to attend the rescheduled workshop but there is still limited space available for additional registrants. If you are interested in registering please contact Nina Weaver at 717-477-1448 or at nsweav@wharf.ship.edu

Of the programs scheduled for early in the summer/fall training season there is still space available for several excellent staff development opportunities.

On August 12-13 at the Days Inn Penn State, David Keller Trevaskis, Esq., will lead the seminar “Street Law: An Introductory Course in Practical Law for the Juvenile Justice Professional.” The curriculum for this practical, problem-solving seminar will include case studies, mock trials, role-plays, small group

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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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Examples of sites include local volunteer fire departments, Warren County Humane Society, The Salvation Army, Warren County Courthouse, Warren County Bike/Hike Trail, Warren Area Student Union, Pennsylvania State Police, and Warren Manor. Cohan said these kids are working off their time at places that really need volunteers.

“The SAC Program benefits the community through volunteers donating valuable hours to events, the elderly, and local non-profit organizations,” he said. “The program, in some cases, has even led to juveniles obtaining part-time employment or continuing on in a volunteer capacity because they took pride in their work and supervisors were proud of their accomplishments. In some cases, it provides a mentoring relationship for the youths, which gives them an abundant source of positive role models within their communities. The program also provides juveniles with possible future college or job references they will need when entering adulthood.”

A real-life example involves a teenager who joined the Russell Volunteer Fire Department as a firefighter after he had previously spent time cleaning the fire hall or working there during bingo night through the SAC Program. Cohan said district justices have the option of just fines “or sending them to us.”

If a juvenile completes the community service within the specified time period, that juvenile may have the offense taken off her/his permanent record. During the 2002 calendar year, there were 880 hours ordered, 630 completed and 250 hours terminated. Thirty-six offenders entered into the SAC program; 25 completed the program and received certificates (70 percent). In 2003, there has been 690 hours ordered, 155½ completed, and 140 terminated, Cohan said, with 494½ still to be completed.

While community service is something with which the juvenile probation department has been associated, SAC is allowing the kids to take more responsibility in picking the places in which they volunteer. The community is more involved, and district justices have more options. “The overall goal for the Student Accountability in the Community Program is to achieve a 75 percent or higher completion rate,” Cohan said. “This would also provide the instilling of the value of responsibility and accountability into the youth who enter our department. Through the success of this program, we will have fewer repeat offenders and ultimately create a population of responsible, law-abiding, citizens.”

Northwest Pennsylvania CTC Recognition Banquet

The First Annual Northwest Pennsylvania *Communities That Care*® (CTC) Recognition Banquet was held in Clarion on May 21. More than 100 community representatives including school administration, law enforcement, probation/parole, faith-based leaders, students, local and state government officials, and private citizens were recognized for their efforts in the CTC process since 1995.

Eighteen counties were represented at the event which featured a keynote address from Charles Gray, Director of the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention at PCCD. The event included a speech from Nate M'Sadoques of Erie County, a recent graduate of the Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a former mentor in the Delinquency Prevention Program of the Erie County CTC initiative. Also recognized was the CTC "Mobilizer of the Year," Kathy Krouse, from Clarion County.

A special musical program was performed by students from Clarion-Limestone High School. The ceremony was hosted by Northwest Regional co-chairs Joe Sarbo, of Lawrence County, and Ed Horning, from Centre County.

The northwest region includes the following counties: Armstrong, Butler, Cameron, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Erie, Elk, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Venango, and Warren. The region includes representatives from Family Service System Reform (FSSR), Weed & Seed, State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP), the Special Kids Network, and many private/local agencies.

The *Communities That Care*® model includes establishing a community prevention board, collecting and analyzing data from the community, prioritizing risk and protective factors, identifying gaps in services, and choosing research-based prevention programs to reduce violence, delinquency, school drop-out, teen pregnancy, and substance abuse.

Northwest Region CTC is one of five regions serving the 128 CTC sites in the Commonwealth. Each region is represented by two co-chairs who volunteer their time organizing meetings and training designed to sustain CTC efforts in rural and urban communities that use the CTC process.



Ed Horning, Centre County CTC, Charles Gray, PCCD, Joe Sarbo, Lawrence County CTC, and Joe Markiewicz, CJJT&R, are pictured at the first northwest Pennsylvania CTC recognition banquet in Clarion on May 21.

Greg Young appointed Coordinator of Graduate Education and Research

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission is pleased to announce that Gregory A. Young was appointed to the position of Coordinator of Graduate Education and Research, at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research, effective July 14, 2003.

Mr. Young has been employed by JCJC as a court consultant since April 2001. He is a gubernatorial appointee to the County Probation and Parole Officers Firearm Education and Training Commission, and a certified Control Tactics Instructor. Young holds a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Mansfield University, and a Masters Degree in Administration of Justice from Shippensburg University.

Young's new duties will include the recruitment, screening, and selection of qualified candidates for the Commission's graduate education program, the ongoing review and development of curriculum, the identification, design and funding of research projects, editing the Commission's newsletter, and providing technical assistance to assigned counties in conjunction with JCJC's court service visit program. His new phone at Shippensburg University is 717-477-1797, or e-mail gyoung@state.pa.us.

House passes School Code and Juvenile Act Amendments

On June 25, 2003, the House of Representatives passed four bills intended to give school districts broader authority to place students into Alternative Education programming who are alleged to be delinquent; who are subject to school disciplinary proceedings; or, who are transferring to a new school during a period of expulsion. Each of these bills was introduced on June 16, 2003 and referred to the House Urban Affairs Committee. Prior to passage by the House (200-0) on June 25, 2003, the bills had been considered by the House Appropriations Committee. Three of the bills amend the Public School Code while the other amends the Juvenile Act. Normally, legislation amending the School Code is initially referred to the Education Committee and legislation amending the Juvenile Act is referred to the Judiciary Committee.

HB 1627(2189) was introduced by Rep. John Taylor (R-Philadelphia) and Rep. Marie Lederer (D-Philadelphia). This bill would amend the Juvenile Act at §6307 “Inspection of Court Files and Records” to provide that all records and files of the court in a proceeding under the Juvenile Act are open to inspection by a “School Entity” in which the child is enrolled or to whom the child is being released after placement. Any records released to a school entity would be subject to the confidentiality requirements imposed on the school entity by applicable law or regulations. The legislation places no limits on the purposes for which the information can be used within the school, nor the range of school employees to whom the information can be distributed. HB 1627 was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee on July 8, 2003.

HB 1629(2190), introduced by Rep. William Keller (D-Philadelphia) and Rep. Marie Lederer (D-Philadelphia), would amend the Public School Code to create a new §2135 “Temporary Alternative Education Program Assignment.” This legislation, which would apply only in Philadelphia, provides that the Philadelphia Board of Public Education or the Philadelphia School Reform Commission may establish rules providing for the temporary assignment into an Alternative Education Program of a child who is charged under the Juvenile Act or in an adult proceeding with an act of violence, an offense involving possession of a weapon or possession, use or sale of a controlled substance and has been released by the court prior to the trial or hearing. The legislation further provides that, upon conviction or adjudication of delinquency, the provisions of §2134

“Placement of Certain Adjudicated Students” of the Public School Code shall apply. This section of the School Code, which also applies only to Philadelphia, provides that no student returning from placement or who has been adjudged to have committed a crime under adult criminal proceeding shall be returned directly to the regular classroom. The bill was referred to the Senate Education Committee on July 8, 2003.

HB 1630 (2191) was introduced by Rep. George Kenney (R-Philadelphia/Montgomery) and Rep. Marie Lederer (D-Philadelphia). This bill would re-title §1317.2 “Possession of Weapons Prohibited” of the Public School Code as “Act of Violence, Possession of Weapons and Possession, Sale or Use of a controlled Substance Prohibited.” In addition the bill would revise §1317.2 (E.1) as follows: (e.1) A school district receiving a student who transfers from a public or private school during a period of expulsion for an act [or offense involving a weapon] *of violence, possession of a weapon or possession, use or sale of controlled substances*, may assign that student to an alternative assignment or provide alternative education services, [provided that the assignment may not exceed the period of expulsion] *until the student complies with the behavior, academic and attendance goals established for that student as part of the alternative assignment or provision of alternative education services*. HB 1630 (2191) was referred to the Senate Education Committee on July 8, 2003.

HB 1631(2192) was introduced by Rep. Marie Lederer (D-Philadelphia). This bill would also amend the Public School Code at §1317.2 “Possession of Weapons Prohibited” to re-title this section “Act of Violence, Possession of Weapons and Possession, Sale, or Use of a Controlled Substance Prohibited.”

In addition this bill would add a new §1317.2 (F.1) which provides as follows: (f.1) Where disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against a student for conduct involving an act of violence, possession of a weapon or possession, use or sale of controlled substances, the superintendent or his designee may assign that student to an alternative assignment or provide alternative education services for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days, pending the completion of disciplinary proceedings. HB 1631 (2192) was referred to Committee on July 8, 2003.

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exercises, and visual analysis activities. This is a redesigned workshop from the similarly titled program offered through the Center about two years ago. This program promises to be a fun experience that will be of great benefit to juvenile justice professionals who do not have a deep grounding in the law.

Both western Pennsylvania training opportunities, "Basic Counseling Skills" on September 25 & 26, and "Interactive Journaling and Stages of Change" on October 23 & 24, to be held at the Four Points by Sheraton in Mars, Pennsylvania, have space remaining for additional registrants. The Basic Counseling Skills program would be an ideal program for new officers or those who would benefit from a re-examination of the fundamentals of effective, goal-oriented, counseling strategies.

The Interactive Journaling and Stages of Change program is a new offering that promises a fresh look at how to best approach our role as "change agents" promoting growth and self-change in our clients. The model promotes individual's responsibility in making choices, and is grounded in the latest research on shaping interventions that apply the best possible motivational strategies for clients to take control of changing their own attitudes and behaviors. Limited space for this program is also still available for the eastern regional session of this program scheduled for December 4 & 5 at the Holiday Inn Conference Center, Lehigh Valley.

For additional information, or to register for any of the Center's latest offerings, please consult the printed training schedule or visit the JCJC website at www.jcjc.state.pa.us for additional details.

School-based probation

Seventy-four school-based probation officers and supervisors attended the third annual Juvenile Court Judges' Commission-sponsored School-based Probation Forum June 19-20. Thirty-six counties were represented.

Day one began with educational law presentations by Sally Lynaugh of the Pennsylvania Protection and Advocacy, Inc., and Suzanne Meiners of the Juvenile Law Center. In the afternoon, a panel presentation featured Lt. Michael Canaan, a School Resource Officer with the Oil City Police Department in Crawford County, Brad Ferko, Assistant Superintendent of Schools for the Shaler School District in Allegheny County and Ray Bauer, Coordinator of School-based Probation for Allegheny County. The panel was moderated by Keith Graybill of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC).

The day concluded with an update on the status of the outcome-based research project on school-based probation in Pennsylvania. The session was presented by Doug Thomas and Pat Torbett of the National Center for Juvenile Justice.

On day two, Faith Erb-Elliott, of the Pennsylvania Office of Attorneys General, conducted an informative training on current drug choice and trends of youth. Erb-Elliott covered a variety of drugs including heroin, ecstasy, and the youth rave culture. Mark Vargo, of Crawford County, announced that a committee of school-based probation officers are developing a statewide newsletter that will be published twice a year. It will feature issues and news of interest about school-based probation programs and staff. A distribution list of one key contact person from each county is being developed by Christine Lisko of Allegheny County. Her phone is 412-571-7327. You may e-mail Lisko at Christine.Lisko@court.allegheny.pa.us. Submit any newsworthy articles to her for the premier issue. If you would like to serve on the newsletter committee please contact Keith Graybill at JCJC, 717-787-2860 or kgraybill@state.pa.us.

As evidenced by the accounts of officers and managers, school-based probation continues to be a viable method of accomplishing the goals of the juvenile justice system in Pennsylvania. A committee of school-based probation officers will be planning next year's forum scheduled for June 17-18, 2004. Plan now to be part of this opportunity to share common experiences and challenges.

Community Correlates of Rural Youth Violence

How often have you heard the expression that this or that theory or concept might be valid for youth living in urban areas, but not for those living in rural areas? Indeed, most research on juvenile delinquency has been conducted on urban populations. Urban area is defined as having a population of 500,000 or more; however, only 49 percent of the U. S. population lives in urban areas.

In a May Juvenile Justice Bulletin published by OJJDP, is a study titled *Community Correlates of Rural Youth Violence*, by D. Wayne Osgood and Jeff M. Chambers, which provides a summary of their study on rural youth violence. They looked at the issue using social disorganization theory which they note is the primary theory by which criminologists account for rates of crime in urban areas. It is their contention that, if this theory also applies to rural areas, then what is known about urban crime can be applied to smaller communities. Social disorganization theory holds that residential instability, ethnic diversity, family disruption, economic status, population size or density, and proximity to urban areas influence the ability of a community to maintain strong systems of social relationships. The authors note that variables strongly associated with rates of crime and delinquency are residential instability, ethnic diversity, and family disruption.

The sample, comparable to those in studies of urban areas, comprises 264 counties with populations ranging from 560 to 98,000 in Florida, Georgia, Nebraska, and South Carolina. The criminal behavior included in the study are arrest rates per 100,000 population for homicide, forcible rape, robbery, weapons offense, simple assault, and aggravated assault.

Per capita rates of juvenile arrest for violent offenses were significantly and consistently associated with residential instability, ethnic diversity, and family disruption. The strongest factor seemed to be family disruption; there appeared to be no significant correlation between poverty and delinquency in non-metropolitan communities.

For more information, contact: D. Wayne Osgood, PhD., Crime, Law and Justice Program, Department of Sociology, Pennsylvania State University, 1001 Oswald Tower, University Park, PA 16802-6207 814-865-1304; wosgood@psu.edu

Changes at Butler County Juvenile Court Services

Michael E. Noyes, PhD., has moved from Director of Juvenile Court Services in Butler County to Director of Community Corrections for both adult and juvenile probation. His job is now that of an Assistant Deputy District Court Administrator overseeing both departments.

A graduate of Oil City High School and Allegheny College in Meadville, Noyes earned both his Masters of Arts and his Doctorate in criminology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He served as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in Venango County, served for ten years in the private sector administering programs for adjudicated delinquent and dependent youths and served as a full-time faculty member in the department of Criminology at IUP. Noyes currently is as an adjunct faculty member at the Butler County Community College, where he teaches criminology and criminal justice.

Rick Elias was promoted from Deputy Director of Juvenile Court Services to Director of Juvenile Court Services.

A graduate of Butler High School, Elias earned an Associate Degree in criminology from Butler County Community College, a Bachelor of Arts in criminal justice administration from Mansfield University, and a Master of Science in criminal justice administration from Shippensburg University through the JCJC/CJJT&R-supported Weekend Master's Program.

Elias is also a graduate of the Pittsburgh Academy of Law Enforcement, in addition to serving as a police liaison for the juvenile court and as an Orphan's Court adoption investigator. He has been trained as a senior control tactics instructor for the Phase II Safety Program and has logged more than 350 hours of training by the former director of the U.S. Secret Service in lethal and non-lethal weapons and various forms of subject control.

New Interstate Compact legislation nears passage

Senate Bill 319 was introduced by Senator Stewart Greenleaf (R-Montgomery) on February 13, 2003. Entitled the “Interstate Compact for Juveniles Act,” the passage of this legislation would enable Pennsylvania to join this new Interstate Compact. The effective date of the proposed Compact is July 1, 2004 or upon the Compact’s enactment into law by the 35th state.

The legislation provides that any state, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Marianas Islands are eligible to become compacting states. Since the Compact will become effective and binding upon legislative enactment of the Compact into law by no less than 35 of the states, there is an incentive for individual states to be among the first 35 states to enact the Compact.

The current “Interstate Compact on Juveniles” was created in 1955. This Compact has been severely compromised due to incomplete adoption of three subsequent amendments to the Compact and by the individual actions of states. Pennsylvania is one of only seven states that has adopted the original Compact and the three subsequent amendments. Consequently, there is substantial inconsistency in interpretation and application of the existing Compact.

The newly proposed “Interstate Compact for Juveniles” is the result of a nationwide effort begun in 2000. By ratifying this Compact, the participating states and territories would create a governing body known as the Interstate Commission for Juveniles. This Commission would consist of one commissioner from each member state or territory. This Commission would promulgate the rules to implement the purposes and obligations of the Compact and would oversee, supervise and coordinate the interstate movement of juveniles subject to the terms of the Compact.

Each participating state would be required to create a “State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision.” Although each state could determine the membership of its council, the members must include at least one representative from the legislative, judicial and executive branches of government, victims’ groups, and the state Compact administrator, deputy Compact administrator or designee. The “State Council” would advise and exercise oversight

and advocacy concerning the state’s participation in the Compact.

The issue of “State Council” membership has resulted in an amendment of SB 319 in both the House and the Senate. As originally introduced, SB 319 provided that the State Council shall consist of nine members, seven of whom shall be appointed by the Governor. Two of the members are to be judges, and at least one is to be a county chief juvenile probation officer. The Council must also include a representative of victim’s groups.

Prior to passing this legislation (47-0) on April 22, 2003 the Senate voted to expand the membership of the State Council from nine to eleven members. The purpose of the additional members was to enable the Minority Leaders of both the House and Senate to each appoint a member of the General Assembly to the State Council, in addition to the legislative members appointed by the President Pro Tempore and the Speaker of the House.

On June 25, 2003 the House Judiciary Committee voted to expand the membership of the State Council from eleven to thirteen members, nine of whom would be appointed by the Governor. The expanded membership is for the purpose of including a district attorney and a public defender on the State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision.

SB 319 (1030) was referred to the House Appropriations Committee on July 1, 2003. If passed by the House, the bill would return to the Senate for a vote regarding whether to concur in House amendments to the bill.

The passage of this legislation would repeal the current provisions of the Public Welfare Code containing the current ‘Interstate Compact on Juveniles.’ This repeal would be effective when the new Compact becomes effective and operative between Pennsylvania and any others states.

2003 Pennsylvania Victim Assistance Academy deemed an unqualified success

The 2003 Pennsylvania Victim Assistance Academy (PVAA), sponsored by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency's (PCCD) Office of Victims' Services, and The University of Scranton, was held June 22-27, 2003, on the Scranton campus. The 34 individuals in this year's graduating class included victim advocates, victim/witness coordinators, counselors, victim service educators, police officers, and victim activists. Five participants elected to take the Academy for undergraduate credit.

Jan Bechtel, Program Manager for the Education and Outreach Program in the Office of Victims' Services of PCCD, felt that this year's academy was another unqualified success. He attributed that success to the outstanding state leaders in the field of victimology, criminal justice, and victims' rights who join expert practitioners and host faculty from The University of Scranton to provide a rich education foundation grounded in practical application across the field.

Pennsylvania's Victim Assistance Academy was initiated in 1999 when, under the leadership of Carol Lavery, Director of the Office of Victims' Services, PCCD was awarded funds to develop and implement a state victim-assistance academy modeled on the National Victim Assistance Academy program. Pennsylvania was one of five states to receive this first-of-its-kind grant.

The purpose of the Academy is to enhance the knowledge, skills, and abilities of victim-service providers and allied professionals in meeting the needs of crime victims in the Commonwealth. It provides a standardized and comprehensive university-based, foundation level course of instruction in victim assistance and victimology. An advisory body, comprised of representatives from all facets of the state's victim-service community and the criminal justice field oversees the project, and is chaired by Pennsylvania's Victim Advocate, Mary Achilles. The group is a subcomponent of the Victim Services' Advisory Committee of PCCD. Attendance is encouraged for individuals from victim-service organizations and other agencies that serve crime victims, including allied professionals such as law enforcement and corrections. Undergraduate academic credits are available upon successful completion of the course and payment of tuition costs.

Anyone interested in learning more about the PVAA may contact Nancy Hopkins, Project Coordinator at 610-489-6846 or e-mail Njhop@juno.com.

Can you picture this?

The Center for Juvenile Justice Training & Research (CJJT&R) is soliciting photos to be considered for the cover of the 2002 Disposition Report. The only requirement is that the photo be related to the juvenile justice field.

If your photo is selected, acknowledgement will appear in both the 2002 Disposition Report and in *Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice*.

Please submit photo to:
Michael McCalpin, Director, CJJT&R
Shippensburg University
1871 Old Main Drive
Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299

Photo must be submitted before September 12, 2003. Please identify the photo on a separate sheet of paper; include your name, address, and phone number.

If you have questions, please send e-mail to mmccalpin@state.pa.us

