

a newsletter of the

Pennsylvania
Juvenile Court
Judges'
Commission

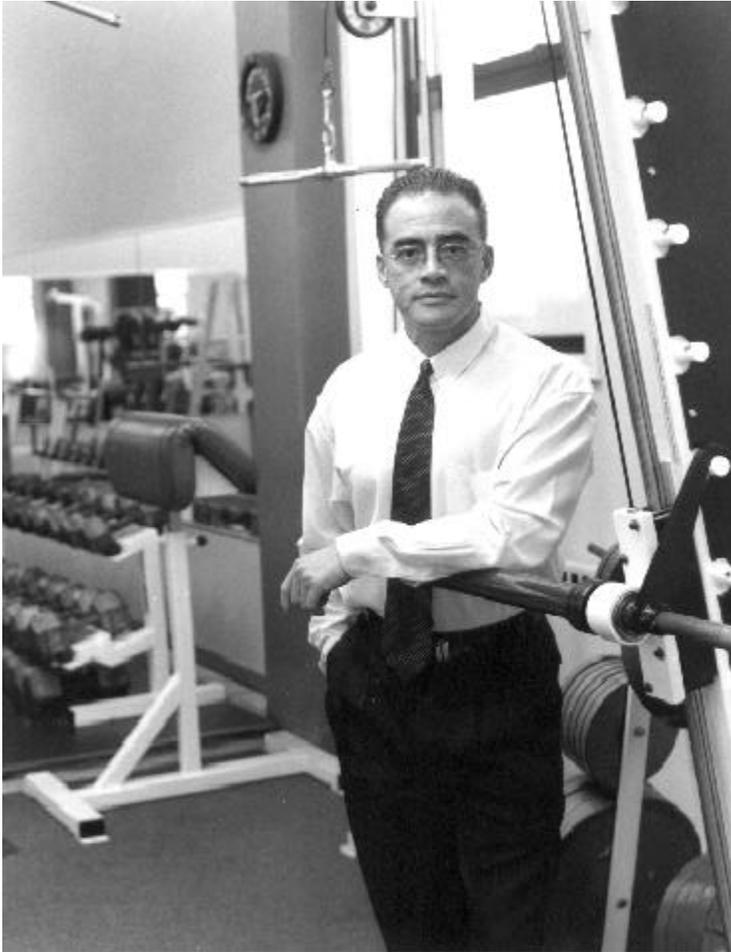
PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Edward G. Rendell, Governor

Volume 11, Number 6

www.jcjc.state.pa.us

June 2003



Alex Correa will share his story at Annual Youth Awards Banquet

Defying the Odds...

Alex Correa is a nationally recognized speaker who is also owner of his own personal fitness training business in Chicago. With his story featured in the book, *A Kind and Just Parent*, by William Ayers, Correa has just finished writing the manuscript to his own book based on his life story.

Alex Correa's story is one of a childhood punctuated by abuse, homelessness, the streets, drugs, crime, and prison, and his success in overcoming the odds. He attributes his success to some key people, including a teacher, Frank Tobin, and the transformative power that kind and caring individuals had on a troubled youth.

It is a life beset by seemingly endless obstacles that is somehow saved and spurred to go forward into the world to bear witness and tell the truth. His own determination turned despair and depression into hope. His emotional and physical suffering are overcome by peace and tranquility. It is the story of the triumph of the human spirit over adversity.

Community service accident insurance still in force

Each of the Commonwealth's juvenile probation departments was notified that as of December 24, 2002, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission-subsidized policy of professional and general comprehensive liability insurance covering community service and restitution programs was allowed to lapse. In the notifications that were mailed to each covered program, it was stated that this lapse in coverage involved *only* the liability insurance and that the Commission-sponsored accident insurance continued to be in force. This quality accident insurance policy still serves as the first line of defense against liability claims. A copy of a summary of that coverage was mailed together with the December 19 memorandum that provided final notice of the termination of liability coverage.

Despite our attempts to clearly convey that the accident insurance is still in force, we continue to hear that some counties are making inquiries with insurance brokers about "replacing the lost accident coverage." If there is any uncertainty about any aspects of the accident coverage community service program managers or staff are encouraged to contact John Herb at the Center 717-477-1185 and press 3.

Additionally, we have learned that the 38 counties that are members of the Pennsylvania Counties Risk Pool (PCoRP), are participating in the self-insurance pool operated through the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP). These counties have \$5 million of professional and general comprehensive insurance that covers the activities of those counties community service and restitution pro-

grams. According to the CCAP staff person who worked with this coverage, their program of self insurance covers not only the juvenile probation staff from the perspective of liability, but it covers the juveniles participating in either community service or restitution programs in much the same way that the JCJC-sponsored coverage had prior to it lapsing. In addition, it has a \$5 million limit rather than just \$1 million.

This program of insurance provides a combination of self-insurance, commercial insurance, and loss control. It is coverage that includes property, general liability, law enforcement, crime, public officials liability, and auto policies into one program that covers all county employees, elected officials, and volunteers. The coverage is very broad and comprehensive. It is not possible, therefore, to "buy into" the liability insurance for community service or restitution programs separately.

Therefore, for any community service or restitution program existing in one of these 38 counties the lapsing of the Commission's liability coverage has effectively had no impact whatsoever.

Statewide Balanced and Restorative Justice Conference postponed

The 2003 Statewide Conference on Balanced and Restorative Justice scheduled for September 10 – 12, 2003, has been postponed indefinitely. Due to the fiscal issues we are facing within Pennsylvania and across the nation, many funding cuts have occurred and more are anticipated. After much discussion, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research, and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency have reached a decision to postpone the conference so that we are in a better position to address any programmatic impact(s) which may result from the overall reduction of funds. It is our hope that we can pull together a Balanced and Restorative Justice offering in 2004.

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.

Our address is CJJT&R, Shippensburg University, 1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299. (nsweav@wharf.ship.edu)

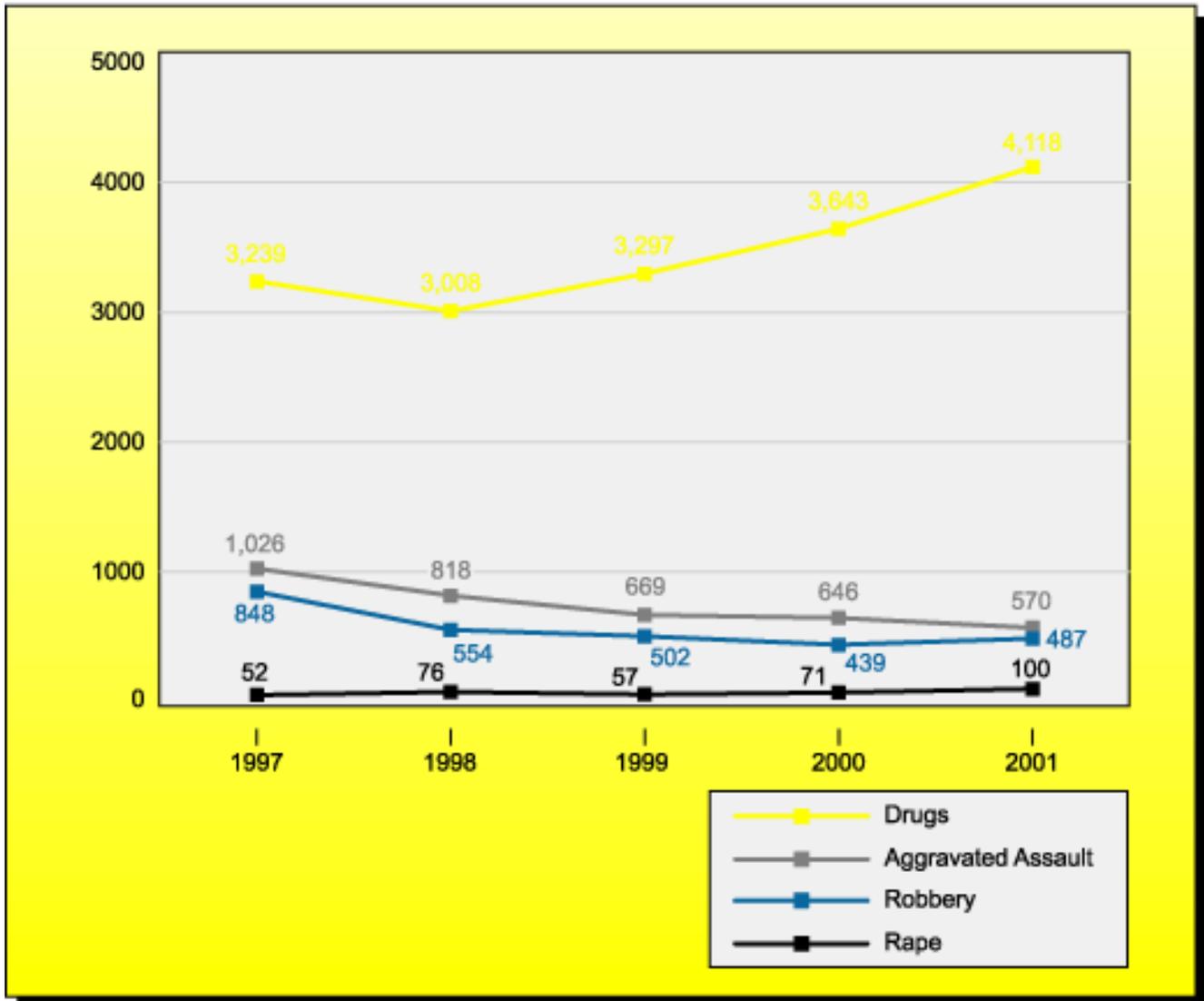
Please send additions or changes to the mailing list to Julie Bozich at Signal Graphics Printing, 1010 Wesley Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 (SigGraph60@aol.com)

Selected Substantiated Charges, 1997-2001

The line chart below shows a selection of substantiated charges. A disposition with a substantiated drug charge and none of the other listed substantiated charges (rape, robbery, aggravated assault) was counted in the drug category. A disposition with a substantiated aggravated assault charge, and no substantiated rape or robbery charges was counted in the aggravated assault category. A disposition with a substantiated robbery charge and no substantiated rape charge was counted in the robbery category. Any disposition with a substantiated rape charge was counted in the rape category. For the reasons explained on page 27, the reader is again cautioned not to compare these figures to those in reports prior to 1997.

There were 4,118 substantiated drug charges in 2001, representing a 13.0 percent increase from 2000, and a 36.9 percent increase since 1998. There were 570 substantiated aggravated assault charges in 2001, representing an 11.8 percent decrease from 2000, and a 44.4 percent decrease since 1997. There were 100 substantiated rape charges in 2001, representing a 40.9 percent increase from 2000, and a 75.4 percent increase since 1999. The 487 substantiated robbery charges in 2001 represents an increase of 10.9 percent from 2000, but is 42.6 percent less than the 848 substantiated robbery charges in 1997.

SELECTED SUBSTANTIATED CHARGES



Communities That Care/Weed and Seed Conference

by: Amy Bailey

Senator Harris Wofford, Co-Chair of America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth, addressed more than 400 community leaders at the first Communities That Care/Weed and Seed joint conference June 4-6 in Hershey. Wofford praised the group for its outstanding collaborative approach to community building and youth development.

The event, formerly an annual conference for Pennsylvania's Communities That Care (CTC) sites, united both initiatives for three days of workshops, panel discussions, networking, community showcases, and awards presentations. It was the first such event for Weed and Seed communities. The joining of the two initiatives signifies an effort between Weed and Seed and CTC to unite to share resources that will more effectively serve communities.

Some of the 28 workshops offered were: Becoming an Entrepreneur: Micro Enterprise and Small Business Development. Preventing and Responding to Gangs, Hate Groups and Hate Crimes, Website Development, Grant Writing, The Role of the Lead Agency, and Faith-based Initiatives.

A panel discussion, "Bringing It All Together," featured a discussion of community collaboration with representatives from several statewide initia-



Wanda Satzer of Bedford County CTC accepts the award for CTC Unsung Hero from Charles Gray, Director of OJJDP for PCCD.

tives. They included Amy Anderson, America's Promise; Susan Blackburn, Balanced and Restorative Justice; Charles Gray, Communities That Care; Tom Hyson, Weed and Seed; Karen Kessen, Family Service System Reform/Family Centers; and Joseph May of the State Health Improvement Program. The discussion was facilitated by Neilda Mott, Director of the CTC Network at the Chester Education Foundation in Delaware County.

The highlight of the conference was an awards banquet, which showcased the accomplishments of individuals and teams from both CTC and Weed and Seed communities.

Communities That Care awardees were:

Key Leader of the Year—Public Official: Mayor Pauline Abdulla, Mayor of Braddock, Tri-Boro CTC.

Board Members of the Year: Bill and Anna Peck, Clarion County (Keystone Area) CTC.

Mobilizer of the Year: Kathy



Representatives from Operation Nightlight/Daylight of the Sharon/Farrell Weed and Seed accept the award for Law Enforcement Initiative of the Year from Tom Hyson, Director of Weed and Seed, PCCD.



Representatives from Delaware County CTC and Chester Weed and Seed accept the award for Collaborative Community of the Year from Tom Hyson, Director of Weed and Seed, PCCD.

Krouse, Clarion County CTC.
 Unsung Hero: Wanda Satzer, Bedford County CTC.
 Outstanding Youth Involvement: Helping Youth Promote Empowerment (H.Y.P.E.), Bradford County CTC.
 Most Effective Implementation of a Research-Based Program: Hosanna House, Inc. Wilkensburg CTC.
 CTC Community of the Year: Clarion County (Keystone Area).

Weed and Seed award winners were:

Public Official of the Year: Mayor William Morocco, Sharon/Farrell Weed and Seed
 Aid Coordinator of the Year: Renee Fairconeture, Coatesville Weed and Seed

Seed.

Tall Team Coordinator of the Year: Marcia Brown, Sharon/Farrell Weed and Seed.

Unsung Hero: Diane Young, Reading Weed and Seed.

Law Enforcement Initiative of the Year: Operation Nightlight/Daylight, Sharon/Farrell Weed and Seed.

Weed and Seed Community of the Year: Coatesville Weed and Seed.

Delaware County CTC and Chester Weed and Seed were the first winners of the Collaborative Community of the Year award for the community that has most effectively mastered the collaborative process, by blending resources available through processes such as Communities That Care, Weed and Seed, America's Promise, Balanced and Restorative Justice, Family Service System Reform, and the State Health Improvement Plan.



Representatives from Keystone Area CTC (Clarion County) accept the award for CTC Community of the Year from Charles Gray, Director of OJJDP for PCCD.

First Summit on Female Empowerment in Philadelphia

The week of June 2, 2003, marked the First Summit on Female Empowerment in Philadelphia. Held at Charles Y. Audenried High School in Philadelphia, one of the most at-risk schools in the City, the summit was a cooperative venture between the Philadelphia School District and Philadelphia Family Court. Dr. Bessie Young, Principal at Audenried, fully endorsed and supported the summit.

Created and coordinated by Philadelphia school-based probation officer Geneva Pugh, corporate sponsorships and contributions-in-kind from Coca-Cola® and Herr's provided the funding. The summit was attended by more than 300 students, parents, educators, and community activists during its four days.

Each session of the summit focused on a different theme of the female experience. Author and publisher Karen E. Quinones-Miller, and Power 99FM disc jockey Summer, spoke about the challenges of their careers. Public Defender Blake Adams and Mary Harris-Anderson, Assistant Supervisor of school-based probation, concentrated on the female offender experience in the juvenile justice system. Nichet Sykes represented Women Organized Against Rape and offered assistance for sexual assault.

Alberta McCargo-James, Victim Service Coordinator for Family Court, spoke about crisis and trauma associated with victimization, and how to assist and empower the victim to become a survivor. She said she "felt very fortunate to be able to speak before a group of young women and men, our future leaders; I was really impressed with their responses to the symptoms of trauma related to victimization."

Students and staff alike were excited about this first-time event and expressed an interest in having another summit next year. Officer Pugh noted that the summit sent a powerful message that people do care and success can be achieved through empowerment.

Thomas W. Corbett will keynote PCSA fall seminar

The Pennsylvania Community Service Association (PCSA) is honored to have a former Pennsylvania Attorney General, Thomas W. Corbett Jr., as keynote speaker at their annual fall seminar September 25-26 at the Days Inn Penn State, in State College. Until February, Corbett was Chair of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. He held several high-ranking United States attorney appointments under the Reagan and George Bush administrations.

In addition to Corbett's message during the buffet breakfast on September 25, this year's program will feature a variety of workshops concentrating on community service and restitution programs. The association will sponsor a reception on Thursday evening, September 24, where individual counties may display their own community service programs and have a chance to earn valuable prizes. The seminar will culminate with a regular PCSA business meeting. Originally established in 1988 as the Statewide Community Service Committee under the auspices of the Adult Probation and Parole Chief's Association, the PCSA was formed in 1999 as a separate entity due to the increase in both adult and juvenile representation. The purpose of the association is to create a forum for the exchange of ideas and the resolution of problems concerning changes and advances in the area of community service; to act as a guide and provide support for fledgling community service programs; and, to serve as a resource center for any person seeking information regarding the statewide use of community service for both adult and juvenile programs.

For more information concerning the PCSA, or for fall seminar registration material, please contact PCSA Corresponding Secretary, Jason Stauffer at 717-299-8176 or at stauffej@co.lancaster.pa.us.

