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Judges'
Commission

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November 2003

2003 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

The Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice was held at the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers November 5-7, 2003.

More than 1,200 people participated in the annual event. On Wednesday, professional caucuses for judges/masters, chiefs/deputy chiefs, juvenile probation supervisors, juvenile probation officers, victim services representatives, and providers met in the afternoon to discuss issues of concern and interest. In the evening, young people from within the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system were recognized for their individual achievements at the Youth Awards Program and Dinner. This program highlighted the important work of judges, administrators, probation officers, state and private providers, and other dedicated people who work in the best interests of young people.

This year's speaker was Alex Correa. His story was one of a childhood punctuated by abuse, homelessness, the streets, drugs, crime, and prison at the age of fourteen. His success in overcoming the odds is a remarkable journey which he attributed to a teacher who refused to give up on him. Alex Correa is now a nationally recognized speaker who is also owner of his own personal fitness training business in Chicago. His story was featured in the book, *A Kind and Just Parent*, by William Ayers. Correa has recently finished writing the manuscript to his own book based on his life.

The keynote address was presented on Thursday morning by Dr. Delbert S. Elliott, Director of the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, and Director of the Program on Problem Behavior. Both programs are part of the Institute of Behavioral Science at the University of Colorado, in Boulder.

Elliott's scholarly work involves both theory development and validation, primarily in the areas of delinquency and violent behavior. Elliott's work is relative to other forms of problem behavior, including substance abuse, drunk driving, sexual deviance, and domestic violence. His lecture looked at "What Works, What Doesn't.....and Why" in juvenile justice and delinquency prevention.

Dr. Elliott's publications include *The Social Psychology of Run-away* (1978, with T. Brennan and D. Huizinga), *Explaining*

Conference, continued on page 7



Daniel L. Rhoads

York County
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer
of the Year



Russell W. Adams

Berks County
Juvenile Probation Supervisor
of the Year



Fred M. Grove IV

Dauphin County
Juvenile Probation Officer
of the Year

Autumn C. Mansor

Meritorious Service Award



Catherine E. Miele

Bucks County
Juvenile Court Support Service

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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Dustin J. Reibsome
Shippensburg University
Undergraduate Scholarship

Shauntae J. Stancil
Dr. Anthony F. Ceddia Award for
Outstanding Scholarship
in Juvenile Justice

Michael C. Dieck
Executive Director
Residential Program of the Year



Hon. John W. Thompson Jr.
York County
Court-operated Program
of the Year



Patricia A. Wolf
Vice-President of Programs
Community-based Program
of the Year

Juvenile Court Placement of Adjudicated Youth, 1990-1999

by Charles M. Puzanchera

In 1999, nearly one in four adjudicated delinquency cases resulted in out-of-home placement

Juvenile courts employ a variety of dispositions for youth adjudicated delinquent. Of the 639,100 adjudicated delinquency cases in 1999, 24 percent resulted in a judicial disposition of out-of-home placement (i.e., placement in a residential treatment center, juvenile corrections facility, foster home, or group home); 62 percent resulted in an order of probation; 10 percent resulted in some other disposition, such as restitution, fines, community service, or referral to other treatment agencies; and 4 percent were released at disposition without sanction.

In 1999, juveniles adjudicated for drug or property offenses were less likely to be placed outside the home than were those adjudicated for person or public order offenses. Following adjudication, placement was ordered in 22 percent (17,200) of drug offense cases, 23 percent (58,700) of property offense cases, 26 percent (38,100) of person offense cases, and 27 percent (41,200) of cases involving public order offenses, such as weapons offenses, disorderly conduct, and obstruction of justice. A relatively high proportion of public order offense cases resulted in out-of-home placement because this category included escapees from institutions and probation and parole violators.

Placement cases grew 24 percent between 1990 and 1999

The number of adjudicated cases that resulted in out-of-home placement rose from 124,900 in 1990 to 155,200 in 1999. The largest percentage increase was in the number of drug offense cases resulting in placement, which grew 73 percent from 1990 to 1999. Placement grew 56 percent for public order offense cases, grew 48 percent for person offense cases, and declined 6 percent for property offense cases. The general pattern of increase in out-of-home placements followed the pattern of increase in adjudicated cases between 1990 and 1999—the number of adjudicated drug offense cases grew 187 percent, public order offense cases grew 119 percent, person offense cases grew 98 percent, and property offense cases grew 16 percent. In fact, although the number of adjudicated cases that resulted in out-of-home placement grew between 1990 and 1999, the overall proportion of cases that resulted in out-of-home placement declined from 32 percent in 1990 to 24 percent in 1999.

The number of out-of-home placements increased across all racial groups between 1990 and 1999

Of the estimated 155,200 adjudicated cases in 1999 that resulted in out-of-home placement, 95,000 (61%) involved white youth, 55,200 (36%) involved black youth, and 4,900 (3%) involved youth of other races.¹ That same year, 23 percent of adjudicated cases involving white youth resulted in out-of-home placement, compared with 28 percent of cases involving black youth and 24 percent involving other minority youth. Between 1990 and 1999, the number of adjudicated cases resulting in out-of-home placement increased more for white youth (31 percent, from 72,600 to 95,000) than for black youth (17 percent, from 47,300 to 55,200) or for youth of other races (-2 percent, from 5,100 to 4,900).

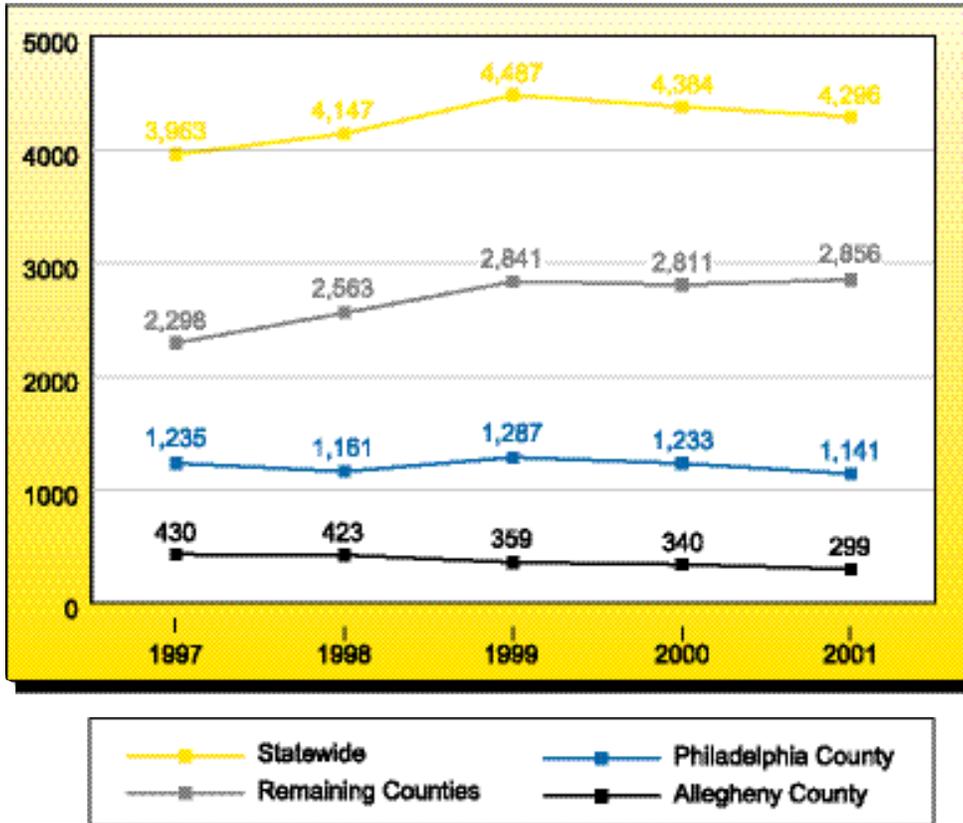
For further information

This Fact Sheet is based on the forthcoming report *Juvenile Court Statistics 1999*, which will be available on the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP's) Web site (www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojjdp). To learn more about juvenile court cases, visit OJJDP's Statistical Briefing Book (ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/index.html) and click on "Juveniles in Court." OJJDP also supports Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics, a web-based application that analyzes the data files used for the *Juvenile Court Statistics Report*. This application is available from the Statistical Briefing Book.

Charles M. Puzanchera is a Research Assistant with the National Juvenile Court Data Archive, which is supported by an OJJDP grant. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, and the Office for Victims of Crime.

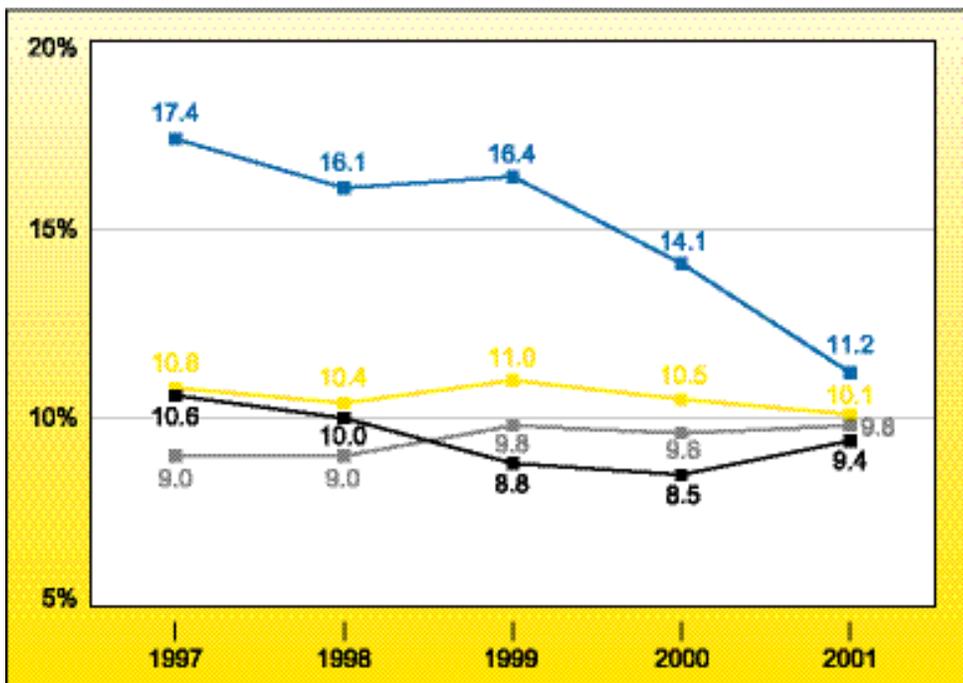
Delinquency Placements, 1997 - 2001

DELINQUENCY PLACEMENTS



There were 4,296 delinquency placements in 2001, representing a 2.0 percent decrease from the 4,384 placements in 2000 and a 4.3 percent decrease from the 4,487 placements in 1999. This statewide decrease in placements was due primarily to decreases in the number of delinquency placements in Philadelphia and Allegheny Counties during this time period.

PLACEMENTS AS A PERCENT OF DISPOSITIONS



Placements represented 10.1 percent of statewide delinquency dispositions in 2001. This has remained relatively unchanged since 1997. In Philadelphia County, placements as a percentage of delinquency dispositions have decreased from 16.4 percent in 1999, to 11.2 percent in 2001. Placements as a percentage of delinquency dispositions in the rest of the state have remained relatively unchanged since 1997.

JLC and ABA assess quality of legal representation in delinquency proceedings

In October, the Juvenile Law Center (JLC) and the American Bar Association Juvenile Justice Center (ABA) released “Pennsylvania: An Assessment of Access to Counsel and Quality of Representation in Delinquency Proceedings.” The report was authored by JLC staff attorney Laval Miller-Wilson and was partially funded by a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

According to the JLC and the ABA, this project was undertaken in hopes of raising the quality of representation for children in delinquency proceedings by fostering a climate in which children will be routinely represented by highly skilled, well-resourced, dedicated, and effective attorneys who understand the importance of their role in promoting and protecting children’s legal rights and well-being.

The foundation for this study was a national assessment of the legal representation of children in delinquency proceedings that was conducted in 1995 by the ABA Juvenile Justice Center, the Youth Law Center, and the JLC. Findings of the national assessment – that indigent juvenile defense was woefully inadequate – were published in “A Call for Justice: An Assessment of Access to Counsel and Quality of Representation in Delinquency Proceedings.” The Pennsylvania study utilized a 70-question survey that was distributed to lawyers in every Pennsylvania county, reaching approximately 450 juvenile defenders. Survey responses were received from 58 of Pennsylvania’s 67 counties, including 50 county public defenders’ offices. The JLC and its investigators gathered on-site data from 17 counties. These counties were visited by teams of investigators who conducted interviews pursuant to standardized protocols, observed judicial proceedings, and gathered documentary evidence.

This study concludes that, despite the legal mandates of Pennsylvania’s Juvenile Act, there are serious deficiencies in the delivery of indigent defense to accused and adjudicated youth in Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system, and that the availability and quality of defense representation varies widely across the Commonwealth. In addition to the mandates of Pennsylvania’s Juvenile Act, the researchers used the Institute of Judicial Administration (IJA)/ABA Juvenile Justice Standards Relating to Counsel for Private Parties as a measure of the

adequacy of relevant practices across the Commonwealth.

Among the recommendations contained in this report is the creation of an independent, state-level “Indigent Defense Commission” to oversee the delivery of defense services, including juvenile delinquency defense, and to promulgate uniform, effective minimum standards. The creation of such a commission was a recommendation in the 2003 final report of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Committee on Racial and Gender Bias in the Justice System.

The study also recommends that juvenile courts should ensure that no juvenile goes unrepresented at any stage of the juvenile court process, and that juvenile courts should presume the indigence of children for purposes of appointment of counsel.

The report recommends that the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission continue to encourage juvenile court judges to provide community leadership by participating in the county budget process to advocate for sufficient funding for indigent juvenile defense. At its meeting on November 5, 2003, the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission established a subcommittee to review the report and to develop recommendations.

Copies of the report are available at the Juvenile Law Center website at www.jlc.org.

Conference, from page 1

Delinquency and Drug Use (1985, with D. Huizinga and S. Ageton), *Multiple Problem Youth: Delinquency, Drugs and Mental Health Problems* (1989, with D. Huizinga and S. Menard), and *Violence in American Schools* (1998, with B. Hamburg and K. Williams). He is editor of "Blueprints for Violence Prevention," a series of monographs describing 11 model violence-prevention programs.

Following the keynote address, the conference offered 29 workshops detailing innovative and diverse juvenile justice programs. The workshops were well-received; it is anticipated that a number of the programs will be replicated in other jurisdictions.

The Annual Awards Dinner and Program was the featured event on Thursday evening. This program is an opportunity for Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system to show its appreciation by honoring those who work hard to make a difference in the lives of the young people who have been entrusted to their care. The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, takes great pride in honoring outstanding individuals and exemplary programs from across the Commonwealth.

The conference concluded on Friday morning with Resource Day, 2003, an annual event offering participants an opportunity to meet with representatives from 97 public and private residential service providers, informational services, and others whose products and services play an important role in the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system.

Public relations workshop a success

Community and media relations within Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system have been emerging as valuable components in the structure of modeling Balanced and Restorative Justice.

The ability of probation offices and the media to strengthen relationships and recognize not only the seriousness of juvenile delinquency but also report the positive accomplishments of probation's efforts is essential in engaging the community stakeholders and everyday citizens.

The methods to develop these bonds between media
PRJJ continued on back page



Tom Bux joins CJJT&R

The Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research is pleased to announce the addition of Tom Bux to its Communities That Care staff. He will serve as Regional Strategic Consultant to the Southeast Region, which includes Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, and Philadelphia counties.

Bux started his career in prevention as Community Mobilizer for the Bedford County Communities That Care project. In this position, he was successful in bringing various community groups to the table to work toward healthy communities. In 2003, one of Bedford County's key leaders won the "Unsung Hero" award at the 2003 CTC State Conference. Bux was instrumental in writing the State Incentive Grant for Bedford County, which was awarded the grant for three years.

A graduate of Penn State, he holds a degree in American Studies. While attending the university he played sousaphone in the Blue Band. He is a lifetime member of the Penn State Alumni Association, and president of the Alumni Blue Band Association.

Bux currently lives in Barnesville, Schuylkill County, where he and his wife run a small Christmas tree farm. In his free time, he enjoys spending time outdoors, cooking, and reading.

Staff Development News

Registrants of the “Interactive Journaling and Stages of Change” workshop, which was scheduled for the Holiday Inn Conference Center, Lehigh Valley, on December 4 & 5 were notified that we were forced to cancel this program in light of the low number of registrations. We are trying to reschedule this workshop for Harrisburg in the spring. We regret the inconvenience this cancellation may have caused.

The CJJT&R Spring 2004 Staff Development Schedule should be received no later than December 31. Registrations should be returned by January 26. We will continue to accept registrations on a **space-available basis** until the day prior to each program. Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Many programs reach capacity on or before January 26. We recommend you register as early as possible. Payment of registration fees may follow later.

The schedule may be reviewed at the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission website www.jcjc.state.pa.us. Registrations, changes, and cancellations should be made via e-mail directed to nswear@wharf.ship.edu or by fax to Nina Weaver, 717-477-1236.

The Juvenile Justice Academy for New Juvenile Probation Officers will begin February 2-6, and will conclude February 23-27 at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg West (Wanda’s), Mechanicsburg. Beginning in 2004, this hotel will be the site of all Center-sponsored Harrisburg area workshops. The hotel is located at the intersection of I-581 and Route 11, conveniently accessible from both the PA Turnpike and Interstate 81.

As we always strive to do, several new offerings will be included in this spring’s schedule, as well as repeats of several programs that filled during the last two year’s training seasons where interested participants had to be turned away. Please review the full schedule carefully and register early!

Because of several program’s non-traditional schedules, and the continuing use of five separate training sites, in order to avoid confusion, we are urging administrators and/or agency training coordinators to provide each registrant with a photocopy of the one-page program description, excerpted from the training booklet, for each program they will be attending to serve as a reminder of the program’s learning objectives, dates, times and location.

This year the Center’s spring schedule includes programs to be held between February and the end of June. After three years of experimenting, we have determined it is not feasible to sponsor training in July and August. The same number of workshops is still being made available in the February to June schedule.

If you have not received a copy of the Center’s training schedule

by January 5, and would like to review the offerings in printed form, or if you have any further questions regarding these or other staff development opportunities, please contact Susan Blackburn at 717-477-1411 or John Herb at 717-477-1185 and press 3.

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and probation offices were presented in the “Public Relations and Juvenile Justice” workshop this past October in State College. Participants included probation officers and service providers from across the Commonwealth. Participants practiced developing detailed press releases, sharing current media projects, reviewing public availability information relative to Pennsylvania’s Juvenile Act, improving public speaking skills, and learning from the experiences of fellow professionals.

The workshop was facilitated by John Cookus of the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission, Andrew DeAngelo, from Lehigh County Juvenile Probation, Alison Delsite of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Pat Yeager, from VisionQuest.

The workshop will be offered in State College as part of the Spring 2004 training catalog. For more information, please contact John Cookus at 717-705-9006 or e-mail jcookus@state.pa.us.

