

a newsletter of the

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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

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## Interstate compact legislation passed by House

**The newly proposed "Interstate Compact for Juveniles" is the result of a nationwide effort begun in 2000 as a joint initiative of the Council of State Governments, the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Association of Juvenile Compact Administrators.**

**S**B 319 (1030) passed the House (197-0) on March 31, 2004. The bill has been referred to the Senate Rules Committee. Entitled the "Interstate Compact for Juveniles Act", the passage of SB 319 (1030) would enable Pennsylvania to join this new interstate compact. The next step in the legislative process will involve a vote by the Senate on whether to concur in House amendments to the bill. An earlier version of SB 319 passed the Senate (47-0) on April 22, 2003.

SB 319 (334) was originally introduced by Sen. Stewart Greenleaf (R-Montgomery) on February 13, 2003. 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. The effective date of the proposed compact is the later of July 1, 2004, or upon the Compact's enactment into law by the 35<sup>th</sup> state.

The current "Interstate Compact on Juveniles" was created in 1955. This Compact has been severely compromised due to the incomplete adoption of three subsequent amendments to the Compact and by the individual actions of states. The passage of this legislation would repeal the current provisions of the Public Welfare Code containing the "Interstate Compact on Juveniles." This repeal would be effective when the new Compact becomes effective and operative between Pennsylvania and any other state.

Pennsylvania is one of only seven states that have adopted the original 1955 Compact and three subsequent amendments to that Compact. Consequently, there is substantial inconsistency in interpretation and application of the existing Compact. Essentially, common agreement among states concerning what types of juveniles can be sent to other states for supervision does not exist, and there is no authority to hold states accountable for violating Compact rules. The newly proposed "Interstate Compact for Juveniles" is the result of a nationwide effort begun in 2000 as a joint initiative of the Council of State Governments, the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Association of Juvenile Compact Administrators.

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 and would promulgate the rules to implement the purposes and obligations of the Compact and oversee, supervise and

*SB319, continued on page 2*

# Warren County juvenile probation adopts Healthy Communities—Healthy Youth bear

The Warren County Juvenile Probation Department has incorporated their mission of balanced and restorative justice to adopt a Healthy Communities – Healthy Youth (HC-HY) Bear Program. The Search Institute launched the HC-HY initiative in 1996. The program seeks to motivate and equip individuals, organizations, and their leaders to join together in nurturing competent, caring, and responsible children and adolescents.

The WYSE bear (WYSE stands for the four participating schools: Warren, Youngsville, Sheffield and Eisenhower) is a hollow, fiberglass mold that was decorated in school colors by participating local youth. The Warren County Juvenile Probation Department was required to identify assets or competencies where youth can be seen as productive members of their community, in the proposal submitted to HC-HY in order to adopt the bear.

Eight areas, including honesty, responsibility, planning and decision-making, resistance skills, and service to others were identified as assets. The bear represents what youth in Warren County are capable of achieving with guidance, positive reinforcement, and adult role models. It is also a means of identifying the strengths that youth involved with the probation office already possess.

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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*SB319, from page one*

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 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 resulted in amendments to SB 319 in both the House and the Senate. Prior to passing an earlier version of this legislation in April, 2003, the Senate voted to expand the membership of the State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision from nine to eleven members, seven of whom are to be appointed by the Governor. 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 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

As amended by the House Judiciary Committee, SB 319 (1030) provides that the State Council consist of 13 members, nine of whom shall be appointed by the Governor. The expanded membership is for the purpose of including a district attorney and a public defender on the Council.

As currently drafted, SB 319 (1030) provides that at least two of the members of the State Council are to be judges and at least one must be a chief juvenile probation officer, a district attorney, a public defender, a representative of victims groups and the compact administrator. In addition, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Minority Leader of the House will each appoint a member of the General Assembly to serve on the State Council.

The House Judiciary Committee also included language to ensure that all Council business would be conducted pursuant to the Commonwealth’s “open meetings” and “right-to-know” laws.

# The Juvenile Justice Enhancement Training Initiative – (Balanced and Restorative Justice)

In the first column of this series on the Juvenile Justice Training Initiative, we provided a retrospective on the statewide implementation efforts begun in 1997. That retrospective will continue in next month's edition of this newsletter. This column focuses on the most recent information and publications available to the field.

Several publications are now available through the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research (CJJT&R). Each document is the result of the hard work and commitment of many individuals, committee members, workgroup members, and staff of the Initiative. Through the focus, insights, and information provided, each one facilitates the movement toward achieving a balanced and restorative juvenile justice system.

The Court and Community Collaboration Committee, chaired by Adeline Beighley, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer from Westmoreland County, is responsible for the development and direction of the handbooks. The technical writer for the project is Mary Hunninen. Funding for the project was granted through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD).

The **"Building Bridges"** handbooks, one designed for juvenile court professionals, the other for community members, address the collaboration of local juvenile courts and communities in achieving the goals of balanced and restorative justice for their jurisdiction. The publications acquaint both groups with the juvenile justice system, setting forth its vision, and providing action steps and "how to's" for successful collaboration between the court and the community.

The use of these handbooks is encouraged throughout the Commonwealth for enhancing efforts toward engaging community members in the important work of the juvenile court.

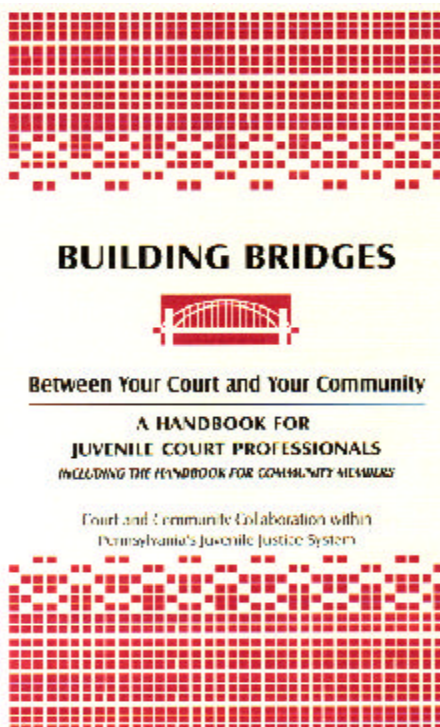
Limited copies of publications are available from CJJT&R. Phone 717-477-1411, fax 717-477-1236 or email [sblackburn@state.pa.us](mailto:sblackburn@state.pa.us)

**"Balanced and Restorative Juvenile Justice Programs and Resources in Pennsylvania"** is a guidebook to the varied balanced and restorative justice initiatives currently operating in Pennsylvania.

This 271-page publication is the 2003 version of the directory of Balanced and Restorative Juvenile Justice Programs and Resources in Pennsylvania. This edition provides an update to the original version, which was developed and published in 2000 by PCCD. It provides the reader with a snapshot of what juvenile probation departments and a variety of delinquency service providers are undertaking to achieve a balanced and restorative justice system.

The information in the directory is based on a self-reporting survey sent to all 67 juvenile probation departments and to agencies that provide delinquency services in the Commonwealth.

A summary of the feedback received through the survey describes the departments' ongoing efforts to implement the principles of balanced and restorative justice. There is a listing by county of programs and services offered in each county. Delinquency service providers were asked to participate in a similar survey/questionnaire to ascertain their implementation efforts/experiences. The results of the providers' survey follow the listing of juvenile probation departments.



## Staff development news

Several promising training opportunities exist in which space remains to accommodate additional registrants. On May 11-14 juvenile justice professionals will have the opportunity to attend the Phase II Safety Training—Control Tactics workshop that will be held in facilities at the Heiges Field House on the grounds of Shippensburg University. This training workshop will be led by Greg Young, Coordinator of Graduate Education and Research at the Center, and a seasoned Senior Instructor in Control Tactics.

Among the other top workshop prospects, we would strongly encourage that you consider attending the “Engaging the Community in Juvenile Justice” seminar on May 25 & 26 at the Holiday Inn Mechanicsburg. This challenge, new to most juvenile justice practitioners, is at the heart of the balanced and restorative justice initiative. This workshop is an opportunity to begin to learn and explore how we can begin to forge new coalitions that are essential to accomplish the larger goals that are being expected of us.

The “Circle Process for Juvenile Justice” led by Delaware County’s Donald Haldeman and Jacquelyn Bishop will be held in Mechanicsburg June 9-11. The circle process will enhance participants’ repertoire of skills by preparing them to use this powerful means of settling disputes, problem solving, and decision making. It also offers the opportunity to teach pro-social skills to juveniles and adults in the classroom and the community—and to strive toward healing in resolving case dispositions between victims and offenders.

Finally, we would urge you to consider attending “Applying the Research for Behavior Change” on June 15-16 at the Days Inn Penn State. This workshop will introduce participants to Interactive Journaling, a process intended to help equip substance using/abusing and criminogenic populations with the structure and resources they need to work toward positive change. Emphasis will be placed on the practical application of Interactive Journaling, enabling participants to immediately use what they have learned upon their return to their workplaces.

Anyone who no longer has access to a copy of the schedule may call John Herb at the Center 717-477-1185 x3 to request another copy. The entire Center schedule may be reviewed at the JCJC website [www.jcjc.state.pa.us](http://www.jcjc.state.pa.us)

## CTC state advisory board

The Communities That Care State Advisory Board has elected to change its name to the PA Association of Community-Based Prevention Coalitions (PACPC). The purpose of the group is to form a non-profit organization ‘that will promote and sustain research-based prevention strategies to increase positive youth development through networking, training, and forming collaborations in Pennsylvania’s communities.’

The CTC State Advisory Board, made up of two elected representatives from each of the state’s five CTC regions, has been meeting for several years. Since 2002, the group has been developing and beginning to implement a strategic plan that calls for the formalization of its board structure and operations, and eventually becoming a stand-alone non-profit organization. The name change, adopted by the group at its winter meeting, was suggested to reflect the fact that all community coalitions that embrace research-based programming will eventually be able to apply for membership. By-laws for the group were adopted also and presented to each of the CTC regions.

Officers were elected during the March meeting. Barbara Lombardo, Columbia County, Northeast Region, was elected president for a two year term. Other officers include: Lori Rue, Duquesne, Southwest Region, president-elect; Jessica Attardo, Bradford County, Northeast Region, recording secretary; Krista Hayward, Hanover, Central Region, Corresponding Secretary; and Joe Sarbo, Lawrence County, Northeast Region, treasurer.

Five standing committees were established with the following chairpersons appointed: Board Development, Rosemary Adiletto, Bucks County, Southeast Region; Resource Development, Tracy Snyder, Tri-Borough CTC, Southwest Region; Finance, Ed Horning, Centre County, Northwest Region; and Membership, Stephanie Scappa, Chichester CTC, Southeast Region.

While still in the early stages of development, PACPC has taken several major steps toward becoming an organization that will serve as a resource to all community-based prevention coalitions throughout the state.

For more information regarding PACPC, phone Barbara Lombardo at 570-356-3514 or e-mail [blombardo@columbiasd.k12.pa.us](mailto:blombardo@columbiasd.k12.pa.us)

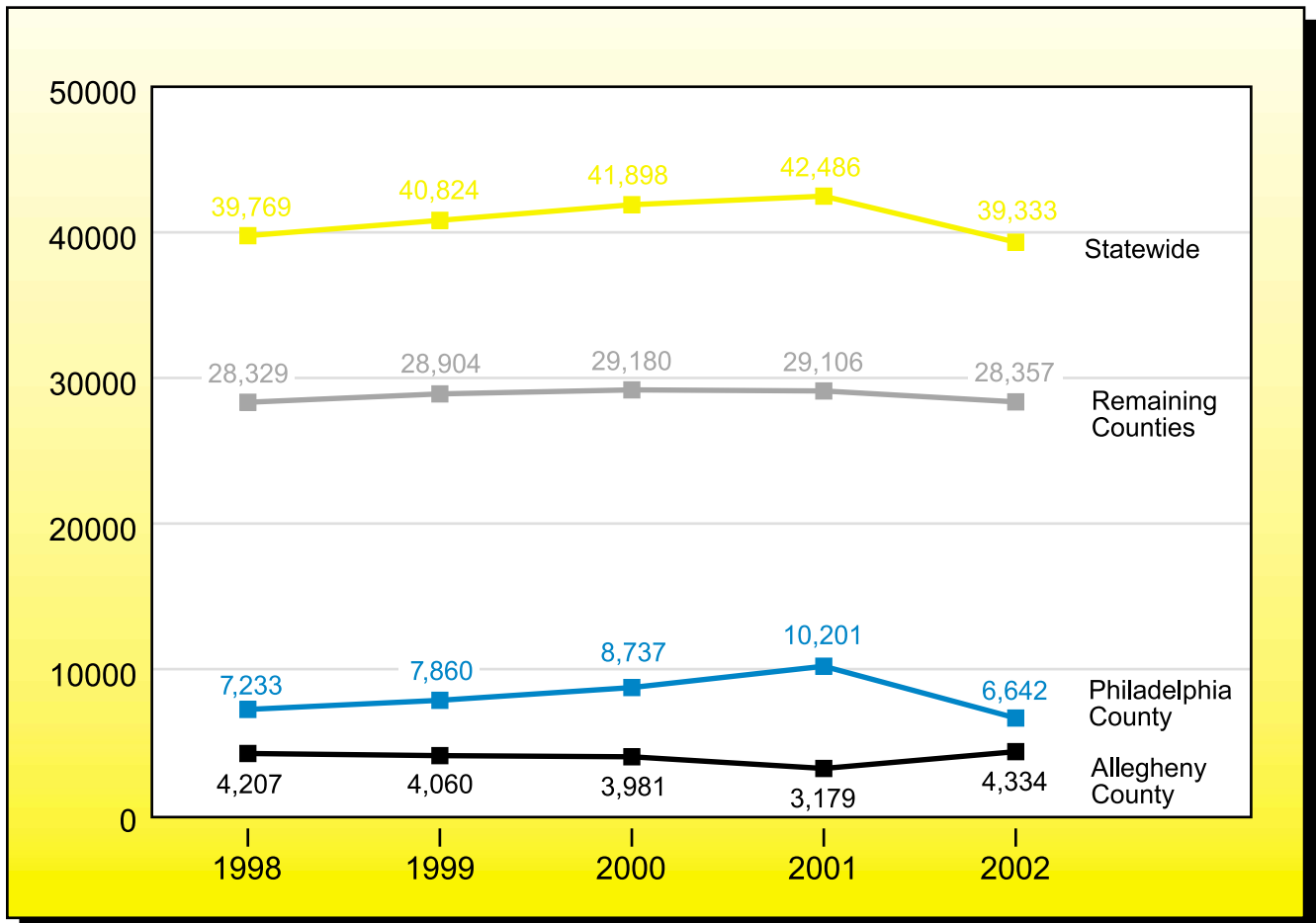
# Delinquency Dispositions, 1998 - 2002

The graph below represents the number of juvenile delinquency dispositions from 1998 to 2002, excluding disposition reviews, placement reviews, and dependency dispositions. The 39,333 delinquency dispositions in 2002 represent a 7.4 percent decrease from 2001, and a 1.1 percent decrease since 1998.

Dispositions of new charges in Philadelphia County decreased 34.9 percent between 2001 and 2002, and by 8 percent between 1998 and 2002. Dispositions of new charges in Allegheny County increased 36.3 percent between 2001 and 2002, and by 3 percent between 1998 and 2002.

The statewide decrease of 7.4 percent in delinquency dispositions from 2001 to 2002 is primarily attributable to the decrease in the number of dispositions in Philadelphia County. In counties other than Philadelphia and Allegheny, the number of new delinquency cases has remained relatively unchanged since 1998.

## DELINQUENCY DISPOSITIONS





# CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

Juvenile Detention Centers Association of Pennsylvania

2004 Annual Conference

***Juvenile Detention: A Gateway to Building Bridges, Not Walls***

**September 22-24, 2004**

**The Nittany Lion Inn, State College, Pennsylvania**

**A limited number of workshop slots are available  
for individuals or groups interested in making presentations  
at the JDCAP 2004 Annual Conference.**

**To request a form for submitting a proposal, please phone, fax, or email  
Nicole Remsburg, JDCAP, 17 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101**

**Phone 717-232-7554 Fax 717- 232-2162 E-mail [nremsburg@pacounties.org](mailto:nremsburg@pacounties.org)**

## JCJC to conduct development of new standards

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission authorized staff to work with the Standards Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers for the purpose of identifying issues that could be the subject of advisory standards governing the dissemination of information contained in juvenile court files and records.

The disparity in policy and practice that exists among counties with respect to the release of information contained in juvenile court files and records was the subject of discussion at the January 2004 Executive Committee meeting of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation officers. Access to juvenile court files and records involving both delinquent and dependent children is governed by 42 Pa. C.S. §6307 "Inspection of court files and records." Some jurisdictions permit only the "inspection" of juvenile court files and records because of the specific language of §6307, while other jurisdictions use this section to provide copies of such records. Another recurring issue is the extent to which policies differ regarding information provided to recruiters of the armed services and other government agencies.

Previously, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

wrote to chief juvenile probation officers and juvenile court judges to recommend the release of juvenile court records to the State Sexual Offenders Assessment Board (SOAB), pursuant to a court order, concerning individuals subject to assessments by the SOAB under "Megan's Law" to determine if they are "sexually violent predators." More recently, the Commission wrote to chief juvenile probation officers and juvenile court judges to recommend that courts authorize the release of juvenile court records pertaining to individuals subject to the provisions of Act 21 of 2003 by court order.

Please contact Keith Snyder at 717-787-5634, or [ksnyder@state.pa.us](mailto:ksnyder@state.pa.us), if you have any questions or want additional information.

