

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 12, Number 8

www.jcjc.state.pa.us

August 2004



Greater Harrisburg Foundation grant builds cars and kids

For more information about
The Greater Harrisburg
Foundation, write to
P.O. Box 678
Harrisburg, PA 17108.

In January of 2004 the Greater Harrisburg Foundation awarded funds to Alternative Rehabilitation Communities, Inc. for the creation of a new and exciting program. The grant funds were used to purchase a 1929 roadster pickup truck. Students from the ARC Latino Program, pictured above with their truck, took the vehicle apart, restored each piece, and then reassembled it. The project took five months to complete and was part of a vocational education program provided by ARC. The truck, which will be on display at the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Conference, November 3-5 at the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers, will be sold. The proceeds will allow ARC to purchase another vehicle to be restored by other students at ARC.

The Greater Harrisburg Foundation is a community trust serving the five-county area of Cumberland, Dauphin, Lebanon, Perry, and Franklin counties in south-central Pennsylvania. The Foundation is interested in supporting innovative activities that empower the disadvantaged or underserved and have the potential to become solutions to existing problems. Funds were provided for this project because it served minority delinquent youth and because the project can be continued in subsequent years by selling the restored vehicles.

Lebanon's "Gatekeeper" – an entry-level diversionary program that works

Five years ago, Lebanon County noted recidivism among first offenders that approached 50 percent. All involved in the system viewed this as unacceptable. As a result, a complete overhaul of Lebanon's approach to first-time offenders was implemented. The cornerstone of this new approach was the creation of the "Gatekeeper Program."

Lebanon County no longer uses the informal adjustment process. Every first-time offender is required to meet with a juvenile probation intake officer and then attend a court proceeding. For most non-violent first offenders, the journey through the juvenile system begins with a court proceeding where the offender is formally admitted to the Gatekeeper Program by the juvenile court judge. The judge speaks to all Gatekeeper applicants and their families about the importance of taking advantage of the program.

Gatekeeper Panels consist of community volunteers who live in the same area as the juvenile's family. These panels receive training and are then tasked with the responsibility to develop and implement community-based programming for each juvenile. The Gatekeeper Coordinator (an employee of the juvenile probation office) attends all meetings to serve as resource person and facilitator. There are up to eight members on each Gatekeeper Panel; five are required as a "quorum."

continued on page 4



Stephen Bishop is new Assistant Training Director

The Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research is pleased to announce the addition of Stephen Bishop to its staff as the new Assistant Director of Training. He will become a familiar presence at Center-sponsored workshops, helping to organize and administer every aspect of the Center's training program. In doing so he will relieve Susan Blackburn from much of these training-related duties, allowing her to refocus her full energies on the Balanced and Restorative Justice Initiative and the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement grant.

Bishop was supervisor of the Harrisburg school-based unit for Dauphin County juvenile probation. He worked in the Dauphin County probation department in a number of areas, beginning his career there in 1998. Bishop has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology/Pre-Law from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and is a 2001 graduate of the JCJC-sponsored Master's Degree program at Shippensburg University.

He serves as a member of the JCJC Awards Committee and is a member of the Dauphin County Family Group Conferencing Implementation Team. Bishop has been active with a variety of community groups, including serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the Urban League of Metropolitan Harrisburg and Project Youth 2000.

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.

Greg Young is the editor. Our address is CJJT&R, Shippensburg University, 1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299. (gyoung@state.pa.us)

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)

Collaboration is key within the Lehigh County Youth Crime and Violence Task Force

reprinted with permission of Lehigh County

The juvenile probation department of Lehigh County has developed a county-wide collaborative approach to combat juvenile crime. The Lehigh County Youth Crime and Violence Task Force, currently under the leadership of the director of human services, Grayson McNair, has been meeting monthly since 1996 to address issues related to juvenile crime in the community.

The task force was formed following the completion of a week-long conference attended by county and civic officials and provided by the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention. During the conference, methods and tactics to effectively address gang-related issues and work with youth categorized as serious habitual offenders were presented. The task force includes judges, local police departments, county and federal probation, schools, the Office of Children and Youth, community members, detention personnel, medical professionals, and many others.

In January, 2001, the juvenile probation department, with the assistance of the Youth Crime and Violence Task Force, developed the Serious Habitual Offender Comprehensive Action Plan (SHOCAP), the first in the state of Pennsylvania. This initiative identifies those “serious habitual offenders” most in need of supervision through a grading selection process based on offenses and adjudications of delinquency.

In 2002, the department established Operation Night Light. Modeled after Boston’s nationally recognized Night Light Program, it includes probation and police teams making client contacts in the community, as well as arranging for counseling and other treatment services through community agencies. The community soon began to notice the increased presence of probation in their neighborhoods, and this team approach allowed for increased communication between probation officers and police officers. The partnership has encouraged involvement with other community services and events. Probation officers have been visible at playgrounds, fairs, school activities, crime watch meetings, etc. The objective of this enhanced interaction, communication, and contact is to reduce crime and crime-related costs for the community.

In October, 2003, the juvenile probation department was chosen by federal officials to participate in an expansion of Operation Night Light. Project Safe Neighborhood is a federally funded program that allows for the federal prosecution of individuals involved with weapon offenses or other offenses in which a weapon was present. The Project Safe Neighborhood initiative also provided funding to address juvenile issues with the aid of local law enforcement. With the support of the Lehigh County District Attorney, Project Safe Neighborhood was designated to target high-risk clients such as drug dealers, those charged with weapon offenses, and those affiliated with gangs.

While Operation Night Light was used as a curfew-checking initiative, Project Safe Neighborhood is mandated to increase supervision and services. The police departments from Allentown, Bethlehem, Emmaus, South Whitehall, Whitehall, Catasauqua, Upper Saucon, and Salisbury, teamed with probation officers, work closely to enforce accountability as well as address the need for community safety. This partnership is designed to establish the links between the police and probation departments to achieve a reduction in criminal activity by increasing the supervision of offenders and compliance with conditions of probation.

Staff development news

We would draw your attention to the several promising training opportunities in this fall’s CJJT&R schedule where space remains to accommodate additional registrants. Among the top prospects, we would strongly encourage that you consider attending training event in Harrisburg on October 6-7 entitled “Exploring and Honoring Cultural Diversity.” This program will be presented by a trainer new to the Center’s program. Dale R. Landry is the CEO of Village Architects, Inc. a Florida-based consortium of multi-disciplinary professionals who work with communities to overcome the challenges of community based crime. His presentation will blend restorative justice principles with the issues of cultural competence.

continued on page 4

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Governor's Office PROCLAMATION

PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK October 3-9, 2004

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system is charged with providing programs of supervision, care, and rehabilitation, and providing balanced attention to the protection of our communities, the imposition of accountability for offenses committed by juveniles, and the development of competencies to enable children within the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system to become responsible and productive members of their communities; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system is based on the principles of restorative justice, which give priority to repairing the harm done to crime victims and communities, and which define offender accountability in terms of assuming responsibility and taking action to repair harm; and

WHEREAS, the mission is premised on the belief that crime victims, communities, and juvenile offenders must all be regarded as clients of the juvenile justice system; and

WHEREAS, community protection refers to the fundamental right of all Pennsylvanians to be and feel safe from crime. Victim restoration emphasizes that crime can forever change its victims and that restoration programs should seek to restore crime victims, to the greatest extent possible, to their pre-crime status. Youth redemption embodies the belief that the vast majority of juvenile offenders are capable of change and have strength upon which treatment services can build; and

WHEREAS, all of the services designed and implemented to achieve this mission and all hearings and decisions under Pennsylvania's Juvenile Act must be provided in a fair and unbiased manner; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee has adopted the following mission statement for Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system: "Juvenile Justice: Community Protection; Victim Restoration; Youth Redemption."

THEREFORE, In special recognition of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system and their work with juvenile offenders, crime victims, and communities, I, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim October 3-9, 2004 as PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK in the Commonwealth.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this twenty-ninth day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and four, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

Edward G. Rendell

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

Please PHOTOCOPY this form as needed for each registrant.
ALL information must be completed and TYPED OR CLEARLY PRINTED.

Due to the large volume of attendees,
REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY PHONE OR FAX.

Name _____ Title _____
Agency _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Complete CONFERENCE PACKAGE (Nov. 3 - 5) | \$240 | (\$280)* |
| | Includes: Professional Caucuses, Youth Awards Program & Dinner and Opening Night Reception (Nov. 3); Continental Breakfast, Plenary Session, "A Body in Motion," Lunch, Workshops, Reception, and Awards Program & Dinner (Nov. 5); Continental Breakfast & Resource Day (Nov. 6) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Professional Caucuses (Nov. 3) | Ø | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Youth Awards Program & Dinner (Nov. 3) | \$50 | (\$60)* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Opening Night Reception (Nov. 3) | Ø | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Continental Breakfast, Plenary Session, "A Body in Motion," Lunch & Workshops (Nov. 4) | \$100 | (\$110)* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Reception and Awards Program & Dinner (Nov. 4) | \$60 | (\$70)* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Continental Breakfast & Resource Day (Nov. 5) | \$30 | (\$40)* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I prefer vegetarian meals. | GRAND TOTAL | \$ _____ |

* Registration forms must be postmarked on or before **OCTOBER 8, 2004** to receive the early registration rate.

✍ Checks should be made payable to: PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers (Federal ID# 23-2498588)

✉ Registration form and payment should be mailed to:
Juvenile Court Judges' Commission
401 Finance Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0018

Agencies may submit one check for all staff attending.
Indicate if payment is enclosed or will be sent separately.

- Payment Enclosed
 Payment will be sent separately
(Please include a list of names & agency affiliation with check.)

⚙ Lodging reservations at the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers must be made by 9/28/04 to receive the negotiated group rate of \$94 a night (single/double/triple/quad). Call (717) 233-6000 and identify yourself with the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Conference in Harrisburg, PA. The hotel will confirm your reservation. Check-in time is 3 p.m.; check-out is noon. After 10/1/04, reservations will be accepted on a room-availability basis at the prevailing rate. Conference overflow hotels are the Crowne Plaza on Market Square (717) 234-5021 and the Radisson Penn Harris, in Camp Hill, (717) 763-7117 (identify yourself with the JCJC Conference).

Requests for registration fee refunds for all or part of the Annual Training & Awards Program must be sent in writing to the JCJC at the above address and be postmarked by 10/22/04. Conference "no-shows" who have not prepaid will be invoiced.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION: (717) 787-6910

Staff development, continued from page 3

Space also remains in the regional offering "Solution-oriented Counseling Techniques" in the Pittsburgh area (Sheraton, Mars) on October 13-14 and in the Allentown area on October 21-22. This skill-building program offers the opportunity to learn specific, useful techniques that focus on solutions rather than problems. It is a model that is well suited to the brief client interactions that probation officers are often limited to with their probationers. The strategies are easy to learn and are effective even with our most resistant offenders. This practical approach offers the promise of more focused, effective interventions, while reducing probation officers' burnout. These workshops will be taught by Barbara Ulmer who herself uses these techniques in her work with the Lancaster County Juvenile Probation Department.

As attention begins to be refocused on the importance of aftercare services, nationally recognized trainer and consultant Anne Seymour will co-present "The Three Rs of re-entry: Reparation, Relationships, and Responsibility" along with Susan Blackburn of the CJJT&R staff. If you are concerned with making the most of your aftercare services, you should not miss this opportunity. This program will be held in the Harrisburg area also on October 21-22.

Stan Walters returns to the Center's training agenda to present his "Kinesic Interviewing: Level 3" in State College on October 27-29. For those who have completed his first and second level workshops and wish to delve deeper into this model, this is your chance. This may be the last opportunity to attend the Level 3 program, sponsored by the Center, for several years.

Finally, we would encourage you to consider "Group Dynamics: Basic Skill Development" which is being sponsored in State College, at the Days Inn Penn State on November 17-18 and in the Harrisburg area on November 30 - December 1. This program will provide a solid foundation on group work process and prepare participants to facilitate both task and treatment groups. The skills learned will be useful in both working with adolescent clients in groups, as well as becoming a more effective team member/leader with groups of professionals working on projects in a group. These workshops will be led by Dr. Darla Henry, a social worker, trainer, and consultant with more than 30 years experience with children and adolescents. Dr. Henry taught has taught graduate courses in the Shippensburg University Graduate Education Program.

"Gatekeeper", from page 2

Two hours are allotted by each panel to hear a particular case. Police officers are invited to appear and describe the criminal behavior and provide background information to the panel. If an officer is unavailable, the Gatekeeper Coordinator relays information she has gotten from the officer to the panel. Time is allocated for the panel to meet independently with the juvenile's parents and with the juvenile. Based upon all information presented, the Gatekeeper Panel develops a written "contract."

Periodic review hearings are conducted by the Gatekeeper Panel to evaluate the juvenile's progress. Review hearings take place as necessary. Once a juvenile completes all provisions of his/her contract, a graduation hearing is conducted. At this hearing, the panel congratulates the juvenile and a written report is sent to the juvenile court judge. The judge then writes a letter to each juvenile and formally dismisses charges.

Gatekeeper Panels are given great latitude to develop individualized programs for each juvenile. Community service is imposed in nearly every case. During 2002 and 2003, more than 3,500 hours of community service were completed by Gatekeeper participants. The payment of restitution by juveniles (as opposed to their parents) is also emphasized. During 2002 and 2003, more than \$3,750 in restitution was collected from Gatekeeper participants.

The Gatekeeper Program has proved to be extraordinarily successful. Of the 196 juveniles who have graduated from the Gatekeeper Program since its inception in 2000, only 37 have committed another criminal offense. This represents a recidivism rate of only 18 percent. Of these repeat offenders, only 8 (5 percent) committed felonies. As collateral benefit, the program has helped shape community perception of young people. Everyone in our county is aware of problems caused by juveniles, as those problems are evident in our newspapers. It is easy for adults to forget the mistakes of their own youth and become cynical about teenagers. Through the Gatekeeper Program, our juveniles work on a hands-on basis with community panel members and many community volunteer organizations. In turn, these members of the community get to see that most of these juveniles are "good kids who made a mistake."

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

August has brought a great deal of activity to the Juvenile Justice Enhancement Initiative. Several committees and workgroups have met to advance the goals of balanced and restorative justice in Pennsylvania. The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission consultants have wrapped up the annual court service visits and a review of the organizational assessments will inform the planning around future training and technical assistance.

Victims' Services

The Victims Services Committee, chaired by Thomas Schuster, Chief Probation Officer for Bradford County, met in Harrisburg on August 16. The committee reviewed a number of agenda items related to victims' services in the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system. Ongoing training on crime victims' issues is a top priority. Members are discussing the broader use of the *"Victim/Community Awareness: An Orientation for Juveniles"* curriculum. Anyone interested in working on the various tasks associated with the continuous enhancement of the juvenile crime victims' voice in the juvenile justice process may telephone Thomas Schuster at 570-265-1706.

Aftercare Services

Efforts to address the issue of aftercare services in the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system are receiving a lot of attention in the Commonwealth. A coordinated strategy for improving aftercare services is being led by the Juvenile Law Center (JLC) and will be aligned with aftercare reform work being planned by the Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Committee (JJJPC) of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD).

PCCD has announced the availability of \$1.8 million over three years in federal Drug Control and System Improvement (DSCI) grant funds to support the development of model aftercare approaches, which will inform the development of statewide training on the model approaches. The goals of balanced and restorative justice are being integrated in all aspects of the strategy. Additional information on this announcement can be found at PCCD's website (www.pccd.state.pa.us).

Balanced and Restorative Justice Outcomes

The Balanced and Restorative Justice Performance Measures Users Group was convened for a

workshop on August 23 & 24. The National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) convened this workshop for counties currently using the NCJJ Case Closing Database. Representatives from 10 of the counties using this method to measure balanced and restorative justice-related outcome measures attended the workshop. The group reviewed the database elements with a particular eye toward advancing the performance measures for a balanced and restorative juvenile justice system. It is anticipated that many additional counties will opt to use the Microsoft Access Case Closing database along with the Juvenile Case Management System.

Pennsylvania Report Card

Pennsylvania is leading the nation in the collection and measurement of juvenile justice outcomes, based on the articulated goals of balanced and restorative justice and clearly defined outcomes. The aggregate quarterly report of juvenile justice outcomes for juvenile offenders in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been posted on the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission website (www.jcjc.state.pa.us). The report covers the period from January 1, 2004, through March 31, 2004. The report reflects outcomes of juvenile offenders whose cases were closed during the report period and who have received a period of supervision from a county juvenile probation department.

"What gets measured gets done."

"If you do not measure results, you can not tell success from failure."

Osbourne & Gaebler



1. create a positive connection between the students and their community;
2. provide an alternative approach to academic achievement;
3. build students' skills and self-esteem; and,
4. foster student accountability and guidance outside the school setting.

Six months into the program, the students have not only achieved these goals, they have exceeded all expectations!

Bethesda Alternative Education Program students: caring for community

by: Jennifer Napp, Bethesda Treatment and Research Specialist

When students at the Bethesda Day Treatment Center were challenged to make a difference in their community, they responded by volunteering at two local agencies. Their efforts at the Bloomsburg Salvation Army and Columbia County Chapter of Trout Unlimited are helping these organizations achieve their missions while teaching the students some valuable life lessons.

On a weekly basis, three to six youths, along with Bethesda staff members, report to the Salvation Army store in Bloomsburg. The team sorts the store's various donations and helps fold clothing. These same students organized a bag drive, during which they enlisted family and friends to donate to the Salvation Army. The youths plan to expand their efforts to improve the overall appearance of the store.

Other students report to stream sites throughout Columbia County, including the Fishing Creek watershed, to clean up litter. They are learning the impact conserving, protecting, and restoring natural resources has in their own community, while they improve the appearance of the area.

Both agencies are using the efforts of Bethesda students to expand the positive impression they make on the town of Bloomsburg and on all of Columbia County. The challenge is coming full circle by having an equally positive impact on the students involved. Four initial goals were set for the students:

