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Reporting juvenile justice system outcomes

On January 1, 2004, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) initiated a new program to collect juvenile justice system outcome data from counties. The information is aggregate data regarding all juveniles whose cases are closed on or after January 1, 2004 and who have received a period of juvenile probation department supervision as a result of adjudication of delinquency or a pre-adjudication disposition.

This initiative is being undertaken to comply with directives received from the Governor's Policy Office and Budget Office. All state agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction have been directed to develop performance measures that measure both qualitative and quantitative outcomes resulting from program activities.

The specific data elements that are required to be reported were developed by a committee of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers and JCJC staff, and are based on the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) Intermediate Outcomes Project. The measures are intended to quantify the Balanced and Restorative Justice goals of community protection, accountability, and competency development. Two available options for collecting and reporting the data to the JCJC are the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS) and the NCJJ Access Database reports. Submission of this data to JCJC is a condition of participation in the JCJC Grant-In-Aid Program.

Although the reporting of the outcome data is a new undertaking for county juvenile probation departments, the committee decided that the data should be limited to information already collected by most counties and it should be relevant to juvenile probation officers. Information will be collected on: the number and percent of juveniles who complete juvenile court supervision without a new offense, the number and percent of juveniles who complete their restitution and community service obligations, and the number and percent of juveniles who develop education and employment competencies.

A statewide training on the outcome measures, definitions, and reporting requirements was held on December 11, 2003, and was available to all Chief Juvenile Probation Officers and their design-

Outcomes, continued on page 2

Outcomes, from page one

nated staff. The two previously referenced methods for collecting and reporting the data were demonstrated at the meeting. Counties using the PaJCMS will receive updates for the software application to facilitate the collection and reporting of the data. Those counties that wish to use the NCJJ Access Database should contact Doug Thomas, thomas@ncjj.org, National Center for Juvenile Justice.

In addition to its use for program evaluation and planning at the state level the data may be useful to local jurisdictions for internal evaluation of county juvenile justice system, public relations, needs based budgeting, resource allocation, and staff development.

The data will be reported quarterly to the JCJC via a standardized Outcome Measures Report form developed by the JCJC. The first report is to be submitted by April 10, 2004, with subsequent reports to be submitted by the 10th day of July, October, January, and April. Hard copies of the reporting instrument, the data definitions, and a juvenile case closing form have been mailed to all Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, and also may be downloaded from the Publications and Forms section of the JCJC website, <http://www.jcjc.state.pa.us>.

Questions concerning this project should be directed to the county-assigned JCJC Consultant. Others should contact Thomas P. Green, Director of Administration and Grant Programs, 717-705-6596, tgreen@state.pa.us.

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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Rich Brunner receives Neal Willemse Award

Rich Brunner, Program Specialist/Training Manager, Bureau of State Children and Youth Programs was awarded the Neal Willemse Award for Individual service to the Juvenile Justice Trainers Association (JJTA) for the year 2003. This award is presented annually to a member of the JJTA for their contributions to the organization, its membership and the field of juvenile justice training. The Juvenile Justice Trainers Association is an organization devoted to the development and advancement of a specialized system of education and training for juvenile justice professionals.

Rich Brunner has been a member of JJTA since 1996. In that short time he made many contributions to the organization. He has served on the Board of Directors for the past 4 years. In 2002 he was elected the organization's vice-president He has chaired the awards committee and tirelessly sought out nominations from the field so that juvenile justice practitioners could be recognized for the excellent and valued work they provide.

Brunner was a member of the planning committee for the 7th Joint Conference on Juvenile Services, October 2001, held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and co-hosted the JJTA 2003 spring conference in Harrisburg. Along with all the official things he has done, Brunner has been a great help to individual JJTA members. Whenever something is asked for, he readily contributes, whether it be a lesson plan, advice, his ideas, or experiences. He has worked tirelessly to improve the training of youth workers in Pennsylvania and believes that training is one of the best ways to ensure quality services to the residents of our programs, the staff and the community.

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Columbia County Juvenile Probation K9 Unit

by: Deputy Chief/K9 Handler, Donald Coleman

With drug problems involving juveniles on the rise in Columbia County, the juvenile probation department has decided to add a different type of officer to its staff. Daisy, a 3½-year-old purebred bloodhound, hopefully, will be an effective tool in the ongoing fight against drugs in the communities of Columbia County. This is the first canine unit to be used in a juvenile probation department in Pennsylvania. Donald Coleman, Deputy Chief and canine handler, will be in charge of this new venture. Daisy is being used to help monitor juvenile and adult offenders and their suspected drug use while under the supervision of Columbia County adult and juvenile probation departments. Hopefully, with Daisy's incredible nose at the disposal of both the adult and juvenile probation departments, offenders in Columbia County can modify their behaviors relating to the use of drugs and not make the same poor choices they did in the past.

Daisy was born in Arkansas in August, 2000. She was relocated through four different living situations and ended up at an American Kennel Club (AKC) Registered Bloodhound Rescue site in Pittsburgh. Daisy was acquired through the Mid-Atlantic Bloodhound Rescue in March of 2002. She completed a ten-week obedience school with instructor Eileen Drummond, a K9 Obedience Instructor/Therapy Dog certifying agent. After completing that training course she was tested and certified a "Canine Good Citizen" and also a therapy dog.

In August of 2002, Daisy and Deputy Chief Coleman began Tracking & Passive Narcotics training with instructor Edward Burell of Rogue K9, Inc. After many long hours of training, Daisy was given tests on tracking and passive narcotics detection by a certifying agent for the National Narcotics Detector Dogs Association. She was certified in both disciplines on March 30, 2003. In addition to these certifications, Daisy is a probationary member of the National Police Bloodhound Association.

Daisy makes appearances promoting drug-abuse prevention throughout the school districts and community organizations within Columbia County that provide services to juveniles. Daisy and Deputy Chief Coleman have teamed up with the Scott Township Police Department's anti-abduction program, "KID ESCAPE" and in the near future will

be conducting a drug-prevention program for children in kindergarten through third grade called "Super Puppy." The Columbia County Juvenile and Adult Probation Departments hope that by using the talents of this unique team in the community they will be able to curb the impact that drugs have on their offenders and the community. Daisy has already become a huge hit throughout the community and with school children.

This innovative program has been completely funded through contributions from the community, totaling approximately \$4,600. The Columbia County Juvenile and Adult Probation Departments would like to thank the private businesses, community agencies, clubs and individuals, especially the Coleman family, who contributed time and donated money to this program. Without the support of the community this program would not have been possible.

Balanced and Restorative Justice articles needed

The next Special Edition Newsletter on Juvenile Justice will focus on victim involvement and services in the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice system. Articles for the special edition may be sent to the attention of Andrew J. DeAngelo, Deputy Chief, Lehigh County Juvenile Probation Department, 455 W. Hamilton St. Allentown, PA 18101-1614 or e-mailed to: andrewdeangelo@lehighcounty.org. Articles should be no more than 800 words, and pictures may also be submitted. All articles are subject to review by the Editorial Committee of the Special Edition Newsletter.



BINGO! Luzerne County Community Pride Program

As an outgrowth of the juvenile probation office's balance and restorative justice initiatives, the Community Pride Program was built upon the success of an adult community service program, with a twist. In an attempt to promote an appreciation for the challenges of being a senior citizen, the Community Pride Program has organized an intergeneration bingo program. With the assistance of Catholic Social Services of Wyoming Valley, each juvenile participates in a citizenship and responsibilities program.

Located in various apartment buildings in the Wilkes-Barre area, the juvenile community service participants organize and set up the bingo games, call the numbers, check the winners' cards, serve refreshments, manage the prizes, and clean up when the evening is over. Each session lasts about three hours and is staffed by four or five juveniles and two site supervisors. As the holiday season approached, the juveniles have also worked with the senior residents to prepare greeting cards for all of the tenants of their buildings.

Through the Community Pride Program, the juvenile offenders have learned to offer respect and consideration to a group who was once young, and the seniors have come to appreciate the challenges of what it means to be young in this day and age.

