

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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Congratulations to the class of 2004 of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission-sponsored Weekend Master's Degree Program at Shippensburg University. Commencement ceremonies were held at Seth Grove Stadium on Saturday, May 8, 2004. The 16 members of this year's class, pictured above, are listed at the right.

Kimmy Mulik was named the Graduate Student of the Year. She will receive the Dr. Anthony F. Ceddia Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Juvenile Justice at the Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice in November, 2004.

Congratulations are extended also to the recent graduates from the JCJC-sponsored Weekend Master's Degree Program at Mercyhurst College. Ten probation officers have completed their degree requirements within the past year. June 2003, **Anna Straughn** (Mercer), and **Mark Vargo** (Crawford); December 2003, **Robert Daugherty** (Venango), **Daniel Dudenhoefer** (Erie), **Derek Miller** (Crawford), **Brandi Niedzielski** (Erie), and **Christopher Thompson** (Mercer); May 2004, **Jayme Hartman** (Mercer), **Julie Strickenberger** (Erie), and **Brian Swavey** (Crawford).

On behalf of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and the faculties at Shippensburg University and Mercyhurst College, we offer our congratulations on these students' outstanding achievements and wish them all the very best in their careers.

JCJC Weekend Master's Degree Program graduates

James Allardyce, Luzerne
Todd Breinich, Impact
Project

J. Drew Bucher, Adams
John Fiscante, Allegheny
William Holt, Allegheny
Jed Johnson, Montgomery
Kimberly Lukens, Mont-
gomery

Kimmy Mulik, Carbon
Jeffrey Murphy, Lehigh
Shad Myers, Bucks County
Detention
Rebecca Nudelman,
VisionQuest

Charles Root, Montgomery
Scott Shea, Cumberland
Amy Swigart, Butler
Jason Tumelty, Bucks
County Detention
Lisa Winheld, Carbon

Chester County youth “Shop With A Cop” at Wal-Mart

The Coatesville Police Department, along with Chester County Juvenile Probation and other community agencies, provided 50 youth with a Christmas surprise this past holiday season. After learning about the nationwide “Shop With A Cop” Program, Sgt. Tony Sparano brought the idea to the Police Athletic League Board.

Chester County juvenile probation officers solicited donations from local businesses; one officer spent his day as Santa Claus. Youth were identified for the program by Chester County Juvenile Probation, the Crime Victim’s Agency of Chester County, Children, Youth and Families, the Coatesville Area Senior Center, and local churches and schools.

The youth chose gifts at the Parkesburg Wal-Mart, accompanied by members of the Coatesville Police Department. Wal-Mart also donated \$1,000, bringing the amount raised to more than \$5,000, which equated to approximately \$100 per child. After the shopping trip, the children returned to the Coatesville Senior Center for a luncheon with their families.

Juveniles under the supervision of the Chester County Juvenile Court earned community service hours while enjoying the holiday spirit. Many of the juveniles helped set up the luncheon for the youth and their families, wrapped presents, cared for the younger children and cleaned up following the event.

For more information, call Chester County Supervisor Diana Munson, at 610- 344-6649.

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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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)

JCJC Standards Governing Searches of the Person and Property of Children by Juvenile Probation Officers

The Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission (JCJC) Standards Governing Searches of the Person and Property of Children by Juvenile Probation Officers were published in *The Pennsylvania Bulletin* as a JCJC Statement of Policy on May 15, 2004. (34 Pa.B. 2573). The Statement of Policy became effective when it was published in *The Pennsylvania Bulletin*; it contains provisions relating to the authority to search, personal searches, property searches, written reports, agency protocols, and training.

The JCJC developed these Standards pursuant to Act 215 of 2002 [SB 1452 (2439)], which included amendments to §6304 “Powers and duties of probation officers” to add a new §6304(a.1) “Authority to search.” The statute also required that... “The Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission shall develop Best Practice Standards regarding searches of the person and property of children in order to implement the addition of 42 Pa. C.S. §6304(a.1).”

The language in Act 215 of 2002 was adapted from that contained in Act 35 of Special Session No. 1 of 1995, in conformance with the ruling of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in *Commonwealth v. Pickron*, 545 Pa. 241, 634 A.2d 1093 (1993). In *Pickron*, the Supreme Court held that the Fourth Amendment prohibits the warrantless search of a probationer’s or parolee’s residence, based upon reasonable suspicion, without the consent of the owner or a statutory or regulatory framework governing the search.

Training on the legal requirements of searches, the JCJC Statement of Policy, the physical and verbal techniques involved in both personal and property searches, and agency protocols for conducting searches and seizures will occur at the Days Inn Penn State, State College, on **October 27, 2004**. Registration materials for this training session will be included in the fall training program announcement distributed by the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research.

Please contact Keith Snyder, 717-787-5634, or ksnyder@state.pa.us if you have any questions or need additional information.

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

Cognitive probation in Pennsylvania by Ed Robbins, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Lycoming County.

Pennsylvania was initially exposed to cognitive probation through training offered at the Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice in November, 2002, when Mark Carey, a well-known restorative justice consultant, was the featured trainer. Cognitive probation and cognitive/behavioral groups have shown promise in reducing juvenile delinquency and instilling competencies to promote individual change. Due to the interest this training generated, the Balanced and Restorative Justice Implementation Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers suggested a workgroup be formed to investigate curriculums and programs, determine state-wide interest, broker other training opportunities, and promote the implementation of cognitive/behavioral groups with juvenile probation offices and providers.

Ed Robbins, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in Lycoming County, volunteered to be chairperson and gathered juvenile probation officers, providers, and other interested professionals to assist. The Cognitive Probation Workgroup's mission is to investigate cognitive/behavioral curricula and programs, broker training opportunities, and promote the acceptance of cognitive probation supervision practices in juvenile probation offices across the Commonwealth. Cognitive/behavior groups are designed to probe, examine, and confront the thought processes that precede behavior.

The goal of cognitive probation is to reshape thinking patterns, thereby leading to appropriate behavior. Research on these techniques, groups, and curricula has led to results that show promise for reducing delinquency and diminishing inappropriate behavior. Some common examples of cognitive/behavioral groups include life skills education, Breaking Barriers, anger management training, cognitive restructuring groups, multi-systemic therapy, and functional family therapy. It is our workgroup's hope that this promising approach can be used on a regular basis as we case-manage our clients.

The workgroup has begun to fulfill its mission by attempting to understand the needs in Pennsylvania, educate professionals on existing programs, and

compile a comprehensive list of programs and curricula. Specific accomplishments thus far include an Abraxas Experience in September, 2003, at Cornell Abraxas 1 in Marienville. The experience showcased a cognitive-behavioral curriculum and provided discussion which centered on its effectiveness. Gordon Graham, author of the "Breaking Barriers" program, was the keynote speaker and trainer. He also addressed the approximately 260 males receiving treatment at the Abraxas facility.

The Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers and providers issued a survey to interested parties which was intended to help the workgroup pinpoint what's being used, gauge the system's interest, and determine the future role of the Cognitive Probation Workgroup. Lycoming County facilitated a 90-minute presentation/workshop at the Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice in November, 2003. Workgroup members are developing a bibliography and a library of programs and curricula pertaining to cognitive probation.

The workgroup continues to meet on a quarterly basis. Future efforts will include training for juvenile probation officers and provider staff which will enable them to implement cognitive/behavioral groups, a comprehensive reference library categorized by target group that is stakeholder specific, tracking and analysis of outcomes of cognitive probation groups and curriculums currently in operation, and developing access to funding opportunities to implement the goals and objectives.

If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Ed Robbins at 570-327-2408 or e-mail ed.robbs@lyco.org

Northwest Pennsylvania Region Communities That Care® holds second annual recognition banquet



Mercer County CTC Board Chairman Brian Bronson presents awards for Outstanding Community Service to Greenville community members Ginny Richardson and Susan Kovacik at the second annual recognition banquet.

The Northwest Pennsylvania Region CTC® held its second annual recognition banquet on May 20 in Clarion. The event recognizes individuals and agencies who do exceptional work in the prevention of youth behavior problems in their communities. Award winners were nominated by members of their own communities; recipients include program directors, business owners, school board members and administrators, volunteers, law enforcement officers, and private citizens.

The following received awards for Outstanding Community Service: Brent Armstrong and Darrin Kemper, Cameron County; Ed Horning, Centre County; Don Lewis, Beverly Johnson, and Donna Hartley, Clarion County; Renee Bearse, Erie County; Perseus House/ Erie School District-PATHS Program, Erie County; Pam Cousins and Carl Loesfler-Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program of Elk County; Pat Micco, Dee Welker, Andrew Tommelleo, and Loretta Spielvogel, Lawrence County; Kim Alfieri, Terry Stanley, and Kelly Zetwick, McKean County; Ginny Richardson and Susan Kovacik, Mercer County; the Potter County Collaborative Board of Directors; Terry Williams, Warren County; and Jayne Romero, of Venango County's "Focus On Our Future".

Also receiving special recognition for Outstanding Community Service were Gateway Health Plan's PA Northwest Region, the Erie Weed & Seed Program, and Regional Strategic Consultant Joe Markiewicz of the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Re-

search (CJJT&R).

The keynote speaker was James E. Anderson, Executive Director of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. Anderson was one of several key individuals instrumental in bringing the CTC® model to Pennsylvania in 1994. He was honored for his efforts with a plaque from the northwest region. Other guests included Tara Dechert from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency, Amy Zarefoss Bailey, Director of Communities That Care®, CJJT&R; and Elaine Surma, Senior Supervisory Narcotics Agent, United States Attorney General's Office.

The northwest CTC® region includes the following counties: Armstrong, Butler, Cameron, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Erie, Elk, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Venango and Warren. Communities That Care® currently operates in 122 sites in 57 counties in Pennsylvania. It is a research-based prevention model designed to aid communities in reducing risk factors that contribute to youth behavior problems, while strengthening community protective factors. In Pennsylvania, CTC® communities collaborate with other initiatives including America's Promise, Family Service System Reform (FSSR), Weed & Seed, the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP), and many other state and local programs.

For more information about the Northwest Region's Communities That Care efforts, please call Joe Markiewicz at 814-734-3565; email markiewiczjoe@msn.com.

McCalpin resigns as CJJT&R director

Michael McCalpin resigned as the director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research on May 19, 2004. He accepted a position as vice-president with Adelphi Village, which is based in Latrobe.

McCalpin came to the Center in May 2000, after a long and distinguished career in Blair County where he held the positions of Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Director of Costs & Fines, and Administra-

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2004 annual Venango County Focus On Our Future Forum

by Susan M. Goss, Juvenile Community Liaison Officer

Each spring brings with it a blossoming of new life and new ideas. On Friday, April 23, at Cross Creek Resort, the 11th Annual Focus On Our Future Forum was held – with a record breaking 200 participants. Each year, this forum is held to assess Venango County's needs in relation to children, youth, and families.

With the increasing problems of crime and poverty and the risk factors present to our youth, the forum's theme was "Building Systems That Care: What Works and What Doesn't Work." Donald Meichenbaum, Ph.D., Research Director for the Melissa Institute for Violence Prevention and Treatment for Victims of Violence in Miami, Florida, was the keynote speaker.

Dr. Meichenbaum reviewed state-of-the-art programs that have been found to be effective and those interventions that may inadvertently increase antisocial behavior. He discussed how juvenile justice, mental health, schools, related agencies, and the community can work together.

The forum included its traditional community track with break-out groups addressing some of Venango County's highest risk factors; lack of early prenatal care, teen pregnancy, tobacco use during pregnancy, the use of drugs and alcohol, high school drop-out rates, adult and juvenile arrest rates, and low neighborhood attachments. Participants were asked to identify available prevention services and the gaps and needs of our community. Local youth who participated in these groups identified the lack of adult interaction with the youth as one of the biggest "gaps."

The Community Track presented an overview of the new task forces of the Focus On Our Future County Collaborative which include Healthy Community/Healthy Youth, 21st Century Learning Program, Connect by 25, Youth Philanthropy, the dental task force, the diabetes task force, the web site task force, the Homeless Task Force, and Family Group Conferencing.

Stephen Kosak presented an overview of *Building Bridges*, a handbook for community members and organizations to take an active role in juvenile crime prevention through partnership with juvenile court. This handbook was produced by the Pennsylvania

Court and Community Collaborative Committee, a sub-committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers' Balanced and Restorative Justice Initiative.

In the afternoon the forum highlighted a success story from juvenile probation officer Julie Baxter. Officer Baxter introduced Teresa Robinson who had succeeded in overcoming her barriers to become a contributing member of the community. An award for personal achievement was presented to Robinson by Officer Baxter and Jodi Baker, Mayor of Franklin. Mayor Baker has mentored Robinson for the past two-and-a-half years.

Officer Susan Goss then presented the volunteer of the year award to Kathleen Massie. Mrs. Massie has helped the youth of Venango County Court Supervision complete more than 500 hours of community service this year. Mrs. Massie is an excellent example of how individuals in our community are building assets in our youth.

This year's forum concluded with guest speaker Jim Nice, who is the director of the Oregon Family Unity Project and co-author of *The Family Unity Model: An Option to Strengthen Families*. He presented an overview of Family Group Decision Making, a "process whereby family members, friends, community specialists, and others invited by the family meet to create a plan for the care and protection of a specific child or children." Venango County Children and Youth Services, in conjunction with the Focus on Our Future Collaborative Board, is working to implement this process in Venango County.

This year's Master of Ceremonies was Robert Murnock, assistant director of Venango County Court Supervision Services. Honored guests included President Judge H. William White, who offered opening remarks. Funding for the Forum was provided by Venango County Children and Youth Services, State of Pennsylvania Family Service System Reform funding, the Samuel Justus Charitable Trust, the Edith Justus Charitable Trust, the Elizabeth S. Black Charitable Trust, Gateway Health Plan, and the Focus On Our Future Endowment Fund. For more information on the Venango County Focus On Our Future County Collaborative, visit www.venfoofcb.org or call Jayne Romero, chairperson, 814-677-5318.

State directives and proposed regulations help children in foster care get the education they need

by Janet Stotland, Esq., co-Director, ELC

The Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Public Welfare have recently issued directives that will make enrolling foster kids easier by cutting down on paperwork and imposing deadlines on administrators. Final regulations will be published shortly that will guarantee these new changes for all children, including many groups who have faced significant obstacles to enrollment in the past.

Almost since its inception, the Education Law Center (ELC) has worked to ensure that children in foster care have access to quality education programs. Why has this been such a major priority? There are approximately 23,000 children in foster care in this state. Virtually all of them have experienced life-altering trauma at an early age. Many have disabilities. A significant number have been “in the system” for many years, in more than one foster home, and in more than one school district.

Children in foster care often perform poorly in school. Studies show that 83 percent of foster children are held back by the third grade, 75 percent are working below grade level, over 35 percent are in special education because of physical or cognitive disabilities, and as few as 15 percent enroll in college. In one study, 46 percent had not completed high school (as compared to 16 percent of non-foster youth). Children in foster care frequently have trouble getting into school and staying there. Not surprisingly, post-school and post-placement outcomes (*i.e.*, the extent to which former foster children are unemployed, incarcerated, homeless, or on public assistance) are equally horrendous. These outcomes are not surprising when you realize how often these children’s educational placements are interrupted when their living situation changes, and how often they encounter delays when they try to enroll in the new school district.

In the mid-1980s, ELC obtained a court decision declaring unconstitutional a state statute that limited foster children’s right to attend school where they live – regardless of where their birth parents live. This was a big help, but we still heard frequent complaints that foster children were not getting the education and special education services they needed.

In February, 2002, ELC issued a report titled “Lost in the Shuffle Revisited—A Report on the Education of Children in Foster Care in Pennsylvania.” That report highlighted the problems that foster children in Pennsylvania were experiencing getting education and special education services from the school districts in which their foster families are located. The report was based on survey responses from school districts, early intervention providers, county agencies, and private foster care providers. The most serious problems were the new school districts’ delays in enrolling the students (*e.g.*, conditioning enrollment on receipt of many documents or meetings), and the old districts’ delays in forwarding education and special education records. Three foster care agencies reported that the enrollment of students in their care had been delayed for more than 100 days. Foster children with disabilities took the longest to enroll.

The Departments of Education and Public Welfare responded to this report by issuing directives that have made it easier to enroll students (these directives can be downloaded from ELC’s website, www.elc-pa.org). The Education Department directive states that the only documents a school district can require as a condition of enrollment are proof of the child’s age, residence, and immunizations, and the sworn statement regarding the child’s discipline record already required by state law. It specifically states that a school district cannot require the child’s social security number, picture identification, the reason why the child was placed, court orders, guardianship, or a visa.

Once a school district or charter school receives these records, the directive recommends that the child be enrolled and attending school within five school/business days. The directive from the Department of Public Welfare tells private and county children and youth workers about the new enrollment rules and what the workers must do to facilitate enrollment.

The State Board of Education is in the process of finalizing regulations that will guarantee these protections and others. The regulations (which can also be downloaded from the ELC website) should be published in final form in a few months. They set

a firm (as opposed to a recommended) five-business day deadline for a school district or public charter school to enroll a child once the necessary enrollment information has been provided. The proposed regulations also require the prior school district or public charter school to forward the child's complete education and special education records to the new district within ten business days of receiving a written request. These new protections will help get students promptly enrolled and ensure that the new district has the information it needs to program appropriately for the children.

The new regulations will apply to all children, including children in foster care, children living in "children's institutions," and children who are living with a school district resident but whose parents live in another district. In the latter case the resident will be required to sign an affidavit, and may be required to provide certain additional information as is required under current state law. Nothing in this regulation says that a school district cannot request additional records, e.g., special education records. But it does say that if these records are not readily available the child must still be enrolled promptly.

The proposed regulations also help immigrant children. They state that a child's immigration status is irrelevant to his or her right to attend public school. This has been the law ever since the Supreme Court's 1982 decision in *Plyler v. Doe*. In spite of *Plyler*, and the Education Department's directive on the issue, ELC is contacted every year by families who have been required to present immigration documents as part of the enrollment process. In some of these cases, the family has actually chosen to keep the child out of school rather than risk a confrontation with school officials over the child's status (which school officials are ill equipped to assess, given the complexity of immigration law). The new regulations should help resolve this problem. Finally, the new regulations require that a school district administer a home language survey to all students seeking first time enrollment to its school. That will help identify students who need English as a second language or bilingual services to learn English and make progress in academic areas.

These are very vulnerable children who have been repeatedly shortchanged by the public education system. But these directives and the new regulations will help even the playing field.

Berks County Youth Center Open House

The Berks County Youth Center held an Open House on March 12, 2004, to showcase the renovations, expansion, and programs operated in the detention center section of the Berks County Youth Center. Renovated areas included a new medical suite, additional admissions area, new cameras with a digital recording system, and new carpets. The expansion consists of new classrooms, program areas, staff support areas, four additional living units, and a gymnasium. The license capacity for the detention center was expanded to 78 beds.

The Berks County Youth Center, in conjunction with the juvenile probation department, has been working on some rather unique services provided to residents of the Youth Center. The detention center and shelter care programs have expanded services to improve the transition of juveniles back to the community by providing meaningful services that prepare juveniles for community expectations. A community release program has been established in which juveniles are supervised by facility staff in the community and complete work for agencies such as Habitat for Humanity, Trout Unlimited, The Army Corp of Engineers, and Berks County.

The county has a contract with CONCERN for the completion of mental health services that are coordinated, administered, and continued upon release. Juveniles and their families are receiving family reunification counseling to facilitate respectful family relations upon release. Many of these programs are operated in conjunction with job readiness groups, value clarification groups, drug and alcohol services, and individual assessments for education. MAYSI testing and a complete workup of medical and dental services are available.

The Berks County Youth Center has been working in cooperation with the juvenile courts, juvenile probation, MH-MR, and the Berks County Intermediate Unit to expand the scope of detention services past the traditional role of detention and provide the courts with valuable tools to work toward a unified and coordinated approach to the issues of juvenile delinquency.

Weekend Master's Degree program accepting applications for the Shippensburg University Class of 2007

Applications are now being accepted for the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission sponsored Weekend Master's Degree program at Shippensburg University. Members of the class of 2007 will begin classes in the fall of 2005.

The Shippensburg University program offers students a Master of Science degree in the Administration of Justice. This is a 36-credit-hour program which includes courses in research methods, theory, administration, and policy analysis. Also featured is a summer internship during which students will have an opportunity to develop, implement, and evaluate a program in their home counties, or evaluate an existing program that serves juvenile offenders.

Classes in this two-year program are scheduled every third weekend in the fall, spring, and summer, with no classes scheduled in the months of July and August. This program is open to county juvenile probation officers who will have at least two years of post-baccalaureate experience in the juvenile justice field prior to the start of classes. Applicants who have an undergraduate grade point average of less than 2.75 must take and pass the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or the GRE.

The deadline for applying to the JCJC-sponsored MSAJ program class of 2007 at Shippensburg University is September 1, 2004.

Tuition costs, educational fees, and room and board are paid for by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission for all eligible students. If you would like more details or are interested in applying for the program, please call Greg Young at 717-447-1797, go to the JCJC website at www.jcjc.state.pa.us, or send an e-mail to gyoung@state.pa.us.

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tor of the Children and Youth Agency simultaneously. His first position with the Center was as the Secure Detention Monitor. In this capacity, he was responsible for monitoring statewide compliance with federal secure detention mandates promulgated by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

In April, 2001, McCalpin became the Assistant Director of Training, responsible for assisting with planning and scheduling the training programs sponsored by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission through the Center. He was Juvenile Court Consultant for several counties, responsible for providing technical assistance to chief juvenile probation officers and juvenile court judges in his those counties.

Promoted to Director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research in August of 2001, he was then responsible for all program areas of the Center: training, graduate education, the information and technology division, the Communities That Care® initiative, the secure detention monitoring project, and the juvenile justice enhancement grant.

McCalpin's rapid rise to Director of the Center is reflective of his knowledge, experience, expertise, and managerial skills. He will be missed by his colleagues and friends at the JCJC and the CJJT&R; we all wish him the very best.

