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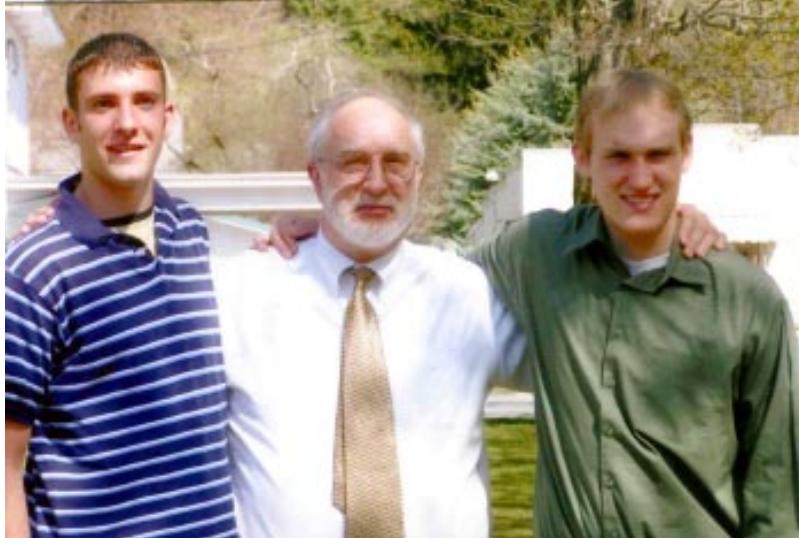
Pennsylvania
Juvenile Court
Judges'
Commission

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“Celebration of Life” – rock concert in Potter County

Potter County President Judge John B. Leete, shown in the photo with two of the participants, was instrumental in formulating the Yellow Ribbon campaign.



On April 9, 2005, the Potter County Suicide Prevention Task Force, in conjunction with the Potter County Yellow Ribbon campaign, sponsored a seven-hour free rock concert for area youth. The event, planned largely by area teens and held at the Coudersport American Association of Scottish Rites hall, was attended by more than 700 youth from a four-county area. The event, which featured eight bands who performed for travel expenses only, included 150 band members, their support staff, and community volunteers.

The first 400 youth admitted received a free t-shirt. In addition, 100 Yellow Ribbon Bears and hooded sweatshirts were distributed during the concert. Fifty pizzas and 40 cases of soda were provided to the youth throughout the evening.

The “Celebration of Life” theme included messages stating “It’s okay to ask for help.” provided by the event’s teen announcer as well as by members of the participating bands. The task force and Yellow Ribbon Campaign stressed that all youth are a loved and valued part of this rural county and that the community cannot afford to lose a single one to self-destructive behavior.

The event was deemed a huge success by members of the Suicide Prevention Task Force and Yellow Ribbon campaign. President Judge John B. Leete, shown in the photo above with two of the

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**Click here for registration forms
for the Pennsylvania Conference
on Juvenile Justice to be held at
the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers,
November 2, 3, & 4**

Judge Cleland of McKean County appointed to JCJC

The Honorable John M. Cleland, President Judge of the 48th Judicial District (McKean County), has been appointed to the Juvenile Court Judges Commission (JCJC) by Governor Edward G. Rendell. Judge Cleland succeeds Judge Marilyn Horan, Butler County, who has served on the Commission since 1997.

Judge Cleland has served as President Judge of the 48th Judicial District since 1984, when he was appointed to the bench by Governor Dick Thornburgh. He was subsequently elected to a full term in 1985 and re-elected in 1995. Judge Cleland is a Past President of the Juvenile Court Section of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges and served for eight years as the co-chair of the Education Committee of the Conference. He has also served on various Supreme Court committees which addressed procedural rules, statewide court computerization, gender bias, the administration of the minor judiciary courts, and bio-hazard security issues.

Judge Cleland is a trustee of the University of Pittsburgh and Chair of the Advisory Board of its Bradford campus. In 2000, he received the President's Distinguished Service Award from the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges, and in 2001 he received the Pennsylvania Bar Association Clarity in Writing Award.



2005 PA Conference on Juvenile Justice highlights MacArthur Foundation partnership with Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania was the first state chosen to participate in the *Models for Change: Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice* initiative of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Pennsylvania was chosen, according to the MacArthur Foundation, for three reasons: it is considered a bellwether state in juvenile justice; it has a favorable reform climate; and it seems poised to become an exemplary system. It is hoped that Pennsylvania's success in this systems reform effort will stimulate change in other jurisdictions. Pennsylvania is focusing on the issues of aftercare, coordination of the mental health and juvenile justice systems, and disproportionate minority youth contact with the juvenile justice system. Illinois and Louisiana have also been chosen by the MacArthur Foundation to participate in this initiative.

On Thursday afternoon, November 3, 2005, the *Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice* will feature a plenary session which will be moderated by Laurie Garduque, Director for Research for the MacArthur Foundation Program on Human and Community Development. Panelists will present the latest information regarding Pennsylvania's progress in this critically important initiative.

On Friday morning, November 4, 2005, at an invitation-only gathering, representatives from the *Models for Change* target counties and the initiative's policy groups will share information and meet with national technical assistance providers.

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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participants, was instrumental in formulating the Yellow Ribbon campaign.

Jeff Walker, Potter County Suicide Prevention Task Force and Potter County Probation Department, and Kathy Bowers, Potter County Commissioner, provided tremendous support along with community members and county administrators. Assistance at the concert was provided by the Potter County Probation Department and numerous community service workers. A repeat of the event is being planned for 2006 with a majority of the bands pledging to return.

As a follow-up, in May, the Suicide Prevention Task Force undertook a presentation to all junior and senior high school students within Potter County by Jacques Lamoureux of North Dakota as well as Jake Acker, whose brother committed suicide in 2003. In addition, a weekend retreat/camping trip was held for seventh- and eighth-grade students with 68 participants. The theme of the trip was confidence building, and included Yellow Ribbon campaign messages.

JCJC elects new officers for 2005 - 2006

The Honorable Arthur E. Grim, President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Berks County has been elected Chairman of the Juvenile Court Judges Commission (JCJC) for 2005 - 2006. Judge Grim succeeds Judge Carol K. McGinley, from Lehigh County, who has served as Chairman since 2000. Judge Grim has served on the JCJC since 1997, and has served as Vice-Chairman since 2000.

Judge Kevin M. Dougherty, Supervising Judge in the Family Division of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, was elected as Vice-Chairman, succeeding Judge Grim. Judge Dougherty has served on the Commission since 2003.

Judge Kim Berkeley Clark was elected Secretary, succeeding Butler County Judge Marilyn Horan, whose term recently expired. Judge Horan has served on the Commission since 1997. Judge Clark, Supervising Judge in the Allegheny County Family Court Division, has served since 2004.

Second juvenile justice monograph released

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) is proud to announce the release of the second monograph on the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system. Titled, "*Juvenile Justice in Pennsylvania: Mission-Driven; Performance-Based; Outcome-Focused*," this document outlines the history, progress, and most recent developments in efforts in Pennsylvania to achieve a more balanced and restorative juvenile justice system.

The first monograph, published by the JCJC in 1997, attempted to set the course for the implementation of a balanced and restorative juvenile justice system. For nearly a decade, key organizations involved in the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system have been devoted to assisting courts in achieving the objective of the "balanced attention" mandates of the Juvenile Act. These organizations have built a solid foundation for juvenile justice system enhancement that includes the statutory requirements of both the Juvenile Act and the Crime Victims Act, and a clear mission statement accompanied by a comprehensive set of beliefs and guiding principles. Changes in policy and practice at the state and local levels are being aligned with this foundation.

In this newest monograph, you will find discussion on the current thinking around the juvenile justice system's goals and some recommended practices for consideration. Also noted are recent statewide efforts to measure the performance of our system. These are serving as a model for the nation and the most up-to-date domains for the competency development of the youth we serve.

This project was supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and produced by JCJC and the National Center for Juvenile Justice.

Although the monograph is written primarily for juvenile justice practitioners, broad distribution of this document at the local level is being encouraged as a means to enhance our communities' understanding of the critical work being done on their behalf throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

If you are interested in obtaining copies of this newest publication, please contact Monica Iskric, 717-477-1709, or e-mail msiskr@ship.edu.

Youth challenged by innovative Bethesda outdoor program

The Bethesda Outdoor Weekend Program, "Be Challenged," was developed out of the need in central Pennsylvania to provide a modified version of Bethesda Day Treatment Center's highly successful intensive community-based day treatment services. The DPW-licensed program was originally designed as an accountability option for court-referred juveniles from the Lycoming County Juvenile Probation Office. Soon after its inception, and after hearing of the program's impact on youth, Northumberland County Juvenile Probation Office also began using "Be Challenged." The program's home base is the Bethesda Montoursville Center located in Lycoming County.

"Be Challenged" serves as a 42-hour intensive reality-based camping experience for troubled youth. On a bi-weekly basis, an average of 8-12 youth meet on Friday afternoon under the supervision of three highly trained Bethesda staff. They report to a predetermined trail head in Tiadaghton State Forest, Lycoming County, to begin hiking and set up camp.

The youth are given tasks and responsibilities designed to challenge them and result in an increase of confidence and self esteem. They learn how to achieve healthy relationships through team building, hiking, physical training exercises, and affect groups. Youth are expected to accept responsibility for their offenses and to develop a sense of belonging to their community.

Bethesda has a partnership with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources's Bureau of Forestry to ensure the projects completed are of benefit to them and the environment, as well as to the youths. Projects include trail blazing, trail maintenance, trash pick up, and camp site maintenance.

"Be Challenged" is designed to provide the best experience-based intervention possible by incorporating Bethesda's successful behavior management system and the relational healing methods known as Bethesda's Family Systems. The program uses positive peer influence and structure to encourage the youth in accomplishing individual and team goals. Each youth is responsible for him- or herself and accountable to her/his peers in meeting goals and successfully completing the challenges.

This program allows the youth to be removed from their familiar and negative environmental influences. Being taken out of their normal environment provides the youth with the best opportunity for change. A wilderness atmosphere is definitely less comfortable than that to which they are accustomed.

One year into the program, more than 250 youths have had the opportunity to gain a sense of community and ownership.

FY 2005-2006 budget

Governor Rendell approved HB 805 (2568) on July 7, 2005 as Act 1A the General Appropriations Act of 2005.

Act 1A sets the Improvement of Juvenile Probation Services grant-in-aid appropriation at \$5,918,000. This appropriation supports salaries for probation officers, training and graduate education programs for probation officers, and other statewide impact projects, and is equal to the FY '04-'05 appropriation.

The legislation appropriated \$13,793,000 for county Specialized Probation Services (SPS). This is 10 percent less than the amount paid to counties in FY '04-'05. This appropriation supports school-based, intensive, aftercare, and community-based probation services provided pursuant to the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) Standards.

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission will distribute the reduction in the FY '05-'06 SPS appropriation proportionately among participating counties. In March 2005, the JCJC informed all courts and counties of the proposed reduction, and the potential impact on their respective SPS grant awards.

The appropriation for the JCJC operating budget is \$2,129,000 in state funds, a decrease of \$74,000 from the FY '04-'05 appropriation. As a result of the FY '05-'06 Budget, the Commission will be eliminating two vacant positions and not filling a half-time position.

