

a newsletter of the

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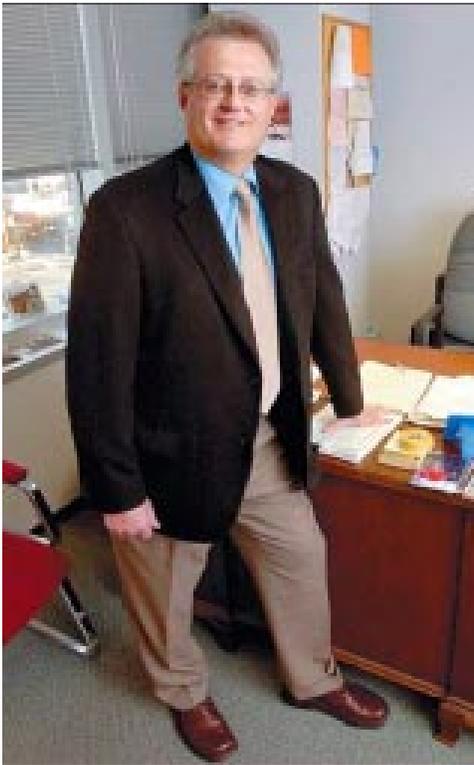
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P E N N S Y L V A N I A J U V E N I L E J U S T I C E

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Edward G. Rendell, Governor

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Bruce Grim Retires as Berks County's Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

After spending 35 years at the Berks County Juvenile Probation Department and 31 years as their Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Bruce Grim retired on December 27, 2005. He will be missed by his colleagues not only in Berks County, but across Pennsylvania.

Bruce Grim dedicated his career to working with community leaders and service providers to improve the juvenile justice system in Berks County and across the state. In Berks County, he is responsible for the development of Operation Night Light, a supervision program for juvenile offenders during non-traditional office hours at night and on weekends. Along with President Judge Arthur E. Grim, Bruce Grim is responsible for the opening of Earth Rise Enterprises, Inc., a snack bar located in the court house which employs juvenile offenders and teaches them job skills and other competencies.

In 1993, Bruce was honored by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Probation Officers as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year, in recognition of the outstanding leadership he provided to the juvenile justice system in Berks County and Pennsylvania. He served as President of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers from 1995 – 1996, and has been a long term active member of the Council's Executive Committee. Bruce was recognized and honored for his contributions to the Council at their General Membership meeting held on November 18, 2005.

Bruce has seen the caseload in Berks County grow from 125 cases when he began in 1970, to over 2,500 cases per year. While he hopes to spend more time playing golf and fishing, he also plans to pursue other professional goals. His contributions to Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system will long be remembered.

Photo by Ben Hasty, of the *Reading Eagle*.

Adelphoi's "Girls' Circles"

Adelphoi Village has recently piloted a new type of gender-specific group within the female secure group homes called Girls' circle. The model is a structured support group for girls aged 9-18 that is designed to foster self-esteem, build positive relationships and enhance self-expression. The groups meet for an hour three times a week and each meeting has a specific curriculum. There are several different curriculums, each between eight and twelve sessions in length which deal with a variety of issues related to females. Some of these themes include self-esteem, relationships, assertiveness skills, and body image. In addition to open discussions the girls can express themselves through a variety of creative activities including role playing, journaling, drawing, poetry, etc. It is the goal of these groups to provide a safe environment where the girls can express themselves freely and take full advantage of their talents and abilities. The model itself is the property of the Girls' Circle Association, a Project of the Tides Center. You can learn more about Girls' Circle online at www.girlscircle.com.

Adelphoi has been training staff on the benefits of Circles. Peacemaking Circles as well as Sentencing Circles have been introduced to 40 Adelphoi staff. Please contact Skip Eicher or Mike McCalpin at 724-520-1111 for additional information.

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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National training held in Westmoreland County

Increasingly, juvenile justice agencies are attempting to manage growing numbers of juvenile female offenders within their systems. As a result, agencies are seeking assistance on how to effectively meet the unique needs of juvenile female offenders, and create, implement and manage services and programs for girls in all facets of service delivery. One of the most urgent needs of the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system, as identified by both practitioners and policy makers is the creation of gender-specific services for girls. The Federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention identified services for delinquent young women as a national priority and established a Challenge Grant Initiative to help states create services for delinquent girls. In Pennsylvania, Challenge Grant Initiative funds were directed toward mental health issues and gender-specific services. The Westmoreland County Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Demonstration Site Project is part of this initiative.

Westmoreland County Juvenile Probations Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Project was recently chosen from a nationwide search to host the National Institute of Corrections training on "Meeting the Needs of Juvenile Female Offenders." The training was presented by four highly skilled contracted facilitators from NIC, and by NIC program manager Launa Kowalcyk. The five-day training was attended by representatives from around the country.

This excellent training given by NIC was designed to be participant-centered and to provide opportunities for the participants to analyze the evolution of the juvenile justice system's response to meeting the needs of juvenile female offenders through a female-responsive lens. The motif of the "responsive lens" continued throughout the training and enabled the participants to analyze the juvenile system and its delivery of service in order to affect systemic change.

Participants were then asked to begin integrating the female responsive concepts and practices into existing programs and operations in order to improve or develop juvenile female offender-appropriate programs and services. Exercise analysis, planning, research, and writing skills were used to create a systemic female responsive project plan customized to their agency. Upon completion of the training the participants were then asked to develop and implement their plan of action.

For more information regarding the PTSD project, contact dciocco@co.westmoreland.pa.us. For information from NIC, www.nicic.org

Billboard campaign recognizes academic achievement

The Tri-Boro Communities That Care (Braddock, North Braddock and Rankin Boroughs) in Allegheny County recently unveiled a new billboard campaign that recognizes positive youth development and academic achievement.

Starting in December, three billboards were erected in Rankin, Braddock, and North Braddock displaying Woodland Hills School District students of various grade levels who achieved the high honor roll. Woodland Hills principals were asked to nominate children who were exemplary in grades and stature to be on their community's billboard. The plan is to post different billboards with new high honor roll students from Rankin, Braddock, and North Braddock every quarter of the school year in each community.

their positive achievements has always been a priority for the Tri-Boro Prevention Board. In the past they have held recognition events for youth enrolled in their prevention programs.

The idea of promoting positive youth achievement is one of the underlying principles of the CTC research-based framework. The CTC approach begins with the goal of healthy, positive behaviors for youth. To develop healthy, positive behaviors, young people must be immersed in environments that communicate healthy beliefs and clear standards for behavior at home, at school, and in the community. These environments must create strong bonds to those who hold healthy beliefs and clear standards. To create these bonds, youth need opportunities to be involved in meaningful ways, the skills to be successful at those opportunities, and recognition for their efforts and accomplishments.



This community awareness activity has been funded by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency under the Tri-Boro Communities That Care (CTC) Sustainability Grant. The Tri-Boro CTC Prevention Board and the lead agency, TCV MH/MR, Inc., (Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR, Inc.) are hopeful that additional funding will be raised locally to pay for the fourth set of billboards and beyond.

The billboard idea materialized when Lisa Freeman, Community Mobilizer, remarked that “the first thing people see when they come into Braddock is a billboard with pictures of murder victims, and a plea to the community to provide any information that would lead law enforcement officials to the perpetrators of the crime.” Freeman felt it was time to focus on the positive accomplishments of children in the community, instead. Recognizing youth for

This highly visible billboard campaign, which focuses on recognizing the accomplishments of young people in the Tri-Boro area, reinforces the significance of positive youth development and prevention in the Tri-Boro community.

Staff development news

The CJJT&R Spring 2006 Staff Development Schedule has been printed and was mailed in late-December and should have been received by now. It was e-mailed to our entire distribution list of agencies and individuals who regularly participate in our training workshops on December 13. If you would like to routinely receive an e-mail copy of the entire spring and fall schedules each December and July please contact Nina Weaver at the address noted below and request that your address be added to our list.

If possible, registrations should be returned by January 27. The early return of registration materials is strongly encouraged as they are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, and many programs are expected to reach capacity on or before that date or shortly thereafter. However, as always, the Center will continue to accept registrations on a **space-available basis** until the day prior to each program. Payment of registration fees may follow later.

The schedule may also be reviewed at the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission website www.jcjc.state.pa.us and registrations, changes, confirmations, and cancellations may be made via e-mail directed to nsweav@wharf.ship.edu or by phone to Nina Weaver, 717-477-1448. If an e-mail address is supplied, confirmations of all registrations, cancellations, or changes will be provided via e-mail.

The schedule includes 26 programs. There are ten new trainers or topics included in the schedule for veteran staff, blended together with core curriculum workshops for staff new to the system. There are also a few programs that were held during the last two training seasons that filled quickly and we were asked to repeat sessions.

Because of several program's non-traditional schedules, and the continuing use of four separate training sites, in order to avoid confusion, we are urging administrators and/or agency training coordinators to provide each registrant with a photocopy of the one-page program description, excerpted from the training booklet, for each program they will be attending to serve as a reminder of the program's learning objectives, dates, times and location. **Please note the change in the hotel training site for the two programs held in the Pittsburgh vicinity.**

If you have not yet received a copy of the Center's training schedule and would like to review the offerings in printed form, or if you have any further questions please contact Stephen Bishop at 717-477-1294 or John Herb at 717-477-1185, press 3.

Aftercare models for change forum held

On December 1-2, 2005, the initial Aftercare Models for Change Training Forum was held at the Days Inn, State College. Over 75 registrants, representing 27 counties and 14 other entities, including providers, participated in this event. Activities started with an overview presentation of the MacArthur Foundation's Models for Change initiative in Pennsylvania led by Autumn Dickman of the Juvenile Law Center. In addition to the Aftercare portion of this project, Ms. Dickman also reviewed key concepts of the other two focus areas: Disproportionate Minority Contact and Mental Health Services to delinquent youth.

Rick Steele and Kelly Franklin, Aftercare Specialists with the Juvenile Court Judges Commission and the PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, reviewed the Joint Policy Statement on Aftercare which was released in January of 2005. Particular attention was given to the bullet points contained in the document seen as overall goals for aftercare system development within each jurisdiction.

Pat Torbet and Doug Thomas of the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) presented on several key related issues to aftercare system development. These included explanations of the stages of aftercare, a review of the Competency Development White Paper, and information relative to the use of screening and assessment instruments.

Candace Putter and Marna Ferster, of the Philadelphia Reintegration Initiative, led the group through an exercise aimed at developing appropriate aftercare treatment plans, including the use of the concept of SMART goals.

Day one ended with a presentation by Michele Ambruch describing the connection between the Communities That Care initiatives across the state and aftercare planning and activities.

Day 2 featured presentations by the four Aftercare Model Counties currently funded through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) to develop programs and activities that assure a "best practice" aftercare planning and implementation process. Steve Vajda introduced York County's Intensive Aftercare Model development, and reviewed the project activities and phases involving each youth. Cindi Wess described Cambria County's partnership with Goodwill Industries where youth are involved in an in-depth job skills/job readiness project that includes individual assess-

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PACJP Spring 2006 Conference

The Pennsylvania Association of Community Justice Professionals' spring 2006 conference will be held at the Days Inn State College April 26, 2006 through April 28, 2006. This year's conference theme is "What Works?.....in community justice" and is endorsed and co-sponsored by CJJT&R. The conference will take the place of the Community Service/Restitution Forum the Center has hosted in past years, and will provide an opportunity for juvenile and adult Community Service and Restitution Program staff to network with other justice professionals working within the community setting. A mixture of general sessions and workshops are being planned to specifically address the conference theme with several noteworthy individuals representing academic institutions scheduled to participate and facilitate, including: William Burrell (Department of Criminal Justice, Temple University), Art Amann (Director of Mercyhurst Civic Institute), and Richard Jones (Professor of Sociology, Marquette University).

Registration for this conference is totally separate from all other CJJT&R trainings/workshops, and the deadline for registration is April 3, 2006. For additional information about PACJP and/or conference registration materials please contact Jason Stauffer, PO Box 703, Lancaster, PA 17608-0703. Phone 717-299-8176; fax 717-735-2103. Or e-mail stauffej@co.lancaster.pa.us

The Pennsylvania Association of Community Justice Professionals' (formerly the Pennsylvania Community Service Association) mission is to create a highly inclusive association where community justice professionals throughout the state, in both the adult and juvenile arenas, can showcase their accomplishments and be exposed to a variety of alternative approaches to traditional crime and punishment/treatment models.

Pa. Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers Elects Officers for 2006-2007

The Pa. Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers elected the following officers for 2006 – 2007, at its General Membership Meeting on November 18, 2005:

President – Steven Custer (Montgomery County);
Vice-President – James Rieland (Allegheny County);
Treasurer – Robert Stanzone (Bucks County); and,
Secretary – Michael Schneider (Northampton County)

General Membership meetings have been scheduled for March 17th, May 19th, September 22nd, and November 17th, 2006. All General Membership meetings will be held at the Days Inn Penn State, and will begin at 9:30 AM. Congratulations to the new officers of this very important organization.

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ment and a variety of work experiences for each participant. Staff from Goodwill Industries were also involved in this presentation. Russ Carlino introduced members of his Educational Specialist staff, who informed the group of their progress in working directly with specified provider agency education departments to assist in educational reintegration and credit transfer issues. Mr. Carlino also shared with participants the Allegheny County placement decision making guidelines, which offer a structured and consistent manner in which staff make appropriate placement decisions. Finally, Ed Robbins reviewed the Lycoming County project focused on strategies to support and strengthen family involvement while youth are in placement as well as upon their release.

The overall forum was well received by those in attendance, as evidenced by a training evaluation score of 5.9 out of a possible 7. It is anticipated that similar and related training activities will continue throughout the Models for Change project period. Those interested in additional information about the project and related aftercare activity development, should feel free to contact either Rick Steele at c-rsteele@state.pa.us or Kelly Franklin at kfranklin@epix.net.



Robert N. Williams appointed Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in Berks County

On January 4, 2006, President Judge Arthur E. Grim appointed Robert N. Williams as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in Berks County, replacing Bruce Grim who retired on December 27, 2005.

Mr. Williams graduated from West Chester University in 1980 with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. He also earned a certificate in criminal law studies at the Institute for Paralegal Training.

He began his career as a Berks County Juvenile Probation Officer in August, 1981 and was promoted to Assistant Chief in 1995. He is responsible for starting the Berks' County Community Garden Project in 1996, a cooperative effort between the Juvenile Probation Office and the Berks County Cooperative Extension Master Gardening Program. Offenders assigned to the project, work with Master Gardeners to cultivate produce that is donated to local food banks and charities. This project gained statewide recognition, including a personal visit by then First Lady Michele Ridge. Bob has also been involved in statewide juvenile justice committees and initiatives.

In Bob's capacity as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, he will initially focus on improving probation officer safety and implementing standardized assessment tools for juveniles entering the system.

