

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

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Measuring the effectiveness of the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system

To link to the 2004 Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice System Outcome Measures Report, [click here](#).

In January 2003, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) and the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers (PCCJPO) embarked on a project to measure the effectiveness of the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system. A committee of chief juvenile probation officers and JCJC staff was convened to study the issue and make recommendations. In consultation with the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ), and based upon the Center's Juvenile Justice Intermediate Outcomes Project, the committee developed a set of criteria to quantify the Balanced and Restorative Justice goals of community protection, accountability, and competency development.

In January 2004, county juvenile probation departments began gathering the specified outcome measures data for submission to the JCJC on a quarterly basis. Collectively, this data is represented in the 2004 Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice System Outcome Measures Report. The results are impressive. Some of the highlights are:

Community Protection

- 17,404 juvenile offenders completed a period of supervision by county juvenile probation departments.
- 87 percent successfully completed supervision without a new offense.

Accountability

- 94 percent of offenders with a community service obligation completed their obligation for a total of 550,167.75 hours.
- 86 percent of offenders with a restitution obligation made full restitution. The Total amount collected was \$2,144,883.99.
- 86 percent of the offenders obligated to pay Victim Of Juvenile Offenders (VOJO) costs met their obligation in full for a total of \$279,732. (The cost is based upon the type of disposition. Therefore not all offenders had an obligation to pay this cost.)

Competency Development

- 81 percent of offenders remained in school or were participating in a vocational activity at the time they were released from supervision.

If you have any questions concerning the report, contact Thomas P. Green of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission at 717-705-6596, or tgreen@state.pa.us.

Franklin County Juvenile Probation teams up with the Bureau of Forestry

On Friday, December 17, 2004, students from the P.A.C.E.S. Alternative classroom spent their weekly community service time helping the PA Bureau of Forestry. The students were at the public shooting range that the Bureau owns and runs, helping to clean up trash and shell casings and perform general maintenance.

The shooting range, located in Michaux State Forest near Long Pine Dam, is open to the public and is operated on the same dawn-to-dusk guidelines as the state forest. The range is unattended and has a lot of trash. Franklin County Juvenile Probation has offered to help with clean-up on a regular basis. General range maintenance is what the Bureau doesn't have right now, and juvenile probation will help out with that.

The department has also offered to bring groups of supervised youth to help the Bureau of Forestry with completing some improvements to the range. The youth would be helping with Bureau plans to overhaul the range and upgrade the grounds. They would be working on landscaping and clean-up, changing the benches around for targets, and constructing new benches for targets.

Franklin County Juvenile Probation will use this opportunity to teach youth about responsible use of public parks and facilities and the responsibilities associated with enjoyment of the outdoors.

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)

Position Announcement

Aftercare Specialist

Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research

The Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research (CJJT&R) is currently accepting applications for the position of Aftercare Specialist. This position will be an employee of the Shippensburg University Foundation, and will be supported by funding from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The annual starting salary for this position is \$42,621. Appointments above the starting salary may be considered, and will be commensurate with the candidate's education, work experience and salary history.

This position will serve as a central point of contact for juvenile court judges and juvenile probation officers regarding aftercare planning and services; resolve, in conjunction with the Education Law Center, specific issues related to the return of youth to public educational settings; assist counties chosen to develop model aftercare approaches by providing on-site monitoring and technical assistance; provide statewide training, technical assistance, and support regarding the alignment of county practice with Pennsylvania's Aftercare Policy Statement and Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Standards Governing Aftercare Services; and develop a statewide data collection process around Aftercare services.

The minimum experience and training requirements for the position are five years of experience as a juvenile probation officer and a Master's degree in the behavioral sciences.

Qualified candidates should submit a cover letter, transcripts, and a resume to Keith Graybill, Director, Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research, Shippensburg University, 1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299. This information must be received no later than April 4, 2005. Please contact Keith Graybill at kgraybill@state.pa.us, or 717-477-1188, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Professional caucus summary from 2004 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

On Wednesday, November 3, 2004, the Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice began with professional caucuses, which provided conference participants with an opportunity to interact with colleagues and discuss critical issues. Caucuses were held for judges/juvenile court masters, chief juvenile probation officers, juvenile probation supervisors, juvenile probation officers, victim service providers, delinquency service providers and defense counsel.

Topics of discussion varied from group to group. The judges spent time discussing recently enacted legislation and a number of issues related to truancy. Restitution collection for juveniles who turn 21 and the inter-county transfer of delinquency cases was also discussed. The chief juvenile probation officer caucus focused on federal and state funding streams and how recent changes will impact services to juveniles. Several chiefs shared information on new developments that occurred in their respective jurisdictions. A discussion of the outcome measures data collected for 2004 focused on how to use the data to improve services to juveniles.

Juvenile probation supervisors spent their time discussing personnel and safety issues, as well as training needs. The supervisors discussed the need for additional training on grant writing and funding streams. Safety was also the focus of discussion in the caucus for juvenile probation officers. Juvenile probation officers believed that county policies concerning safety equipment and firearms should be consistent. Also mentioned was the amount of training mandated, locations of training, and the need for alternative training venues, such as the internet and more regionalized training. Additional suggestions included providing line officers with the outcomes report data, establishing standards for supervisors who are funded through Specialized Probation Services, increasing community-based services for juveniles and increasing services for younger offenders.

Caucus summary continued on page 5

Schuylkill suicide program gets national assistance County task force is first in country to get data-driven tools

By: Chris Parker of The Morning Call

Schuylkill County's Suicide Prevention Task Force is the first such organization to be chosen for special help by a national suicide prevention group. Suicide Prevention Action Network USA Inc., a nonprofit organization founded in 1996, will provide the help, said task force Chairman Michael W. Ogden. Ogden announced the selection at a task force meeting Thursday in Pottsville.

The network was founded by Gerald and Elsie Weyrauch of Marietta, Ga., after their 34-year-old physician daughter, Terri, committed suicide.

The designation means the county group will have access to experts who will teach them the most effective ways to help people avoid choosing a permanent solution to what often turn out to be temporary problems.

A well-attended October 12 forum persuaded Action Network Executive Director Jerry Reed to offer the help. Reed was a speaker at the forum. "I saw all the right people in that room — state leaders, community activists, survivors, teachers," he said. "Suicide is a complex problem, so the solution will also be complex. "As I left, I thought, "This is a community that is really trying to do it."

"If the Schuylkill program is successful, it will be documented and used as a model for other communities," Reed said. The help Reed is offering consists of 'data-driven tools.' "We'll look at the incidence, where, how, and what age groups," he said. "Then we'll try to incorporate leaders who have roles in those areas."

The program will bring teaching information to police, schools, and social organizations. "We'll try to bring up the skill base," Reed said. He said suicide prevention initiatives began on the national level around 1999. Since then, he said, 25 states, including Pennsylvania, have begun suicide prevention programs.

The help is needed, Ogden said. There were 1,330 suicides in Pennsylvania last year, according to the state Department of Health. Of the 1,465 deaths in Schuylkill County last year, 30 were suicides.

“Justice Isn’t Served Until Crime Victims Are”

National Crime Victims’ Rights Week Silver Anniversary — April 10 to 16, 2005

National Crime Victims’ Rights Week will be observed April 10 - 16, 2005. The 2005 theme for Pennsylvania is “Justice Isn’t Served Until Crime Victims Are.” By putting victims first we recognize that their rights, needs, and concerns are priorities essential to promoting justice and safety.

This 25th Anniversary of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week (NCVRW) is dedicated to the memory of President Ronald Reagan, a pioneer in promoting victims’ rights and services.

As part of Pennsylvania’s recognition of this event, the Coalition of Pennsylvania Crime Victims Organizations (COPCVO) will hold its 13th Annual Victims’ Rights Rally on Monday April 11, 2005, at 11 a.m. at the State Capitol Building in Harrisburg.

This Silver Anniversary of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week provides us with an occasion to reflect on the devastating impact of crime and terrorism on victims and on our nation, and to strengthen our resolve to ensure that victims’ needs are identified and addressed. We serve justice by serving victims of crime, thus helping to make Pennsylvania neighborhoods and communities stronger, safer, and more secure.

The anniversary also gives us an opportunity for juvenile justice practitioners to seek a collaborative effort with victim service providers, other criminal and juvenile justice professionals, community members, faith-based organizations, and families and friends of crime victims and survivors to promote victim and community awareness.

Among the resources available to assist in our efforts, the 2005 NCVRW Resource Guide, developed by Justice Solutions, Inc. with support from the Office for Victims of Crime is available from OVC at: www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2005/welcome.html or by calling 1-800-851-3420 (document number NCJ 207049).

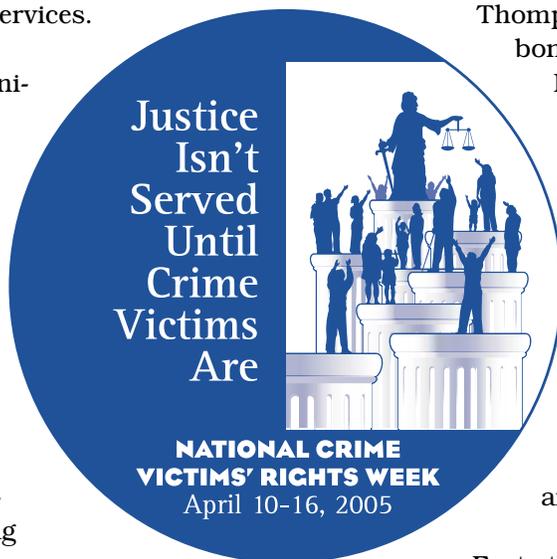
The Washington County District Attorney’s Office Crime Victim/Witness Assistance Program recently held a special commemoration for National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. Kenneth G. Thompson, Director of External Affairs for the Oklahoma City National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism (MIPT), and 2002 Biography Community Hero award winner for his service to the City of New York, was the keynote speaker.

Thompson lost his mother in the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City in 1995. He shared personal photographs in a slide show presentation depicting the events of the morning of April 19, when Timothy McVeigh parked a rented Ryder truck full of explosives in front of the complex and, at 9:02 a.m., a massive explosion occurred, shearing off the north side of the building and killing 168 people.

Forty-three days after the attack, on June 1, 1995, Thompson’s mother was the last victim found at the end of the recovery efforts. The remaining portion of the building had to be imploded to locate the final four victims. Mr. Thompson detailed the impact of the attack on victims, family members, and first responders who have to deal with terrorism incidents. He shared lessons learned and best practices for relief agencies and communities on responding to incidents of terrorism and providing support to the victims.

Washington County District Attorney John C. Pettit provided the welcome and opening remarks, commenting on how much the Crime Victim/Witness Assistance Program has grown through the years. Students from Students for Safe Schools, at the Washington Park Middle School, presented poems, songs, a puppet show, and readings relating to crime victims’ rights, stating they want to be a part of the solution, not the problem. This group of students developed a peer education program to

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Caucus, from page 3

Victim service providers spent their time together discussing the need for additional cross system training at the local level. Training was also suggested for probation officers on domestic violence and victimization issues. Concerns were expressed that advocacy for victims issues appears to be on the decline.

Feedback from each of the caucuses showed that professionals appreciate the opportunity to meet with colleagues and share information on what they encounter on a day to day basis. A summary of the information collected will be reviewed by JCJC staff and the Executive Committee of the PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers.

Mark your Calendar!

The Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

November 2, 3 & 4, 2005
Harrisburg Hilton & Towers

Sponsored by

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

The Juvenile Court Section of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges

The Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers

The Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research

Youth Awards Program & Dinner
Wednesday November 2

Annual Training and Awards Program
Thursday, November 3

Resource Day - 2005
Friday, November 4

The 2005 Annual Training and Awards Program will conclude by presenting Resource Day - 2005, during which representatives from residential programs, electronic monitoring companies, drug testing companies, and other service providers will "set up shop" to discuss their programs with the Pennsylvania juvenile justice community. This informal marketplace will offer an important opportunity for consumers to learn about new and innovative services.

For vendor information,
please call Arlene L. Prentice, 717-783-7836

Vendor information will be mailed in April, 2005

Collaboration around youth suicide prevention

According to the Bureau of Health Statistics and Research, in 2002, 1,326 Pennsylvanians died from suicide. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for Pennsylvanians aged 25-34 and the third leading cause of death for Pennsylvanians aged 15-24. In 2002, the hospital discharge rates for injuries due to suicide attempts were 64.5 per 100,000 for males compared to 84.6 per 100,000 for females. Also in 2002, the hospital discharge rates for injuries due to suicide attempts was 72.1 per 100,000 for whites compared to 86.4 per 100,000 for blacks.

Seven state teams from the Great Lakes region participated in the 3rd Collaboration Around Youth Suicide Prevention, November 15-16, 2004, in Chicago, co-sponsored by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors. Teams of state officials from health, education, and mental health agencies, as well as legislators, advocates, and others convened to further develop their state suicide prevention plans, and to receive guidance on implementation strategies from national experts. Partnering organizations included the National Governors Association, National Conference of State Legislatures, Council of Chief State School Officers, and the Suicide Prevention Action Network (SPAN).

Participating states were Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Participants heard from national leaders, including Ileana Arias, Acting Director of the CDC's National Injury Prevention Center, and Kathryn Power, Director of the Center for Mental Health Services at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The Pennsylvania team included: Heidi Bryan, Representative, Suicide Prevention Action Network USA; Myrna Delgado, Chief, Division of Student and Safe School Services, Department of Education; Michael Ogden, Director of Marketing, Eagleville Hospital; Sherry Peters, Chief, Division of Policy & Program Development, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Department of Public Welfare; Bonnie Taylor, Consultant, Child Death Review, Penn State College of Medicine; Brian Wyant, Director, Division of Health Risk Reduction, Department of Health; Keri Lubell, CDC/NCIPC; and, Jennifer Jimenez, ASTHO.

The roundtable was designed to assist states in the development of strategies for improving prevention and intervention systems around youth suicide. The goals for the roundtable included:

- Create a forum for policymakers to discuss state strategies around youth suicide prevention.
- Create opportunities to build relationships to address youth suicide prevention statewide.
- Raise awareness of current challenges to implementing state youth suicide prevention programs.
- Empower officials with policy options to address their state issues related to youth suicide.
- Increase awareness of resources available to assist states and communities.

Participants developed strategies to move the planning process along and to implement elements of their plans. Among the themes that emerged from the sessions:

- Suicide prevention needs a formal "home" within state governments and we need to educate key staff in appropriate state agencies.
- Efforts are needed to give the preventability of suicides greater visibility. State policymakers are in a position to encourage others to act.
- Schools and the medical community are key constituencies that must be better incorporated in youth suicide prevention efforts.
- It is key to involve the governor's office in the planning process and build strong relationships between state task force members, key legislators, and other policymakers
- An accessible clearinghouse of suicide prevention information is needed.

The Chicago roundtable built upon the success of the first two workshops – January 2003, in Seattle and December 2003, in New Orleans. To date, 20 states from the Northwest, South, and Midwest have participated in these action planning and policy development workshops.

Based on the progress made by the 13 states that attended the first two workshops and the likely successes to come in the Midwest resulting from the 3rd Collaboration, ASTHO hopes to continue this effort to provide policy and strategy assistance to states regarding the important and tragic public health problem of youth suicides.

Next steps include continuing review and discussion
Suicide prevention continued on back page

2004 Community Service/ Restitution Program stats

County efforts continue to be directed at more fully integrating practices consistent with the Balanced and Restorative Justice principles and the number of youth participating in community service increased slightly (less than one-half of one percent) since 2003. Similarly, the number of youth participating in restitution programs remained virtually unchanged in the same one year period. Aggregate community service and restitution program data is compiled each year from the information submitted to the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research. The information gathered is necessary for purposes related to the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission sponsored insurance program, and also serves to provide a useful picture of the community service and financial restitution program activities statewide.

During 2004 there were a total of 20,931 youth assigned unpaid community service in the sixty-eight active programs throughout the Commonwealth. Again, this represents a very slight decrease from 20,607 youth participating in 2003. To gain perspective over a broader period of time, this is a 201% increase from the 6,943 youth participating in 1994, just ten years ago. Last year, a total of 757,693 community service hours were worked by youth throughout the State. At the current minimum wage, this represents over \$3,902,000 in volunteer effort invested in non-profit organizations and agencies across the Commonwealth in 2004. There were 12 programs handling more than 600 community service participants last year including: Berks 1,512(+ 24.9%); Montgomery 1,494(-1.1%); Allegheny (Cornell-Abraxas Workbridge) 1,481(-9.6%); Philadelphia 1,379(+ 2.3%); Delaware 1,183 (-9.8%); York 1,100 (+ 34.1%); Chester 942 (+ 76.1%); Philadelphia DA's Office 877 (+ 10.3%); Erie 860 (+ 18.9%); Bucks 849 (-37.9%); Lancaster 728 (-11.2%); and Lehigh 663 (+ 2.8%). The percentage figures listed above in parentheses indicate the increase, or decrease from the number of participants in 2003 in each county.

Approximately 75 percent of the total youth assigned were male. The average age of participants in the majority of the programs was between 14 years 6 months and 16 years, 6 months of age. The age range composition of program participants has remained relatively constant since 1990. This is a fairly typical male/female ratio in most of the past 14

years, with last year being an aberration at 86 percent male. The length of time necessary to complete community service assignments appeared similar to prior years in that there are significant variations between programs ranging from low figures of 33, and 45 days in some of the counties' programs, to highs of 180 to 250, and even 273 in several counties. Also, the percentage of youth carried over to the following year to complete their assignment continues to be surprisingly high at 8,919, or 42.6 percent of the youth assigned community service in the year.

There were a total of 2,327 youth involved in one of the 28 active financial restitution programs in the State. This represents an increase of two in the number of programs that existed in 2002. However, nine of these programs serve fewer than twenty youthful participants. The number of program participants decreased negligibly from the 2003 total of 2,332. The largest of these programs operating in 2004 are Philadelphia 524, Allegheny (Cornell-Abraxas Workbridge) 346, Berks County 275, Bucks 241, Erie 99, York 90, Lehigh 83, Lancaster 81, Mercer 65, Fayette 64, Clearfield 47, Northampton 39, Northumberland and Tioga at 38, Clarion 33, and Lawrence County with 31 youth.

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share with other students in their schools about the impact of crime and victim rights.

Betsy Dane, administrator of the Washington County Crime Victims/Witness Assistance Program shared information on Washington County crime victims' statistics and talked about the volume of clients who have been served by the program. John K. Abraham, retired administrator of the Washington County Crime Victim/Witness Assistance Program was presented with the outstanding victim service award.

The event was held at Washington and Jefferson College, and was supported by the Poland family, the Washington County District Attorney's Office, Washington Communities That Care, Students for Safe Schools, Washington Park Middle School, Washington Women's Shelter, Inc., SPS STTARS Program, MADD Of Washington County, and by a grant from the Office for Victims of Crime, Department of Justice.



Joshua Eicher named Deputy Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in Fayette County

Fayette County President Judge Conrad B. Capuzzi recently appointed Joshua S. Eicher as Fayette County's first Deputy Chief Probation Officer. Eicher assumed his new responsibilities effective February 1, 2005. His primary responsibility will be as the direct supervisor of the agency's line officers. He will also be responsible for the Agency's Electronic Monitoring Program, act as the key operator for the JCMS, and continue to coordinate all DNA Testing.

Eicher is a 1996 graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology. He started work at the Fayette County Juvenile Probation Office in September, 1999, under the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant where he was assigned to supervise "high risk" clients. In that capacity, Eicher worked in conjunction with a juvenile's assigned probation officer as well as law enforcement agencies in holding them accountable and reducing their future delinquent activity.

He was then transferred to the agency's Intake Department where he shared responsibility for all aspects of case processing. In addition to his work as a juvenile probation officer, Eicher is a certified EMT.

Chester County to build new detention center

The Chester County Commissioners approved the construction of a new detention center. The detention center is slated to be built on county-owned land that also contains the Chester County Prison and Pocopson Home.

Currently, the Chester County Juvenile Probation Department detains all juveniles who are incarcerated or in transition at the Delaware County Detention Center through a contractual agreement between the two counties.

In the new center, 48 of the 60 beds in the facility will be used for detention while the remaining 12 will be separated into a shelter area.

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of Pennsylvania's Youth Suicide Prevention Five-Year Action Plan – July 2002-July 2007, and continuing collaborative efforts among the Departments of Health, Welfare, and Education and other key partners.

For additional information, please contact Brian Wyant, Director, Division of Health Risk Reduction at 717-787-5900 or bwyant@state.pa.us.

