

a newsletter of the

Pennsylvania
Juvenile Court
Judges'
Commission



JUVENILE JUSTICE

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Edward G. Rendell, Governor

Volume 14, Number 4

www.jcjc.state.pa.us

April 2006

JCJC Releases 2005 State- wide Outcome Measures

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 an adjudication of delinquency or a pre-adjudication disposition.

The specific data elements that are required to be reported were developed by a committee of chief juvenile probation officers and JCJC staff. A consensus on which data to include in a Statewide Outcome Measures Report was based upon the experience of a number of counties that participated in the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) Intermediate Outcomes Project. The principles, concepts, and values that lay behind the outcome measures data were initially put forth for redefining the juvenile justice system in Pennsylvania at the 1996 JCJC-sponsored training: Community, Victim, and Offender: Changing Roles in Juvenile Justice. The measures are intended to quantify the Balanced and Restorative Justice goals of community protection, accountability, and competency development.

The 2005 Statewide Outcome Measures Report includes data for both 2004 and 2005. Some significant aspects of the report include:

- *Both the number of juveniles with cases closed, and the number and percentage of juveniles with successful periods of supervision increased from 2004 to 2005.*
- *The number and percentage of juveniles assigned and completing Accountability activities increased from 2004 to 2005, with the exception of Restitution. The percentage of juveniles with a restitution obligation and those making full restitution declined slightly. However, in 2005 there was approximately \$217,000 more restitution collected on behalf of victims of juvenile crime. Also, juveniles whose cases were closed in 2005 paid approximately \$74,000 to the crime victim's compensation fund above that paid by juveniles in 2004.*
- *The number and percentage of juveniles having a competency development activity assigned and completed increased in 2005. The number and percentage of those completing or remaining engaged in a substance abuse treatment program*

Outcome Measures continued on back page

Sixth School-based Probation Forum Planned

The sixth annual School-based Probation Forum is scheduled for June 29 and 30, 2006, at the Days Inn Penn State in State College. School-based probation officers from across the Commonwealth will have the opportunity to share their experiences and take advantage of the expertise of veteran school-based probation officers and presenters.

The target audience for this training program includes chief juvenile probation officers, school administrators, and school-based probation officers. There is no registration fee. Lunch will be provided on June 29th. Opportunities will be afforded for all participants to share their experiences and challenges.

Please plan to join us, and your colleagues from across the Commonwealth, in a forum designed to provide participants with renewed energy, a renewed sense of purpose, and common direction for the future. Questions about the forum can be directed to Kathy Hooven at 717-705-5633 or khooven@state.pa.us.

In the next several months, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission will be converting its monthly "Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice" newsletter to online dissemination only. Information regarding subscription to the online version of "Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice" will be detailed in future issues.

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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Staff Development News

There are two particular programs, that are part of the CJJT&R Spring Training Schedule, that we encourage you or your staff to attend as space is still available.

On June 7-8, in State College, we are hosting the workshop "The Basics of Adolescent Substance Abuse: Trends, Interventions and Referral Skills." This session will provide a broad overview and basic understanding of pharmacology, short and long-term effects of substance abuse, basic identification strategies, and current trends in adolescent usage. Additionally, participants will raise their awareness in assessing the stages of dependency, be better able to cope with client resistance and relapse events, and learn how to connect youth to community resources.

This training, led by Bruce Schaffer, is a newly designed program. Approximately 100,000 will die annually from drug abuse, and treatment costs continue to be staggering. The need for juvenile justice practitioners to stay abreast of current trends is a must. This workshop is appropriate for all juvenile justice staff.

On June 29-30, in State College, we are again sponsoring the annual "School-Based Probation Forum." For the past five years, the Commission has held this forum as a means to provide school-based probation officers with an opportunity to share information, ideas, and programs that have proven to be successful. A variety of topics will be discussed, and there will be opportunities for all participants to share their experiences and problem-solve obstacles.

This forum will be facilitated by JCJC staff. However, it is the participation and sharing of ideas by school-based probation staff from throughout the Commonwealth that continues to power this experience. This program is appropriate for Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, school-based probation officers, juvenile probation officers that spend a significant portion of time in local schools, and school administrators. Please plan to join us, and your colleagues, in a forum that will provide renewed energy, a sense of purpose, and a common direction for the future.

For further details on these or other Center-sponsored training programs, please refer to the Spring 2006 training brochure or visit the Commission's website at www.jcjc.state.pa.us, click on training and then Spring 2006. Questions may be directed to John Herb at 717-477-1185, (extension 3) or Stephen Bishop at 717-477-1294.

Berks County Disproportionate Minority Contact Project Moves Forward

One of the primary goals of the MacArthur initiative in Pennsylvania is to reduce Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) of youth of color within the juvenile justice system, through improved data collection and analysis, engagement of key stakeholders and community representatives, and support for reform efforts where racial and ethnic disparities are identified. The National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) has identified the absence and inaccuracy of ethnicity data as the major gap in DMC data in Pennsylvania. Allegheny, Berks and Philadelphia counties have been selected as model counties for this initiative.

The DMC initiative involves analyzing existing data to identify where there are disproportionate minority contacts in the juvenile justice system. In Berks County, under the leadership and guidance of President Judge Arthur Grim, Youth Law Center staff and others have begun to interview stakeholders, solicit community involvement, and collect and analyze data.

On February 28, 2006, Judge Grim convened the first meeting of the Berks County DMC Reduction Steering Committee. Judge Grim welcomed the energetic and diverse group, noting the importance of the work to be accomplished by the group in improving the lives of Berks County children. Representatives from many groups, including community organizations, service providers, government agencies, and court personnel attended. Reading Mayor Thomas McMahon was also in attendance and offered his support for the project.

Mark Soler and Dana Shoenberg, of the Youth Law Center, explained the project and its focus on improving data collection, particularly for Latino youth. Historically, Latinos have been counted as African American or Caucasian, resulting in inaccurate ethnic data in juvenile justice research. This results in the inability of policy makers to sculpt services in culturally appropriate ways. The involvement of bicultural staff, assessing the need for bilingual personnel and printed materials, and culturally competent programming cannot occur if there is inaccurate information about youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Mr. Soler also conveyed that the project is not about pointing fingers or blaming anyone for disproportionate minority contact. It is about an analytical and data-driven approach to reducing DMC, and recommending and implementing appropriate systems reform.

Yvonne Stroman, Program Manager at the Community Prevention Partnership of Berks County, coordinates the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency's DMC Subcommittee initiatives in Reading. She spoke about the creation of forums by the subcommittee to encourage a better understanding between youth of color and law enforcement. The DMC Subcommittee has sponsored Minority Youth and Law Enforcement Forums in Allegheny, Berks, Dauphin, and Philadelphia County. The most recent forum was held in Reading on April 6, 2006.

Angela Arboleda and Cassandra Villanueva of the National Council of La Raza spoke about the Latino Juvenile Justice Network (LJJN). The LJJN will collectively identify issues and approaches for juvenile justice reform specific to individual communities. The LJJN expects to employ a variety of advocacy strategies, including media outreach, community education and mobilization, research and policy analysis. The project's goal is to reduce the disproportionate minority contact of African American and Latino youth who have contact with law enforcement and improve their outcomes in the juvenile justice system. The first meeting of the LJJN in Berks County took place on March 15, 2006.

In the next phase of the DMC project in Berks County, attorneys and consultants to the Youth Law Center will be conducting focus groups. They will meet with children who have been involved in the juvenile justice system, their families, court personnel, advocates, service providers and other stakeholders. They will then conduct a confidential review of files to understand more about the factors that contribute to disproportionate minority contact of youth at certain points in the system. In Berks County, currently available data show that African American and Latino youth are approximately twice as likely as white youth to be held in detention pending an adjudication hearing. Latino youth are 2.4 times as likely as white youth to have a disposition that involves secure placement across all offense categories. Data also show that African American youth are 3.6 times more likely to be detained after a drug offense charge than are white youth. Given this information, the research in Berks County will focus, in part, on the factors that may be contributing to these disparities.

Berks County Project continued on page 4

Second Forum on Restorative Community Justice to be held in the Southwest Region

The Juvenile Justice Enhancement Training Grant, funded through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, (PCCD) is supporting the second of five regional forums on Thursday, June 8, 2006. It will be held at the Westmoreland County Community College, Youngwood, Pennsylvania. The forum, "Building Bridges: Community Restorative Justice Forum," is based on the *Building Bridges* monograph which was developed by the Court and Community Collaboration Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers. The forum will be conducted in an informal, retreat-like atmosphere to enable participants to become actively involved in exchanging information and ideas regarding services, programs and policies that encourage the involvement of community members and organizations in participating in the implementation or enhancement of restorative community practices.

Allegheny, Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Westmoreland and Washington Counties will be asked to send a team of ten people representing multiple sectors of the community. Chief juvenile probation officers are asked to consider bringing representatives from businesses, schools, social service agencies, civic organizations, victim service agencies, and faith-based organizations, in addition to the traditional professionals from the juvenile court. There is no cost to attend this forum, as expenses will be paid through a grant from PCCD.

For additional information on the regional forums, you may contact Susan Blackburn at 717-477-1411 or sblackburn@state.pa.us, or Monica Iskric at 717-477-1709 or miskri@ship.edu.

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On April 1, 2006, the Youth Law Center in Washington became known as the Center for Children's Law and Policy (CCLP). The office remains committed to juvenile justice reform and protecting the rights of troubled or at-risk children. CCLP staff will continue its involvement in the Pennsylvania Models for Change DMC project and other Models for Change DMC projects nationally.

Northwest Pennsylvania Communities That Care® Region Holds Fourth Annual Recognition Banquet

The Northwest Pennsylvania CTC® Region held their Fourth Annual Recognition Banquet on March 29, 2006 in Clarion, Pennsylvania. The theme for the banquet was "Celebrate Your CTC Success" and many sites shared stories about the positive impact the CTC® process has had on their communities since the mid 1990's. This event is held annually in the northwest region to recognize and honor those individuals and agencies that promote the CTC® process in their own communities. Award recipients were selected by individual community members, as those who have put forth much time and effort into the prevention of youth problems in their communities. The wide range of award recipients included program directors, probation officers, school board members and administrators, volunteers, key leaders, students, law enforcement officers and private citizens.

The Keynote speaker for the event was Keith Graybill, Director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Training & Research (CJJTR) at Shippensburg University. Mr. Graybill was honored at the banquet by the Northwest Region for serving as the interim director for Communities That Care® while a search was taking place for a new director. Lenore Wyant, the current Director of CTC®, also attended. Lawrence County Mobilizer Joe Sarbo was recognized for his outstanding service as Chairman for the Northwest Region. Mr. Sarbo recently stepped down as Chairman and was replaced by co-chairs Kay Owen (Armstrong County) and Jason Rhoades (Forest County). Special awards were also presented to Steve Bridger, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in Crawford County, for sustaining CTC® and Tara Dechert from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency (PCCD) for her outstanding cooperation and involvement in the Northwest region.

The CTC® model was designed by Dr. David Hawkins and Dr. Richard Catalano to prevent substance abuse, teen pregnancy, school drop-outs, delinquency and violence by the following: creating a Community Prevention Board; conducting a community needs assessment; prioritizing risk and protective factors; implementing research-based prevention programs (Blueprints); and evaluating programs for success. A recent statewide evaluation of CTC® by the Prevention Research Center at Penn State University showed that many of the Pennsyl-

vania sites utilizing the CTC® model have reduced adolescent risk factors and increased protective factors.

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 over ninety sites in 57 counties in Pennsylvania, and collaborates with other initiatives such as America's Promise, Family Service System Reform (FSSR), Weed & Seed, State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) and many other state and local programs.

For more information or questions about the Northwest Region CTC®, please contact Regional Strategic Consultant Joe Markiewicz at (814) 734-3565 or e-mail at markiewiczjoe@msn.com

Governor Rendell Proclaims Juvenile Justice Week

Governor Edward G. Rendell recently proclaimed the week of October 1-7, 2006 as Juvenile Justice Week in Pennsylvania. Juvenile probation departments across the Commonwealth are encouraged to use Juvenile Justice Week as an opportunity to engage the public about the mission and outcomes of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system.

The proclamation notes that Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system is charged with "providing programs of supervision, care, and rehabilitation, as well as providing balanced attention to the protection of our communities, the imposition of accountability for offenses committed by juveniles, and the development of competencies to enable children within the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system to become responsible and productive members of their communities".

Chief juvenile probation officers are encouraged to send summaries and media accounts of local Juvenile Justice Week activities to Greg Young, at gyoung@state.pa.us, for publication in future editions of *Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice*.

2005 Community Service/ Restitution Program Data

Aggregate community service and restitution program data is compiled each year from information submitted to the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research by juvenile probation departments. The information is necessary for the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission-sponsored insurance program, and also provides important information regarding the community service and restitution programs across the Commonwealth.

During 2005, there were a total of 20,650 youth assigned to complete community service in the sixty-eight active programs throughout the Commonwealth. This represents a very slight decrease from 20,931 youth assigned to complete community service in 2004. From a broader perspective, this is a 147 percent increase compared to the 8,354 youth assigned community service in 1995.

During 2005, a total of 710,765 community service hours were worked by youth throughout the state. At the current minimum wage, this represents over \$3,660,000 in volunteer effort invested in non-profit organizations and agencies.

There were 14 programs that were assigned more than 500 community service participants last year, including Montgomery 1,509; Berks 1,475; Allegheny (Cornell-Abraxas Workbridge) 1,425; Delaware 1,322; Lehigh 1184; Philadelphia Office of the District Attorney 969; Philadelphia 955; Bucks 738; Erie 718; Lancaster 712; York 709; Dauphin 643; Cambria 538; and Lycoming 518.

Approximately 75 percent of the total youth assigned to community service were male. The average age of participants in the majority of the programs was 15 years of age. The length of time necessary to complete community service assignments varied greatly

There were a total of 1,956 children involved in one of the 30 active restitution programs during 2005, an increase of two programs when compared to 2004. However, the number of program participants decreased by approximately 16 percent when compared to the 2,327 total in 2004. The restitution programs involving the largest number of children, during 2005, were Allegheny (297), Berks County (243), Bucks (183), Philadelphia (180), Warren (116), Erie (98), Mercer (87), York (75), Lehigh (73), Lancaster (63), Tioga (61), Fayette (55), Clarion (53), Clearfield (47), Northampton (45), Northumberland (43), and Cumberland County (33).



Graduate Education Students Participate in ACJS Annual Meeting

On March 3, 2006, eleven students from the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission-sponsored Weekend Master's Degree Program at Shippensburg University traveled to Baltimore, Maryland for the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS). The students, who are members of the Class of 2006, were given the unique opportunity to present information on the research they are conducting as a requirement for their master's degree.

ACJS is an international association, established in 1963, to foster professional and scholarly activities in the field of criminal justice. The ACJS promotes education, research and policy analysis in the field of criminal justice. The Annual Meeting is attended by practitioners, faculty and students from around the world.

The students comprised two panels, each consisting of four presentations. Panel one was titled "County-Based Restorative Justice Programs, Evaluations, and Policy Analyses in Pennsylvania." Dan Racht from the Wyoming County Juvenile Probation Department presented an evaluation of an Anger Management/Anti-Violence Program which is currently used in Wyoming County. Kristen Nikolaus and Leo Lutz, from the Lancaster County Juvenile Probation Department, discussed a Juvenile Drug Court Feasibility Study. Chrissy Prisk, from the Centre County Juvenile Probation Department, presented an evaluation of her county's Adolescent Education and Resistance Training Program and Kathy Buckley, from Pennsylvania's Office of Victim Advocate, presented an evaluation of a Mediation Program for Victims of Violent Crime currently used in Pennsylvania State Correctional Facilities.

Panel two was titled, "Restorative Justice Research in Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System." Cari Million and Angela Zera from the Luzerne County Juvenile Probation Depart-

ment discussed their implementation of a Life Skills Program for At-Risk Youth. Mary Ann Ferrando and Sandy Fofi from the Wayne County Juvenile Probation Department presented an evaluation of Competency Enhancement Groups used in their county. Angela Sobol from the Northumberland County Juvenile Probation Department discussed the creation of a Victim Offender Mediation Program in her county, and Teresa Wilcox, from the McKean County Juvenile

Probation Department, presented an evaluation of the Victim Community Awareness Program used in McKean County.

The students were accompanied and assisted by Shippensburg University faculty members Dr. John Lemmon and Dr. Tom Austin, and by Keith Graybill and Greg Young from the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research.

Outcome Measures from page one also increased from 2004 and 2005. The number and percentage of juveniles engaged in an educational or vocational activity at case closing declined from 2004 to 2005. The number and percentage of juveniles experiencing at least one instance of placement during their period of supervision decreased in 2005, when compared to 2004.

The complete Outcome Measures Report is included in this newsletter, and can be downloaded from the JCJC website, at <http://www.jcjc.state.pa.us/jcjc/cwp>.

